

Farmers Elevator Company of Traverse, St. Peter - Established 1913

One hundred years ago, the Traverse area was served by privately owned elevators under the names of Steven Briggs and George Strauch. Current Board President, Robert Wettergren, says his dad remembers how the Strauch Elevator was actually operated by horse-power, with a blind, gray horse winching the grain into bins.

These facilities, the Strauch & Briggs elevators, changed hands many times, until the Farmers Elevator of Traverse was chartered in 1913. The capitalization was set at \$20,000 with 400 shares sold at \$50/share.

On August 21, 1937, a fire destroyed the elevator. Some thought this might be the end of Traverse, but the elevator was rebuilt immediately, with a 25,000 bushel replacement elevator.

In 1956, a 50,000 bushel annex was added to the existing elevator.

A new 765' X 130' elevator was built in 1970. Steel bins were added in 1975-76, giving the complex a total of over 546,000 bushels of grain storage. A 1,500 ton fertilizer building completes the complex.

Today, Farmers Elevator Company of Traverse is a full service grain elevator with custom grain hauling. They also handle fertilizer, chemical sales, application and seed sales. They have a total storage capacity of 1.7 million bushels. Al Manzey is the General Manager.

