

Alfred Larson. Ole Skaaraas walked with the band carrying an Egyptian rifle that had been used in the Boer War. Pastor Bjornson also organized a community choir with young people from the Folden, Westaker, and Bethlehem congregations. Young people walked for miles for the joy of meeting and singing in the choir. One very young girl, Olga Lokken, able to sing alto stood on a chair in order to get her voice on the level with the rest.

Mrs. Bjornson, the pastor's wife was a piano teacher and she taught piano to several young people who rendered piano recitals in the parsonage. One of her pupils was so inspired that she chose piano teaching as a career and is still teaching piano in 1973 in St. Paul. For some months Miss Ruth Godward of Thief River Falls came to Newfolden one day a week to give piano lessons. She arrived on the morning train and returned in the evening to Thief River Falls.

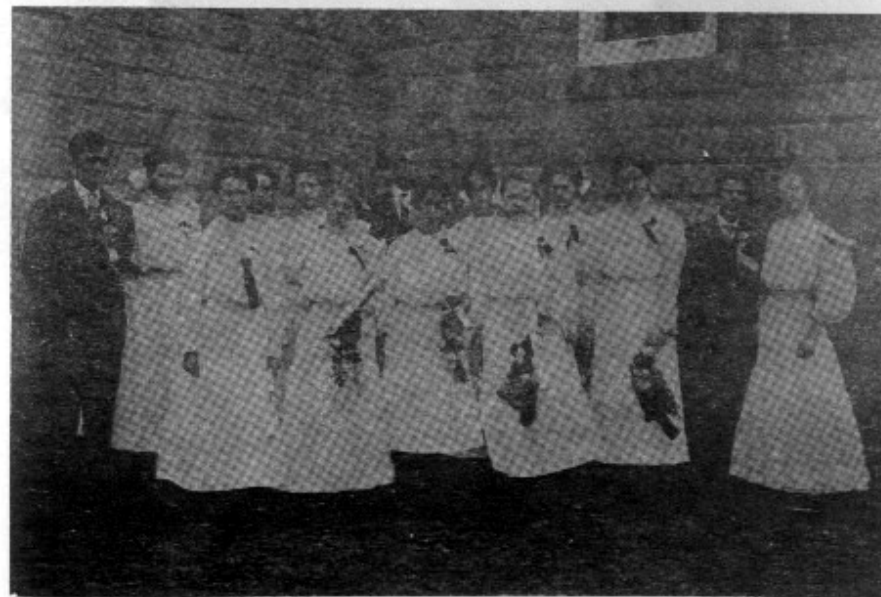
The Mission Church now the Evangelical Free Church provided music for its services. Samuel Tunheim the first man to serve the congregation played musical instruments and his daughters Emma and Mary were gifted singers. They played guitars and encouraged others to join them. Several families contributed to the string band the John X Johnsons, Robert Gerdlunds, Emma Lockstad, Mrs. Alfred Elseth, Arnold Foldens, Mrs. Axel Anderson and others.

Soloists of this early period were Clar Bakke, and Emma Lockstad. Four of the area teachers formed a mixed quartette and appeared at special programs. At the Bethlehem church young people provided special music and Erick Bergsman conducted a popular community choir. The accompanist was Miss Marie Torgerson, a gifted pianist.

After World War I came the wonder of the radio. One of the first radios was purchased by Olger Green and H.C. Haugen in 1922. It is to be noted that in 1970 the nation

observed the 50th Anniversary of the coming of the radio in this country. It is a thrill to remember the wonder of the first time voices from far away Winnipeg and Mnpls. could be heard. The transmission of the human voice over wireless had become a reality.

Music in the public schools was at first singing under the direction of the teachers. After 1915 the music became organized as a part of the curriculum. The story of music from the early twenties to the present time merits a long write-up which cannot be given here. The reader will do well to look into the progress made in music education in the public school from 1924 to 1973.



8th grade graduation class 1949  
School District 49 and the Bjorsness school

SOUVENIR

Newfolden School, Dist. No. 49

Newfolden Township

MARSHAL COUNTY, MINNESOTA

1907-1908

MARTHA THORSON, Teacher

SCHOOL OFFICERS

H. E. Myhre, Clerk

C. Hansen, Director

Ole Olson, Treasurer

L. M. Mithun, County Superintendent

NAMES OF PUPILS

Minnie Anderson  
Eddie Anderson  
Agnes Bakke  
Clara Carlson  
Johnie Calm  
Edwin Corrigan  
Martha Elstad  
Selmer Elstad  
Olga Elstad  
Annie Ekman  
Martin Ekman  
Hartvig Ekman  
Colfred Ekman  
Ida Grimstad  
Victoria Grimstad  
Moses Grimstad  
Roy Haines  
Ellen Johnson  
Martin Johnson  
Bertil Johnson  
Hilda Johnson  
George Johnson  
Lars Kleppe  
Elizabeth Kleppe  
Martha Kleppe  
Martin Lokken  
Harry Lokken

Albert Lokken  
Olga Lokken  
Gilbert Lokken  
Hazel Myhre  
Eva Myhre  
Earnest Myhre  
Lillie Olsen  
Philip Strambo  
Emil Soberg  
Martine Soberg  
Annie Starnes  
Ellen Starnes  
Knut Stromne  
Lillie Holmgren  
Eddie Holmgren  
Albin Holmgren  
Emma Hanson  
Hulda Hanson  
Cora Hanson  
Willie Windahl  
Fritz Eden  
Alfred Bakke  
Engvald Bakke  
Oscar Starnes  
Jennie Lokken  
Axel Carlson  
Elmer Ekman