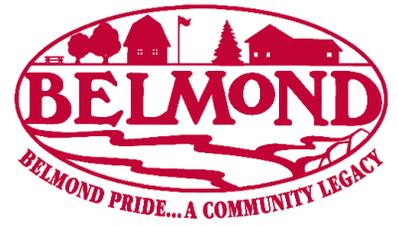


# BIDCO Update



"Promoting Economic Growth and Development"

Feb 2010

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sometimes it's hard to see the impact BIDCO or any other organization has on the Belmond community. This month's newsletter is intended to show some subtle items that have happened due to our collective efforts. I hope you enjoy this month's reading and find some encouragement and thus encourage others around you.

One of our included articles this month is an update on Lee Ltd. and their impact on the community, another focuses on North Iowa Wood Products. The other highlight for this month centers on our town web site. We continue to try to keep the site up to date and functional for people inside and outside our community.

Dan Lovgren

## Web Site Update

In February, we received an inquiry via the web site from a person in Le Mars Iowa. This individual found some information on Belle Haven on the Belmond.com web site but needed additional information to make a decision about a family member.

BIDCO forwarded the information to Belle Haven and they will respond to the person with the requested information. It was nice to see that our town web site was used by someone to locate information and contact the proper people.

**BELMOND**  
WELCOMES YOU

## Feature Business

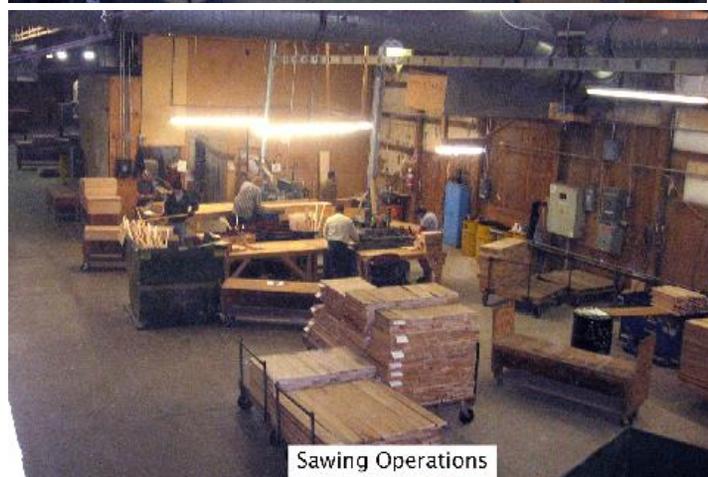
### North Iowa Wood Products

North Iowa Wood Products (NIWP) was started in July, 1984 by Sherman Oberhauser, Airell Clark, Lew Eells and William Schneider. The original production facility was constructed in 1976. The facility initially housed a mobile home building business and later Four Seasons Cabinetry owned by Dudley Thompson. In 1997 NIWP added two more buildings as additional warehousing and packaging/shipping space. Today NIWP has nearly 35,000 square feet under roof. Larry Bailey is General Manager and current owners are Airell Clark, Jerry Christians, Greg Oberhauser and Larry Bailey.

Through the years NIWP has built furniture/cabinetry parts for Flexsteel and Thunderbird as well as individual contractors. They also build panels for Winnebago Industries and produce dimension lumber from raw cut for wholesaler Northland Forrest Products. At its height NIWP processed 2.5 million board feet of lumber for Northland as well as another 500,000 board feet of Winnebago panels annually.

They produce over 1600 different sized wood panels for Winnebago ranging from 7"x6" to 43"x96". A slow down in the construction business over the past 2 years has reduced current demand to primarily Winnebago panel production. NIWP has 10 full-time and 4 part-time employees.

For more information about North Iowa Wood Products call Larry Bailey at 444-4433 or email [larry\\_niwp@frontiernet.net](mailto:larry_niwp@frontiernet.net).



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## Lee Ltd Update

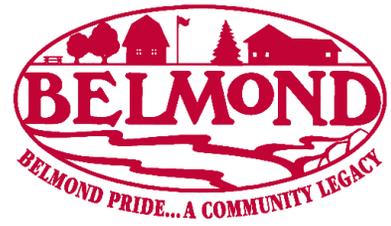
Earlier this year Denny Bowman led a tour in town for Fischer (<http://www.fischer-ag.com/neu/start1280.html>), a maker of heat exchanger plates. As a part of this tour Denny introduced Fischer to Lee Ltd here in town any they were very impressed with the capability that Lee could bring to their enterprise if they would opt to relocate to Belmond. Fisher would bring the parts from Austria to the U.S. and then do the assembly and the finishing of the exchangers in Belmond. Lee Ltd would be a subcontractor for this product line.

While we have not heard final word from Fischer on their plans, the tone of the visit and discussion about Lee Ltd. was worth mentioning. I recently spoke to Mike Crow, owner of Accurate Gear (parent company for Lee Ltd.), about Lee Ltd and their outlook on business. Mike shared that between Accurate Gear and Lee Ltd they have 34 people working over 2 shifts, 6 of those 34 work at the Belmond facility. In the coming weeks and months they will be in an envious spot to either be adding some employees or choosing not to take on some additional work.

Both Accurate Gear and Lee Ltd have made a significant investment in equipment in recent years. This is very evident by the capabilities at both locations. I would encourage our readers to explore the Accurate Gear website to learn more. (<http://www.accurategear.com/index.aspx>) Belmond is very lucky to have a facility like Lee Ltd so close and the new connection with Accurate Gear just adds to their worth to the community.



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