

tioned that the blacksmith shops also would shell, grind, and sack grain, the power being supplied by horse power with a boy to drive the horse. The Tornquist shop made and repaired wagons and buggies doing the upholstering as well, even putting the finishing touches to the "surry with the fringe on top". John Calder was also well known at this time as a breeder, raiser and trainer of horses, his farm and half-mile track being in the region of the former Ethel settlement. A picture of one of his horses appears in the 1911 directory.

The Farmer's Bank of North Henderson served the community until 1931 with R. A. Newcomer the banker at that time. Mr. Newcomer was also interested in farming and seed and later founded the Newcomer Seed Co. which became an outstanding business in this area and well beyond the community. He was probably one of the first breeders of hybrid seed corn and personally developed a strain of his own cross breeding. He then changed the name of his firm to Newcomer Hybrid Seeds. The company has been discontinued but operated for many years after his passing.

Fire Department

The North Henderson fire department was started with a push type sort of equipment with a hand pump that the volunteer firemen would push or pull to the scene of a fire. No doubt this was used only within the village. Later, financed by public donations in the township and village, a truck was purchased and a more up-to-date system was inaugurated. It was said to have had its problems, sometimes proving inadequate in time of emergency. North Henderson became a member of the Alexis Fire Protection District in 1947 and the North Henderson station was built in 1948 to house one of the three pumper fire trucks of the district.

The original two-story school house was built in the southeast corner of town in the early days of the village. Nine rural schools also served the township before the time that North Henderson became a part of Alexis Community School District No. 400 in 1952. Only eight grades were taught in the first school house, two years of high school being added in later years.

The high school was discontinued after several years, the school returning to the eighth grade level. In 1952 a new brick elementary school was erected in the northeast part of town as a part of Unit 400. A gymnasium was added a little later. The schools and churches were the centers for the social life of the area in the early days. Spelling bees, ice cream socials and school and church programs were just a few examples of the entertainment provided for the citizens.

Many will remember the "central examination" administered by the County Superintendent of schools or his assistants to eighth grade students in earlier years. It was necessary to pass these tests before a student could enter high school. During the middle 1930's, Fred Close, the new county superintendent inaugurated a township program for the schools to meet together for the purpose of having annual music contests and track meets, thus creating more interest in sports and music and bringing the elementary students of the township together to have fun and become better acquainted.

Some of the North Henderson residents recall that the sidewalks at one time were board walks with small bridges and bannisters at the low places and later becoming replaced with cement walks.