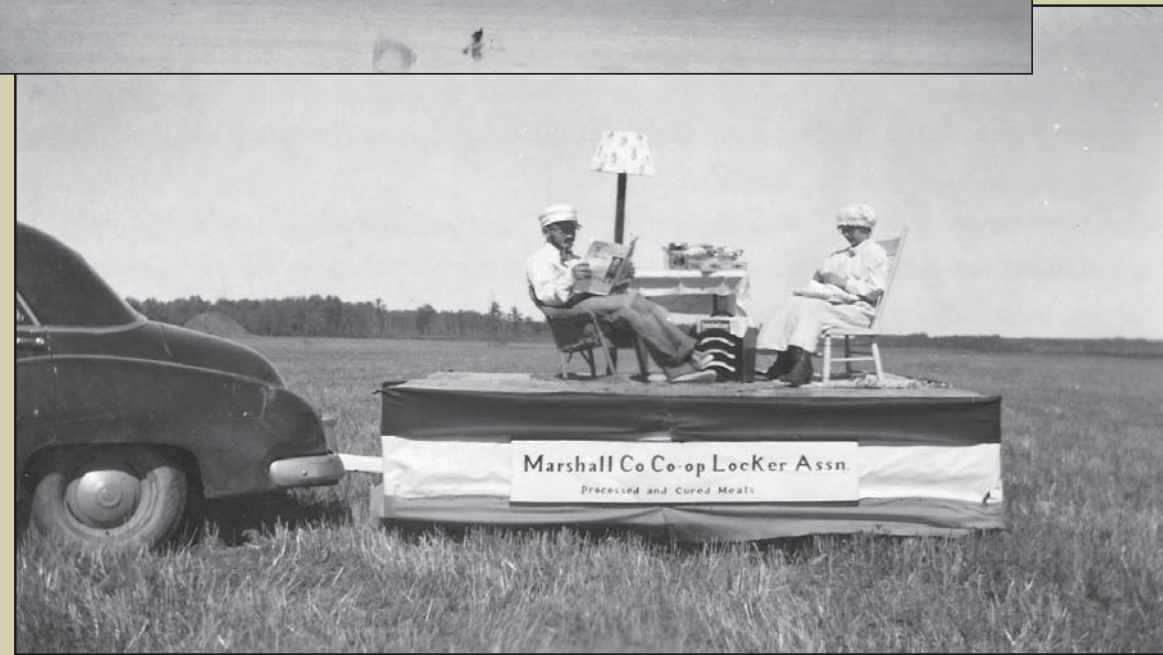


Celebrations and Tradition

The strenuous, never-ending work that early settlers endured, was pleasantly interrupted by community gatherings.



Independence Day

The two biggest celebrations were the Fourth of July and Christmas. The earliest Fourth of July celebrations were probably held at the Brede Svendsen, Ole Lee farms and other early residents. Later the Bakke Store provided a central location for community celebrations. The Independence Day celebration was a grand day long event that began with a salute to the flag and picnic that

included lemonade. Independence and a life in a new country were especially close at heart for the immigrants. Songs and patriotic speeches dominated the program. If it was warm, the swimming hole offered a place to cool off. There were games and races, the men talked, and played baseball and horseshoes. The women visited and watched the activities.



Parades were popular in Newfolden. They provided a chance for the community to get together and celebrate the schools, businesses and traditions of the small prairie town.

Christmas Festivities

Christmas celebrations involved many community traditions that lasted until after New Years. The festivities began with the children's Christmas program at school. Children received a small bag of popcorn, candy and an apple after the event. It was an exciting time for the children as they headed home for Christmas break.

When Christmas Eve arrived the pioneers put on their best clothes for a big Christmas dinner. The dinner often included lutefisk, lefse, flat bread, herring and other Scandinavian dishes. Preparations had begun weeks earlier! Devotions and the Christmas story was told as neighbors and extended family gathered at the table. After dinner, everyone sang hymns and carols by the Christmas tree, and finally the moment arrived when Christmas gifts were exchanged and opened.

On Christmas morning the families went to church. The week between Christmas and New Years was filled with visiting neighbors and caroling. Energetic teenagers often would go *julebaking* (Christmas fooling). They would dress up in costumes and visit neighbors. It was often humorous, and the host would have to try to guess who they were. The jokers were always rewarded with goodies.

Another festivity was the Christmas Tree Program, which was held the Sunday after Christmas. The finale was on New Year's Eve when at midnight all the residents would simultaneously fire guns into the air to celebrate the New Year.

Other activities at Thanksgiving, Easter and "Syttende Mai" also gave the pioneers a distraction from their work. Visiting neighbors throughout the year was by far the most important social activity despite all of the work and the distance between them.

Lutefisk, Yah You Betcha!

The aromatic lutefisk is prepared by soaking cod in water and lye. The protein content of the fish is reduced by about 50 percent causing its famous gelatinous consistency. Lutefisk must be soaked to remove the lye before it can be baked or boiled. Properly cooked lutefisk has a mild flavor and is served with butter or a white sauce. Certainly feasting on this Scandinavian dish is an experience you would ne'er forget.

Lefse

5 pounds riced russet potatoes
6 tbs heavy cream
1/2 cup butter
2 1/2 cups flour
2 tbs sugar
1 tbs salt

Cool riced potatoes for an hour, add butter, cream, salt and sugar. Chill overnight. Preheat grill or pan to 375 to 400F. In the morning fluff the potatoes with a fork, add flour and mix gently. Roll as thin as possible, and fry until golden.



The Militia Band was formed in May 1910. The band performed at many community functions and added variety to the many social functions that were an important part of the community.