

Chapter 5 - Theodore's Businesses Community

Other Businesses

The Union Bank

A branch of the Union Bank of Canada was opened in Theodore in early October, 1908, in A. C. Tracy's building and within a few weeks was doing a good business under the management of W. A. Tripp.^{1 2} After one year in Theodore, the bank had grown to the point where additional staff and a new building was required.³ Consequently, property was purchased on the corner of Main Street and Railway Avenue, from C. M. Abbott and construction of a new bank building began in November, 1909.^{4 5} In early December 1909 it was announced that, "The new Union Bank building is nearing completion and will be ready for occupation at the end of the week."⁶ Unfortunately, the bank wasn't quite ready for business as predicted, and two weeks later another announcement appeared, "The new Union Bank is being furnished and hopes are entertained for business being transacted next week."⁷ Over the ensuing years, a number of additions and changes were made to the bank building. For example, a new vault was installed in 1911.⁸

W. A. Tripp managed the bank at Theodore for four years and enjoyed wide popularity in the village, was appointed manager of the bank at Morse, Saskatchewan. A great many people from the village and surrounding area gathered for a banquet at the Leland Hotel to bid him his wife goodbye.⁹ When Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Tripp returned to visit Theodore in 1931 the Theodore correspondent reminded his readers that while the Mr. Tripp lived in Theodore he did much to build up the village and district, and that both Mr and Mrs. Tripp were active in the social life of the community.¹⁰

Following Mr Tripp's departure The Union Bank at Theodore experience a long series of managers who only stayed for a few months before moving on to other positions. There were, of course, some exception, Mr. Learmouth, resigned his position as manager and joined Mr. Layng in the hardware business, and H. C. Roberts resigned to buy a farm near the village.^{11 12} Another exception was A. J. Trow who arrived in Theodore in December of 1915 and enlisted in the army the following April.^{13 14} In the spring of 1918 word was received at Theodore that Corporal A. J. Trow had been killed in the war.¹⁵

In the spring of 1920 Theodore was still enjoying the effect of the war time prosperity and it was rumored that a branch of the Imperial Bank would soon open in the village.¹⁶

We understand that a branch of the Imperial Bank will open here shortly. The manager of the Yorkton Branch spent Friday here looking over the prospects and seemed satisfied that the venture would prove a paying one. There is no reason why this should not be so. A larger amount of business is done here annually than in most town of the same size, as evidence of which we would point to the number of business establishments, most of which are doing a thriving business. This with the trade of the farmers in this large prosperous district should prove sufficient to keep two banks busy and stop a lot of businesses from going to Yorkton and else where, that rightly belong here. We welcome the Imperial as we would welcome competition in all other lines of business.¹⁷

Nothing ever came of that rumor just as nothing came of the rumor that the Union Bank would erect a new up-to-date building in Theodore.¹⁸ Instead of erecting a new building the Union Bank had Thomas Halliday, a local building contractor make improvements to the existing building.¹⁹

The long series of short-term bank managers came to and end in December, 1920 with the appointment of K. M. Lewis to the position.²⁰ In the early 1920's there was a rash of bank robberies on the Canadian prairies. The Union Bank at Theodore enjoyed the distinction of being one of the few that was never robbed, and in 1922 manager Lewis stated the he was satisfied that it could not be done, at least not under his management.²¹ In the spring of 1923 the head office of

the Union Bank advised the managers of outlying branches that there was every likelihood that the epidemic of robbery of the previous year may be of a renewed, and asked them to work in conjunction with local councils to organize some means of protection for villages and towns that were not sufficiently policed.²² The Theodore news column does not say what steps bank manager Lewis, the village council took to providing necessary protection. The closest the bank at Theodore ever came to being robbed is described in the following story.

Slinking around the rear of the Union Bank here on Monday, one of our citizens aroused some curiosity of passers by, who enquired his intension without at first securing any reply. On being pressed for an answer, and seeing the light flash on Constable McLeod's police badge, he assured his interviewer in a whimper that he had no intention of breaking into the bank, but has just collected \$100.00 and was trying to sneak into the bank to deposit it without advertising his good luck to his friends who probably would wish to borrow it. Constable McLeod allowed him to go, satisfied that he had satisfactorily explained his suspicious actions.²³

The only reported case of theft from the Union Bank in Theodore occurred in 1924 when J. D. Herron, the clerk, was charged with theft of \$250 from the bank. He was given a suspended sentence after making restitution.²⁴

In 1925 the Union Bank of Canada merged with the Royal Bank of Canada. As a result of the merger a number of smaller branches across Canada, including the one at Theodore were to be closed.. In February 1926, and the news of the closure came as a shock to the residents.

Something of a bomb shell nature was exploded in the local business circles here Wednesday when patrons of the local branch of the Royal Bank were informed that this branch would be closed on March 1, after having enjoyed the service of the old Union Bank for the past 18 years.

Rated as one of the best little business towns of its size along this line and in the centre of one of the best agricultural districts in the west, it is inconceivable that the bank should withdraw just as conditions are beginning to improve.

A meeting on the citizens and others interested has been called for Thursday night to discuss ways and means to induce the bank to reconsider their decision and failing this a strong effort will be made to induce some other bank to come in at once.²⁵

Theodore's response to the closing of the bank was predictable. They tried to persuade another bank to open a branch in the village.

Two or three of the business men of the town will visit Yorkton Thursday night in search of banking facilities for the town. The Royal bank will close here on Saturday, Feb. 27, and it is hoped that patrons of the bank, will swing their combined business to some other bank as an inducement to open a branch here in the near future.²⁶

So far efforts to secure another Bank to succeed the Royal, which closes its local branch here at the end of the month, have been unfruitful, but business men of the town have high hopes of inducing another Bank to open up, and it will certainly be in the interests of any Bank contemplating opening here, to do so with dispatch, before the accounts are transferred elsewhere.²⁷

In spite of the best efforts by community leaders in Theodore bank accounts and staff were transferred to other branches and the bank did close as scheduled.²⁸ Mr. K. M. Lewis who had been the manage of the bank since 1920 was transferred to Invermay to act as relieving manager at Invermay for a month.²⁹ He was then transferred to Birsay, Saskatchewan and the permanent manager of the bank there.³⁰ Other Banks operating out of Yorkton, Including the Bank of Toronto, sent representative to Theodore to attract business, and it appears some of them were quite successful.³¹

After operating here for some eighteen years. the local branch of the Royal Bank, formerly the Union bank, closed its doors to the public on Saturday after noon. much to the regret of its many customers. The reason given by the bank is that the local branch has been operating at a loss for some time. It seems strange that only three or four years ago there were four banks doing business, where there is only one operating now, viz., Springside, Theodore, Insinger and Sheho. If this is what amalgamation means, then it is to be hoped that the government will step in and see that the rural communities are provided for, as well as the larger urban centres. We appreciate the kindly sentiments expressed by your Sheho correspondent along banking lines and can assure him that we are ready to join hands to protect our mutual interests. The business men of the town will not rest until

another bank has been induced to locate here. Failing in one place, they will swing their combined business to any other bank who will open a branch here.³²

Theodore's campaign for a bank continued through the spring and early summer of 1926. Among the arguments in favor of re-opening the bank was the fact that by March 12 more than four hundred and fifty thousand bushels of grain had been delivered to local elevators and that total deliveries for the year would probably reach half a million bushels.³³ In addition to the grain shipments there was also cream, eggs, butter, live stock, hides, furs, wood and other products which Theodore produced. Other points raised in the case for the bank to be re-opened were that Theodore was situated midway between Yorkton and Foam Lake, and that it had largest population of any community between Yorkton and Foam Lake.³⁴ Finally, at the end of July the manager of the Royal Bank in Yorkton visited Theodore with a view to re-opening the local branch of his bank in the near future.³⁵ In August, it was announced that the bank would be open every Tuesday and Friday until further notice.^{36 37} The re-opening of the bank was greeted with the following news item which challenged the residents of Theodore and district show the banks management that there was enough business in the community to keep the bank open.

The local branch of Royal Bank will reopen on Friday, August 27, after having been closed since March 1. For a time the bank will operate only on Fridays and Tuesdays, but it is thought that as business improves, and the public shows its desire to support the local bank the management will reopen fo all the week. The matter lies in the hands of the public, whether or not we have a permanent bank with us. There is undoubtedly enough business in this district to support a bank if each one interested will use his influence to centre the business here. The past few months have proven the value of this institution to a community, so surely we can co-operate to encourage the management to open up and remain with us.³⁸

Theodore, apparently, rose to the challenge and in early 1937 it was announced that the bank would return to full-time operation. In February, 1937. Local contractor, Harry Austin,

began redecorating the bank for its re-opening which was to take place on the first of March.^{39 40}

The news that the bank would re-open was seen as a good omen for a general improvement in the business climate at Theodore.⁴¹ Unfortunately, the re-opening of the bank at Theodore meant that the branch at Sheho had to close because there wasn't enough business for both.⁴² Much of Sheho's banking business along with the branch manager I. A. Joudrey was transferred to Theodore.⁴³ Within a few days of the bank's re-opening the following incident was reported.

When the bank was re-opened at Theodore the bank at Sheho was closed and the accounts there transferred to Theodore. The Sheho staff were transferred to other branches in the Province with the manager I. A. Joudrey being transferred to Theodore. The Joudreys' transfer to Theodore was marred by one little problem. There was no place for them to live. As the Theodore correspondent to *The Yorkton Enterprise* wrote:

There is not a habitable house or shack in the town every dwelling being filled, and in some cases one dwelling has been divided between two renters. Mr. Joudrey, manager of the bank, has so far been unable to secure a residence, and Mrs. Joudrey has returned to Sheho for the time being. We sincerely hope that some of our capitalists will make provision to supply the shortage of homes, before many months pass.⁴⁴

The Joudreys waited for two months for a suitable house to become available, and they finally moved to Theodore in early May 1927.⁴⁵ The Joudreys became active members of the Community and remained in Theodore until the end of 1935 when the bank was again closed.

Once settled in, the Joudreys became very active in their new community. Numerous items in the Theodore new column indicate that Mrs. Joudrey was soon a valuable member of the United Church's Ladies' Aid, and choir, as well as taking an active interest in the youth work. The news items show that Mr. Joudrey served on the official board of the United Church and on several

committees of the local Community Club, an umbrella organization that co-ordinated sports and recreational activities in Theodore. Both, Mr. and Mrs Joudrey were active curlers.

The extremely low prices farmers received for the commodities they produced during the early years of the great depression made it next to impossible for them to borrow money. One local farmer, who held a clear title to a quarter section of land, on which over one hundred acres was cultivated, applied to four or five different loan companies a loan of \$500, offering his land as security. Each of the loan companies, all of which, had done a tremendous business in Theodore in the past, advised him that no investments of this nature are being made in this district, or in some cases in Saskatchewan, at that time.⁴⁶ Those who owned of life insurance polities were sometimes able to take out a loan on the cash surrender value of their policies to keep things going.⁴⁷

Economic conditions at Theodore continued to decline and business at the bank continued to suffer. Finally, at the end of 1935 it was announced that the Royal Bank would be closing in Theodore and that all accounts would be transferred to the Yorkton branch. A farewell gathering was held in the community hall on New Years Eve, 1935, and by mid January, 1936 the employees had all left the village for their new positions in other Saskatchewan centres. The Joudreys were transferred to Rocanvill, Mr. Gordon Mason and his new wife went to Lemberg, and Mr Jack Humm joined the staff of the Bank in Foam Lake.⁴⁸

Practically all of the bank business transacted at Theodore was transferred to the Yorkton branch and Theodore's residents had to adapt to the new conditions.⁴⁹ The bank building remained vacant and unused until 1937 when it was purchased by Mr. John Smith, a local

resident, who opened an office in it.⁵⁰ Several attempts were made to bring another bank to Theodore following the closure of the Royal Bank in 1936, but none met with any success.

Dray



An unidentified drayman with his horses unloading a boxcar in the 1920s.
Source unknown.

Hauling freight from the railway station to various points within the village of Theodore was the work of Theodore's three draymen.⁵¹ As with the livery business, Theodore also regulated the dray business and how much the draymen could charge. By-law #17 stipulated that

a separate eight dollar license had to be taken out for each dray vehicle. The charge for unloading and delivering contents of a 40,000 lb car was \$5.00. Using a one horse dray cost \$3.00 per day and the daily rate for a two horse dray was \$5.00. Hauling a full load on a one horse dray cost 30¢ and a half load or less cost 25¢. The rate for a two horse dray was 50¢ for a full load and 25¢ for half load or less. Railway cars had to be unloaded within 24 hours if so desired by the employer. It was not necessary to have a dray license to haul manure, refuse, or excavating for hire if one was personally interested in the property.⁵² It appears that the dray business was quite profitable in Theodore because by mid summer 1921 the Village of Theodore was supporting three draymen, each of whom operated his own business.⁵³

Insurance, Lawyers, and Real Estate Agents

Like every other community in Saskatchewan, Theodore needed insurance agents, lawyers, real estate agents and others. George S. Brown opened a business in loans and fire insurance.⁵⁴ A. E. Brown, who represented one of Winnipeg's land companies⁵⁵ advertised, "Lands for sale in the Theodore, Springside, and Beavertdale districts. Cheapest farms west of Winnipeg on easy terms. A. E. Brown & Co. Theodore."⁵⁶ J. S. Anderson was appointed a commissioner for taking affidavits,⁵⁷ and Wasyl Moroz, was a popular young notary.⁵⁸

In 1921 R. H. McKenzie opened a law office in Theodore.⁵⁹ It seems that he was kept busy. One interesting case occurred in 1921 when Charles Wing, former owner of the "Excellent Café" in Theodore, was arrested on a charge laid against a man of that name in B.C. Mr. Wing was taken to Saskatoon for trial and R. H. Mackenzie had to make a hasty trip to the city to prove that Mr. Wing was the wrong man.⁶⁰

Following R. H. MacKenzie's departure from Theodore in 1924, residents of Theodore who needed legal services had to rely on lawyers located in Yorkton.⁶¹ Occasionally a law firm in Yorkton would open a part-time office in Theodore. W. H. Morrison, of the firm of Graham and Morrison, for example spent the first and third Mondays of each month in Theodore during the summer of 1938.⁶²

Women in Businesses

Mention has already been made of the some of women who operated businesses in the village of Theodore during its first few decades. It is very likely, however, that there were other businesswomen in Theodore of whom little or nothing is known outside of their families. One such female entrepreneur was the author's grandmother, Anna Marie Anderson, who after the accidental death of her husband, William, in 1905, earned her living as a dressmaker, until she married the author's grandfather, J. P. K. Jensen, in 1911. Mrs. Anderson was not Theodore's only dressmaker, and from time to time advertisements would appear in *The Yorkton Enterprise*.

Good Experienced French Dressmaker in all kinds of plain or fancy dressmaking. Would go to Springside or Insinger to take orders if required. Mrs. J. Schottenbauer, Theodore, Sask.⁶³

Skilled Trades

Although there was almost always a demand for the services of Theodore's trades people, many of these businesses had relatively short lives. Some of them lasted several years, while others were only able to survive for a few months.

Theodore's Bakery

Theodore's bakery was one early business venture in Theodore that close after only operating for a short while, and very little is known about it. Only two brief items in the Theodore news column provide any information about it. The first stated that Harry Chapman had bought a bake shop from A. E. Lames, indicating, thereby, that a bakery existed in Theodore before 1910.⁶⁴ The second report stated that the bakery closed in the fall of 1911.⁶⁵

The next attempt to operate a baking business occurred in 1922 when Mrs. W. Peterson moved into Theodore to operate a boarding house, and do baking for the local residents.⁶⁶ The correspondent to *The Yorkton Enterprise* stated that the new business would will fill a long felt want, and trusted that the public would support their business. Unfortunately, nothing more is heard of a baking business in Theodore before World War II.⁶⁷

Barbershops, Pool Halls and Hair Dressers

Although barbershops and pool halls, like the harness shops seem to have been businesses with very short lives, it seems that there was no shortage of people willing to operate them. On 2 August, 1906, the Theodore correspondent to *The Yorkton Enterprise* included a barber shop in his list of businesses which were needed in Theodore. Someone obviously seized the opportunity and within a couple on months a barber shop had been opened in A. D. Tracy's general store.⁶⁸ The first mention of a billiard hall in Theodore occurs in 1907, when Theodore's correspondent to *The Yorkton Enterprise* informed his readers that Julius Hansen had built and opened a billiard and pool room in town.⁶⁹ While there is no mention of a barber being located in the pool hall, it would have been unusual at that time not to have had one.



One of Theodore's Barber shops and Pool Halls - Courtesy Colleen Bilokreli of Prairie Mapping



Customer J. P. K. Jensen, Barber Lawrence L. Larson 1913. Author's personal collection

It appears that there were at least two barbers in Theodore in the year 1908. One news item stated that an existing barbershop and business had been purchased by Mr. Roy Ross of Willowbrook,⁷⁰ and the second one dated a month later reported that, “R. Stevens is once more in the barber shop and has also rented the pool room. We wish him luck.”⁷¹

The growing number of homesteaders in the Theodore area in the early years of the twentieth century appears to have created a high demand to the services of barbers and pool room operators because in 1909 the Theodore news contained an item regarding the erection of a pool room and barbershop by Harry Wunder,⁷² and the fact that he was doing a splendid business.⁷³ In 1910 there was yet another item in the Theodore news concerning a new pool hall when it was reported that Mr. Eckardt’s new barber shop on Henry Avenue would be a first class building and a credit to the town when completed.⁷⁴ In spite of the obvious demand for this service caused by the growth in the population, it appears that many of the people operating barbershops appear to have remained in business for only a few years. The Theodore correspondent to *The Yorkton Enterprise* mentions the names of six different barbers and/or pool room owners between the years 1908 and 1911. Competition, however, seems to have thinned their ranks, and mention is made of one pool hall being converted to a general store in 1913.⁷⁵ During in the years 1911-1914 it appears that the Theodore correspondent to *The Yorkton Enterprise* mentions only one pool hall. This last pool hall was owned by C. J. Ratray, who in the spring of 1911 hired Alex Cosgrove as the barber,⁷⁶ and two months later extended the pool room.⁷⁷ In the late summer of the same year it was reported that this pool hall and barber business had been purchased by W. A. Layng., who invited the entire community to a dance in the pool hall as part of the opening celebrations.⁷⁸ The following year (1912) the pool room was sold to Chris Frederickson who had

recently sold his farm near town.⁷⁹ One of Theodore's early barbers was Lawrence L. Larson who had emigrated from Denmark. L. L. Larson enlisted in the Canadian Army during World War I and fought at Vimy Ridge. On his return to Theodore, he again operated a barbershop and when in 1919 he added soft drinks, confectionery, and cigars to his pool and barber business he reportedly did "a land office business."⁸⁰ In the early 1920's this business was transformed into the confectionery store mentioned in chapter 21.

In 1919 A. D. Eckardt purchased a lot on Main street and erected an "up-to-date" pool room.⁸¹ The business was immediately popular and was reported to be doing a good business from its very beginning. A stock of soft drinks was available to the customers.⁸² In 1922 a large porch was constructed in front of the pool room that extended over the sidewalk, which not only added to the appearance of the building but was a unique feature in Theodore.⁸³ Pool was a popular pass time in Theodore and the community supported two pool halls. In 1921 George Dronick, who appears to have been running Eckardt's pool hall, installed a full sized snooker table put in his billiard and pool room, and sponsored a snooker tournament.^{84 85}

It is interesting to note that during Theodore's first fifty years there are only two news items mentioning a hair dresser serving women. Miss Dora Frederickson, who had recently returned from Regina where she has completed a course in ladies marcelling and hair dressing, opened her business in the local hotel in the spring of 1921.⁸⁶ It wasn't until the summer of 1937 that another hair dresser for women is mentioned in the Theodore news. Miss Allison of the Shannon Beauty Parlor in Foam Lake spent a week in Theodore, and it was announced that she would be in Theodore for part of each month in the future.⁸⁷

Construction

One of Theodore's early construction contractors was the author's great-grandfather, Peter Hanson, who had been trained as a stone mason in his native Denmark. He emigrated to southwest Minnesota in 1869 and worked there until the spring of 1905 when he arrived in Theodore. A photo taken about 1906 shows Peter Hanson and his son, Charles Martin Hanson, in front of one of the houses they built in the village. It is interesting to note that 100 years later that particular house was owned and occupied by Peter's granddaughter, Mrs. Sheila Koshman. Family tradition holds that the Hansons worked on the foundation and chimney of the Methodist church in 1907. In the spring on 1911, he and his son, Charles Martin Hanson, were identified as the builders of the new Anglican Church.⁸⁸ Later that year they announced plans to build a new slaughter house in Theodore.⁸⁹ Peter Hanson died in November 1911, and the business closed.

In the spring of 1919 Harry Austin returned to Theodore from fighting in the Great War and began a contracting business. By 1921 Harry Austin's construction business was very busy erecting buildings in and around Theodore, and remained busy until January 1930 when Harry left Theodore.⁹⁰ Among the buildings he erected are the first and only silo built in the Theodore area, one garage, a store, three large barns, three schools, and many private dwellings.

Shoe Repair

There is almost no information on the shoe repair businesses in Theodore during the early years of the twentieth century. It may very well have been that much of the shoe repair business was done by the local harness makers. However, in 1921 an item in the Theodore news column stated that P. Smereka, was about the busiest man in town, resoling and repairing old boots as it

was one good way to overcome the high cost of footwear during the post war depression.⁹¹ A 1922 item in the Theodore news column pointed out that Theodore was able to support three shoe repair establishments and that they were all busy.⁹²

The 1920's and 1930's saw a number of shoe repair shops open and close in Theodore. James Hill opened a shoe repairing shop on Yorkton Avenue in 1923, but nothing more is known about him.⁹³ John Birrell, an old-country tradesman, opened a shoe repair shop on Yorkton Avenue in 1924 and in 1925 moved into the building owned by James Hill.^{94 95} In the spring of 1932 John Birrell closed his shop at Theodore and moved to Leslie.⁹⁶ F. H. Kenyon, opened for business in Mr. Austin's office on Railway Avenue in 1930, and in 1931 was replaced by John Yadasak, who had been conducting a shoe repair shop in the Yarmie store premises.^{97 98} In 1931 John Zachariew who had conducted a shoe repair shop in Theodore for the previous year sold it to Wasyl Philipchuk and left for Mundare, Alberta.⁹⁹ In 1932 Mr. moved his business into Austin's property on Railway Avenue and in 1934 began selling boots and shoes in conjunction with his shoe repair business.^{100 101}

Tailors

The first mention of anyone offering to do tailoring in the Theodore area occurred in 1895 when it was announced in the Regina *Leader* that Me. F. H. Morris was operating a cutting and tailoring business.¹⁰² The next mention of a tailoring business was in 1916 when it was announced that David Pratt had given up farming and was devoting all his time to his tailoring business in Theodore, and that he did high class work in men's and ladies' suits.¹⁰³ Nothing more was said about anyone conducting a tailoring business in Theodore until 1934 when Paul Shewchuck

opened a tailoring and cleaning shop in the Tracy building on Main Street and seemed to be doing well.¹⁰⁴ However, in 1935 he moved his business to Foam Lake.¹⁰⁵

Tin Smith

In 1922 Alfred Ashdown, who had retired from farming and moved into Theodore the previous fall from Beaverville opened a tinsmith shop on Henry Avenue. Mr. Ashdown had years of experience as a tinsmith and was content to begin with doing small jobs.¹⁰⁶ It was reported that he was fairly busy making or repairing such items as wash boilers.¹⁰⁷

As an indication of the advantage of buying at home, we would recite the experience on one of the grain elevator companies at this point who purchased a cooling tank in Winnipeg for \$55.00, paid the freight to Theodore, tore down the engine room doorway to admit the new tank and paid a man to repair the damage done: only to learn afterwards that the same tank installed in their engine room could have been purchased from A. Ashdown, tinsmith, for \$40.00. Why these companies doing business here and making their money in scores of small towns and villages through out the West should turn down local tradesmen when they have a job to be done, or when they have a dollar to spend, should insist on dealing in Winnipeg, seems strange to us.¹⁰⁸

Watch Repair

A number of people tried operating watch repair shops in Theodore, but unfortunately most of them met with little success. In 1929, for example, Max Bertschi, expert watchmaker, began a watch repair business, working out of John. Birrell's shoe repair shop, but nothing more is known about him.¹⁰⁹ In the same way F. H. Kenyon, who conducted a watch making and repair business in Theodore for a few months decided to try his luck at Sheho, and removed to that point early in February, 1931.¹¹⁰ W. Melnechuck opened up a watch repair shop in Austin's office building on Railway Avenue in early 1932, and a traveling watchmaker opened up for business in

the Birrell building on Henry Street in November of that year.^{111 112} Again, nothing more is know about either of them.

Woodworking and Furniture Shops

During the twentieth century several attempts were made to open a woodworking or furniture shop in Theodore, The first mention of a woodworkers' shop in the village occurred in November, 1908, when it was announced that J. P. K. Jensen, a farmer who lived a mile south of Theodore, planned to open a woodworker's shop on Henry Avenue.¹¹³ It appears that the shop was somewhat successful as is listed in a 1910 promotional piece first published in The Yorkton Enterprise. there is no other mention of Mr. Jensen's shop.¹¹⁴

The next mention of a furniture shop did not occur until 1921 when C. Chernick remodeled his store by partitioning into two parts.¹¹⁵ He installed a power plant and used half of the building to make and repair any kind of furniture.¹¹⁶ Nothing more is heard of Chernick's furniture business and it isn't until 1933 that a woodworking or furniture shop is mention again. That was the year that Andy Hermanson opened a fretwork and furniture repair shop where he made small and fancy articles of furniture, picture frames, and so on. The news report states that the business was well patronized, but again, there is no further mention of it.¹¹⁷

A second furniture manufacturing and repair shop was opened in 1933 in the recently vacated Big Garage on Christopher Street by Elmer Bated.¹¹⁸ In 1935 Mr. Bates moved his business from the garage to a new location on Railway Avenue.¹¹⁹ Again, there is no further mention of this business.

Thorgierson and Carter General Manufacturers

Another business that operated in the 1930's and is only mentioned twice in the news columns was that of Thorgierson and Carter. A news report from 1931 stated that G. W. Carter was building a workshop on Christopher Street from which we would operate an acetylene welding business, and do general machine repair work.¹²⁰ At some point he partnered with a Mr. Thorgierson and the business expanded.

The shop of Thorgierson and Carter on Christopher Street is always a place of interest to those who have some idle time on their hands. These two gentlemen have gained an enviable reputation as iron and wood workers, and can just about meet your wishes in any line you may suggest. Heaters made from old oil drums, fashioned and finished in this enterprising establishment are now used in more than one home with good results. Coffins made to order on short notice are supplied, and sold at prices much lower than the usual trade demands. These gentlemen can manufacture almost any article of furniture you may wish, repair your car, baby carriage or puddle jumper, mend your pump or make you one from waste material, and weld anything from a tie-pin to a tractor engine casing. Mr. Thorgierson has just manufactured a box-making machine to supply butter boxes, etc., of the dove-tailed corner variety. This machine was made entirely out of junk, the blades having been cut from the blade of an old circular saw, while a bucksaw blade has ingeniously been turned into a powerful spring to operate the drawboard. The machine works rapidly and performs perfectly, and all who have seen it are impressed with the simplicity of the machine and its performance.¹²¹

Street View #1



Theodore's main Street looking north about 1909 - Courtesy Glenn Lundeen retrieved from [Http://www.prairie-towns.com](http://www.prairie-towns.com)

This 1909 photograph shows A. D. Eckardt's new two story building on the east side of Theodore's main street. According to J. S. Anderson, the village hall was later constructed on the site of Eckardt's store.¹²² Across the street from Eckardt's store is the dark grey building belonging to A. C. Tracy. This later became the site of Kucey's Lily White Café and after that the Theodore Credit Union. One of the small buildings at the north end of the street is Mrs. Mercer's millinery shop. The new Union Bank is clearly seen on the left side of the picture, and across the street from it and south of the white house are some piles of lumber belonging to A. D. Tracy's lumber yard.

Street View #2

A bird's eye view of Theodore 1911, Courtesy Glenn Lundeen <http://www.prairie-towns.com>

The dark grey building in the centre of the photo is the Leland Hotel. Directly above it is A. D. Eckardt's store, easily identified by the sign on the roof. The large white building across the street from the Leland Hotel is the implement ware house owned by Reese and Kelson. The school is the two-story white building on the right edge of the picture, and the Union Church can be seen on the left just above the implement warehouse. To the right of the hotel is a livery barn and next to it is the doctor's office. Louis Kelson's store is to the right of the doctor's office. A blacksmith is located to the right of Kelso's store.

Street View #3



Railway Avenue 1913 Courtesy Theodore Museum

The Leland Hotel is the two story building with the balcony in the centre of the picture. The sign on the building immediately to the left of the hotel says, “Frank Reese, Baker & Confectioner.” The small building to the right of the hotel would have been the livery barn operated by Sam Green. The sign on the building to the right of Green’s livery barn advertise McCormick Implements and Oliver Plows, and is therefore likely to be the implement dealership that Louis Kelson bought from Frank Reese. Next to Sam Green’s livery barn in the doctor’s office and the post office. The building second from the right is Louis Kelson’s. Louis Kelson also operated the local post office. Finally, the building on the far right side of the picture would have been the blacksmith shop, which was first opened in 1904 by Anton Frederickson and sold to William Wylie, who in turn sold it to Louis Kelson.

Notes:

1. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 8 October, 1908.
2. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 22 October, 1908.
3. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 18 November, 1909.
4. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 14 October, 1909.
5. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 11 November. 1909.
6. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Times*. 9 December, 1909.
7. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Times*. 23 December, 1909.
8. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Times*. 26 October, 1911.
9. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 12 December, 1912.
10. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 28 August, 1931.
11. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 3 April, 1913.
12. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 2 October, 1913.
13. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 23 December, 1915.
14. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 27 April, 1916,
15. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 28 March, 1918.
16. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 18 March 1920.
17. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 18 March, 1920.
18. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 19 August, 1920
19. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 18 November, 1920.
20. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 9 December, 1920
21. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 6 October, 1922.
22. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 27 March, 1923.

23. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 4 March, 1924.
24. "Yorkton Assize Trials Varied," *The Winnipeg Tribune*. 17 May, 1924.
25. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 5 February, 1926.
26. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 19 February, 1926.
27. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 16 February, 1926.
28. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 19 February 1926.
29. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 2 March 1926
30. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 27 April, 1926.
31. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 2 March 1926.
32. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 2 March 1926
33. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. March, 1926
34. "Theodore Branch of Royal Bank Will Re-open on March 1," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 15 February, 1927.
35. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 27 July, 1926.
36. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 27 July, 1926.
37. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 31 August, 1926.
38. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 27 August, 1926.
39. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 15 February, 1927.
40. "Theodore Branch of Royal Bank Will Re-open on March 1," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 15 February, 1927.
41. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 1 March, 1927.
42. "Theodore Branch of Royal Bank Will Re-open on March 1," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 15 February, 1927.
43. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 4 March, 1927.
44. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 8 April, 1927.

45. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 3 May, 1927.
46. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 27 February, 1931.
47. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 8 December, 1931.
48. -"Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 16 January, 1936.
49. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 16 January, 1936.
50. -"Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 7 January, 1937.
51. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 4 December, 1919.
52. "Village of Theodore - Dray Bylaw No. 17" *The Theodore Tattler*. 7 January, 1922.
53. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 25 July, 1929.
54. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*, 31 January 1907
55. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*, 22 August 1906.
56. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*, 19 December 1907.
57. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*, 11 August 1904.
58. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*, 11 May 1911.
59. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 13 January, 1921.
60. "The Local News," *The Theodore Tattler*. 31 December 1921.
61. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 4 January, 1924.
62. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 21 April, 1938.
63. *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 23 September, 1915.
64. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*, 14 July, 1910.
65. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*, 7 September, 1911.
66. "The Local News," *The Theodore Tattler*. 11 February, 1922.
67. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 6 May, 1920.
68. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*, 31 October, 1906

69. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*, 17 October, 1907.
70. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*, 8 October, 1908.
71. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*, 26 November, 1908.
72. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*, 28 August, 1909.
73. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*, 14 October, 1909.
74. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*, 08 September, 1910.
75. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*, 3 April, 1913.
76. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*, 11 May, 1911.
77. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*, 20 July, 1911.
78. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*, 11 August, 1911.
79. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*, 6 June, 1912.
80. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*, 27 February, 1919.
81. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 14 August, 1919.
82. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 9 October, 1919.
83. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 27 July, 1922.
84. "Snooker Tournament Creating Interest" *The Theodore Tattler*. 24 December 1921.
85. "The Local News," *The Theodore Tattler*. 15 October, 1921.
86. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 10 May, 1927.
87. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 10 June, 1937.
88. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 7 September, 1911.
89. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Times*. 8 June, 1911.
90. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 28 January, 1930.
91. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 24 November, 1921.
92. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 14 September, 1922.

93. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 10 August, 1923.
94. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 4 January, 1924.
95. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 16 March, 1925.
96. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 15 April, 1932.
97. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 30 September, 1930.
98. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 17 April, 1931.
99. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 8 December, 1931.
100. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 1 April, 1932.
101. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 30 August, 1934.
102. "Theodore," *The Leader*. 7 February 1895
103. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 17 February, 1916.
104. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 22 November, 1934.
105. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 24 October, 1935.
106. "The Local News," *The Theodore Tattler*. 4 February, 1922.
107. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 27 July, 1922.
108. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 31 August, 1922.
109. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 23 July, 1929.
110. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 13 February, 1931.
111. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 8 January, 1932.
112. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 18 November, 1932.
113. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 26 November, 1908.
114. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 8 September, 1910.
115. - "The Local News" *The Theodore Tattler*. 17 September, 1921.
- 116.- "The Local News," *The Theodore Tattler*. 15 October, 1921.

117. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 25 May, 1933.
118. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 27 July, 1933.
119. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 4 April, 1935.
120. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 7 April, 1931.
121. "Theodore," *The Yorkton Enterprise*. 21 May, 1936.