

The New

# MANFRED NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 4

February 2015

A Warm Welcome to Manfred!

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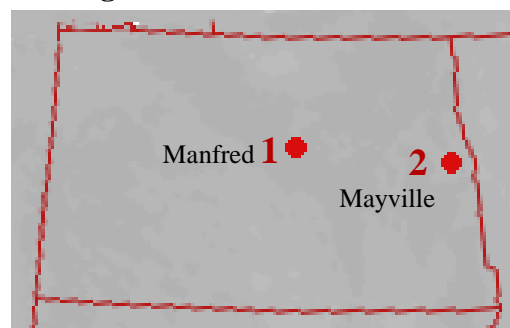
## THE NIKOLAI AND EVERINA ROGNESS FAMILY

### Birthplace in Norway



Nikolai and Everina were both born at Stavanger, Rogaland, in Norway

### Settling in North Dakota



Nikolai and Everina lived for a short time at **1**Mayville, ND and then settled at **2**Manfred, ND

**Nikolai “Nick” O. Rogness** (also spelled Rogeness) was born February 6, 1869 in Stavanger, Rogaland, Norway to Ola Nerison Rogeness and Gurena Danielsdatter. Nikolai immigrated to the USA in 1890. **Everina** (also written as Evrina) **Lunderness Hauge** was born April 22, 1869 in Stavanger, Rogaland, Norway. She immigrated to the USA in 1892, paying off the fare for her passage to the USA by doing housekeeping for the professor who had sponsored her.

In about 1894, Nick and Everina were married. They settled at Mayville, North Dakota where their first child Gurine was born in 1895, and their second child, Lars, was born in 1897. Soon after, Nick and Everina moved to the Manfred, North Dakota area, where they settled on land north of Manfred that already had a sod shanty on it, built by another settler who decided not to stay. They had arrived to their new “home” quite late in the fall. There was no stove, so Nick found an old oil barrel on the place and made a stove out of it, fueling it with buffalo/cow chips and straw twists to keep his family warm. Rabbits and wild game were what was lived on. They seeded the grain by hand to begin with and also cut and tied the bundles by hand, and then pounded out the grain themselves. When Nick and Everina added onto their humble abode, the sod house became the kitchen of their home. Their other children born at Manfred were: Martha 1899, Elvine 1901, Sophie 1903, Ole 1905, Nora 1907, Anna 1909, Elvin 1913, and Ellen 1914.

An interesting entry in the January 4, 1907 issue of the Wells County Free Press reads: “Nikolai Rogeness returned last week from a trip to Alberta. He went out in company with G. N. Hauge and visited several of his former neighbors now located at Stavely, Alberta. Mr. Rogness spoke well of the country and its climate but thinks Dakota is good enough for him.”

Nick and Everina’s granddaughter, Norma Olsen Holwegner, remembers being with her grandparents often and that she and they were close. Nick had a great love of animals, so had several kinds of animals on the farm with them. Nick was strict but he loved to tease, and Everina was so good to everyone. Nick and Everina were members of Bethel Lutheran Church located northeast of Manfred. For the education for their children, land had been donated on a part of their farm to build a school which was then named the Rogness School, Manfred School No. 3. As a result, their children only needed to go next door to attend school. Nick died February 2, 1941 at Manfred, North Dakota, and Everina died there on June 15, 1959.

# The New Manfred News

THANK YOU ever so much to all who are contributing, enabling Manfred to share its incredible story!

## MHP, Inc. General Fund

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A non-profit organization for the benefit of Manfred in general and also the Melby-Rogness House and First State Bank/Manfred Post Office

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An everlasting fund providing for the future

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Barbara and Floyd Simmons in memory  
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Joe Bolyard, Art Reichenberger,  
and Arlyn Rudel

## Melby Heritage Society

% Wanda Melchert, 1005 4<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, Mandan ND 58504  
A non-profit organization founded for the benefit  
of Hotel Johnson, Anderson House, Cash Store

William and Sandy Krebs  
in memory of Richard Golberg

## Rural Vestige Alliance (RVA)

% Audrey Solheim, 1026 S 3<sup>rd</sup> St, #3, Bismarck ND 58504  
A non-profit organization founded for the benefit  
of Manfred School and the Rogness/Solheim House

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Eric and Nancy Bollingberg  
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of Jens and Marie Renden  
Timothy R. Cook in memory  
of Paul and Peter Sprague  
Ellorine Goebel in honor of the Schimke  
family - Lavern, Lillian, Gordon,  
Allen (dec.), and Ellorine  
Bob and Gwen Green  
In memory of Orlien Melby  
from Zelda Melby by  
Michael and Bergit Albrecht  
Joe Bolyard, Muriel Boyum  
Arnie and Norma Melby  
Gene and Betty Melby, Orin Melby  
Wanda and Richard Melchert  
Merlin and Laurie Schwartz  
Jenny and James Taylor  
Keith G. Ranum in memory of  
Ranum and Melby ancestors  
Irene Skogmo

## In Memory

### Muriel Bullis White

July 30, 1924 – February 24, 2013

A supporter of the Manfred projects  
and connected in the Hedahl Family line

### Orlien Melby

January 2, 1924 – November 17, 2014

Born near Manfred and attend Manfred School,  
son of Oscar and Bertha Melby, grandson of Knud  
and Guri Melby and Gullik and Ragnhild Nordtorp

### Kenneth Gross

April 1, 1930 – November 22, 2014

Lived near Manfred and attended Manfred School for  
a time, son of Adolph and Christine (Rudel) Gross

### Richard B. Golberg

January 24, 1942 – December 2, 2014

Husband of Carolyn Smith Goldberg, daughter of  
William and Alice Anderson Smith, granddaughter of  
Olaf and Caroline Melby Anderson, great  
granddaughter of Knud and Guri Melby

### Arlyn "Rudy" Rudel

September 3, 1930 – December 30, 2014

Husband of Doris Rogelstad, daughter of Leonard  
and Mary Rogelstad who were active in the  
Manfred community

### Joseph Stickel Bolyard

October 18, 1925 – January 4, 2015

Husband of Ethel Melby Bolyard who grew up  
near Manfred, daughter of Oscar and Bertha  
Melby, granddaughter of Knud and Guri Melby  
and Gullik and Ragnhild Nordtorp

### Donald Hagemeister

August 21, 1932 – January 19, 2015

Born near Manfred and attended Manfred School  
his first years, son of Ernest and Sarah Hagemeister

### Art Reichenberger

December 7, 1923 – January 20, 2015

Husband of Betty Lou Ellingson who taught  
Grades 5-8 at Manfred School from September of  
1952 to May of 1956

*Please let us know of loved ones who have passed*

## Manfred Newsletter

Thank you for your newsletter subscriptions!  
There are 72 new or renewing subscriptions  
that have been received since the last issue!

## The New Manfred News

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Manfred Heritage Museum  
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## A COLLECTION OF ROGNESS FAMILY PHOTOS



*L/R:*

*Back:* Ralph Hager, Elvin Rogness, Ed Opdahl

*Middle section:* Jean Opdahl holding her brother Gary, Ole Rogness, Edna Rogness holding her daughter Elaine Rogness, Halvor Olsen, Everina Rogness, Nora Peterson, Sophie Opdahl holding her son Dennis

*Front:* Edna's father-Chris Eggers, Joyce Rogness, LaVonne Rogness, Phyllis Opdahl, Martha Olsen, Anna Hager



↑

Nick and Everina Rogness with their daughter and son-in-law, Sophie and Ed Opdahl

←

Everina with her granddaughters Verneil and Jean Opdahl



Sisters: Martha Olsen, Anna Hager, and Nora Peterson



Everina with her granddaughter Norma Olsen



Everina with her daughter and son-in-law, Martha and Halvor Olsen



*L/R:*

*Standing:*

Rudolph Peterson, Oscar Olsen, Everina Rogness, Elvin Rogness, Edwin Opdahl, Halvor Olsen, Martha Olsen, Sophie Opdahl, Ole Rogness, Edna Rogness holding son Daniel

*Sitting on grass in back:*

Al Holwegner, Dale Opdahl, Anna Rogness, Ellen Rogness, Joyce Rogness, Verneil Opdahl, Nora Rogness is holding her niece Marilyn Rogness

*Sitting on grass in front:*

LaVonne Rogness, Phyllis Opdahl, Judy Hager, Gary Opdahl, Dennis Opdahl, Elaine Rogness

## THE ROGNESS FARM AND ROGNESS SCHOOL

A new school building named "Rogness School" was built on a piece of land at the Rogness Farm in 1910

### Rogness Farm Site



Harvesting on the Nikolai and Everina Rogness Farm  
The Rogness barn is in view in the background



The Rogness Farm and the Rogness School were located on the southwest corner of the SE ¼ of Section 5 in Manfred Township

### Rogness School

The people in this school photo were identified by number long ago and some of the numbers on the photo are now quite faded.

Those identified on this picture are:

1. Mr. Bradwell, Professor
2. Anna Nertrost
3. Mamie Jorstad (Larson)
4. Nikolai Rogness
5. T. T. Hauge
6. Jacob Seltvedt
7. T. T. Jorstad
8. Sennev Nertrost (Whipple)
9. Sam Natland
10. Conrad Myhre
11. Martha Rogness (Olson)
12. Thilda Olson (Nelson)
13. Sophie Rogness (Opdahl)
14. Celia Natland (Olstad)
15. Martha Hauge (Hanson)
16. Martha Alvesshere (Oxtra)



Manfred School No. 3 adjacent to the Rogness farm  
Photo taken upon completion of this new building in the spring of 1910

## THE CHILDREN OF NICKOLAI AND EVERINA ROGNESS

- |                 |                              |                              |                             |
|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Gurine | <b>b.</b> September 11, 1895 | m. Lauris Overland           | <b>d.</b> November 20, 1983 |
| <b>2</b> Lars   | <b>b.</b> November 2, 1897   |                              | <b>d.</b> 1938              |
| <b>3</b> Martha | <b>b.</b> June 1, 1899       | m. Halvor Olsen              | <b>d.</b> November 7, 1988  |
| <b>4</b> Elvine | <b>b.</b> 1901               |                              | <b>d.</b> 1910              |
| <b>5</b> Sophie | <b>b.</b> January 26, 1903   | m. Edwin Opdahl              | <b>d.</b> February 9, 2000  |
| <b>6</b> Ole    | <b>b.</b> January 24, 1905   | m. Edna Eggers Schwartzbauer | <b>d.</b> April 16, 1968    |
| <b>7</b> Nora   | <b>b.</b> January 25, 1907   | m. Rudolph Peterson          | <b>d.</b> June 25, 1994     |
| <b>8</b> Anna   | <b>b.</b> December 24, 1909  | m. Ralph Hager               | <b>d.</b> December 24, 1995 |
| <b>9</b> Elvin  | <b>b.</b> January 26, 1913   | m. Ellen Czech               | <b>d.</b> January 19, 1998  |
| <b>10</b> Ellen | <b>b.</b> August 31, 1914    | m. Alfred Stalleson          | <b>d.</b> December of 1982  |



## 1 GURINE

**Selma Gurine Rogness** was born September 11, 1895 in Mayville, ND. By 1899, her family had moved to the Manfred, ND area where Gurine was raised and attended Manfred School #3 located right by their farm. **Lauris Rasin Overland** was born April 3, 1895 the first of eleven children to Torgjerd (Thomas) Rasmus Overland and Ingeborg Olsdatter Strom at Mayville, ND. Lauris moved to the Harvey, ND area with his parents as a child where he attended schools in Fram Township. He attended Red Wing College in Minnesota one year for training in Salesmanship, and soon afterward, he went to work for the McNess Company selling their products door-to-door. On November 10, 1915, Lauris and Gurine married at Bethel Lutheran Church, located northeast of Manfred. They were the first couple to be married in this new church building.

The first home for Gurine and Lauris was a sod house on the Berthold Indian Reservation. Their first two children, Ethel and Gladys, were born at Parshall, ND. Thelma Irene, Norma, Mary Ann and LeRoy were born at Esmond, ND, and Lois was born at Devil's Lake, ND. In 1936, the family moved to Tacoma, WA in order for Lauris to take on the job of Field Supervisor with the McNess Company for the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Their children Beverly and Sue were born there. With the outbreak of WWII, Lauris was soon working in the Todd Shipyards in Tacoma where, Lauris related, "we were trying to build merchant ships faster than German submarines were sinking them." Except for this job and a short time working with the National Biscuit Company, Lauris worked with the McNess Company for over 60 years.

Lauris and Gurine enjoyed 64 years of marriage, Lauris passing away February 26, 1980 in Tacoma, WA and Gurine died there on November 20, 1983. They are interred in Mountain View Cemetery, Tacoma, WA. At the time of Gurine's passing, she had 26 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren. She was a good cook and very a nice person.

### Children born to Lauris and Gurine Overland:

- 1** Ethel married Francis Weisner and they had three children: **1**Nannette "Nan" married Elson Clive Honey and they had a daughter Debra. Nannette later married Gilbert Whomes and they have a son Jeffrey; **2**Annette "Ann" married Roy Neal and they had two children: Terry and Elizabeth "Beth"; **3**Charles "Chuck" married Naomi Durkee and they had five children: Kevin, Darren died when 8 months old, Corey, Amy, and Jason.
- 2** Gladys married Steven Caillier and they had four children: **1**Dorothy married Gale Ramerman and they have two children: Karen and James; **2**Joan married Bernard Altenbach and they had three children: Bernard "Bernie", Kimberly, and Michael; **3**Sharon married Jim Mocco; and **4**Donald.
- 3** Thelma "Irene" married William Johnson and they had four children: **1**Sylvia married Bruce Johnson and they had three daughters; **2**Baron married Toni and they had a son; **3**Lawrence "Larry"; and **4**Tracy married John Thompson and they had a daughter Christine.
- 4** Norma married John Shields and they had three children: **1**Donna Rae married Robert Emry and they had a son Robert. She later married Larry Meyer; **2**Richard married Twyla; and **3**Terry married Patricia "Patty" Ellen and they have a son Brian.
- 5** Mary Ann married Robert Zurfluh and they had three children: **1**Michael married Katherine M. Cook and they had two children: Steven and Karl; **2**Linda "Lin"; and **3**Janice married Hans Woldseth and they had three children: Dane, Erick, and Garth. She later married Mike Colbrese.
- 6** LeRoy married Annadell Bushnell and they adopted three children: **1**Paul, **2**Melody, and **3**Joy.
- 7** Lois married Herbert Siefkes and they have two children: **1**Susan married Brian Anderson and they have an adopted daughter Nichole, and together have two other children: Sydney and Miranda; and **2**Douglas married Julie Davis and they have three children: Ryan, Erica, and Claire.
- 8** Beverly married Elmer Phillips and they had two children: **1**Douglas married Debra Wolf and they have a son Paul. **2**David married Lillian Whitebull and they had three children: Tiffany died at two days old, Justin, and Taryn. Elmer Phillips passed away. Later, Beverly married Michael Petrovich.
- 9** Carol Sue "Susie" married Stanley "Lee" Blattner and they have two children: **1**Jerald "Jerry" has a daughter Shayna; and **2**Troy married Toni. Troy later married Janelle and she has three children: Paige, Haleigh, and Jacquelyn.



Lauris and Gurine Overland



On the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Lauris and Gurine Overland following the renewal of wedding vows at Trinity Lutheran Church in Parkland, WA

Front Row: LeRoy, Gladys, Lauris, Gurine, Norma, Lois and Mary Ann

Second Row: Bev, Irene, and Carol Sue (Susie)

Not pictured is the eldest sister, Ethel, had to leave on a family emergency prior to the taking of this photo

## 2 LARS

**Lars Rogness** was born November 2, 1897 at Mayville, North Dakota. By 1899, he and his family had move to the Manfred area where he was raised. He farmed with his father on the home place, but it seems he wasn't feeling well. Sadly, in 1938 he died on the farm at age 41.



Lars Rogness

## 4 ELVINE

**Elvine Rogness** was born in 1901 in Manfred Township, North Dakota. She died in December of 1910 in Valley City, North Dakota at age 9. A December 16, 1910 entry in the Wells County Free Press tells about this:

*Death entered the home of Nick Rogness and called to the heavenly home his nine year old daughter Elvine. She died at the Valley City hospital where she had undergone an operation for appendicitis. The sorrow stricken parents have the sympathy of all in their bereavement.*

## 6 OLE

**Ole Rogness** was born on January 24, 1905 at his parent's farm near Manfred, North Dakota where he grew to manhood, attending school at the Rogness School adjacent to their farm. Ole farmed with his father. He met **Edna Eggers Schwartzbauer** and her daughter Joyce, after Edna opened a beauty shop in Manfred sharing space with Ralph Hager in his barbershop. Ralph was a brother-in-law to Ole. Prior to coming to Manfred, Edna had lived at Dickinson. Her husband of five years, Thomas Joseph Schwartzbauer, had died in 1937, leaving Edna with two children: Joyce and Gerald, but sadly Gerald died in 1938. On September 26, 1941, Ole married Edna, who was born on September 4, 1913 to Christof and Wilhelmina Eggers in Dickinson, North Dakota.

Ole and Edna settled on a farm northeast of the Hauge Church near Heimdal where they farmed until moving to Tacoma, Washington in 1943, where Ole worked at the Mt. Rainier Ordinance Depot. Edna's daughter is **1**Joyce. Children born to Ole and Edna are: **2**LaVonne; **3**Elaine; **4**Marilyn; **5**Daniel died in 1996; and **6**Rodney. The Rogness family at Manfred, both young and old, always loved it when Ole and Edna and family came from Tacoma for a visit. Ole and Edna were well liked by everyone and very pleasant to be with.

After their last child Rodney was born, Edna began working at Pacific Lutheran College in the baking department. She did this for about eight years, after which time she went to work for the Clover Park School District in the central kitchens. After Ole retired from the Mr. Rainier Ordinance Depot, he enjoyed doing various jobs with his last position being that of a custodian at Lakes High School. Ole died on April 16, 1968 in Tacoma, Washington. After Ole's passing, Edna attended cooking school at the Clover Park Vocational School. Following graduation from there, she obtained the head cook position at Pioneer Grade School in the Steilacoom School District, working there until retirement. Edna was an amazing cook and baker. Her daughter Joyce remembers how everyone loved her cinnamon rolls, and that she had taught Joyce how to make everyone's favorite – potato lefse! Edna died March 29, 2005 in Tacoma, Washington.



Ole and Edna Rogness on their wedding day together with their attendants: Ole's brother Elvin Rogness and Edna's sister Esther Eggers. The children are from left: Phyllis Opdahl, Verneil Opdahl, and Edna's daughter Joyce



Ole and Edna Rogness & family  
L/R:  
Back: Edna, Joyce, Daniel, Ole  
Front: Marilyn, LaVonne, Elaine



Ole and Edna Rogness

### 3 MARTHA

**Martha Rogness** was born June 1, 1899 on the Rogness farm near Manfred, North Dakota where she was raised and educated. Martha loved to help with the farm work. She worked as a hired girl for Gullik and Marit Dahle, who lived on a nearby farm. She also worked at the Clarence Parker Hotel in Minot on a seasonal basis and the Holwegner's Jack and Jill in Harvey.

**Halvor Saelid Olsen**, born on December 27, 1889 in Valdres, Norway, was the son of Ola Langedal Olsen and Ingebjorg Olsdatter. Halvor was sponsored in coming to the USA by his Uncle Gullik Dahle.

Halvor was a veteran of World War I, having entered military service on September 18, 1917 and going to Camp Lewis. In 1918, he was sent overseas as a member of Co. E. 165<sup>th</sup> Infantry serving in the St. Mihiel and Argonne offensives. He was badly wounded on October 23, 1918 in the Argonne forest. On August 11, 1919, he was mustered out. Halvor received the Purple Heart medal. He had been wounded in both legs, one severely enough that he nearly lost it; but he never complained of the resulting pain he experienced throughout life. Though he had received the Purple Heart medal, he was especially proud of having received "Good Conduct" awards which were necessary in order to be promoted.

On June 18, 1921, Martha and Halvor were married at the Rogness farm. They lived on the main level of the Bendik Rogne farm where their two children were born. Bendik and his family lived upstairs. Then, they moved to the Gullik Dahle farm to help Gullik and Marit Dahle, who were both getting on in years and not very well. Halvor and Martha's daughter Norma remembers as a small child that she was permitted to speak with Gullik and Marit in Norwegian, which they appreciated so much. Other than this, Norma and her brother Oscar were to only speak in English, as their parents did not want them to have an accent and also realized it would be easier for their children when they started school if they were fluent in English. Norma still has a watch she treasures that Marit Dahle had given her. In October of 1929, the Olsen family moved onto the Reier Reistad farm. Martha and Halvor farmed in the Manfred area until retiring in 1939, at which time they moved into Manfred. While they were building their home in Manfred, they lived on the Gladheim farm where the Vern Nelson family later lived.

Martha and Halvor were members of the American Legion and VFW Auxiliaries at Harvey, Fagerlund Sons of Norway and Vang Lutheran Church at Manfred, all of which they were very active through the many years. Halvor died August 27, 1956 in Manfred. In 1980, Martha moved to Bismarck and lived with her daughter Norma. In 1986, Martha entered Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center where she died on November 7, 1988. Her funeral was in Vang Lutheran Church at Manfred with burial in the church cemetery. Martha and Halvor had two children: 1Oscar, and 2Norma married Albert Holwegner and they had two children 1David who died in 2003, and 2Barbara.



Halvor and Martha Olsen on their wedding day June 18, 1921



Halvor and Martha Olson Family

L/R:  
Norma  
Oscar in back  
Halvor in front  
Martha



Halvor Olsen's Purple Heart medal and Good Conduct Awards



A gathering at the Olsen home

L/R: Norma Holwegner, Myrtle Rogness, Annie Solheim, Martha Olsen, Marie Renden, Beatrice Bender, Christine Ongstad, Mamie Larson, Bertha Melby, Lena Anderson



## 5 SOPHIE

**Volborg Sophie Rogness** was born January 26, 1903 and grew up on the Rogness family farm, attending School #3 known as the Rogness School. When a young woman, she moved to Fargo and worked as a maid for a short time. She then returned to Manfred and worked in the Johnson Cash Store, and during the harvest she was a cook for a threshing crew. Sophie married **Albert Edwin "Ed" Opdahl** on July 24, 1927 at her parent's home. Ed was born October 3, 1895 on the Opdahl farm near Manfred. (See [manfrednd.org](http://manfrednd.org), Manfred News, Opdahl Family History, May 2005 Issue.) Ed and Sophie settled on the Opdahl farm where Sophie helped Ed with the farming, which included dairy and commercial turkey operations. Sophie and Ed were members of Vang Lutheran Church where Sophie was active in its women's groups and as a Sunday school teacher. Her hobbies included sewing, quilting, and crocheting. Ed died on November 4, 1989, after which time Sophie moved to Rock Lake, North Dakota and lived with her daughter Phyllis. In April, 1995, Sophie entered the St. Aloisius Nursing Home in Harvey and died there on February 9, 2000.

Sophie and her older sister Martha spent a lot of time together. And when the winters were bad and the roads blocked, the Opdahl children would stay with the Olsen's in Manfred while school was in session. Sophie and Ed hosted frequent family gatherings at their farm, and this is exactly how Sophie wanted it to be. She loved having family come. As remembered by nieces and nephews, holiday family gatherings were often at the Opdahl farm as they had room for the more than sixty family members gathered over turkey, mashed potatoes and the best gravy ever. A news entry from July 15, 1950 shares about one of the many gatherings: *Those attending a family picnic Sunday at the Edwin Opdahl home were Mr. and Mrs. A. Holwegner of Minot, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hager of Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Rogness and family of Tacoma, Wash. Mrs. Everina Rogness, Mr. and Mrs. Halvor Olsen, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Peterson, and Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Rogness.*

Edwin and Sophie had six children:

1. Jean married Allen Rex LeClaire, and they had four children: 1Ross married Janice and they had three children: (two were adopted, one of which died of cancer when young); 2Renee married Jim Baglio and they have two daughters: Catherine and Gina; 3Michael married Mary Jo and they have two sons: Justin and Kevin; and 4Jay. Jean later married Richard Peterson.
2. Verneil "Neil" married Len Eisenbraun and they have four children: 1Scott married Mary Eckroth and they have a daughter Jill who married Rich Decker and they have a daughter Paige and a stepson Brady; 2ZoAnn married Dan Cagley and she has a son Zack Prowell; 3Todd; and 4Daryl married Jenny Goethel and they have four children: Chad, Trent married Jennifer Bower and they had son Trent Jr. (TJ), Lee married Megan Lehmann and they have a daughter Molly, and Kasey Jo has a son Caiden.
3. Dale married Shirley Lauth and they have five children: 1Ilona married Art Thomas and she has a son, Michael Patzer who married Sheena and they had two daughters Alana and Chloe; 2Rodney married Lori Gross and they have four children: 1Eric, 2Alicia and Kristopher Swanke have three children: Keegan, Sydney and Braxton, 3Kristi, and 4Nicholas; 3Kelly married Dawn Filler and they have seven children: Ashley, Veronica, Ethan, Moriah, Faith, Hope, and Phoebe; 4Kent married Mindy Detling. He later married Angel Moore; and 5Aaron married Carrie Sabbe. Aaron has a daughter Natalie, and Aaron and Carrie have four children Levi, Garin, Weston, and Sterling.
4. Phyllis married Harold Pantsari and they had three children: 1Shawn died at age 18; 2Kernis; 3Stacy married Philip Soukup and they have two children: Sean and Austin.
5. Dennis
6. Gary died in 1971



Ed and Sophie Opdahl on their wedding day, July 24, 1927, together with their attendants Lars Rogness and Anna Rogness



The Ed and Sophie Opdahl Farm  
NW ¼, Sec 19, T-149-N, R-71-W

1956



Edwin and Sophie Opdahl Family  
Back: Dennis, Jean, Dale, Phyllis  
Front: Gary, Sophie, Edwin, Verneil



Sophie and Ed Opdahl



## 5 SOPHIE

**Volborg Sophie Rogness** was born January 26, 1903 and grew up on the Rogness family farm, attending School #3 known as the Rogness School. When a young woman, she moved to Fargo and worked as a maid for a short time. She then returned to Manfred and worked in the Johnson Cash Store, and during the harvest she was a cook for a threshing crew. Sophie married **Albert Edwin "Ed" Opdahl** on July 24, 1927 at her parent's home. Ed was born October 3, 1895 on the Opdahl farm near Manfred. (See [manfrednd.org](http://manfrednd.org), Manfred News, Opdahl Family History, May 2005 Issue.) Ed and Sophie settled on the Opdahl farm where Sophie helped Ed with the farming, which included dairy and commercial turkey operations. Sophie and Ed were members of Vang Lutheran Church where Sophie was active in its women's groups and as a Sunday school teacher. Her hobbies included sewing, quilting, and crocheting. Ed died on November 4, 1989, after which time Sophie moved to Rock Lake, North Dakota and lived with her daughter Phyllis. In April, 1995, Sophie entered the St. Aloisius Nursing Home in Harvey and died there on February 9, 2000.

Sophie and her older sister Martha spent a lot of time together. And when the winters were bad and the roads blocked, the Opdahl children would stay with the Olsen's in Manfred while school was in session. Sophie and Ed hosted frequent family gatherings at their farm, and this is exactly how Sophie wanted it to be. She loved having family come. As remembered by nieces and nephews, holiday family gatherings were often at the Opdahl farm as they had room for the more than sixty family members gathered over turkey, mashed potatoes and the best gravy ever. A news entry from July 15, 1950 shares about one of the many gatherings: *Those attending a family picnic Sunday at the Edwin Opdahl home were Mr. and Mrs. A. Holwegner of Minot, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hager of Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Rogness and family of Tacoma, Wash. Mrs. Everina Rogness, Mr. and Mrs. Halvor Olsen, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Peterson, and Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Rogness.*

Edwin and Sophie had six children:

1. Jean married Allen Rex LeClaire, and they had four children: 1Ross married Janice and they had three children: (two were adopted, one of which died of cancer when young); 2Renee married Jim Baglio and they have two daughters: Catherine and Gina; 3Michael married Mary Jo and they have two sons: Justin and Kevin; and 4Jay. Jean later married Richard Peterson.
2. Verneil "Neil" married Len Eisenbraun and they have four children: 1Scott married Mary Eckroth and they have a daughter Jill who married Rich Decker and they have a daughter Paige and a stepson Brady; 2ZoAnn married Dan Cagley and she has a son Zack Prowell; 3Todd; and 4Daryl married Jenny Goethel and they have four children: Chad, Trent married Jennifer Bower and they had son Trent Jr. (TJ), Lee married Megan Lehmann and they have a daughter Molly, and Kasey Jo has a son Caiden.
3. Dale married Shirley Lauth and they have five children: 1Ilona married Art Thomas and she has a son, Michael Patzer who married Sheena and they had two daughters Alana and Chloe; 2Rodney married Lori Gross and they have four children: 1Eric, 2Alicia and Kristopher Swanke have three children: Keegan, Sydney and Braxton, 3Kristi, and 4Nicholas; 3Kelly married Dawn Filler and they have seven children: Ashley, Veronica, Ethan, Moriah, Faith, Hope, and Phoebe; 4Kent married Mindy Detling. He later married Angel Moore; and 5Aaron married Carrie Sabbe. Aaron has a daughter Natalie, and Aaron and Carrie have four children Levi, Garin, Weston, and Sterling.
4. Phyllis married Harold Pantsari and they had three children: 1Shawn died at age 18; 2Kernis; 3Stacy married Philip Soukup and they have two children: Sean and Austin.
5. Dennis
6. Gary died in 1971



Ed and Sophie Opdahl on their wedding day, July 24, 1927, together with their attendants Lars Rogness and Anna Rogness



The Ed and Sophie Opdahl Farm  
NW 1/4, Sec 19, T-149-N, R-71-W

1956



Edwin and Sophie Opdahl Family  
Back: Dennis, Jean, Dale, Phyllis  
Front: Gary, Sophie, Edwin, Verneil



Sophie and Ed Opdahl

## 7 NORA

**Nora Rogness** was born on January 25, 1907 on the family farm near Manfred, North Dakota, where she attended the Rogness School for her first eight years of education. She earned her high school degree from Harvey, graduating in 1925. During her high school years, she worked for Dr. P.A. Boyum. **Rudolph Peterson** was born May 6, 1895 in Forest City, Iowa, one of nine children to Andrew and Anna Peterson. The family moved to Tuttle, ND when Rudolph was ten years old. He attended Hansen Mechanical Trade School in Fargo, and then came to Manfred by 1914, staying at first with his uncle and aunt Nils (N.O.) and Marit Hovey. Rudolph served in the military during World War I, after which he returned to Manfred working as a mechanic in Manfred and the surrounding communities. He also helped in repairing the local telephone lines.

Rudolph learned to play the saxophone and also the violin, and enjoyed making music with friends and participating in community programs. He was also part of a local dance band group with Rudolph playing the violin, Mary Rogelstad at the piano, and Oscar Melby on clarinet. This band often played for Sons of Norway functions.

On June 6, 1925, Nora and Rudolph married in Harvey, North Dakota, making their home in Manfred. In October of 1929, Rudolph opened his own repair shop in the old John Nelson machine shop. Then in June of 1933, Guy Fisher moved the former Smith and Rogers Lumber Co. building from the west side of Manfred to the east side, where Rudolph then set this building up as a filling station and auto repair. In 1945, Nora and Rudolph sold the station to Helmer Solheim and purchased the Johnson Cash Store, renaming it *Peterson's Store* which can still be seen in lettering on the front of the building. Nora and Rudolph operated this business for six years, when in January of 1952 they sold it to Ervin and Evelina Boese. Rudolph was very handy. His nephew, Curt Rogness, said that Rudolph did beautiful woodwork including making jewelry boxes for the children and also in building cabinets and a closet in the home of his brother-in-law Elvin Rogness. Nora and Rudolph were members of Vang Lutheran Church where Nora was a member of the Ladies Aid. Rudolph was a member of the American Legion and Nora of the American Legion Auxiliary in Harvey.

Rudolph died on May 27, 1970 at the hospital in Harvey. Rev. Oscar Johnson officiated for the funeral and burial was in the Vang Church Cemetery with military rites. Pallbearers were Gary and Dale Opdahl, Oscar Olsen, Curtis Rogness, Ralph Hager III and David Holwegner. Nora continued to live in Manfred until 1983 when she moved to Littleton, Colorado where her son Lowell and family lived. Later, she entered the Cherrelyn Manor Nursing Home in Littleton, passing away on June 25, 1994.

Nora and Rudolph had one son **1**Lowell who married Loretta Van Eckeren and they had three children: **1**Kathleen married John Muller and they have three sons: Matt married Brandi and they have a son Max and a baby girl is expected in April; Noah married Kristen who has two children Kayla and Connor, and Noah and Kristen have a son Steven; Luke married Andrea and they have three children: Cayden, Reece, and Londyn. **2**Debbi married Jeff Weber and they have a son Alex; and **3**Kelly. Lowell died April 23, 1987.



Rudolph and Nora Peterson  
with their son Lowell



Friends making music together  
Rudolph Peterson on violin, Ole Hovey on flute,  
and an unknown person at the piano



Rudolph Peterson's filling station at Manfred in 1938



Nora and Rudolph Peterson with their son Lowell



## 8 ANNA

**Anna Marie Rogness** was born on December 24, 1909 on the family farm north of Manfred, North Dakota, attending school at the Rogness School. **Ralph Earl Hager** was born March 16, 1908 in Milltown, South Dakota, son of William Garfield Hager and Clara M. Eissler. He attended Moler Barber College in Fargo

In about 1926, Anna and Ralph met in Manfred while working across the street from one another; Anna was working at the C.C. Melby Store and lived in an apartment upstairs of the store, and Ralph was working as a barber at the hotel. In June of 1927, he began barbering in Fessenden. In July when her sister Sophie was married, Anna took Sophie's place as clerk at the Johnson Cash Store in Manfred. On July 16, 1928, Ralph and Anna were married by Rev. H. A. Linde at the First Lutheran Church in Harvey. At that time, Ralph was working in partnership with C. U. Baker in the Sanitary Barber Shop. In April of 1929, Anna and Ralph became the proud parents of a baby girl, Joyce.

In November of 1930, Ralph sold his barbershop in Fessenden, and the family moved to Jamestown where Ralph barbered during 1931. While at Jamestown, he had the opportunity to play semi-pro baseball. Their son Ralph, Jr. was born in November of 1931 at the home of Anna's sister, Martha and Halvor Olsen. In January of 1932, Ralph opened a barbershop at Manfred. While living at Manfred, Anna was an active member of the Manfred Homemaker's Club. The family lived at the Gullik Dahle farm during the winter of 1934-1935, and in November of 1935 they moved to Bowdon. Sadly in 1937, their daughter Joyce died suddenly at their home in Bowdon. Ralph and Anna and family moved to Harvey by 1943, where their daughter Judy was born in April of that year.

Ralph raised registered American Saddle bred Palomino horses and his horses won numerous awards. He was a horse judge, listed as one of the top five Arabian horse judges in the world. He judged at fairs and events throughout the United States and Canada. Ralph served 24 years as a Wells County Commissioner, was the head of the Wells County Fair Board for many years, and active in Wells County 4-H Activities. Anna is remembered as a hard worker and especially as a great cook, making the best waffles, pancakes, sugar cookies, lefse, homemade ice cream, to name a few. One of her nieces said that Anna was so sweet - the sweetheart of the family. For many years, Ralph was a hearing aid specialist and had an office in Harvey above the Gambles Store. He retired in February 1986 and he and Anna moved to Zimmerman, MN where they lived with their daughter. Ralph died on November 11, 1987 in Zimmerman, Minnesota. Later, Anna went to live at St. Aloisius Nursing Home in Harvey, where she died on her birthday, December 24, 1995.

Anna and Ralph had three children:

- 1** Joyce died in 1937.
- 2** Ralph Jr. "Junior" married Donna Lea Ellen Rudel and they had four children: **1**Ralph "Rocky" married Peggy Kress and they have three children: Joshua, Tiffanee, and Rebecca; **2**Jeffery died in a house fire in 1960 and is buried at Fessenden; **3**Cynthia married Cary Schneider and they had two children: Brandon and Rhiannon; and **4**Robin "Rob" married Gina Newman. After Ralph Jr. passed away, his ashes were spread at the Rogness Homestead north of Manfred as he had wished. A gravestone has been placed there in his memory.
- 3** Judith "Judy" married Gerald Olson and they have four children: **1**Tana; **2**Chad; **3**Brittney; and **4**Mari.



Anna and Ralph Hager



Anna and Ralph Hager  
and their children Ralph Jr. and Judy



Ralph and Anna Hager celebrating  
their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary in 1978



## 9 ELVIN

**Elvin Oliver Rogness** was born on January 26, 1913 on the Rogness farm near Manfred, ND where he was reared and had his schooling. He began farming with his father, and when his father died in 1941 Elvin continued farming at the Rogness Farm. On February 26, 1947 in Harvey, ND, Elvin married **Ellen Vivian Czech**, "Tiny", born October 11, 1922 in Chaseley, ND to Otto Czech and Mary Florence Wright. Later, Elvin and Ellen began farming near Chaseley. Elvin leased the Rogness Farm to his nephew Dale Opdahl, and in time Dale purchased the Rogness Farm from Elvin. Elvin was very special to Dale, remembering how the two of them would do some of the farm work together like making hay and cleaning barns.

Elvin was known as Uncle Al to his nieces and nephews and was well liked by everyone and known for his kindness. Elvin and Ellen are remembered as being wonderful people. They were members of Bowdon Lutheran Church, Ellen's home church where she had been confirmed. Their daughter Eileen recalls that Elvin's favorite sport was baseball. He played for a baseball team from Harvey when he was young and was a faithful fan of the Minnesota Twins. He loved hunting, fishing, and farming. Ellen loved working with flowers, and their son Curt recalls that she had many irises and other flowers. Elvin and Ellen loved to bowl and play cards, and Elvin also enjoyed playing pool.

After retiring from farming, Elvin and Ellen spent their winters at an apartment in Jamestown and summers on the farm near Chaseley. Elvin entered the Lutheran Home of the Good Shepherd in New Rockford where he lived eight months before passing away on January 19, 1998. Ellen continued to live both on the farm and in Jamestown, but eventually sold the farm. After failing health, she was hospitalized in Fargo before being moved to Golden Care Living Center in Moorhead, MN, where she passed away thirty days later on May 2, 2008.

Elvin and Ellen had three children: **1**Their first child, Wayne, was stillborn; **2**Curtis married Sonja Rosland and they have two sons **1**Michael and **2**Peter; **3**Eileen "Tootie" married John Salter and they had one daughter **1**Tanya. Eileen later married Steven Carroll and they have two children: **2**Tyler and **3**Tori.



**1** Elvin and Ellen Rogness



**2** Elvin and Ellen's children, Curtis and Eileen



**3** Elvin and Ellen Rogness

From L/R:

**1**  
Elvin and Ellen Rogness on the occasion of their wedding in 1947

**2**  
Elvin and Ellen's children Curtis and Eileen, c.1962

**3**  
This photo was taken in the mid 1990s of Elvin and Ellen

## 10 ELLEN

**Ellen Rogness** was born on October 31, 1914 near Manfred, North Dakota and raised at the Rogness farm. On November 5, 1941 in Harvey, she married **Alfred Bernhardt Staaleson**, born May 16, 1893 in Bellingham, Lac qui Parle, Minnesota, son of Severin S. Staaleson and Bertine Ofgun. They lived most of their lives at Lignite, North Dakota where Alfred farmed and worked as a laborer. Alfred died in January of 1978 in Flaxton, North Dakota. Ellen moved to Harvey in November of 1981 and resided at St. Aloisius Care Center. Ellen died in December of 1982 and is buried at Lignite, ND.

### Thank you to all who have helped in compiling the Rogness Family History!

From the family lines of: **1**GURINE: Beverly Petrovich, Lois Siefkes, Doug Siefkes, Susie Blaatner; **3**MARTHA: Norma Holwegner, Barb Holwegner; **5**SOPHIE: Dale and Shirley Opdahl, Dennis Opdahl, Phyllis Pantsari, Carrie Opdahl, Lori Opdahl; **6**OLE: Joyce Piland; **7**NORA: Kathleen Muller, Debbi Peterson Weber; **8**ANNA: Judy Olson, Rocky Hager, Rob Hager; **9**ELVIN: Curt Rogness, Eileen Carroll. Also *Family history of Gurine and Lauris Overland* by Joan Marks, Broderbund Family Archive, US Census Records, Wells County Free Press. Audrey Solheim-Historian and Wanda Melchert-Editor.