

BEMIDJI HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

City Hall Conference Room



3:30 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome Guests
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve Minutes
 - a. February 18, 2025 Minutes
5. Old Business
 - a. Pumping Station 1909
 - b. City Website/Facebook Update
 - c. 100 Year Old Buildings
6. New Business
 - a. City Manager to Contact SHPO
 - b. Member Sign up to Preservation Email Lists
 - c. Review 100 Year Old Building Application (NWMF)
7. Next Meeting
 - a. April 15, 2025 at 3:30 p.m.
8. **ADJOURN**

HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
CITY OF BEMIDJI
Meeting Minutes –FEBRUARY 18, 2025

Present: Lois J. Jenkins, Andy Mack, Linda Lemmer, Chris Bell, Jay Tody.

Staff: Michelle Miller

Joan Dreyer was excused. Josh Peterson, City Council Representative was excused.

Call to Order

Lemmer called the meeting to order at 3:30 P.M. (time not announced)

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Lois Jenkins, seconded by Chris Bell to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were amended removing the line “Beltrami County Courthouse did not put the National Historic Register in 2009.” Motion to approve and amended by Jay Tody, s (Mack), Motion carried.

Election of Officers

Motion by Bell to nominate Linda Lemmer as Chair. No other nominations.

Motion to accept an unanimous ballot.m/s/ Motion carried.

Motion by to nominate Chris Bell as Vice Chair. No other nominations. Motion by Mack, seconded by unknown for unanimous ballot. Motion carried.

Motion by Linda Lemmer to nominate Jenkins for secretary. m/s/c

Motion by Mack, seconded by Tody to close the nominations.

Jenkins motions for a unanimous vote that officers for 2025 are elected by unanimous vote. Motion carried.

CHAIR: Linda Lemmer

VICE CHAIR: Chris Bell

SECRETARY:Lois J Jenkins

Pumping Station 1909

The Pumping Station 1909 progress will be presented to Council. Two contractors have been asked to clarify if they can recreate the exact block, or are they planning to substitute a different kind of block. Mark Jacobson responded that he can recreate the block. Alex Beaulieu, Con’s Masonry, is looking into finding a mold to make block on site. Both contractors have requested making a second bid to reflect the block making requirement.

FaceBook / City Website Update

Clarification: Jay Tody has access to FaceBook as an admin. Michelle Miller also is administrator.

Lois Jenkins submits information to Jay Tody for posting to Facebook.

100 – Year – Old Homes

Still seeking invoice from Kevin Johnson, My Bemidji for design fees.

Motion to accept the cover sheet that goes with the application for certification of 100 year old Buildings forms. Much discussion prior to motion being approved. m(Mack)/ s(Bell)/c.

New Bemidji Hotel Mural

Bemidji Arts Council has not agreed to allow the arts grant for \$1,000 to be shared with the BHPC for the mural restoration painting. More collaboration and planning is needed. Grants cannot be given to individual property owners

Mr. Mose Painting and Kenny Whalen are possible painters. Also Scott Jorgenson gave an estimate of \$5,000 or \$6,000. Bob Busch, owner should be invited to present before the committee. **Motion to table this discussion to the April 2025 meeting. M(bell)/S(tody)/c**

Local business merchandise (Skeeter Stitch)

Discussion about the organization date of village/ city of Bemidji being printed on shirts that say "BEMIDJI 1888". This date is listed as the original founding date in Wikipedia. Bemidji official founding date is 1896. Bemidji first post office postmaster was 1896. Error was listed in Wikipedia.

Who has authorization to present change to wikipedia. Skeeter Stitch owner, Mr Rich Blomberg said that no one would notice the discrepancy. Lemmer asked any committee member with authorization to change Wikipedia to contact them to make the change. No motion was made.

New Business

Lemmer will be presenting before the Bemidji City Council on March 3, 2025. Lemmer will present a summary of what the commission has worked on in the past year. SHPO membership request will be presented. Ask City Council to consider hosting MNPreserve conference in 2027.

Next Meeting

March 18, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. in City Hall conference room.

Adjournment

M (Mack)/s (Bell) to adjourn meeting at 4:20 p.m. (recording stopped at 50 minutes, 15 seconds)
Motion carried.

"100-Year-Old Structures in Bemidji, 2024"

Bemidji, Minnesota

A Project of Bemidji Heritage Preservation Commission

Application

Date 1/21/25

1) Applicant Northwest Minnesota Foundation - Chris Bell

2) Email chrisb@nwmf.org

3) Address 201 3rd St NW

4) Phone/Cell 218-759-2057

5) Address of potential

100-year-old structure 201 3rd St NW / 301 Beltrami Bemidji

Do you own? Live in Work in have interest

6) If this is your home address, when did you begin to live at this address? _____

7) If you do not own, is the owner aware that you are submitting this application? Yes

If this is NOT your home, what has inspired you to know more about the history of this structure?

This is one of the earliest brick structures in downtown Bemidji

8) If you own this structure what year did you purchase it? 2013

8) What year was structure built? 1900-1902 How do you know this? Sauborn maps
Newspaper articles, historic documentation

9) Has your structure ever been used for a business? Always

10) Was this structure built on this property or moved in? Built

If Known, Moved From where? _____

11) Have any major modifications to this structure been made? Yes

12) Has this structure's address changed with post office changes? Yes

Please attach a current picture with this application.

What other interesting information can you share about your structure?

Originally called the Miles ^{block} building, this has been a saloon, clothing store, hotel, gambling hall, bank, restaurant, offices, barber, and currently, the Northwest Minnesota Foundation
see attached documentation.

Resources to Gather Information:

Beltrami County Records Office:

Land transactions, deeds, tax statement, marriages, births, and deaths(FREE)

Artifacts:

Dated Photographs, tax statement, deeds and abstracts, family genealogy and history books, church records, books or magazines, Bemidji City Directories, plats and maps, any dated envelopes addressed to this address, school records, and Census records.

Online:

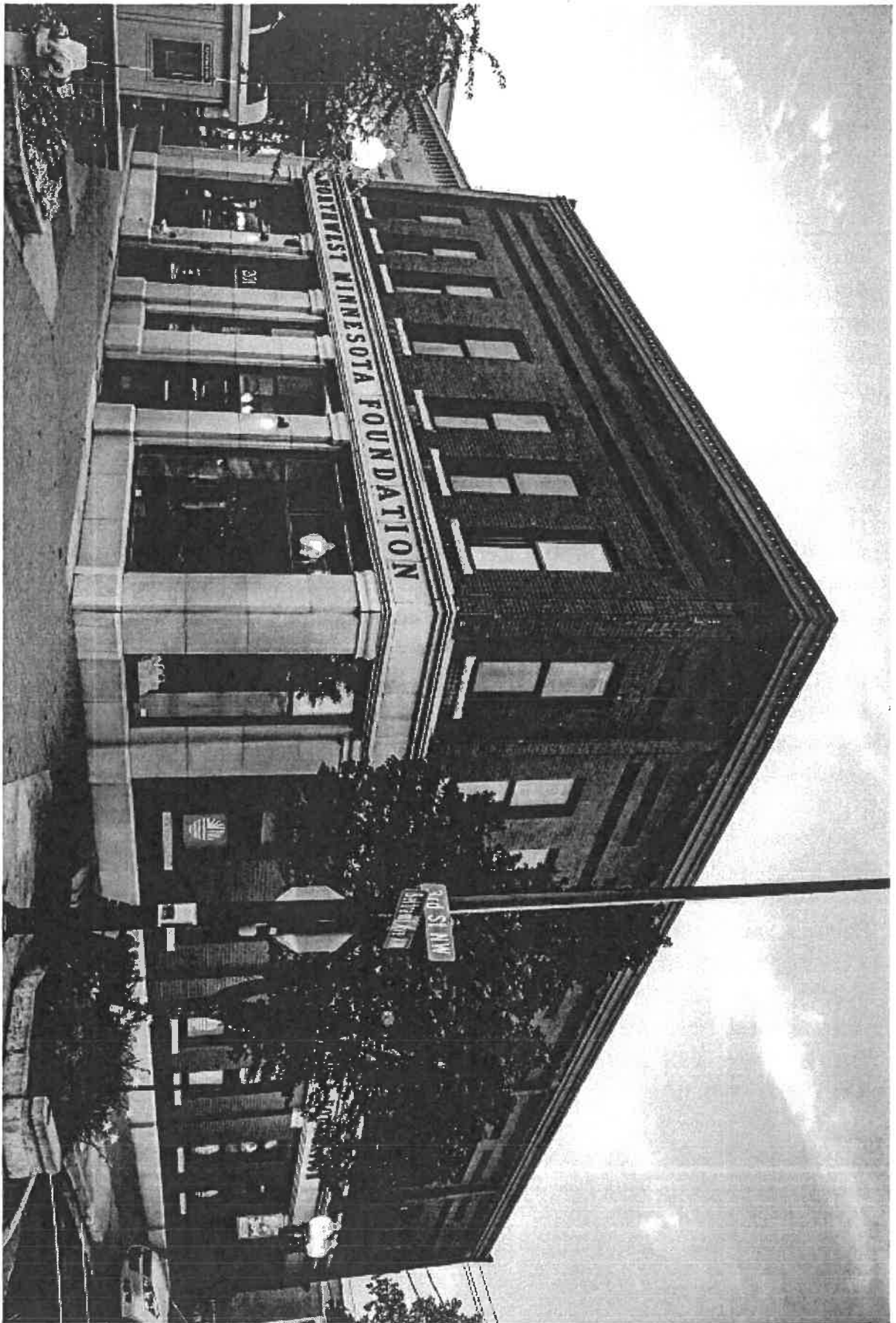
Sanborn Maps at Library of Congress for Bemidji <https://loc.gov>

Bemidjihistory.com www.bemidjihistory.com

Chronicling America for 1896-1925 for family and business names and addresses
<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

Beltrami County Tax Portal www.co.beltrami.mn.us.gov

Federal Homestead records <https://glorerecords.blm.gov>



BLOCKS

Miles Block

POSTED ON DECEMBER 23, 2014 Author cmckeig

Miles Block, 3rd and Beltrami Ave, 301 Beltrami Ave.

Workmen began tearing away the building on the corner of Beltrami avenue and Third street Monday morning preparatory to erecting the **Miles block**, which is to be the finest in the city. (July 25, 1901)

The **Miles Block** Will Be Pushed to Completion as Fast as Money and Labor Can Accomplish It. C. H. Miles, who recently purchased the J. W. White property on the corner of Third street and Beltrami avenue, paying therefor the sum of \$6,000, has determined to erect a fine building at once, and work will be begun next Monday morning. The building is to be of solid brick, 50x80 feet, two stories, with basement. The front will be of Menominee pressed brick, and the style of architecture will be exceedingly attractive. The corner room will be occupied as a first class saloon, the adjoining one will be for rent, and the second story is to be fitted up for offices. (July 18, 1901)

Charles Miles has kindly given the ladies of the Spiritualist church the privilege of opening his new brick block, and the ladies are now planning to give a social about Oct. 15. Supper will be served at 6 o'clock in fact there will be two suppers, as Mr. Boyer will give a dance in another room, and the ladies of the Spiritualist church will serve a midnight supper for the dancers. As a special inducement to several young society ladies who have volunteered to sell tickets for this church, a \$10 hat will be presented to the one selling the most tickets. They will be given the choice of two hats, one at Mrs. Berman's or one at Miss Stuart's. (Sept 26, 1901)

The Bemidji Tailoring Co. will move into the building between the City Hotel and the new Miles block. (Oct 10, 1901).

Bailey & Loud In New Quarters. The upstairs rooms in the new **Miles block** have been completed and finished up in elegant shape, and they are simply perfection in finish, heating, ventilation and lighting facilities, and the occupants may well feel proud of their new quarters. The walls are plastered, with hardwood wainscoting and floors. The hallway is wide, adding to the general appearance of the interior.

Bailey & Loud have secured two front office rooms, the largest in the building, and a library room adjoining. Probably no law firm in the state has better or more convenient apartments. The firm kept open lodge Saturday evening in honor of having located in their elegant offices, and a large number of gentlemen friends called to spend the

evening in playing whist and offering congratulations to the tenants. Luncheon was serviced.

Dr. Morrison has two rooms in this building, one front room which will be used as an operation room; the other, a reception room. The rooms are large and are decorated as beautifully as a lady's boudoir. (Nov 21, 1901)

Louise Hetland has moved her Millinery Stock from Lochen's Store to her new rooms upstairs in the New Miles Block, where she will be pleased to meet her old as well as new customers. (Oct 1901) Miss Louise Hetland has millinery in this building, and Silver Bros. have moved in with their land office. (Nov 21, 1901) Miss Hetland, who has been located at the Miles block for the past few weeks, has moved her stock of hats, millinery, etc., to the office of Hotel Algoma. (Dec 05, 1901)

Beginning with the first of the year the firm of Bailey & Loud will dissolve, and H. J. Loud will go it alone, keeping two of the rooms now occupied by the firm in the Miles block. (Dec 26, 1901)

N. Lang, real estate, associated with Lang's Addition to Bemidji, Room 2.

R. B. Foster, dentist in the new Miles Block. (1902)

What threatened to be a serious fire was happily diverted by the prompt action of the fire boys yesterday afternoon. Fire caught in the attic of the **Miles** building, corner of Third and Minnesota, and spread to the second floor. The hydrant at O'Leary's corner was frozen, but connections were speedily made at two others and two streams soaked the building from roof to cellar. The upper floors were badly damaged and several hundred dollars worth of bedroom furnishings destroyed. (April 10, 1902)

Dr. P. C. Bjerneby has arrived from Red Wing and will begin the practice of medicine and surgery in Bemidji. He will have office rooms in the **Miles Block** and at present is located in the office of Dr. Blakeslee. The doctor has many acquaintances here who speak most highly of his skill. (July 10, 1902)

About December 1st, we [O'Leary & Bowser] will move into our new store next to the **Miles Block**, where we intend to conduct a first-class department store. Before leaving our old quarters we wish to clean up all odds and ends in our stock, and in order to do so we offer some rare bargains. (Oct 30, 1902)

A New Physician.

In the coming to this city of Dr. Roland Gilmore, Bemidji has not only gained a physician who comes recommended as one of more than ordinary skill, but as well a man of character and good standing. Dr. Gilmore has for the past few years been in

practice of medicine at our neighboring town of Fosston, but feeling the desire to broaden out in the pursuit of his profession, he began to look about for some place where he might enlarge the sphere of his work, and happily decided upon this city as the scene of his future endeavors. The doctor has engaged a suite of office rooms in the **Miles block**. (Nov 20, 1902)

Occupants in 1904 City Directory: C.H. Miles; Irwin & O'Brien, Henry Funkley, attorney; Herbert J. Loud, attorney, and Jay L Reynolds, attorney, insurance agent, and Justice of the Peace; Ralph B. Foster, dentist; Dr. Rowland Gilmore, physician; Gilbert L. Goislee, physician; G. W. Campbell; U S Recruiting Office

Northwest Foundation Notes for Chris

201 Third Street, Block 14, Lot 7

John W. White purchased Lot 7 from the Bji Townsite Co. for \$200 on Jan 15, 1897. Filed Oct 28, 1897. D 4/583

Bji Lumber & Mercantile filed a lien against M. Sprague for materials for building on Lot 7, Blk 14. Filed July 12, 1898.

201-203 Third Street, Block 14, Lot 7 & 8

Charles Miles purchased Lots 7 & 8, Blk 14 for \$6,500 from Roderick & Lavinia McLennan on May 24, 1901. D 12/47

Was this the location of the Miles Building in 1900? Frank Rogers, who has conducted a swell restaurant in Grand Forks for years, has come to Bemidji and has opened up a first-class eatery in the Miles building on Third street. (Oct 18, 1900)

Here? The Barney Burton Clothing store is now located in its new quarters in the Miles brick block. In spite of the immense floor space the room is already crowded with goods in their line. The space of 50x90 feet seems hardly large enough to hold the immense stock now being carried by this store. The shelves along the sides of the building are full, and the tables in the center are piled high with gent's clothing. It would seem that the stock was sufficient to fit out from head to feet every male in Beltrami county. Ever since the Burton store came here over two years ago, the smallness of the store room has been a serious drawback. While always carrying a complete stock, they could not display the same to the best advantage, nor carry as large an assortment as ambition wished and demand required. But in the new building, Mr. Burton is showing his faith in this trading point by putting in as large a stock of gent's furnishings as can be found in any town in Northern Minnesota. With elegant show windows, a first-class location and handsome and inviting quarters, the Burton store will present a metropolitan appearance that will be gratifying to its proprietor and pleasing to our people. Mr. Burton is here this week lending a needed hand in the work of getting located. He says Bemidji has been a liberal customer, and takes pleasure in expressing his appreciation of the same. But it is not only due to his excellent goods and reasonable prices that has made his store popular with our people. Besides this, the store has been in charge of competent men, popular, courteous and square dealing. They have taken as active an interest in the store as though they owned it. To their business methods and high social standing much of the success of this store is due. We refer to Val Kasperek, manager, and Jack Essler, who have served Mr. Burton here ever since he extended his operations to Bemidji. (Oct 31, 1901) Did he stay here?

Schneider Bros bought out Barney Burton on May 12, 1903 and apparently were in the Miles Block.

Here? Santa Miles Gives Away Turkeys (1902) C. M. Miles has made arrangements to distribute the day before Christmas 200 turkeys. Mr. Miles invites every poor family in the city to call and get one, and if the father cannot come, send the children. Mr. Miles wishes it stated that while he wants every poor family to have one of these birds, he wants anyone who is unable to afford this luxury, to call and get a turkey. Mr. Miles' generosity is to be commended. (Dec 18, 1902)

Any generous man can be a Santa Claus, but it takes a shrewd business man to size up the needs of a community in order to act well the part. When Charley Miles said he would give away 200 turkeys, no one doubted his generous intentions, but few believed that enough poor people could be found in Bemidji who would ask for that number of turkeys. But Charley knew better, and

now the doubters know better. On the day before Christmas he gave away just 201 turkeys, and all applicants appeared in person. This means an outlay of about four hundred dollars, but Miles is happy in making others happy. 201 families are eating turkey today who would be eating "sow belly," were it not for Santa Claus Miles. (Dec 25, 1902)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR LICENSE. State of Minnesota. County of Beltrami, Village of Bemidji.. Notice is hereby given. That application has been made in writing to the village council of said village of Bemidji. and filed in my office, praying for license to sell intoxicating liquors for the term commencing December 29th. 1902, and terminating on December 29th. 1903, by the following person, and at the following place, as stated in said application, respectively, to-wit: C. H. MILES. East front room, first floor of the two-story brick building located on lots 7 and 8, block 14, original townsite of Bemidji. Said application will be heard and determined by the village council of the village of Bemidji at the village hall in said village of Bemidji, in Beltrami county, and state of Minnesota, on Monday, the 29th day of Dec. A. D. 1902, at 8 o'clock p. m. of that day. Witness my hand and seal of village of Bemidji. this 13th day of Dec. A. D. 1903. P. J. O'LEARY (Dec 18, 1902)

Miles Block (1904)

Charley Miles had this beautiful saloon and he also had the first automobile in Bemidji. It was a two-door Ford painted brilliant red. It was quite a car, but the trouble was that when one wanted to start it, the sand on Beltrami Avenue was so deep that the wheels spun, and it needed a push. The sand was so full of fleas that it was awful to push it. We had most of the fleas on us before we got the car started. Charles Miles was a nice appearing fellow, a very good dresser and courteous man. He could sign only his own name and that is all he knew. He made quite a success of his business here. He had all kinds of roulette machines, slot machines and poker tables, all wide open, and he couldn't help but make money. (Walter Brooks interview).

Gambling was closed about 1912. The story is that two gamblers had a falling out. The one gambler went to St. Paul and took up the matter with the governor, who wired Sheriff Tom Bailey to close the gambling in Bemidji, or he would be fired the next day. Tom went down and told Charlie Miles and the rest of the boys that they had to quit. Tom Bailey closed all the slot machines and made them get out. We all thought it was going to hurt the town, but instead the gamblers, and there were lots of them, started to pay up their old debts and buy more merchandise, so things boomed for awhile.

The next blow that we thought would hurt the town was when they closed all of the 42 saloons. There were forty-two vacant buildings, this, however, did not seem to have a serious effect upon the town. The vacant buildings were filled with legitimate businesses inside of six months to a year, and it was astonishing that Bemidji could come back so rapidly from a slam like that.

When Charlie Miles closed his saloon – the Great Northern and the Golden Club -- on the corner of Third and Beltrami, the Northern National moved to that location and has been there ever since.

C. II. Miles yesterday afternoon completed a deal for the purchase of the business property of O'Leary & Bowser on Third street. The consideration was \$12,000 cash and the final details of the transfer are being arranged today. Mr. Miles has been contemplating the building of a large first class hotel for some time and the property directly adjoins his former holdings on Third Street and was necessary to the project. It is considered one of the best in the city. Under the

conditions of the sale contract O'Leary & Bowser have a lease of the building until January 1, when they will remove to a new location. They will in all probability erect a large store building of their own at a convenient location in the business district, which will be better able to accommodate their large and constantly increasing business. Mr. Miles stated this morning that while the hotel may not perhaps be built this season it is a sure thing. The building improvements necessary to the house cannot be made while the Messrs. O'Leary & Bowser continue in their present location and in all probability the matters now and work will not be begun on the new house until next spring. (June 21, 1904)

The addition to the rear of the Miles block at the corner of Third street and Beltrami avenue will be three stories in height instead of two, as first intended. Mr. Miles, after the erection of the addition had commenced, decided to add a third story, thus making an additional number of office rooms. (Sept 19, 1905)

C. H. Miles appeared and asked that a compromise be made between him and the city regarding the building of cement walks around his brick building on the corner of Third street and Beltrami Avenue. It was the contention of Mr. Miles that he should be permitted to slope the sidewalk gradually from the alley fifty feet south and that a strong curb be built on the outside of the walk. It was the contention of City Engineer M. D. Stoner that the sidewalk should be brought to grade and that Mr. Miles be given four feet of the walk to erect an iron railing, and that two or three steps down the opening of the building be allowed, the iron railing to protect the public from injury. (July 21, 1908)

James L. George and Edwin Gearlds have purchased the C. H. Miles' saloon business, which the latter has conducted in the big brick building at the corner of Third street and Beltrami Avenue. Messrs George and Gearlds will take possession of the business and are being congratulated on acquiring the Miles' saloon. Both gentlemen are popular in the city and it is believed that they will enjoy a large measure of prosperity in their new venture. (Sept 19, 1908)

The Big Miles Block is Changing Ownership. C. H. Bacon Goes to Minneapolis to Close the Deal to Purchase the Property. C. M. Bacon of this city left yesterday afternoon for Minneapolis to complete the final details of purchasing the Miles Block in this city from C. H. Miles. Mr. Bacon stated that the purchasing price is in the near neighborhood of \$35,000 and that the transfer is practically completed. The papers are to be signed either today or tomorrow in the "Mill City." The Miles Block is one of the largest buildings in this city, it having been erected by Charles H. Miles in 1901. The ground floor is being used for George & Gerald's buffet and for Schneider Brother's large clothing house, the two upper floors being rented for office purposes. Mr. Bacon was accompanied by A. P. White, president of the Lumbermen's National Bank of this city, who will act as his financial agent in the transaction. (Oct 30, 1908)

All the papers were signed yesterday, and the deal finally completed whereby C. M. Bacon of this city became the owner of the Miles Block, the handsome three-story brick structure which adorns the corner of Third street and Beltrami avenue. Negotiations for the purchase of the building have been conducted for some time between Mr. Bacon and C. H. Miles, the owner of the Miles block, the negotiations being closed yesterday by the transferring of the property to C. M. Bacon. The Miles Block was erected in 1901 by C. H. Miles and is one of most substantial

structures in northern Minnesota. The rentals from the tenants of the building bring in a splendid income and the property is considered a splendid investment. The lower floor of the Miles Block is being used by George & Gerald's Buffet, Schneider Bros. Clothing store, John Armstrong's restaurant and Kane & Longballa's barber shop. The two upper floors are rented for office purposes. It is stated that the consideration in the deal was \$35,000. (Nov 7, 1908)

The Lumbermens National Bank of this city will occupy the corner vacated by Edwin Gearlds, where they will install splendid fixtures and have one of the most complete banking institutions in the state. (Oct 7, 1909)

The Northern National Bank was listed at 201 3rd Street in the 1910-11 directory, so Miles had sold to the bank by that time, but the building still must have been known as the Miles Block.

Miles Block (1910-11)

Northern National Bank Bldg. (1910-40)
Northwest Foundation (2013)

203 Third Street, Block 14, Lot 8

John W White held the deed from Bji Townsite Co. for Lot 8, Block 14. Filed Apr 22, 1898. D 3/626

The New Firm.

Schneider Brothers, the enterprising successors to Barney Burton, are remodeling their store, and when completed will be one of the best and most up-to-date clothing institutions in northern Minnesota. New shelves and fixtures will be put in, after which an entire new and complete stock of the latest wares will be installed. Many other improvements will also be made, to be followed by a grand opening at which an orchestra will furnish music. (June 2, 1903)

Schneider Bros. (1904)

"Schneider's Bemidji's" will be the name of a baseball team which will be organized at a meeting to be held at the City hall Thursday night of this week. It will be made up of all home talent and gives promise of being a very fast bunch. Schneider Bros., the popular clothiers, will outfit the team with suits and will have the management. The first game will probably be played with the Cass Lake team on the home grounds next Sunday afternoon. (May 3, 1904)

The clearance sale conducted for the past two weeks by Schneider Bros, has proved very successful in moving a big stock of winter goods. Excellent values have been given and the sale has attracted buyers from every town in this part of the state. E. A. Schneider left this noon for New York where he will make extensive purchases of spring and summer goods. Schneider Bros, have carried on so extensive a business that they are enabled to buy directly from the manufactures very advantageously and the firm will place on display in Bemidji the coming season a magnificent stock of stylish furnishings for men. Mr. Schneider will improve the occasion of his trip east to enjoy a short vacation and will accompany Dr. Morrison on his trip to Florida. The gentlemen will go to Pensacola and thence by water to New York. (Feb 6, 1905)
Schneider Boosts Bemidji. Duluth Herald "Bemidji is taking on quite a citified appearance," said Emil Schneider, a Bemidji merchant, at the St. Louis. "The new buildings that are going up in the burned district, and those that have already been built, are mostly of brick and stone, and are

much more substantial than the old. The block that was burned was so very displeasing to the eye that many residents of the town have been heard to express the opinion that it was a good thing the fire happened. "(Sept 19, 1905)

Same building as 301 Beltrami Avenue: A formal opening of the George & Gearlds buffet, corner Third street and Beltrami avenue, will be held tonight, when patrons of the place will be given a right royal welcome. Messrs. George and Gearlds purchased the saloon business of the Miles Golden Club some time ago, but they have postponed their formal opening reception until tonight. They have been catering to the public long enough to receive the general approbation of all buffet frequenters and no doubt a big crowd will be on hand tonight to extend the "glad hand" to the boys. An elaborate free lunch will be served during the evening and the best brands of beer, wines, liquors and cigars will be on tap. (Oct 10, 1910)

Jens Hanson Saloon (Jan 25, 1911)

Edwin Gearlds, Saloon; Edwin and Nellie Gearlds (1910-11) (1912-13)

George A. Tanner, Saloon (1914-15)

Ideal Pool Hall (1918-19)

M. N. Crawford, billiards room (1920-1921)

Ross D. Shetterly, Billiards (1924-25)

Golden Rule Store, next to Northern National Bank (April 1931)

Isadore Roman, dry goods (1931-32)

Vacant (1934-1935)

Plans for the return of the National Tea Co. to Bemidji to operate a grocery store were announced with the completion of negotiations for the rental of the vacant store in the Bacon building on 3rd Street. Operation to open March 1, 1935.

National Tea opened in Bacon Building March 1, 1935

National Tea, Vern L. Torgerson, mgr. (1937-1938)

National Tea, Amber Struehling (1939-1940)

Montgomery Ward & Co (1942)

205 Third Street Block 14, Lot 9

O'Leary & Bowser, of New Duluth, have rented for three months the west store-room of the Malzahn block, and have the shelving all in waiting for their goods. They will at once begin the construction of a store building on one of their lots. It will be two stories, 22x70. (Feb 10, 1898)

E. M. Bissett purchased Lot 9, Blk 14 from the Bji Townsite Co. Deed filed Jan 20, 1899. D 5/546.

E. M. Bissett received deed from Mabel B. Remore for Lot 9, Blk 14 and filed it Jan 25, 1899. D 7/64

Elmira Bissett sold Lot 9, Blk 14 to Mabel B. Benson on Jan 14, 1899. Deed Filed Jan 20, 1899. D 7/64

Edward Ross filed a lien against McNair & Woodward, Lots 9 & 10, Block 14, for \$77.66. Work completed Aug 27, 1900. Filed Nov 14, 1900.

Swedback Bros. filed a lien against McNair & Woodward, Lots 9 & 10, Block 14, for \$115.28. Materials for double one-story building. Work completed Aug 27, 1900. Filed Nov 20, 1900.

O'Leary & Bowser are the Purchasers of the McNair Block on Third Street. (1902)

The trustees in the McNair bankruptcy sold at public auction Tuesday, the block on Third street known by that name, for \$8,100. O'Leary & Bowser were the buyers, and within two months they will have one of the most complete and elegant lines of clothing, dry goods, etc. in this part of the state, moved into their new store building.

The building is that built two years ago by McNair & Woodward, solid brick and is 100 feet long by 50 feet wide. It will be thoroughly renovated and rearranged inside, and the front will remodeled before their stock arrives.

The purchasers are old in the clothing business in Bemidji, having come here in '97. For some time they ran the business in a small part of the Malzahn block, but before long they were compelled by their constantly growing trade, to build a new store. This they did, but before a year had passed they were again forced to make room for a larger stock as well as an ever increasing patronage. At this time they purchased the Richard Bros.' store building next adjoining their own place of business. And now they come a third time into public notice by purchasing one of the finest buildings in the city for their still increasing trade, and when they get their stock into it will have the largest clothing and brand names goods stock in the northern part of the state. (Oct 28, 1902)

O'Leary & Bowser (1904) O'Leary & Bowser Going Out of Business Sale (June 1909)

Markham Block: With the dissolution of the pioneer firm of O'Leary & Bowser, which was succeeded by the O'Leary-Bowser Company, and the removal of that company's business from the north to the south side of Third street, several important business changes have followed on that street....The store building occupied by O'Leary & Bowser, and known as the Markham block, has been remodeled entirely and partitioned into two stores, the east half being occupied by Schneider Bros., and the west half of the block is to be occupied by T. J. Crane & Company, with their ladies' ready-to-wear garments. These removals have caused two other changes, Edwin Gearlds moving his saloon fixtures and stock of goods into the building formerly occupied by Schneider Bros. The Lumbermen's National Bank of this city will occupy the corner vacated by Edwin Gearlds, where they will install splendid fixtures and have one of the most complete banking institutions in the state. The six and a half years which Schneider Bros, have been in business in Bemidji have been prosperous ones for that firm. (Oct 7, 1909)

T. J. Crane & Company, who occupy the west half of the Markham block, are daily receiving their stocks of ready-to-wear garments. Mr. Crane is personally in charge of the work of unpacking the goods and is being very ably assisted by Miss Florence R. Smyth. (Oct 7, 1909)

Malzahn and Co. went out of business and sold out their stock in Nov. 1904.

NEW FIRM Fleming & Downs Buy Out the F. M. Malzahn Hardware Company. Negotiations were today completed by which the hardware store of F. M. Malzhan & Co. was transferred to George Fleming and Michael Downs who will conduct the business under the firm name of Fleming & Downs. Possession will be given December 1. The gentlemen who compose the new firm are well known to the people of Bemidji. Mr. Fleming has had charge of the hardware

department of E H. Winter & Co. for the past two years while Mr. Downs has had three years' experience with the same firm. They are both earnest, hustling and capable and will doubtless make a success of the venture. The Malzahn brothers who compose the present firm will retire entirely from business for the present, having gradually disposed of all their extensive holdings in this city. (Oct 28, 1904)

We have purchased the F. M. Malzahn & Company stock of Hardware, Stoves, Tinware, Implements, Cutlery and Sporting Goods, and are now prepared to show the public a complete stock of Fine Goods in all these lines. Our goods will be of the best our prices will be as reasonable as a fair profit will warrant, and our service will be excelled by none. We solicit your business. Phone 57. FLEMING & DOWNS. (Dec 1, 1904)

In connection with his hardware business, F. M. Malzahn will open up a harness shop in charge of Frank Longcoy, the experienced leather worker. He will make new and repair old harness of all kinds. If you need anything in this line, remember the new place. (Jan 9, 1902)

Here? ANOTHER CLOTHING STORE FOR CITY OF BEMIDJI .

Ben Schneider and Charles Cominsky Are Members Who Compose the New Firm. Ben Schneider, well known in this city and surrounding country, is about to establish a new clothing house in Bemidji. Mr. Schneider will associate with him his brother-in-law, Charles Cominsky. Mr. Cominsky has taken a three-year lease on the building known as the old Miles Corner, on Minnesota and Third street and on or about July 1 extensive improvements will be made. The entire corner will be remodeled and fitted into a first- class clothing house. Mr. Schneider expects to make this store second to none in Northern Minnesota. The business will be conducted under the management of Charles Cominsky and will carry nothing but the best wearables that the market affords. The public can be assured of this fact because Mr. Schneider has long been in the clothing business and is known throughout this northern country as an expert clothier, careful buyer and conscientious salesman. Ben Schneider commenced his business career as a clothing merchant at Iron River, Wis., in the spring of 1873. He successfully withstood the panic of '93-'94 and by hard and earnest efforts he became one of the largest clothing merchants in northern Wisconsin. At Iron River is also where Emil Schneider gained his experience as a clothing merchant. He was in the employ of Ben Schneider until the spring of 1903 when he was placed in charge of the business opened here by the brothers, who purchased the Barney Burton clothing business. The business has been successfully conducted and now it is the largest exclusive clothing store in the city. The brothers have dissolved partnership and the business interests were purchased by Emil Schneider, who will continue at the same old stand. The new store will open temporarily in the room now occupied by E. J. Gould. Mr. Ben Schneider is popular among Bemidji people and is an all-around democratic fellow. With a combination such as constitutes this firm, and under the able management of Mr. Cominsky, its future is assured as a most promising one. With the development of present plans which will result in the entire change of appearance of the Old Miles Block corner (which is owned by Mr. Schneider) the store will not only be a credit to the new firm but a credit to the City of Bemidji as well. They have many friends who wish them a successful business career. (Jan 10, 1910)

Schneider Bros. Emil A. & Benjamin, clothing and shoes (1910-11) (1912-13) (1914-15)
For the convenience of their patrons, Schneider Bros., company is constructing an archway between the men's clothing department and women's ready-to-wear store. The archway is

towards the front of the store rooms and patrons will not be compelled to walk out on the street when going from one store to the other. (Aug 10, 1915)

Mrs. Henry Cominsky left this morning for St Paul where she will join her husband and where they will make their future home. Until recently Mr. Cominsky was local manager of Schneider Brothers ready-to-wear store here. The concern recently sold its business and Mr. Cominsky severed his connection with the store He is now in partnership with his brother, Charles Cominsky, also formerly interested in the Schneider Bros company. Cominsky Brothers have a large clothing store In St Paul. (Mar 17, 1919)

Shavitch Bros Clothing (1918-19) (1920-1921)

F. W. Woolworth Co., (1924-32) Verta Bishop worked at and helped open Bemidji's first F.W. Woolworth store, which was located on Third Street Northwest. She then went to work at Wilson's clothing store. In 1926 she was crowned the first Miss Bemidji, and also Miss Northern Minnesota.

Vacant (1934-1935)

W.P.A. Sewing Project (1937-38)

Tremain's (July 1940) Arthur Tremain, Variety Store (1939-1940) (1942)

Lindrud's Variety Store. The area chain opened its Bemidji outlet in 1948 on Third St. with Fran Saeger as manager. The firm also operated stores through Minnesota, ND and SD. Lindrud's moved from this address to the old Bemidji Theater building on Beltrami Avenue and opened for business there on Sept 14, 1963.

U-Save Store (1964) Grand Opening October 1964.

Beltrami Avenue Side of Northwest Foundation

301 Beltrami Avenue, Block 14, Lots 7 & 8, Original Townsite

John White built his grocery store where the Northern National bank is now located. Building slowed down during the winter of 1895-1896, but when spring arrived, the town burst forth with many new businesses.

J. W. White has been enjoying the luxury of one of Job's comforters. He is still able to wait on customers, however. (April 30, 1896)

J. W. White has taken the agency for the Northwestern Benevolent Society, and is prepared to write accident and sickness policies for all men engaged in dangerous or other lines of business. (April 30, 1896)

J.W. White is building an addition to his store on the corner of Third and Beltrami Avenue. (May 21, 1896)

John W. White purchased Lot 7 on Oct 28, 1897 and Lot 8 on April 22, 1898. J. W. White and Company are thinking of putting up a new store building to accommodate increasing business. (Aug 17, 1899)

In order to find room for their winter stock of goods, the firms of Snow & Schroeder and J. W. White & Co. are each putting up large warehouses adjoining their respective places of business. For the same purpose, a warehouse has been erected to the rear of Malzahn's store. (Sept 14, 1899)

J. W. White & Co. are clearing up the north lot contiguous to their building. The photograph gallery has been removed and the surface of the lot is being leveled. The firm will at present use the cleared space for piling lumber. (Aug 2, 1900)

Lavinia McLennan purchased Lots 7 & 8, Block 14, for \$5,000 on Mar 15, 1901 from the Bemidji Townsite Co. D 11/481.

John W. White and wife Evaline A. White sold Lots 7 and 8 in Block 14 in the original townsite for \$5,000 to Lavinia McLennan on Mar 15, 1901.

Roderick & Lavinia McLennan sold the lots two months later for \$6,500 to C. H. Miles on May 24, 1901.

"Murders, drownings and suicides were very numerous in early Bemidji. In 1903 the Miles building was put up and was the handsomest saloon and gambling house in the north country. (Sentinel, Jan 15, 1926)

Mr. Miles will ask the council tonight for an assurance of sewerage on Third street this summer, and if this goes through, work will commence immediately upon a three-story solid brick hotel on his property at the corner of Third street and Beltrami avenue.

Mr. Miles has had it in mind for some time to make this move, but his plans were changed by the letting of the contract to J. M. Markham to build a new hotel on Bemidji Avenue. Mr. Markham, due to sickness, does not intend to go through with his plans. (June 14, 1904)

Great Northern Hotel and saloon – Entry at 301 Beltrami for the Golden Club & Great Northern Saloon, owned by C. H. Miles (1904)

301 Beltrami, Golden Club & Great Northern saloons, C. H. Miles (1904).

C. H. Miles yesterday afternoon completed a deal for the purchase of the business property of O'Leary & Bowser on Third street. The consideration was \$12,000 cash and the final details of the transfer are being arranged today. Mr. Miles has been contemplating the building of a large first class hotel for some time and the property directly adjoins his former holdings on Third street and was necessary to the project. It is considered one of the best in the city. Under the conditions of the sale contract O'Leary & Bowser have a lease of the building until January 1, when they will remove to a new location. They will in all probability erect a large store building of their own at a convenient location in the business district, which will be better able to accommodate their large and constantly increasing business. Mr. Miles stated this morning that while the hotel may not perhaps be built this season it is a sure thing. The building improvements necessary to the house cannot be made while the Messrs. O'Leary & Bowser continue in their present location and in all probability the matters now at hand and work will not be begun on the new house until next spring. (Sept 9, 1904)

First horseless vehicle owned by a Bemidji man arrived today. C. H. Miles received the first horseless vehicle, and it is now at the G. N. Depot. Mr. Miles purchased the auto several months ago and kept it at Hibbing where he has property interests. (6/19/1905)

Petition for a license to sell liquor in the front room of his two-story brick building on Lots 7 and 8, Block 14 of the original townsite of Bemidji. (Dec 2, 1907)

A formal opening of the George & Gearlds buffet, corner Third street and Beltrami avenue, will be held tonight, when patrons of the place will be given a right royal welcome. Messrs. George and Gearlds purchased the saloon business of the Miles Golden Club some time ago, but they have postponed their formal opening reception until tonight. They have been catering to the public long enough to receive the general approbation of all buffet frequenters and no doubt a big crowd will be on hand tonight to extend the "glad hand" to the boys. An elaborate free lunch will be served during the evening and the best brands of beer, wines, liquors and cigars will be on tap. (Oct 10, 1910)

Arthur N. Gould, Successor to Crane & Gould, 301 Beltrami Ave. (Dec 22, 1909)

303 Beltrami Ave., Block 14

F. N. Lang Real Estate, Ground Floor. (Dec 11, 1902)

Charles Miles and wife Belle Miles to Kenneth McIver on Sept 23, 1907 for \$13,000. Lot 9, 10, and a strip 6 inches wide of lot 11 from se corner extending north to corner. Purchase includes the heating and lighting plants contained in the building on said premises and the piping and fixtures and appliances belonging to said heating and plumbing plants.

ELKS GET OPTION ON McIVER LOT Special Meeting Called to Decide Plans for Future Home. It is possible that Bemidji Elks will choose as the site for their new home, which long has been contemplated, the McIver lot on Beltrami avenue between Third and Fourth street, now occupied by McIver's livery. The building committee of the Elks, of which Ray Murphy is chairman has secured an option on these lots and a special meeting of the Elks lodge has been called to decide upon definite action. The building committee is composed of Ray Murphy, George Kreatez, Eugene Berman, Joe Harrington, and John Graham. It is understood that the committee succeeded in getting a good offer from Mr. McIver for a especially desirable site, adjoining property held by the Bemidji Townsite company being held at \$8,000. (Aug 9, 1911)

Arthur N. Gould, Cigars and Tobacco, News Depot (1910 directory) News Store & Tobacco (1914 Sanborn Map) Could be the J.P. Omich Cigar Store. Photo at BCHS says this was the cigar store with Art Gould behind the counter. This would be the store where Omich's grandson had the combination and cleaned out the safe in 1913.

305 Beltrami Avenue, Block 14, part of Lot 7

John W. White first purchased Lot 7, of Block 14 from the Townsite Co., for \$200 on Jan 15, 1897. Filed the deed on Oct 28 1897.

Western Employment Office, A. T. Wheelock (1904)

Everett Cain, Martin Longballa, barbers (1910-1911)

Ray Dennis Buys Cain Shop. Ray Dennis has purchased from Everett J. Cain the Cain barber Shop on Beltrami avenue. Mr. Dennis was proprietor of a shop destroyed by the big fire two weeks ago. He has taken possession of his new property. Mr. Cain contemplates going west. (Jan 29, 1912)

Lot 7 was divided into several smaller parcels and had various businesses on it.

Miles Block Barber Shop, Ray Dennis, proprietor. "The Only First Class Barber Shop in the City:" (1912-1913)

R. O. Dennis, barber (1912-13)

Ray Dennis Tonsorial Parlors (Mar 7, 1913)

News Store & Tobacco (1914 Sanborn Map) Could be the J.P. Omich Cigar Store. Photo at BCHS says this was the cigar store with Art Gould behind the counter. This would be the store where Omich's grandson had the combination and cleaned out the safe in 1913.

Paquin Brothers (1916-1917)

PAQUIN BARBER SHOP HAS NEW OWNERS

Paquin brothers, who have conducted a barber shop on Beltrami avenue, have felt the call of the

farm and have sold their shop, laid aside the razor, shears and clippers and taken up the hoe, shovel, rake and plough. The new proprietors are William Clish, who for the past two years has been associated with the Crothers shop, and Ray Dennis, who owned the shop before Paquin brothers. Both are well known and their many friends are confident they will do well. (May 9, 1917)

W. H. Clish, barber (1920-1921)

Grover Marquis, barber(1924-1956). Grover Marquis, 77, resident of Bemidji for 42 years died at the Bemidji Hospital following an extended illness. (Sept 14, 1962). Former proprietor of the Marquis Barber Shop, was also well known for his love of flowers and was a member of the Men's Garden club and served as a member of the Bemidji Park board for five years. Born at Greenfield, Iowa Jan 28, 1885. Married in Iowa to Alta Dick. They lived in Spencer Iowa, and moved to Bemidji in 1920 where they have resided since. (Sept 14, 1962)

Rasmussen and operated by her and her husband. (Apr 26, 1961)

Castle's Barber Shop, Ray Castle (1963)

307 Beltrami Avenue, Block 14, part of Block 7

John Armstrong opens up his new cafe tonight in the Miles block, 307 Beltrami avenue, and there promises to be a rush of patrons to take advantage of the opportunity the popular restaurant man has given to eat a "swell" meal in a "swell" place. The first dishes will be served this evening for supper. The quarters occupied by Mr. Armstrong in his new place of business are roomy and have been fixed up in the most approved cafe style. Besides the long counter, there are three tables, and the ladies, as well as the men, will find Armstrong's a good place to dine or lunch. (Nov 28, 1906)

John Armstrong, who for the past year has conducted the "Armstrong Cafe," has leased the Challenge Hotel and will take possession Monday morning. The hotel building will be raised to the established grade, new cement walk placed in front of the building and other improvements made. (Aug 1, 1907)

J. A. Armstrong, proprietor of Armstrong's Cafe, has decided that he will continue to operate his cafe, as well as the Challenge hotel, which he recently leased. Mr. Armstrong announced a few days ago that he intended to close the cafe and operate the Challenge, only, but he has since changed his mind, and will operate both places. It is Mr. Armstrong's intention to repair and renovate the interior of the Challenge hotel and conduct it as a first-class hostelry. This work will be done just as rapidly as carpenters and painters can perform the labor. When this is done, the hotel will be in first-class condition to handle trade. Mr. Armstrong will continue to run the cafe along the same excellent lines that he did heretofore. (Aug 6, 1907)

The lower floor of the Miles Block is being used by George & Gerald's Buffet, Schneider Bros. Clothing store, John Armstrong's restaurant and Kane & Longballa's barber shop. (Nov 7, 1908) A change of management has taken place in the large and popular clothing store at Schneider Bros. Ben. Schneider of Minneapolis arrived here Saturday and will assume charge of the big store. E. A. Schneider, who has had charge of the store a good many years, moves to Minneapolis and will have charge of the wholesale millinery store of Levison-Schneider & company. Ben Schneider is well and favorably known to a great many people here and assumed

charge Monday morning. It is the intention of Mr. Schneider to inaugurate a "change of management sale," this sale to start Friday morning. (Aug 4, 1908)

John Armstrong returned to the city last night from Milwaukee, where he has been receiving medical treatment for his eyes. Mr. Armstrong reports that his eyes are entirely well. He was gone about a month. "John" announces that he is going into the dairy lunch business about July 1st. (June 17, 1909)

John Armstrong returned to the city yesterday morning from Milwaukee, where he has been receiving treatment for his eyes. Mr. Armstrong states that his "orbs" are still bothering him, but that their condition is improving considerably, although he must wear blue glasses. Mr. Armstrong expects to open his dairy lunch in Fargo within the next thirty days. (Mar 24, 1910)

John Armstrong, who has conducted a restaurant in Bemidji for many years past, departed this morning for his new home at Fargo, N. D., where he has started a high class eating establishment, which he will personally manage. Before leaving, Mr. Armstrong expressed the desire to thank the people of Bemidji and vicinity for the liberal patronage which had been accorded his place in this city, and that he greatly appreciated the many kindnesses which had been extended him. (Apr 1, 1910)

John Armstrong, the veteran caterer, has disposed of his local restaurant business, known as "Armstrong's Dairy Lunch," W. W. Brown purchased the business and assumed the personal management of the place. Mr. Armstrong has purchased a restaurant in Fargo, N. D., to which place he will soon move and make his permanent home, and where he has invested considerable money. Mr. Brown, the new proprietor of the restaurant, has been a resident of Bemidji since the early days, when this place was a village in the woods, and he is known to nearly every person who has lived in this northern section. He is a conservative business man, and with his large following of personal friends, will no doubt do well in his new field. Mr. Armstrong is one of the very best restaurant men in the entire northwest, and his previous success will undoubtedly attend him in his business at Fargo. (Mar 31, 1910)

Browne's Dairy Lunch (1910-1911)

Abell's Dairy Lunch, Wm. Abell, Propr. Open Day and Night. (1912-13)

John Armstrong arrived in the city this morning on a business trip. Armstrong formerly was the proprietor of the Abell Dairy Lunch room then known as Armstrong's Cafe. Armstrong is now the proprietor of a large dairy lunch room at Fargo. (May 22, 1912)

Word was received of the death of John Armstrong, who for the past two years has been proprietor of two restaurants in Fargo. Mr. Armstrong formerly operated the Mayer Dairy lunch and was in Bemidji two weeks ago during the Editor's convention renewing old acquaintances. He was on his way home to Fargo at the time after an extended visit to Panama and other southern points of interest. Death came at 10:45 Sunday evening from a heart attack. (July 7, 1913)

Mayer Dairy Lunch (1913)

T. R. SYMONS BUYS MAYER DAIRY LUNCH

T.R. Symons late yesterday afternoon purchased the Dairy Lunch on Beltrami Avenue from Harry Mayer. Mr. Symons took possession last evening. Mr Symons was formerly manager of the branch office of the Minneapolis Brewing company in this city and in Hibbing. He announced today that the Dairy Lunch room would be remodeled. (March 17, 1916) Mr. Symons died after an attack of appendicitis on April 5, 1916, only weeks after purchasing the business. Mrs. Joe Wells, cook at the Dairy Lunch, was severely burned late Thursday afternoon when an oil stove exploded. She was taken to St. Anthony's hospital where it is reported that although her

burns are serious and painful, she will recover. The stove had been out of order for several days and Alec Newton, Janitor, was attempting to repair the burner. The tank sprang a leak and gasoline spurted on the clothing of Mrs. Wells and caught fire. Mrs. Wells' back and knees were severely burned. (March 17, 1916)

B & D Shoe Store; E. W. Bartholomae, A. F. Danuser (1920-1921)(1922-23) (1924-25)

E. J. Thurber, Jeweler. New Years Greetings 1926.

E. J. Thurber, Watchmaker (April 1926) (1927-28)

The Bemidji Floral Company which has been located at 307 Beltrami Ave. with the Naylor Electrical Construction Company, moved this week to the building at 209 Beltrami which was formerly occupied by the Singer Sewing Machine Company. (Dec 12, 1930)

Harold's Karmelkorn Shop confrs. (1934-35)

Cliff C. Butts; Naylor Electrical Construction Co. (1942)

LaFontisee Hat Shop (1946) (1953)

Melody Shop (1956) (1963)

