

PREFACE

Taking what's already been written and trying to bring together truth and interesting facts from the fertile imaginations of those before me was probably the hardest part of the entire project. Countless hours of poring over ancient newspapers and documents, gleaning what was thought to be of significance to prospective readers revealed something about me. I found myself walking in the streets of 1890s through 1940s Flomaton. Articles about the struggle of businesses to maintain their shops and stores in a profit-making mode is the same today as then. Advertisements in the papers touted their goods as being the best, the newest, the freshest, the only one you'll ever need, just as modern commercials do. The methods are so much the same that it's surprising; the media is the only thing that's different.

Much is already written about the interesting character of this little city. There have been numerous treatments of the history, culture, archaeology, and geology of the region before now, so what you'll find here is not an effort to improve upon what others have already done so eloquently. Textual history is used here only slightly, and then only to give a little background. Pictures and the text, supported by newspaper articles and advertisements, are intended to give the reader a few insights into life over the course of the 100-plus years of Flomaton's existence. In many places the articles and advertisements are there with little or no explanation, leaving readers to draw their own conclusions. The work is compiled, as if it were a scrapbook, often in a random fashion, other times grouped with a central theme. Bear in mind the author's goal is to present highlights, not details, and even the highlights are not necessarily in chronological order.

We realize there are many moments in time, many people, many photographs, and favorite topics that have been left out of this book. There are many fine communities, churches, organizations, and businesses serving Flomaton and its surrounding area, but it is next to impossible to name them all without slighting one or more. These are some of the reasons someone should finish what we've started. We've designated this as Volume 1 and we hope someone will come along and produce a Volume 2, putting together what we've left out.

Disclaimer: More may be written about the history of Flomaton, and the author hopes this effort will be continued. What is contained on these pages is for informational purposes only. The contents are assumed by the author to be truthful and as nearly complete as possible. Neither the Flomaton Centennial Committee nor the author assumes any liability for missing, inaccurate, or incomplete data. No responsibility or liability is accepted for the contents of other sources. The author relied heavily on other resources throughout this book and every effort was made to give proper credit.