was a buyer of land and owned several businesses. His grandson, Gary Flakne, is a well-known attorney in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Flakne helped his widowed sister, Mary Hafdaal, and her six children immigrate from Norway to Beltrami, Minnesota. The Hafdaals were rugged pioneers who helped settle and shape northern Minnesota. Tom Hafdaal was president of the First State Bank in Beltrami, which served the community for many years. He is remembered for his integrity and human concern for his clients. One of the early, and for many years a flourishing, business in Beltrami was the Farmers Cooperative Creamery, which opened in 1905 with Ernest Denison as buttermaker. He served until his retirement and won many awards for his excellent butter. Later buttermakers were Krogh and Miller. In 1959 the creamery was forced to close as a result of milk pick-up in the farming area. William Boud operated the first meat market in Beltrami. He butchered and prepared his own meat for sale, and one could purchase good, lean ground beef for ten cents (10¢) a pound. Mr. Boud also cut his own ice and operated a large ice-house behind his market.

Fires took much of the business section over the years. The only original buildings still standing on Main Street are the Pederson Garage, the Doyea Tavern and the Co-op Warehouse. The rural mail carriers giving longest years of service to the community were Peter and Alfred Regedal and the present carrier, Helmer Nornes. Carrying the mail before Mr. Regedal was Nels Byington, who had prior to this been a farmer in the community.

The first section boss on the Great Northern through Beltrami was Mr. Price, then William Street, followed by Andrew Olson. Mr. Olson faithfully and well performed this duty until his retirement. Pete Olson and then Melvin Strom followed Andrew Olson. Until about mid-century there were four passenger trains daily through Beltrami. The recently closed station was last served by James Jesen as station agent.

The first school in Beltrami was a typical one-room rural building. An early teacher of note was Miss Truesdell, an elderly lady who despite her age, taught the children in one short term to read fluently, write legibly, and work simple arithmetic. Many pupils were unable to speak English at the beginning of the term. Other early teachers were Olive Reis, Petra Lenes, Mr. Wishard, Mary Vanette, and Joseph Ball (father of Joseph Ball, the Senator). Later teachers included Josephine and Emma Regedal. As the village grew the school became inadequate and in 1900 a three-room building was erected to replace it. The first teachers were Alma Skoor (Mrs. Tom Hafdaal), Naomi Dahlquist, and Margaret Weir. In 1918 the children of Beltrami proudly moved to a new brick school housing all elementary and secondary pupils. In 1942 the high school was closed and the students bussed to Fertile. A blow to the community was the closing of the elementary school in 1972, even though there are advantages in a larger school system. A winning baseball team with such names as Reep, Lee, Hafdaal, Regedal, Heath, MacNamer, Budd, and Sullivan were prominent, and a fine concert band that performed weekly and on special occasions were both a source of pride in early community life. Former band members still living in the community are Rudy Drivold, Clifford and Allen Webster, Loyal Gust, Warren Carlson, Virgil Gullikson, and Harold Olson.


Northbound passenger at Beltrami First Co-op Creamery — Beltrami. Built 1903.

Warren Welter built the Methodist Episcopal Church (now replaced by the New United Methodist Church building), and the residences now occupied by Roy Logan, Lyle Moteberg, Jerry Nelson and James Jensen. The Jerry Nelson residence was originally owned and occupied by the Henry Budd family and at that time was the showplace in Beltrami. The Budds came from the East. Mrs. Buss was an Olds, but her mother had remarried a Mr. Harriet before moving to Beltrami to the farm now owned by the Harold Helwegs. Mrs. Budd's brother, Edward, in the East was extremely wealthy, and very generous in offering financial help when it was needed. Another brother, Charlie Olds, had a small store in Beltrami. Mrs. Budd's sister, Jessie, was married to the famous criminal lawyer, Clarence Darrow. They often visited the Budds in Beltrami, as did many