

The New

Keeping in Touch

MANFRED NEWS

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Manfred is on Facebook and at www.manfrednd.org

Phone 701-870-4627, Text 701-399-6782

Mailing Address: 130 S Lake Ave, Manfred ND 58341

Manfred Heritage Museum is open:

May-September, Tue-Sat, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Histories of the

1916 Ford Garage/Café and Bar Building and the Jake and Evelyn Schlenker Family



Anderson-Melby Motor Company with some of its automobile inventory on display
Buildings to the left are the then Manfred Post Office and Hotel Johnson

The 1916 Ford Garage/Café and Bar Building has had an interesting and varied history:

- 1916-1946, Ford Garage – Olaf Anderson and Ole Melby, and then Martin Melby and Oscar Ongstad
- 1947-1975, Café and Bar – Harley and Lydia Boese, and then Jake and Evelyn Schlenker
- 1976-1983, R & D Welding – Chester Rau as a welding shop in partnership with Harry Detling
- 1983 to present, workshop and storage – Harry Detling

Acknowledgements for the Histories of the Ford Garage/Café and Bar and the Jake and Evelyn Schlenker Family

Gerald and Jeanne Schlenker history collection, photos, and memories; Memories by Janice Schlenker; Census Records of 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940; *Growing With Pride-Harvey Area History 1906-1981*: Andrew Schlenker article, Photo of Schlenker family, and Mike Schlenker Family article all on page 690, Jacob Wagner Family article page 692-693 that was submitted by Helen Wagner Ohlson; Genealogy compiled by Audrey Solheim; *Find A Grave* website; World map from the web; *Manfred Heritage Museum Archives* for images and information; memories of Adolph Shirley; Wells County Court House school and property documents; and *Standard Atlas of Wells County ND 1911*, pages 63 and 71. Audrey Solheim-Historian, Wanda Melchert-Editor.

THANK YOU to all who are donating to MHP, Inc., making it possible for Manfred to share its INCREDIBLE STORY!

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Solheim House

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Manfred Museum Intern from the 2020 Season



Katie David

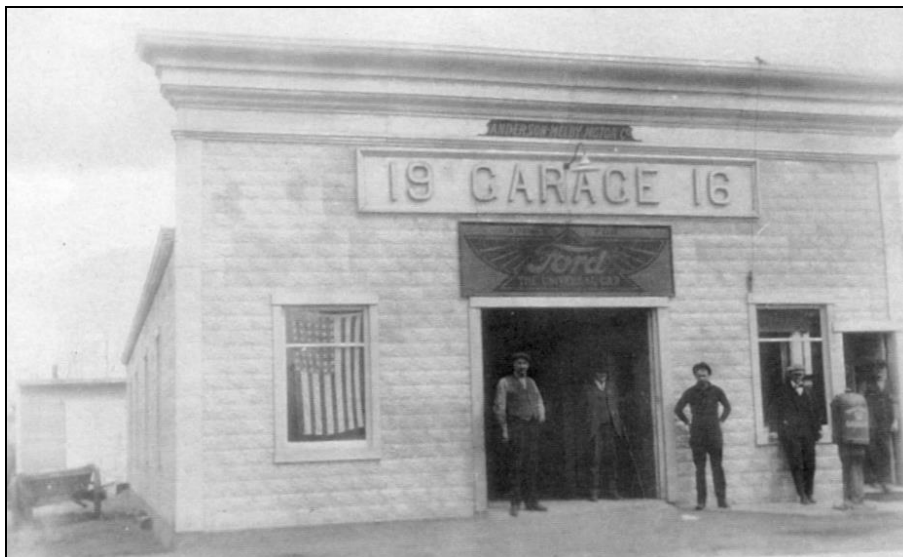
Though the Manfred Heritage Museum remained closed during the 2020 season, both collections and restoration work continued. We were pleased to have Katie David join us with the primary project to process artifacts into the museum Collections. Katie also help with Facebook posts, in writing historic articles and participated with museum director Wanda Melchert in giving a fun and interesting historic presentation to the area Christian Women's group. Katie is a student at the University of Mary in Bismarck where she is majoring in history. She has chosen for a thesis, to research the impact of the railroad on communities in North Dakota. She will conduct some of her research in Wells County including at Manfred.

Come Volunteer at Manfred

The current focus is the restoration of school windows and exterior trim painting. Vital also is keeping Manfred's grounds looking beautiful. How awesome to see the beauty unfold! Call Wanda at 701-870-4627 or text to 701-399-6782. If you need lodging, let us know.

HISTORY OF THE 1916 FORD GARAGE/CAFÉ AND BAR

THE FORD GARAGE



From left standing in the garage door opening: Olaf Anderson and Ole Melby, owners of the *Anderson-Melby Motor Co.* This company name is printed above the '19 GARAGE 16' sign. Below that sign, is the 'Ford – The Universal Car' sign.

In 1916, on land owned by Olaf Anderson, Olaf and his brother-in-law Ole (O.K.) Melby went into partnership in the construction of this building to serve as an auto business, naming it **Anderson-Melby Motor Co.** A Wells County Free Press news entry from April 20, 1916 reads: "Work has been started on John Nelson's residence, and on the Anderson and Melby garage."

In February of 1916, Olaf traveled to Fargo to order automobile inventory which began arriving in March by train, even before construction began on their building. Demand was so great for the automobile, that they had a hard time keeping inventory in stock. Manfred resident, Adolph Shirley, said that Olaf would sell 50 cars in a year. They sold primarily Fords, but also ordered from a few other auto manufacturers.

In July of 1917, Olaf became short of some of his employees when they answered the call to serve in World War I, one of which was Oscar Ongstad. After completing his service, Oscar came back to working for Olaf Anderson. Early in 1919, O. K. Melby sold his share to Olaf Anderson, after which time Olaf continued as **Anderson Motor Co.** That year, Martin Melby started working in the garage business. By August of 1920, Olaf had joined forces with Olaf Roble, renaming the business **A. B. Motive Power Co.** in Manfred. Olaf Roble also had an A. B. Motive Power Co. business in Harvey.

Sometime before 1924, Olaf Anderson bought out Olaf Roble's share in the business. Then by early in 1924, Olaf Anderson sold the garage back to O. K. Melby, who named it **Manfred Motor Co.** Without missing a beat, the company continued a robust business. In November of 1924, a new addition was added to be used as a repair shop. Also, a light plant was installed, supplying lights not only for the garage business but electric wiring was strung across the street to supply the First State Bank and the Manfred Cash Store with lights. To this day, both of those buildings continue in existence across the street.

In 1926, O.K. Melby sold the garage business to longtime employees Martin Melby and Oscar Ongstad. According to Adolph Shirley, Martin handled the front office with sales and Oscar ran the garage in repairing vehicles. In addition, they also ventured a little into selling Atwater Kent radios, tractors, and farm machinery. Martin and Oscar continued in this business together until the early to mid-1940s, at which time they each took on other work: M. K. Melby returned to farming in 1945 and Oscar Ongstad became postmaster in 1944 and purchased the bank building to serve as the Manfred Post office. Martin and Oscar sold the garage building to Harley and Lydia Boese in 1947.

HISTORY OF THE 1916 FORD GARAGE/CAFÉ AND BAR

BOESE'S CAFÉ AND BAR

Harley and Lydia Boese purchased the garage building in 1947, at which time, they extensively remodeled it to serve as a café and as their living quarters. They had three children: Marlys age 9, Donna age 5, and Merlyn age 3. Their son, David, was born some years later. The cafe was set up in the south side of the building. Located in the next room to the east was the kitchen which operated for both the café and the family. The room east of the kitchen was the family's living room. Two bedrooms were north of the living room with the bathroom in the far northeast corner.

Boese's Café quickly became an integral part of the community, enjoyed by people of all ages. A pleasant surprise for the students is noted in a May 12, 1949 Wells County Free Press news entry: "Harley Boese treated the school children to soft drinks and ice cream on Friday." In 1951, Harley and Lydia added a bar in the north side of the building as noted in an April 19, 1951 Wells County Free Press news entry, "Harley Boese held a grand opening Saturday for his new beer parlor located next door to his restaurant. Free Dutch lunch* was served in the afternoon and evening."

*Web description: A typical Dutch lunch consists of individual portions of cold meals, such as sandwiches filled with slices of meat and cheese or sweet assortments, accompanied by milk or juice.

Prior to purchasing the garage building, Harley and Lydia had, in 1945, purchased the old post office building located just south of the garage building. (See this building pictured in the photo on page 1.) In that building, Harley set up a shoe repair shop and Lydia had a lunch counter. She baked and served homemade pastries and sandwiches. Popular also was the 5-cent ice cream cone. After starting up their café business in the garage building, Harley and Lydia put the old post office building to use as a cream station. They purchased cream from farmers and testing it. Each week, Land O' Lakes Creamery of Carrington and a creamery from Devil's Lake picked up the cream. After selling the café and bar, Harley worked for an elevator in Manfred for about a year before purchasing a farm north of Manfred. After this, they moved the old post office building to their farm to serve as a turkey brooder house.

SCHLENKER'S CAFÉ AND BAR

Harley and Lydia Boese sold the Café and Bar to Jake and Evelyn Schlenker in 1952, and in January of 1953 the Schlenkers moved in. Under the care of Jake and Evie, the Café and Bar continued as a hub of activity in Manfred. People coming to town and town's folk would stop for coffee, a game of cards, or just to visit. Jake and Evie enjoyed working in the restaurant business and visiting the local people.

The Café opened at 6 a.m. The bar opened at 10 a.m. and closed at midnight. The bar had a jukebox, piano, and pool table, in addition to the bar counter and stools. Their son Gerald recalls that early on, the meals in the café consisted of such things as roast beef and gravy and meatballs and gravy. Food preparations were done in the kitchen between the living quarters and the cafe. They had a deep fryer for French fries but no grill, so hamburgers were fried in a frying pan. They had a soup machine that heated ready-to-eat soups and two machines for making malts.



Schlenker's Café and Bar, with hotel building at right, and the O & M Elevator in the background, during the 1960s or 1970s



Jake and Evelyn "Evie" Schlenker in front of their café and bar business

HISTORY OF THE 1916 FORD GARAGE/CAFÉ AND BAR

SCHLENKER'S CAFÉ AND BAR

Jake and Evie served meals to the work crews during the time that the Farmers Elevator was built in 1957 and when the new highway was being built past Manfred. The Schlenker kids worked in the restaurant by serving coffee and cookies to the patrons, waiting tables, and washing a lot of dishes and bar glasses. Their son Gerald has memories of his mother, Evie, and Katie Smith making doughnuts to serve in the café. Their daughter Janice remembers her mother and Stella Sorenson and Edgar Allen Flick playing the card game 'Blitz' in the café. The kids would watch out the window for customers going into the Grocery Store [formerly Johnson's Place/Cash Store] and the Post Office. Stella and Allen would then leave the card game to go tend to their customers.

Jake and Evie stopped serving meals when the café kitchen had to be certified. Jake and Evie decided not to take on that expense. Schlenker's Bar closed in 1968. Schlenker's Café continued for a few years, but with limited food offerings. They sold ice cream, candy, cookies, pop, and coffee in the later years. Their big day of business in the early 70s was Sunday when the parishioners from Vang Lutheran Church in Manfred gathered at the café for coffee and cookies, and to visit following the worship service. When Jake died in 1975, the café closed, and Evie moved to the St. Aloisius Nursing Home in Harvey.



Jake on duty in the bar during the early to mid 1960s

Coffee in Schlenker's Café after a Vang Lutheran Church Sunday service in the early 1970s

Photos taken by Emmett Turner ↓



View of a table at the front ↑

Front left around to front right:

In red, Audrey Solheim, Christine Ongstad, Mildred Ongstad, Lilly Anderson, Mary Rogelstad, Marlys Weisser, Annie Solheim, Betty Melby, Olga Johnson, Shirley Opdahl, not in view Bertha Melby, Helen Melby, Cora Turner, Laverne Johnson



View of a booth and the counter ↑

From left to right:

Perry A. Anderson, Herbert Weisser, Leonard Rogelstad, Roy Melby, Herbert Ongstad, Leslie Johnson, Dale Opdahl, Gene Melby, David Johnson



←

View of more of the booths

D & R Welding



This building had another use serving as D & R Welding, opened by Chester Rau in partnership with Harry Detling beginning in 1976 or after. Harry Detling purchased this building in 1983, thereafter used it for storage.

JACOB AND EVELYN SCHLENKER FAMILY HISTORY

Jacob 'Jake' and Evelyn 'Evie'

Heritage of Jake Schlenker

Jake's father, Michael 'Mike' Schlenker was born March 22, 1882 in Eigenheim, Bessarabia, Russia (**South Russia**), the son of Andreas 'Andrew' Schlenker, 1841-1942, and Kathrina Stall, 1844-1919. Andrew was a harness maker by trade. Their heritage traces back to **Germany**.

Jake's mother, Mary Hauser was born November 8, 1882 in Karsrug, Russia (**South Russia**), the daughter of Johann 'John' *Hausauer, 1840-1913, and Christiana Bohnet, 1845-1919.

*Though Mary's father, John used Hausauer as his surname, Mary used Hauser



Jake and Evelyn Schlenker
married October 16, 1941

Heritage of Evelyn (Peppie) Schlenker

Evelyn's father, Emil Michael Pepple was born August 28, 1894 in Fessenden, **North Dakota**, the son of Gottlieb Casper Pepple, 1866-1933, and Katarina 'Catherine' Müller, 1873-1963. They were born in **Romania**. (Gottlieb's father, Friedrich *Boepple, was born in Stuttgart, Baden-Wurttemberg, **Germany**; his mother, Johanna Maria Lutz was born in **Russia**.)

Evelyn's mother, Lydia Mehrer was born August 28, 1900 in Kief, **North Dakota**, the daughter of Jacob Mehrer, 1876-1963, and Helena 'Lena' Kandt, 1880-1957. They were both born at Atmagea, Tulcea, **Romania**.

*Boepple or Bopple traditionally spelled as Böpple in Germany, was changed to Pepple in the USA.

Ancestral Locations of the Heritage of Jake and Evelyn Schlenker



- 1** Many of the ancestors lived in Germany prior to the latter part of the 1700s
- 2** Migration to Russia in the late 1700s and early 1800s
- 3** Migration to North Dakota, USA in the late 1800s

In 1762 and 1763, Catherine the Great, Empress of Russia, issued manifestos inviting foreigners to settle in Russia. At the time, Jake's ancestors were living in Germany; some of Evelyn's ancestors were also living in Germany. Conditions in Germany had become difficult. As a result, people by the thousands responded to Catherine the Great's invitation with the hope that they could make a better life for themselves and their families. With their migration to Russia, these immigrants created colonies and prospered in doing so. Though some of Evelyn's ancestors remained in Romania until moving to the USA, others also moved to Russia. In 1871, the Imperial Russian government repealed the manifestos of Catherine the Great, removing many of the rights of the colonists. These colonists heard of the opportunity of free land offered in North and South America, so beginning in 1872 many people began leaving Russia. Among those leaving were Jake and Evelyn's ancestors in their decision to move to North America.

MORE ON THE HERITAGE OF JAKE SCHLENKER

Jake's Grandparents

Jake's paternal grandparents, Andreas 'Andrew' and Kathrina (Stahl) Schlenker, married in 1864 and ten children were born to them. When an epidemic swept over Russia in 1892, five of their children died. That same year, the remaining family members immigrated to the USA. They first went to Durham, Kansas and then to South Dakota. In 1895, they homesteaded in Rusland Township southwest of Manfred. Andrew was the first one to build a frame house in that area. The surviving five children of Andrew and Kathrina were: **1** John, 1864-1955, married Veronica Kalback; **2** Christina, 1867-1974, married Jacob Wagner; **3** Mary, 1868-1959, married Gottlieb Lange; **4** Mike, 1882-1953, married Mary Hauser; and **5** Rosina, 1885-1942, married Christian Seitz.

Andrew and Kathrina Schlenker Farm Location



Rusland Township #148, Range 72, Part of Sections 10, 11, and 14. Red dot-farmstead. Black dot-school

Standard Atlas of Wells County ND 1911, p. 63

Jake's maternal grandparents, John and Christiana Hausauer had eight children:

1 Caroline (Hinger), 1870-1926; **2** Peter, 1871-1947; **3** Jacob, 1874-1951; **4** Fredericka (Hahn), 1877-1954; **5** Elisabeth (Lang), 1878-1970; **6** Mary (Schlenker), 1882-1962; **7** Carl, 1884-1935; and **8** Christine (Schutz), 1887-1958. In 1902, at age 20 Mary immigrated to the United States with her parents, who settled in Rusland Township.

Jake's parents, Mike and Mary Schlenker

Mike and Mary were married on November 18, 1902 and began farming. They remained on their farm in Rusland Township until retiring from farming, at which time they moved to California. They celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1952. Mike died March 20, 1953 in Lodi, California. Mary died April 18, 1962 in San Joaquin, California. Mary's last living sibling, Elisabeth, also died in 1962.

Children of Mike and Mary Schlenker

Name	Dates	Spouse
1 Lydia *	1904-1978	Benjamin Wagner, 1899-1942 John Walter Krueger, 1894-1974
2 Emma	1905-1995	Ernest H Schmidt, 1907-1978
3 Martha	1907-1997	Fred Nitschke, 1903-1962 Rudolph Ralph Meissner, 1905-1981
4 Elsie **	1909-2002	Edward Baier, 1907-1949
5 Jake	1911-1975	Evelyn Dorothy Pepple, 1923-2012
6 Maggie ***	1913-2012	Edwin Brodehl, 1910-2006
7 Clara	1915-2008	Herbert R. Werner, 1913-1964
8 Tillie	1917-2007	Robert D. Decke, 1897-1966
9 John	1920-2013	Irene A. Pepple, b. 1927
10 Evangeline	1927-2020	Arne Faul, 1924-1993



Mike and Mary Schlenker Family c. 1914

Notes on children of Mike and Mary Schlenker who remained in North Dakota

*Lydia and Benjamin Wagner married in 1923 at the SDA Church, rural Manfred. They had four children: Wesley, Clarence, Willis, and Robert 'Bobby'. Benjamin died in 1942. Lydia married John Krueger in 1945 at Fessenden. Lydia died in 1995 at Harvey. Benjamin and Lydia are buried in the Manfred SDA Cemetery.

**Elsie and Edward Baier married in 1932 in Fessenden and farmed near Harvey. They had three children: Lloyd, Floyd, and Carol. Edward died in 1949. Elsie moved to Harvey in 1965 and worked for the Harvey Public School, Willie's Café, St. Aloisius Hospital, and did babysitting. In 2001, she entered the nursing home and died in 2002. The funeral was held at the SDA Church Harvey with burial in the Mennonite Cemetery, Harvey.

***Maggie and Edwin Brodehl married in 1933 in Fessenden and settled on the farm of Edwin's parents south of Harvey. They had three children: Ronald, Arvella (Jerry Peerboom), and Virgil (Shirley). Maggie was active in Farmers Union, Hillside Homemakers, WSAC, Senior Citizens, Eagles Auxiliary, and bowling league. In 1970, Maggie and Edwin moved to Harvey and enjoyed many years of traveling together. They celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary in 2006 and shortly after this Edwin died. Maggie died in 2012 at the age of 99 and the funeral service was held at First Lutheran Church in Harvey with burial in Sunnyside Cemetery, Harvey.

←L/R:

Left group: Mike holding Maggie, and Mary

Right group:

Back: Andrew and Kathrina Schlenker

Middle: Emma and Lydia

Front: Martha, Elsie, and Jake

Photo from "Growing With Pride History – Harvey", page 690

MORE ON THE HERITAGE OF EVELYN PEPPE SCHLENKER

Evelyn's Grandparents

Evelyn's paternal grandfather, Gottlieb Pepple, moved to the USA from Catoloi, Romania and homesteaded in West Norway Township, Wells, North Dakota. Two of Gottlieb's brothers George and Michael and their sons Fred and Jacob homesteaded on nearby land. Katarina 'Catherine' Müller, was also born in Romania, and later moved with her family to Russia before immigrating to the USA. Gottlieb and Katarina 'Catherine' married in 1892 and farmed in West Norway Township where Gottlieb served on the school board. They later moved to Fessenden. A great granddaughter, Janice Schlenker Muscha, in visiting Catherine in Fessenden recalls that she only spoke German. Gottlieb and Katarina 'Catherine' are buried in the German Baptist Church Cemetery near Fessenden.

Gottlieb and Catherine were the parents of five children: **1** Gideon, 1892-1952, married Theresia Grace Becker; **2** Emil, 1894-1983, married Lydia Mehrer; **3** John, 1897-1981, married Minnie Liekte; **4** Lena, 1902-1999, married Peter Hartl and later married Elmer Swang; **5** Lillie, born in 1908 married Sam A. Rogness [and they had two sons Richard and Allan. Lillie died in 1944; then in 1948, Sam married Myrtle Mortenson a teacher at Manfred School.]

Evelyn's maternal grandparents Jacob and Lena Mehrer had fourteen children: **1** Lydia, 1900-1958 married Emil Pepple; **2** Son, 1901-1901; **3** Dorothy, 1902-1902; **4** Karolina, 1903-1903; **5** Herman, 1904-1983; **6** Mary, 1906-1999; **7** Walter, 1908-1995; **8** Andrew, 1910-1929; **9** Sophia, 1912-1968; **10** Lora born about 1914; **11** Alvina, 1915-1915; **12** Ruth born about 1918; **13** Amanda born in 1919; and **14** Benjamin, 1922-1987, married Irene Martin.

Gottlieb and Catherine Pepple's Farm Location



West Norway Township #149, Range 70, Part of Sections 30 and 32. Red dot-Pepple farmstead. Black dot-rural school

Standard Atlas of Wells County ND 1911, p. 71

Evelyn's Parents, Emil and Lydia Pepple, and Siblings

In 1920, Emil Pepple married Lydia Mehrer in Keif, North Dakota. Prior to their marriage, Lydia worked at the hotel in Fessenden. Emil and Lydia Pepple farmed near Manfred in Forward Township where they raised small grains and animals. In 1947, Emil and Lydia moved to Harvey where Emil owned and operated a freight delivery business. He retired in 1960. Lydia died November 4, 1958 in Harvey, North Dakota and Emil died there December 30, 1983.

→
Lydia and Emil Pepple in 1950



Children of Emil and Lydia Pepple

Name	Dates	Spouse
1 DeVella *	1921-2015	Otto Dockter, 1910-1969 Carl Petter Bendiksson Vik, 1907-2004
2 Evelyn	1923-2012	Jacob 'Jake' Schlenker, 1911-1975
3 Bertha	1925-1925	
4 Irene **	1927-	John Schlenker, 1920-2013

Two sisters Evelyn and Irene, married two brothers Jake and John Schlenker, respectively

Notes on Evelyn's sisters

*DeVella Pepple attended Manfred Public School for Grades 1-8. In 1941, she married Otto Dockter and settled in Harvey. DeVella and Otto had five children: **1** Terry married Jeneil Rule who died in 2019. Later Terry married Joanne; **2** Sandra 'Sandy' married Alfred 'Red' Goudge; **3** Cheryl married Garvin Mindt, she died in 1999; **4** Bonnie married Tom Kiewel; and **5** Cynthia married Mark Jones. Otto died in 1969. In 1971, DeVella married Carl Vik at Concordia Lutheran Church rural Fessenden. They lived in Harvey. Carl died in 2004. DeVella was a member of First Lutheran Church-Harvey, Harvey-Wells Eagles Aerie, Harvey Senior Citizens, and Veterans of Foreign Wars Axillary. She entered St. Aloisius Nursing Home in 2014. DeVella died in 2015 and is buried in Sunnyside Cemetery, Harvey.

Irene Pepple attended Manfred Public School for her first three years and completed her primary education in a rural school near their farm. Irene married John Schlenker in 1943. Irene and John had four children: **1 Gary died as a young child and is buried at the SDA Cemetery-Manfred, **2** Curtis, **3** Johnnaly, and **4** Michelle.

JAKE AND EVELYN SCHLENKER

Jacob 'Jake' Schlenker, the son of Michael Schlenker and Mary Hauser, was born March 28, 1911 in Rusland Township, North Dakota where he received his education and grew to manhood. He went to school by horseback. Following his education, he worked on the family farm in Rusland Township. Jake met Evelyn 'Evie' Dorothy Pepple in Harvey which was a popular place for the young people to hang out.

Evelyn, the daughter of Emil Michael Pepple and Lydia Mehrer, was born October 6, 1923 in Harvey, North Dakota. She grew up on a farm 3 miles from Manfred. She began her education at Manfred School #1 with Harriet Johnson, Eleanor Langlie, and Mildred Ongstad as her teachers. In the winter, her father took her and her sisters to school by horse and buggy. After finishing Grade 6, she completed her last two years of primary education in a rural school near their farm. As a young woman, Evelyn worked on the family farm by milking cows, feeding animals, and helping her mother in the house. She worked for area neighbors helping with housework and taking care of the children. She liked working for neighbors who had children to help keep her from feeling bored.

Jake and Evie were married October 16, 1941 in Fessenden, North Dakota. Following their marriage, they moved to a farm in Rusland Township six miles southwest of Manfred. They raised small grains, milked cows, had pigs, chickens, and had a team of horses that were used for the chores. They farmed until the fall of 1952 when they purchased the café and bar in Manfred from Harley and Lydia Boese. Jake and Evie moved into Manfred in January 1953. Their living quarters were in the back portion of the bar and café building. They enjoyed working in the restaurant business and visiting the local people.

Jake and Evie were the parents of three children: **1** Patricia 'Patty,' **2** Gerald, and **3** Janice. As a family, they enjoyed going to the drive-in movies in Harvey. 'Ma and Pa Kettle' movies were a favorite. They went on Sunday drives to visit cousins in Cathay and Harvey. They also enjoyed swimming in the river at Harvey and going to the Wells County Fair each summer in Fessenden.

When Patty, Gerald, and Janice were kids, they had fun ice skating on the frozen James River at Manfred, playing pool in the bar when it was closed for business, jumping on a mattress on the living room floor, and playing baseball in the park [ballfield] with all the other Manfred kids. Janice recalls dances in the Sons of Norway Hall with Laverne Johnson playing the piano. One Sunday afternoon, one or two of the Johnson kids came into Manfred with a horse and chariot and gave the Schlenker kids a ride. The chariot had been made by Leslie Johnson for his daughter Dianne.

Jake passed away November 4, 1975 at age 64 in Manfred, North Dakota. In the late 1950s, Evelyn had been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. She was a trooper and always upbeat and smiling. The day following Jake's funeral, Evelyn entered the St. Aloisius Nursing Home in Harvey where she resided for nearly 37 years until her death on July 20, 2012 at age 88. While in the nursing home, she enjoyed watching TV soap operas and the Chicago Cubs baseball games. She spent a lot of time working jigsaw puzzles, word search puzzles, playing Bingo, and eating sunflower seeds. She ate the sunflower seeds each day from 3:00-4:00 p.m. Evelyn passed away July 20, 2012 at the age of 88 with the funeral held at Vang Lutheran Church. Jake and Evie are buried in the Manfred Seventh Day Adventist Church cemetery of rural Manfred.



←
The Schlenker family
at their farm in 1952
Standing: Evie and Jake
Seated L/R: Patricia,
Gerald, and Janice



Celebrating Evelyn's 82nd Birthday
L/R: Son Gerald Schlenker, Evelyn
Schlenker, and daughter Janice Muscha

1 PATTY

Children of Jake and Evelyn Schlenker

Patricia Ann 'Patty' Schlenker was born on July 12, 1942 in Harvey. She attended Manfred grade school and high school in Fessenden and Harvey. Following her education, she took a bus to Lodi, California where she worked as a waitress. She met her future husband, Robert Hertel in California. They were married July 14, 1963 in Las Vegas, Nevada. They divorced in 1974. Patricia passed away August 8, 1981 in California as the result of a boating accident.

Three children were born to Patty and Robert Hertel: **1** Richard Allen Hertel married Teri; **2** Randy Theodore Hertel married Tonya Marie Ann Johnson and they have three children: **1** Justinea Marie Ann Johnson, **2** Sereena Patricia Nichol Hertel, and **3** Joshua Tyler Ryan Hertel; **3** Lisa Fay Hertel married Jason Seleski and they have two children: **1** Lindsey Faye Seleski and **2** Dru Michael Robert Seleski.



Patricia Schlenker
about 1958



Richard, Randy, and Lisa

2 GERALD

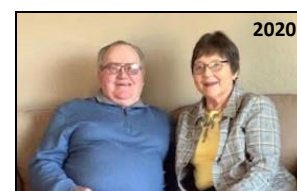
Gerald Duane Schlenker was born in Harvey, North Dakota. He attended grade school in Manfred and graduated from Fessenden High School in 1962. Following high school, he worked at the Farmers Union Elevator in Manfred for a year. Gerald and David Fike then drove to California, where Gerald found employment with an individual who made septic tanks. After three months, he returned to North Dakota and began working at Hager Construction in Harvey for a time, before joining Great Plains Supply Company at Maddock in 1964. In 1965, Gerald was drafted into the United States Army and was stationed in Germany for 18 months. Following Gerald's discharge in 1967, he returned to Maddock and resumed working for Great plains Supply Company. Also that year, he met Jeanne Mathieson who was working a summer job at Maddock Drug Store.

Jeanne Marie Mathieson was born in Maddock to Norman and Inez (Kittelsson) Mathieson. She graduated from BCATS (Benson County Agricultural and Training School) at Maddock in 1964, and then graduated from North Dakota State University in 1968 with a degree in Home Economics. She was employed as a home economist at Otter Tail Power Company in Jamestown from 1968 to 1972.

Gerald and Jeanne were married at North Viking Lutheran Church in Maddock July 12, 1969. Following their wedding, Gerald transferred to Great Plain Supply Company in Jamestown. In 1976, they moved to their present home in Aurora Township, Benson County between Maddock and Minnewaukan. Gerald began farming with his father-in-law, Norman Mathieson, while continuing to work at Great Plains Supply until 1979 when he began farming fulltime. He raised beef cattle and small grains.

Gerald and Jeanne have three sons: Jay, Jared and Jeffrey. When they became old enough to drive tractors and combines, they became the 'hired men.' When they left for college, Jeanne became the 'hired hand.' She ran a combine, tilled fields, raked hay, and helped haul bales. For 20 years, Jeanne worked part time/seasonal as a lab assistant for Feist Soil Testing in Minnewaukan. Gerald rented out the farmland but continued raising cattle until 2020 when he sold the remainder of the cattle herd. He now enjoys attending cattle sales at the auction barn, working jigsaw puzzles, watching westerns on TV, reading western books, and occasionally playing cards. A woman's work is never done, so Jeanne hasn't retired. Gerald and Jeanne enjoy attending the activities of their seven grandchildren and are active in their church, North Viking Lutheran Church in Maddock.

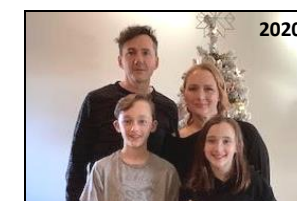
The children of Gerald and Jeanne: **1** Jay Norman Schlenker married Linda Gloria Kunkel and they have three children: **1** Paige Carissa Schlenker, **2** Megan Lindsey Schlenker, and **3** Abigail Aspen Schlenker; **2** Jared Duane Schlenker married Debra Kaye Kuchar and they have two children: **1** Simon Josiah Schlenker and **2** Sophia Jeanne Schlenker; **3** Jeffrey Lance Schlenker married Jodi Lynn Alfstad and they have two children: **1** Justin Lance Schlenker and **2** Jayson Lee Schlenker.



Gerald and Jeanne Schlender



Jay Schlenker Family
Paige, Abigail, Jay, Linda,
and Megan



Jared Schlenker Family
Back: Jared and Debra
Front: Simon and Sophia



Jeffrey Schlenker Family
Back: Justin and Jayson
Front: Jeffrey and Jodi

Children of Jake and Evelyn Schlenker

3 JANICE

Janice Kay Schlenker was born in Harvey. She received her primary education from Manfred Grade School and then attended Fessenden High School. She worked as a waitress in Harvey at the A & W Drive-In and Town and Country Café for several years.

Janice married Richard Steven Muscha on December 6, 1968 at Campbell, South Dakota. Richard was born to Joseph and Margaret (Holzer) Muscha in Harvey, North Dakota. He attended a country school and graduated from Harvey High School in 1964. He then attended Wahpeton School of Science for two years where he majored in architectural drafting. Richard worked on the family farm prior to his marriage. He was employed at the elevator in Heimdal, North Dakota for several months before their move to Casselton in 1969. Richard worked at Idos Sales in West Fargo, Holt Implement in Casselton, North Dakota, and Arthur Mercantile in Arthur, North Dakota as a mechanic. He retired in 2010. Janice was employed in Casselton as a waitress at English Café, a clerk at J & J Food Store, and as a cashier at Schlagel Oil Company. She retired in 2017.

Janice and Richard raise a large garden, their main crop being potatoes. Janice preserves many kinds of vegetables each year. She enjoys working jigsaw puzzles and has one set up year-round. Richard drives a truck for an area farmer during spring's work and harvest. He also volunteers with the Community of Care program in Casselton by providing transportation to those in need. Richard's hobby is making things out of wood and iron and working on old tractors. Janice and Richard enjoy playing cards and watching TV and are active in their church, St. Leo's Catholic Church.

Two children were born to Janice and Richard: **1** Russel Steven Muscha married Kari Diane Lee and they have one child: **1** Ryan Steven Muscha; and **2** Sandra Ann Muscha married James Harlan Bowles and they have one child: **1** Michael James Bowles.



Janice and
Richard Muscha



Russel Muscha Family
Ryan, Kari, and Russel



James Bowles Family
James, Michael
and Sandra

'Wells County Free Press' News Entries of the Schlenker/Pepple Families

April 8, 1926

Emil Pepple purchased a new Ford sedan from the Manfred Motor Company.

December 22, 1927

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Pepple are the proud parents of a daughter born to them a week ago Sunday. [Irene]

October 23, 1941

At 12 o'clock noon, Thursday, October 16th, occurred the wedding of Miss Evelyn Pepple of Manfred and Mr. Jacob Schlenker, also of Manfred, the ceremony being solemnized at the Fessenden Baptist parsonage by the Rev. G. W. Pust, local pastor.

January 1, 1942

Mr. Otto Dockter of Tuttle, and Miss Develle Pepple, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Pepple of Manfred, were united in marriage on Christmas day, December 25th, at 2 o'clock at the Baptist parsonage in Fessenden. The Rev. G. W. Pust officiated. Attendants to the couple were Mr. and Mrs. Jake Schlenker of the Manfred community. The newlyweds will make their home in Tuttle, where the groom is engaged in business.

January 13, 1944

New Year's dinner guests at the Emil Pepple home were Mr. and Mrs. Tony Breyer and Joanne, Mr. and Mrs. Jake Schlenker, Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Schlenker, and Mr. and Mrs. John Pepple and family of Heaton.

June 1, 1950

On Sunday, May 29th, a large group of relatives and friends gathered at the Jake Schlenker home south of Manfred to honor Mr. and Mrs. Emil Pepple on their 30th wedding anniversary. The Pepple's have three daughters and all were present for the occasion. The party was a very enjoyable one for all attendees.

In Memory

Carol Ann Fisher

February 10, 1947 – April 30, 2019

Wife of Larry Fisher, the son of Donald and Evelyn Ostrem Fisher, grandson of Even and Kjersti Ostrem

Lorraine Roland Jenny Quie

April 18, 1928 – March 5, 2020

Taught Grades 5-8 at Manfred School 1946-1950

Julie Ann Anderson

January 13, 1985 – April 11, 2020

Daughter of Perry W. and Lauri Anderson, granddaughter of Peter O. and Rose Anderson, great granddaughter of Perry A. and Lilly Anderson, great great granddaughter of settlers Peter B. and Anna Anderson

Norma (Olsen) Holwegner

February 7, 1923 – May 1, 2020

Born and raised at Manfred and attended Manfred School, the daughter of Halvor and Martha (Rogness) Olsen

Jeanne Esther McBain Flick

December 13, 1935 – May 5, 2020

Daughter of Henry and Margaret (Janssen) McBain. Margaret was a cook in Manfred School. Jeanne married Edgar Allan Flick and farmed north of Manfred

Lila Hirschhorn Anderson

November 11, 1928 – May 23, 2020

Wife of Orvin Anderson, the son of Olaf and Caroline (Melby) Anderson. Olaf had the livery and dray service and later sold automobiles in Manfred

Marla Gladheim Black

January 1, 1957 – May 31, 2020

Daughter of Ordean and Kathryn (Strauss) Gladheim. Ordean was the son of Ole and Clara (Ranum) Gladheim and Kathryn was the daughter of Joe and Ida Strauss

Jimmie Dee Thuma

March 15, 1938 – August 5, 2020

Husband of Jacquelyn Thuma, the daughter of Adele Hanson who taught at Manfred 1940-41

Reuben Braaten

August 7, 1925 – October 7, 2020

Born to Ernest and Eva Braaten near Manfred and attended school there

Clara Detling Elhard

March 3, 1950 – October 21, 2020

Daughter of Matt and Mary Detling and grew up near Manfred and attended school there

Lyle Sommer

November 9, 1936 – October 31, 2020

Son of Eldon and Emily Sommer, grew on a farm near Manfred and attended school there

Edgar Allan Flick

August 2, 1928 – November 5, 2020

Attended school in Manfred, the son of Ray and Gina Flick, grandson of C. C. and Anna Melby. Edgar was postmaster in Manfred.

Gene N. Melby

November 21, 1928 – November 12, 2020

Born and raised near Manfred and attended school there, the son of Oscar and Bertha (Nordtorp) Melby, grandson of Knud and Guri Melby and Gullik and Ragnhild Nordtorp

Manfred School History Exhibit

In 2020, MHP, Inc. was awarded a Cultural Heritage Grant from the State Historical Society of North Dakota, with grant funds appropriated by the North Dakota Legislature. This exciting grant project is entitled 'Manfred School History Exhibit' in which the history of the red-brick Manfred School will be featured on 35 panels covering the years this building was in operation – September 1910 until May 1973. The panels include school photos, class lists, and news entries and/or memories through the years. Formatting of the panels as computer documents was completed in February 2021 by Wanda Melchert and Audrey Solheim. The computer files will next be submitted to the printing company where the file contents will be enlarged and printed to the panel size of approximately 3' x 4'. Once printed, the panels will be installed in an exhibit apparatus given to Manfred in about 2012 by another museum. The exhibit will be completed this spring, ready for everyone to enjoy.

Panel Sample of the 1910-1911 Manfred School Year for the Manfred School History Exhibit ↓

Manfred Township Public Education

Construction of the Present-Day Manfred School Building

By 1908, the one-room School #1 had become too small for the number of students attending classes there. The need was evident to have a larger school building.

Excerpts from the Wells County Free Press News Entries.

- **October 12, 1908**, the Manfred School Board met consisting of Clarence Nelson, Nick Rogness, Charles Fjerstad and clerk Ole Ranum. A petition was presented to them signed by 56 legal voters of the district asking to bond the school district for \$7,000.00 for the purpose of building a new two-story brick schoolhouse at Manfred.
- **November 20, 1909**, a special election was held with a large majority voting in favor of the petition.
- **June 1, 1910**, a bid by Harrison Bros of \$7,853.00 was accepted, stipulating the school be completed by September 5, 1910.
- **June 8, 1910**, the old one-room school was auctioned off for \$310.00 to C. C. Melby who moved it across the street to renovate as a home. G. D. Fisher with his teams of horses and a crew of men started digging the school basement.
- **By late July 1910**, the basement was completed, and work was begun on the brick walls.
- **By mid August 1910**, the brick walls were up, lath for interior walls was being installed, and the roof was ready for shingling.
- **September 17, 1910**, after final adjustments by the contractor, the board agreed to accept the building.
- **September 19, 1910**, classes commenced in the new red brick schoolhouse.

1910-1911

Grades 1-3
Teacher: Lillian Covert

Anderson, Clayton
Anderson, Florence
Anderson, Mattila
Anderson, Ralph
Fjrestad, Gladys
Fieback, Emil
Fieback, Olga
Fieback, Tine
Gilbertson, Bernard
Gilbertson, Clarence
Hustoft, Selma
Johnson, Pearl
Johnson, Emma
Koenig, Lyla
Koenig, Willie
Le Grand, Norman
Lindbo, Millard
Melby, Anna
Melby, June
Opasahl, Tori
Rasmussen, John
Rasmussen, Raymond
Rogne, Olaf
Sorenson, Edwin
Soderback, Edith
Soderback, Henry
Wulman, Orlinda



The Manfred School student body in front of the brand-new school with their teachers in the second row at left: Ray Covert and his sister Lillian Covert

Grades 4-8
Teacher: Ray Covert

Anderson, Perry
Austin, Pearl
Bever, Frank
Biever, Jesse
Erickson, Marnie
Goedecke, Edie
Goedecke, Willie
Gilbertson, Emil
Hustoft, Edwin
Johnson, Alan
Johnson, Edna
Jantich, Katie
Krugner, Henry
Lund, Ivar
Larson, Emil
Melby, Beatrice
Melby, Cora
Melby, Gena
Robb, Andrew
Robb, Melvin
Rogne, Caroline
Ranum, Gladys
Ross, Margaret

2021 Manfred Pioneer Festival

Tentative plans are to host 4th Grade students from the region, in conjunction with their North Dakota Studies, for a Manfred Pioneer Festival on Thursday, September 9, 2021. Pioneer ways of life will be featured. You are cordially invited to attend! Please follow us on Facebook or www.manfrednd.org for plan updates. If you would like to demonstrate a traditional activity, skill, or craft for this event, or help in any way, please let us know. (Find contact info on Page 1 or email wrmelchert@gmail.com)

James M. Reiswig

January 27, 1929 – December 23, 2020

Born and raised in rural Manfred the son of Isaac and Emelia (Tebelius) Reiswig

Art Weigelt

February 15, 1926 – January 3, 2021

Husband of Elaine Strauss, who grew up near Manfred the daughter of Joe and Ida Strauss

In Memory (Cont.)

Jane Ellen Sommer Faul

October 11, 1943 – January 18, 2021

Attended school in Manfred, the daughter of Vernon and Elizabeth (Fuhhrman) Sommer

Myron Soiseth

April 28, 1935 – February 2021

Attending Manfred School in the 1940s, the son of John and Mildred Boese Soiseth