

The New

MANFRED NEWS

Volume 5, Issue 4

December 2005

Warm Greetings!

The 'Manfred News' Celebrates Five Years of Publication

With this issue, we celebrate completion of five years in publication of
The New Manfred News, a quarterly historical newsletter.

A warm welcome to this issue, featuring the Solheim-Onstad History!

A Celebration in Manfred

Sunday, July 2, 2006

- 9:45 a.m. Choir practice for all who would like to participate in choir for the service.
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 12:00 Noon Catered lunch. Please return enclosed insert, if you wish to attend catered lunch.
- 1:30 p.m. Program. Followed by fellowship in the Vang Church basement, and open house of the Manfred Heritage Museum.
- Worship Service and Program will be held at Vang Lutheran Church



Wintertime at Manfred



Photos by Bill Ongstad
Taken December 2005

The Air-Sled

The air sled was owned and operated by Emil Onstad, the son of Ole and Gina Onstad. See their history in this issue. The air-sled was used during the 1940s for hunting, and for trips to town, especially if the roads were blocked. See March 2003, Page 10 for air-sled story by Russell Johnson.

Laverne Johnson recalls how her brother Jim was helped in 1948, "When Jim was a baby, he was very ill with pneumonia and needed to get to the hospital. We were living at our north farm then, and the roads were completely blocked, so Emil picked up Mother and Jim in the air-sled and got them to the hospital. Emil may have saved Jim's life."

Air-Sled

Made by Emil Onstad



1940
↑ Russell Johnson seated in the air sled, Emil Onstad standing

←
Enjoying the air-sled from the left are:
Bertha Ostrem Satterlee
Annie Onstad Solheim
Phyllis Biever Ostrem
Arnt Ostrem
Emil Onstad

1944

The New Manfred News

From the Museum Director...

We greet the New Year with its fresh opportunity to help Manfred and its history! Awesome for 2005 was leadership expansion, establishment of the MHP, Inc. Endowment Fund, and completion of the basement project for the Melby-Rogness House which enables remaining interior work to proceed. Another exciting new project is the Manfred Heritage Museum's first exhibit to be installed in Vang Church in time for the celebration July 2, 2006 when the 100th birthday of the building will be observed. Ready to be dedicated that day is the Solheim Service Station. It now looks very much like its former self, all decked out in red-and-white as seen on page 1 which owner Audrey Solheim has newly restored and painted. Enjoy the fascinating history of her family contained in this issue. Also being dedicated into the museum in July is the Johnson-Ostrem House. Please join in helping paint 'Lars' House' this spring, so it can be all dressed up ready for this very special day.

Celebrating Manfred together with you,
Wanda Melchert

In Tribute of

Myrtle Sailer and Adolph Shirley

We remember in passing, Myrtle Melby and Adolph Shirley, who were both intensely interested in Manfred's well-being and contributed much to Manfred's history.

Myrtle played the organ for Vang Church when she was young. Later, she taught the lower grades in Manfred School in which the children enjoyed the singing that was a part of Opening Exercises each morning. Though she lived much of her life in western North Dakota, Manfred remained dear to her heart.

Adolph's life encompassed nearly the whole historic period of Manfred. The bank-post office and Johnson-Ostrem House were built in 1905, the same year he was born. Adolph remembered back to age 3 when his father brought home a new breaking plow. Manfred is blessed with, not only historic artifacts from him, but also priceless stories and information he shared through his phenomenal memory. Vang Church, dear to Adolph, was placed on the National Register because of his encouragement. He was big on both Manfred and its history!

With the continuing help of supporters, Manfred is growing to ward its exciting mission to help tell the story of rural North Dakota. In grateful thanks!

General Fund

Contributions to the General Fund are vital for the current work of MHP, Inc. The projects are advancing with this help!

Marvin and Diane Alvashere
Pete and Rose Anderson
in memory of Myrtle Sailer
Pete and Rose Anderson
in memory of Adolph Shirley
Orville Dovre
Larry Fisher
Richard and Carolyn Golberg
Craig and Vicki Harper
Deborah Huber
in memory of Myrtle Sailer
Larry Johnson
Russell J. Johnson
Joe and Joan Lake
Gary and Pam Lucas
Bert Miller
Joyce Olschlager
Dennis Opdahl
Edward and Lorraine Ravnaas
Karen Ravnaas in memory of
Ingvald and Olida Ravnaas
and Oliver and Alma Ravnaas
Gordon and Betty Schinke
Merlin and Laurie Schwartz
Audrey Solheim in memory of Myrtle Sailer
Maridel Sprenger
DeVella Vik in memory of Carl Vik
Dean and Alicia Vorland
Harley and Muriel Weros

Designated Gifts

Muriel Boyum toward Vang Church Exhibit

Endowment Fund

An everlasting fund providing for the future

Larry Fisher
Verna Bowers in memory of Myrtle Sailer
Verna Bowers in memory of Adolph Shirley
Richard and Wanda Melchert
in memory of Myrtle Sailer
Richard and Wanda Melchert
in memory of Adolph Shirley
Astrid Ongstad in memory of Waldo Larson
Audrey Solheim in memory of Adolph Shirley

In Memory

Waldo Larson
May 6, 1936 – September 22, 2005
Myrtle Melby Sailer
March 14, 1914 – November 15, 2005
Adolph E. Shirley
April 3, 1905 – December 17, 2005
Evelyn Gross (Mrs. Wesley)
January 26, 1928 – January 9, 2006

Manfred Newsletter Subscriptions

Thank you for your newsletter subscriptions!
22 new or renewing subscriptions
have been received since the last issue!

The New Manfred News

A quarterly newsletter published by
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News and history items are most welcome!

Editor: Wanda Melchert, wmelchert@westriv.com
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Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. (MHP, Inc.)

'A Settler's Village Celebrating Rural America'

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded July 25, 2000. Its mission is to compile and share the history of Manfred, North Dakota and its traditional trade area, and to encourage community pride and restoration of its historic structures.

Website: www.manfrednd.org

Manfred Heritage Museum

An educational entity of MHP, Inc. and of the Manfred community founded July 26, 2003. Its purpose is to provide present and future generations the opportunity to learn about important contributions that rural places such as Manfred have given to North Dakota and to America.

Museum Hours

May through September: Wed-Sat 10-4, Sun 12-6

Summer 701-547-2564

Winter 701-547-3123, 701-324-2091

The success of Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. is made possible through:

1. Volunteers

Four Divisions have been established where people are invited to volunteer in their areas of interest:

- *CORPORATE – Compiling the history, Grant writing
- *MUSEUM – Cataloging the collections
- *BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS – Care of Manfred
- *EDUCATION – Developing exhibits and programs

2. Financial Contributions

Financial contributions are vital to the work of MHP, Inc. Ideas for giving include -

- *GENERAL FUND for current expenses
- *DESIGNATED GIFT
- *ENDOWMENT FUND for Manfred's future

Federal Tax ID#45-0458460

State of ND Solicitation #4111

3. Historical Contributions

At the core of the projects is the history of Manfred and its traditional trade area. Historical materials are welcome to help tell Manfred's story such as:

- *ARTIFACTS – Historical items
- *ARCHIVAL MATERIALS – Histories, Documents
- *GENEALOGIES – and other historic materials

Board of Directors

Audrey Solheim, President
Laverne Johnson, Vice President
Esther Boese, Secretary
Ruth Widiger, Treasurer
Wanda Melchert, Museum Director
Rose Anderson, Pete Anderson,
Verna Bowers, Herbert Ongstad

MHP, Inc. is a member of the Harvey Chamber of Commerce and Preservation North Dakota; partners with the Wells County Historical Society, State Historical Society of North Dakota and other historical groups; and devoted to education and the well being of rural America.

1968



Helmer Solheim

The Family History of Helmer and Annie Solheim

Helmer and Annie Solheim's Ancestral Lines

This is the story of Manfred's historian, Audrey Solheim. In this history of her parents, Helmer and Annie Solheim, we begin with their four ancestral lines from Norway:

For Helmer: **1** Solheim and **2** Ramsfield

For Annie: **3** Onstad and **4** Rogne

1968



Annie Onstad Solheim

Helmer's Ancestral Lines

**1**

Solheim

Helmer's Paternal Grandparents
Sjur and Helene Sjurson

c1915

**2**

Ramsfield

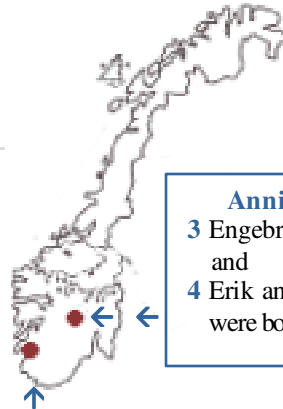
Helmer's Maternal Grandparents
Osmund and Sophia Ramsfield

c1900



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Helmer, Annie, and Audrey Solheim History
Pages 11-13

Helmer and Annie's Grandparents were all born in Norway



Annie's grandparents

- 3** Engebret and Anne Alfstad
and
4 Erik and Marit Skogen
were born in Valdres, Norway

Helmer's grandparents

- 1** Sjur and Helene Sjurson
and
2 Osmund and Sophia Ramsfield
were born in Rogaland, Norway

Annie's Ancestral Lines

**3**

Onstad

Annie's Paternal Grandparents
Engebret and Anne Alfstad

c1900

**4**

Rogne

Annie's Maternal Grandparents
Erik and Marit Skogen

c1890



→
Annie's mother, Gina,
pictured as a young girl
with her parents

Acknowledgements for the Solheim-Onstad History

The history, genealogy, and photo collection of Audrey Solheim. Helmer and Annie Solheim. Memories of Carolyn Rogne Smith. Information from: Kathy Rogenes, Beverly Ostroot, *Harvey Growing With Pride Book*, Vang Ladies Aid History Books, Vang Church Anniversary Books, *Wells County Free Press*, *The Wells County Farmer*, Norwegian Church Records, Valdres Bygdeboks, Ellis Island Records, *Haugesund Avis*-October 7, 1967-newspaper interview with Johan and Johanna Solheim. Valdres newspaper article on Ole and Gina Onstad by Even Ostrem. Photo of Fredheim from the book *Illustreret, Reisehaandbog over Valdres og Land* by G.T. Windingstad. Photo of Annie Onstad Solheim from the Myrtle Sailer photo collection. Compiled by Wanda Melchert.

Solheim Family

Helmer Solheim's Grandparents

Helmer Solheim's paternal grandparents were Sjur Sjurson born 1837 at Kalvikness a subfarm at the Kalvik farm in Jelsa, Rogaland, Norway, and Helene Torsteinsdotter born 1848 on the Rodne farm at Imsland in Vikedal, Rogaland, Norway. Sjur and Helene married in 1869 and lived at Rodne where their first four children were born: **1 Syvert** known as Severt (Helmer's father) in 1870, **2 Thomas** 1872, **3 Anna** 1874, and **4 Johan** 1878. According to the 1875 census, they had 2 cows, 1 calf, 8 lambs and 11 goats.

Sjur and Helene moved from Rodne because they were afraid stones would fall from the mountain, and also it was so small. They moved to Jelsa where their fifth child, **5 Olaus**, was born in 1881. They then purchased Solheim (which means 'sun home') in 1883, at which time they began using the name Solheim. Their last two children were born here: **6 Hilda** in 1885 and **7 Johanna** in 1890.

In their home life, the children worked on their school lessons, with their religion studies being of greatest importance. They used candles, the oil for the wax coming from boiled fish livers. They made their own clothing from the sheep's wool. Sjur would sit on the stump making wooden shoes in the evening. He could make a pair of shoes in an evening, and then sold them at the market for 30 ore (about 10 cents.) They owned a plow, but much work was done by hand. They had plenty of food on their plot of land, with 2 or 3 cows, 10 to 12 sheep, a couple of goats, a pig and a horse. They slaughtered and salted the meat, harvested potatoes, planted corn they ground on a grinding stone.

They had little use for money because they traded their wares and were self-employed. The father and sons were herring fishermen. They took their wooden shoes, homemade butter, and herring by boat to the market once a week to the village of Stranda.

Though Sjur and Helene remained in Norway, two of their children came to America. Their eldest son Severt came to Manfred, ND, and Thomas went to Puyallup, WA. Their son Johan visited five times to America for extended stays and would work on a big farm at Leeds, ND. Sjur died 1923 and Helene in 1926 in Nedstrand, Rogaland, Norway.

Ramsfield Family

Helmer's maternal grandparents were Osmund Knutson Ramsfjeld (English spelling of Ramsfield) born 1847 in Indre (inner) Ramsfjell (lofty mountain,) Hjelmeland (land of grain beginning to ripen,) Norway, and Sofia Salomonsdotter Berg born May 31, 1847 in Berget, Ytre (outer) Ramsfjell, Hjelmeland. Osmund and Sofia were in the same confirmation class. They married April 27, 1873 in Stavanger, Norway and left immediately for America. After 8 weeks on a sailing ship, they arrived at Boston, MA. While waiting for the train to Iowa, Osmund was pushed and his right foot crushed under a train, which required amputation, and he had a wooden foot from then on.

Osmund and Sofia first lived near Ossian, IA, where their two oldest children were born, **1 Bertha** (Helmer's mother) b.1875 and **2 Sam** b.1876 d. in Crosby, ND. In 1878, the family moved by ox-drawn covered wagon to Traill County, Dakota Territory, where Osmund filed for a homestead. After living in a sod shanty about four years, a log house was built with two rooms and an upstairs. Six more children were born on this farm near Buxton, ND **3 Jacobina** b.1878 d. Buxton, ND **4 Annie** b.1880 d.1881 Buxton, ND **5 Andrew** b.1882 d. Victoria, BC, Canada **6 Knute** b.1884 -married Hannah Berve 1906 in Harvey, ND d. Williston, ND **7 Sivert** b.1889 d. Kalispell, MT **8 Anna** b.1893 d. Mayville, ND, buried Hatton, ND. Occasionally, church services were held in the Ramsfjeld home. Later a church of the Hauge Synod was built in Buxton, where they were charter members. Sofia was a midwife much of her life, delivering hundreds of babies and never losing one.

In 1901, they sold their farm and moved, with their children Sivert and Anna, back to Norway. In the fall of 1902, they returned to the US and lived in Manfred, ND. In 1905, they homesteaded near Stavely in southern Alberta, Canada. There were early frosts and hail all the time, so in 1910 the family moved to Bigfork, Montana where they bought land in that area. After selling the land sometime after 1914 to their youngest son, Sivert, Osmund and Sofia moved back to Buxton, ND. Sofia died there in 1922. Osmund died in 1923 at the home of his daughter, Bertha Solheim, near Manfred.



The mountain farm of Solheim



Map showing a portion of the Rogaland region in southwestern Norway



Detail of locations mentioned in narrative where Solheim-Ramsfjeld families lived



The Indre Ramsfjeld farm high on the mountain overlooking the fjord below

*Helmer Solheim's Parents**Severt S. and Bertha Solheim*

Helmer Solheim's parents were Severt Johan Sjurson Solheim born July 13, 1870 in Rodne, Vikedal, Rogaland, Norway, and Bertha Karina Ramsfield born January 17, 1875 at Ossian in Winnishiek County, Iowa. Severt was the eldest of seven children. He grew to manhood in the fjords of southwest Norway where he helped his father, Sjur Sjurson, in fishing for herring. He also lived in Stavanger, Norway and Sandnes in Rogaland, Norway, before immigrated to America in 1889. Bertha grew up at Buxton, ND, the eldest of eight children one of which died in infancy.

Severt and Bertha married on August 15, 1896 in Hillsboro in Traill County, ND. About June 1, 1897, they moved from Buxton, ND in a lumber wagon to homestead north of Manfred. This was accomplished successfully only two weeks before their first child, Seivert, was born. Their other nine children were: Oscar 1899, Helmer 1901, Sam 1903, Hilda 1905, Arthur 1907, Selma 1909, Anna 1911, John 1913, and Clarence 1916. Severt and Bertha were active at Bethel Lutheran Church of Manfred, and Bertha was a charter member of the Ladies Aid. Herbert Ongstad recalls that the kids in the area would meet in the Solheim pasture for ball games on Sunday afternoons.

In 1932, Severt and Bertha moved north of Heimdal to the farm of their son Seivert, located across from Klara Lutheran Church. They lived there for the remainder of their lives. Bertha died November 9, 1948 and Severt August 3, 1949. Both died in Harvey, ND and are buried in Bethel Cemetery, rural Manfred, ND. Of note: Mrs. Oliver Rodne and Mrs. Jacob Rogness furnished special music for Bertha's funeral.

Severt returned to Norway in 1908. He visited with his parents, and also met his sister Johanna whom he had never seen before because she was born the year after he left Norway. Ellis Island records indicate that he returned to America on the ship Lusitania which arrived from Liverpool at New York on July 10, 1908. Tom Overland of Manfred was also a passenger on that ship.



The Severt S. and Bertha Solheim Farm where they lived 1897-1932, seven miles NE of Manfred
The house was later moved to Heimdal.



The 50th Wedding Anniversary of Severt S. and Bertha Solheim, August 1946 at Bethel Church
Standing from left: Helmer, Oscar, Hilda (Georgeson), John, Selma (Buchta), Art, Anna (Hakanson), Seivert, Clarence, Sam. Seated are Bertha and Severt.

Bertha's parents and siblings (Ramsfield, page 4)



Osmund and Sofia Ramsfield Family cl 897
Back: Bertha, Andrew, Jacobina, Knute, Sam
Front: Sivert, Osmund, Sofia, Anna



Severt S. and Bertha Solheim 1896

32	33	34	35	36
5	4	3	2	1
8	9	10	11	12
17	16	15	14	13
20	21	22	23	24

Severt and Bertha's Farmstead was located at the NE 1/4 Sec 35, T 150, R 71 of Fram Township



Severt S. and Bertha Solheim 1946

The Children of Severt S. and Bertha Solheim

1. Seivert was born in 1897 and married in 1964 at Heimdahl to Lillie Carlson Smith born 1899 at Strandquist, MN. Lillie had three children: **1** Neil married Irene Barker. Neil died in 1999. **2** Loren married Esther Tastad. **3** Darlene (Dot) married Thomas (Tom) Hagen. Seivert and Lillie moved to Williston and lived there for the remainder of their lives. Seivert died in 1985 at Williston, ND and is buried at Bethel Cemetery, Manfred, ND, and Lillie died in 1989 at Williston, ND.

2. Oscar was born in 1899 and married in 1923 at Esmond, ND to Olga Rogness born 1900 at Esmond, ND Olga died in 1957 at Tacoma, WA. Oscar married again in 1961 at Minneapolis, MN to Julia Toso born 1903. Oscar died in 1968 at Tacoma WA. Oscar and Olga had four children: **1** Dorothea married Joe Rogelstad. Two children: Marc and Timothy. Dorothea died in 1967. **2** Sybil married Raymond Larson. Three children: Cheryl, Gail, and David. Sybil died in 1970. **3** Loyal married Donna Grytness. Three children: Paul, David, and Dianna. Loyal died in 1998. **4** Harold married Marian Olson. One child: Linda.

3. Helmer was born in 1901 and married in 1943 to Annie Onstad born 1909 at Manfred, ND. Helmer died in 1969 at Harvey and Annie in 2002 at Bismarck. They are buried at Vang Cemetery, Manfred, ND. They had one child **1** Audrey.

4. Sam was born in 1903 and married in 1929 to Beatrice Olson born 1907 in Benson County, ND. Sam died in 1972 and Beatrice in 1994 at Gresham, OR. Sam and Beatrice are buried at Troutdale, Oregon. They had six children: **1** Ardella married William Riggs. Three children: Donna, Joyce, and James. Ardella died in 1996. **2** Geraldine married Arthur Gordon. Two children: Jean and William. **3** Warren married Louise Dubroc. Two children: Alan and Perry. **4** Donald married Susan Ellsworth. Three children: Steven, Brenda, and Gary. Donald later married Barbara Horwatt. **5** Curtis married Patricia Lamb. Four children: Michael, Kristen, Kenneth, and Jeffrey. **6** Carol married Richard Maney. Three children: Kevin, Brian, and Janet.

5. Hilda was born in 1905 and married 1926 at the Solheim home to Ames Georgeson born 1902 in Wells County. Ames died in 1970 at Heimdahl, ND and Hilda died 2002 in Harvey, ND. Hilda and Ames are buried at Hillside Cemetery, Fessenden, ND. They had eight children: **1** Jeanette married Weston Rudel. One child: Brenda. Jeanette later married Jon Meyers. **2** Sybel married Donald Johnson. Two children: Jeffrey, and Julie. Sybel died in 2003. **3** Arlene married Glen Rudel. Two children: Glenda and Cynthia. **4** Mae married Don Peppel. Two children: Susan and Jan. **5** Donna married Charles Brown. Three children: Gary, Bradley, and Michael. Michael died in 2005. **6** Arden married Linda Johnson. Two children: Lisa and Michelle. **7** Carol married Richard Jensen. Two children: Bethanie and Naomi. **8** Judith married Nyle James. Three children: Sara, Kristi, and Erin.

6. Arthur was born in 1907 and married in 1957 to Leona born in 1915. Leona had two children: Darrell and Dennis Blood. Arthur was a barber. He died in 1986 at Tacoma WA and buried there. Leona died in 2001.

7. Selma was born in 1909 and in 1934 at Minnewaukan, ND married Raymond Buchta born 1907 in Benson County. Raymond died in 1986 and Selma in 1999 at Devils Lake, ND. They are buried at Our Savior Lutheran Cemetery, Harlow, ND. They had 4 children: **1** Eileen married Reinhold Sauter. 1 child: Robert. Eileen later married Verne Fevig. She died in 2003. **2** Diane married James Sauter. Two children: Renee and Suzanne. Diane died in 1996. **3** Donald married Mary Ann. **4** Duane married Fern.

8. Anna was born in 1911 and in 1934 at Minnewakan married Walter Hakanson born in 1904 at Klara, ND. Walter died in 1957 and Anna died in 2001 at Rugby, ND. They are buried in Klara Church Cemetery. They had three children: **1** Owen married Elaine Olstad. Two children: Connie and Diane. **2** Arlys married Alden Pederson. Four children: Alane, Ann, Andrea, Alan. **3** Lorace married Gloria Pellett. Three children: Mark, Marne, Dana.

9. John was born in 1913 and in 1950 married Violet Nelson born 1919 in Heimdahl, ND. Violet died in 1999 and John in 2002 at Tacoma, WA. Their daughter **1** Patricia married Emil Rick. Two children: Michelle and Julie. Patricia later married David Fowlkes.

10. Clarence was born in 1916 and in 1956 at Tacoma, WA married Cora Carlson born in 1910 at Elbow Lake, MN. Cora died in 1962 at Vallejo, CA and Clarence in 1984 at Heimdahl, ND and is buried at Bethel Cemetery, Manfred, ND. They had no children.

Photos of some of Severt and Bertha Solheim's children and their spouses



Lillie and **1** Seivert Solheim



5 Hilda and Ames Georgeson



1 Seivert between Walter and **8** Anna Hakanson

Onstad Family

Annie Onstad Solheim's Grandparents

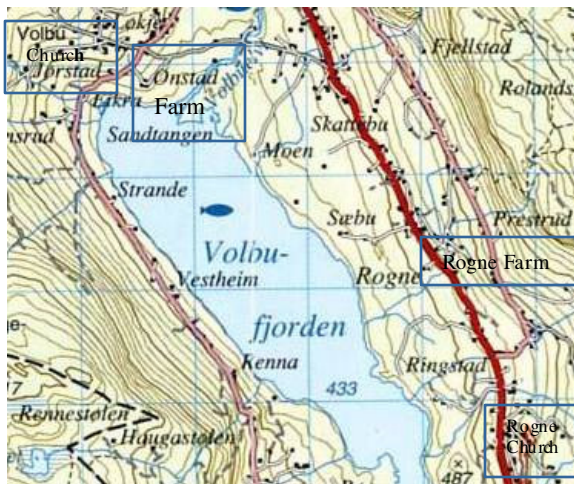
Annie Solheim's parental grandparents were Engebret Torgeirson Alfstad born June 5, 1828 at the Alfstad farm #24/4 in Øystre Slidre, Valdres, Norway, and Anne Olsdotter Rudi born August 19, 1845 on the Store Rudi farm #51/1 in Rudi, Øystre Slidre, Valdres, Norway. (See Volume 4, Issue 4 for more on the Rudi family.) Of special note: Engebret's father Torgeir was in the War of 1807-1814 between Norway and Sweden as an armed sergeant, noted as a sharp shooter and had many medals. A large photo of Torgeir in uniform, together with his wife Gro, is featured in the Valdres Folk Museum at Fagernes.

As a young man, Engebret worked with animals. He went to the west coast of Norway and bought many cattle and other animals. He often had 200 cows and 15-20 horses. During the summer, they pastured in the Jotenheimen Mountains that border Valdres to the north. He did this for 25 years, and then changed his interest and bought two farms, Jorstadhaugen #36/8 in 1869 and Øvre Onstad #35/4 in 1870. Engebret and Anne married July 14, 1870 at Volbu, Valdres, Norway and settled on the Onstad farm. He achieved a well-cared for and built up Onstad farm to hand down, made sure his children had a good education, and was a very popular and respected man in the area.

Five children were born to Engebret and Anne: **1** Torgeir b.1870 who took over the farm from his father in 1902. Torgeir held many and various positions of honor in the community, and was an enterprising farmer. **2** Ole b.1873 (Annie's father) immigrated to America in 1896. **3** Knut b.1876 and **4** Ole b.1879 became veterinarians. **5** Guri b.1886 married a photographer. Engebret died in 1911, and Anne in 1912 at Onstad.



Interior of Volbu Church with its charming folk art



Church and farm locations for Onstad and Rogne Families



The Onstad name comes from this stream that flows through Onstad



Ole Onstad was baptized at this font in Volbu Church. The font has since been moved to another location.



Annie Solheim's father, Ole, was born on the Øvre Onstad farm

Onstad is an old family name stemming from the Viking Age. It is documented back to 1368, when it was written as Unasstadum. In 1492, it was changed to Vnasstadam, in 1520 to Onestadt, and in 1667 to Onstad.



Annie Solheim's mother, Gina, was born on the Rogne farm

Rogne Family

Annie's maternal grandparents were Erik Bendikson Skogen born April 10, 1836 on the Røgneskogen farm #44/15 in Rogne, Øystre Slidre, Valdres, Norway, and Marit Larsdotter Rudi born November 14, 1835 on the Niegarden farm #50/2 in Rogne, Øystre Slidre, Valdres, Norway. Erik's father Bendik purchased Røgneskogen in 1832 and then took the name Bendik H. Skogen, or Bendik of Skoge. Bendik had earlier served as a judge near Skattebu and was known as The Honorable Magistrate Bendix Halverson Skatteboe.

Erik and Marit married in 1859 and their first child **1** Bendik was born in 1861. In 1863, Erik took over Røgneskogen. Their other children were: **2** Kari b.1864, **3** Lars b.1867, **4** Erik b.1871, **5** Halvor b.1875, and **6** Guri known as Gina b.1879 (Annie's mother.) Erik and Marit's son Halvor died as a child in 1878. Erik died in 1893 and then their son Lars then took over the farm. Sadly, Marit's son Erik also died in 1899. Bendik, Kari, and Gina all immigrated to America, as did their mother Marit and son Erik's wife. (See the story of their settling in America: with focus on Bendik page 8, and Gina pages 9-10.)

Bendik E. and Kari Rogne Annie Onstad Solheim's Uncle and Aunt

Bendik Erikson Rogne was born February 13, 1861 to Erik and Marit Skogen on the Røgneskogen farm #44/15 in Rogne, Øystre Slidre, Valdres, Norway. In the early 1890s, he built a large building on a piece of his father's land to establish a hotel which he named Fredheim (meaning Peaceful Home.) On July 9, 1892, he married Kari Knutsdotter Nyhagen who was born Sept. 10, 1869 on the Nyhagen farm #36/12 in Jorstad, Øystre Slidre, Valdres, Norway. Their first child Margaret was born soon after. Their daughter, Carolyn, later recounted that the hotel business wasn't going too well, so Bendik and Kari decided to go to America. Before departing, they leased the hotel.

When Bendik and Kari disembarked at Manitowoc, WI in 1893, they went to the home of his sister Kari and husband, Knut Gilbertson at Marshfield, Wood County, WI. Bendik disliked the woods and work there, so he made arrangements for he and his wife Kari to work at Cooperstown until money was saved to join friends that they heard had settled at Manfred, ND. Bendik filed on a quarter north of Manfred in 1894 and built a small sod stable and a 16'x16' shack. Their son, Emil, was born in 1896, but died in 1897.

When Bendik's brother Erik died in Norway in 1899, his sister Kari Gilbertson and he made a trip back to Norway. While there, they persuaded their mother Marit, sister Gina, and sister-in-law Ingebjørg Kulbraten Rogne, widow of their brother Erik, to immigrate, as well as his wife's sisters Ingebjørg known as Belle, and Karoline spelled as Caroline Nyhagen. Bendik and sister Kari, together with these five family members, arrived in America on April 13, 1900. They stopped first at Kari Gilbertson's home in Wisconsin. Marit, Gina and sister-in-law Ingebjørg Kulbraten Rogne remained there with the Gilbertsons, while the remaining travelers continued on to North Dakota. Later, their mother Marit and sister Gina came to Manfred, ND to live.

Shortly after this, Bendik and Kari's third child, Carolyn, was born May 10, 1900. Bendik's mother, Marit, filed on a homestead at Esmond, North Dakota, and after proving it up she went back to Norway for a time. During the winter of 1908-1909, Bendik, Kari and daughters visited Norway once again, and one of the things they did was to negotiate for the sale of Fredheim. Marit returned with them to America.

Travel, education, and community affairs were important to both Bendik and Kari. They were active in Vang Lutheran Church and Kari was one of the founders of the Ladies Aid. Kari's training as a nurse in Oslo came into use as a midwife at Manfred.

Bendik purchased three more quarters of land, and was able to build up a very fine farm by 1915. This included one of the finest farm homes in the community featuring some of the best technology of the time - a self-contained 32 volt electrical system for lighting, a hand-pumped water pressure system, and a hot water radiant heating system. Bendik's barn also used the latest technology featuring a special elevator lift.

Sadly, their daughter Margaret died in 1921. After this loss, and when their daughter Carolyn went to college at Flagstaff, AZ, Bendik and Kari decided to retire. In 1926, they rented the farm to Halvor Olsen and moved to Long Beach, California. In the 1930s, the farm was leased to Lars Østrem. Later, the farm was sold to Leonard and Mary Rogelstad. The present owner is Tom Marchand.

Each year, Bendik came back to ND to spend some time at Manfred looking after his farm, and during his stay in 1938 he took ill with heart disease and died September 7. The funeral was held at Vang Lutheran Church with burial in Vang Cemetery. Kari died August 17, 1944 in Long Beach, CA and the funeral service was held at Vang Lutheran Church on August 25, 1944 with burial in Vang Cemetery. Pallbearers were Reier Reistad, Ingvald Ravnaas, Even Østrem, Ole Rudi, Ole Gladheim and Halvor Olsen.

Of their children: Daughter Margaret married Irvin Iverson and had two children: 1 Irene who had four children: Linda, Marilyn, Jerry, and Marjorie and 2 Marlow who died at age two. Daughter Carolyn married Glen Smith and they had a son Robert. Carolyn then married Walter G. Carlson and later Harry Peters. Carolyn died in 1985.



Bendik Rogne



Kari Rogne



Fredheim Hotel & Pensionat
built by Bendik Rogne

Part of a statement promoting the hotel:
"New - hotel with exceptional view of Volbu
Lake and the Jotenheimen Mountains."



Bendik and Kari Rogne
with their daughters Margaret and Carolyn



The Bendik and Kari Rogne Farmstead
upon the occasion of the
of their daughter Margaret's wedding

Farm located $\frac{3}{4}$ mile north of Manfred
The SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec 15, T.149, R.71



Bendik and Kari Rogne

*Ole E. and Gina Onstad**Annie Onstad Solheim's Parents*

Ole Engebretson Onstad, born on December 24, 1873 at Øvre Onstad #35/4, Øystre Slidre, Valdres, Norway, was the second of five children of Engebret Alfstad and Anne Rudi. At age 22, Ole was drawn to explore the opportunities of free land in America. Arriving at the seaport of Boston, Mass. on the 20th of May 1896, he was the only one among his siblings to immigrate. He made his home with his uncle, Knud Melby, and family on their farm northwest of Manfred. Knud was Ole's mother's brother and also served as his sponsor to America.

In June of 1896, Ole filed on 120-acres of land northwest of Manfred, the only parcel of land still available in Manfred Township. He worked on his Uncle Knud's farm, and in turn his uncle helped provide him with horses and equipment so he could farm his own land. Ole also worked at one of the two lumberyards in Manfred, and there learned the lumber business. In the fall of 1897, Ole filed on a 40-acre homestead land in Norway Lake Township in Wells County. According to government regulations, each homesteader was entitled to 160 acres of land, and this acquisition completed his allotment. Homestead land was now very scarce, which accounts for the twenty miles distance. Later, this land was sold to Ole Lynne. On May 27, 1901, Ole became a United States citizen. The naturalization ceremony took place at the Eddy County Courthouse in New Rockford.

Gina Rogne, born at Rogne, Øystre Slidre, Valdres, Norway on July 7, 1879 to Marit and Erik Rogne, was the youngest of five children that included: Bendik, Lars, Kari, Erik and Gina. Major changes were coming to the family. In 1886, Gina's sister Kari immigrated to America. In 1893, her father died, and that same year her brother Bendik immigrated to America. Then in 1899, when her brother Erik died, Bendik and Kari came back to Norway and persuaded Gina, her mother Marit, and others to go with them the next spring to America.

To start with, Gina stayed in Wisconsin with her sister Kari and her husband Knut Gilbertson and family. Then in 1903, they all packed their belongings and left Wisconsin to seek a new life in North Dakota. The Gilbertsons, Carrie Nyhagen, and Gina Rogne each filed on homestead land near Tioga, ND in Williams County. Carrie's sister Belle Nyhagen wasn't able to file, because she wasn't old enough. (These were sisters of Kari Rogne, page 8.) In order to pass the long winters during those years, Gina would leave Williams County and go to Wells County to work for various families in the Fessenden area. It was then that she and Ole met. Gina received her land patent in 1908. Sadly, Carrie Nyhagen died at her claim during the time when her sister Kari and husband Bendik Rogne were in Norway settling their affairs in 1908-1909.

The spring of 1909 brought extra activity to Ole's homestead, as his old homestead shack was no longer adequate for his dreams. Carpenters were seen busy on the property building a large three-story house. On March 18, 1909, wedding bells rang at the Vang Lutheran Church where neighbors and relatives gathered to witness the marriage of Miss Gina Rogne and Ole E. Onstad. Pastor J. M. Langseth officiated at the ceremony.

In 1911, Ole felt he needed to expand his acreage. He purchased an 80-acre plot from Nels Bjornson, they came to call the 'North Eighty' and is the S 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of Section 17-149-71. Gina sold her land in Williams County and the money was used to help purchase this piece of land. In 1917, 160 acres described as the SW 1/4 of Section 21-149-71 just southeast of the homestead was purchased from his cousin, O.K. Melby.

Ole and Gina were active in many church and community affairs during their years on the farm. Ole joined Vang Lutheran Church in 1897, serving as Deacon for a number of years. He was among those who started the Valdres Lag in North Dakota. He was also active in the Fagerlund Sons of Norway of Manfred began in 1920, serving as its charter president. Gina always found time to help a neighbor, friend or relative. She was active in Ladies Aid serving on many committees, serving as treasurer for a while. She also had time for her family, to hear the children's lessons and their prayers. One of her most prize possessions brought from Norway was a portable Singer sewing machine, she lovingly used often. Her granddaughter, Audrey, learned to sew on this machine and has it still.

Ole and Gina retired from farming in 1949 and bought a home in Manfred. Their farm home was later moved to the Dale and Shirley Opdahl farm, where it remains active as a home today. Their life in Manfred was short lived: Gina passed away May 11, 1953 and Ole just nine months later on February 28, 1954. They are laid to rest in the Vang Lutheran Cemetery north of Manfred, ND.



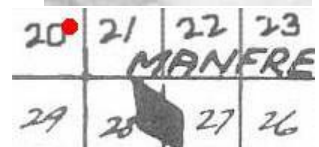
Ole E. and Gina Onstad



Ole E. and Gina Onstad and children Emil and Annie



The Farm of Ole E. and Gina Onstad.



The N 1/2 of the NE 1/4 and the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 Section 20-149-71



Ole and Gina's children, Annie and Emil



1938

Ole and Gina Onstad

Ole E. and Gina Onstad

Two children were born to Ole and Gina, Annie December 5, 1909 and Emil October 19, 1913. In addition to their own two children, they were foster parents to two of their nephews Clarence and Bemet Gilbertson after their mother Kari died and their father returned to Norway.

Ole and Gina's son, Emil, attended school at Manfred, and as a young man enjoyed hunting with his friend Russell Johnson. (See March 2003, Page 10) Emil married October 1, 1949 to Linda Brusven born 1918 in Ward County, North Dakota. They farmed in the Manfred area for a number of years. Later, they moved to Minot where Emil was employed by Minot State College, the city of Minot and Trinity Medical Center. They were members of Zion Lutheran Church and Emil was a member of the Minot Moose Lodge. Emil died June 18, 1972 and Linda died January 19, 1999, and buried at Rosehill Memorial in Minot. They had one daughter Mary who married James Roberts and had two children, Lisa and Stacy. Later, Mary married Dean Hauf and they have a son Anthony.

Gina's sister Kari and her husband Knut Gilbertson purchased the Manfred Hotel in June 1908. They had a good business going until Kari became ill with tuberculosis. She died in 1911. The Gilbertson home was located north of the Halvor Olsen home. Their children were George, Emil, Bemet, and Clarence. George was good at clock repair. The other boys all died when quite young. Knut went back to Norway after Kari died, leaving his sons in Manfred with the Ole Onstads and Bendik Rognes. Knut died in Norway about 1913.

Gina's mother, Marit Rogne, known as "Bestemor" (means grandmother in Norwegian) came to live with Ole and Gina in about 1917. Previous to this, she had been at her oldest son Bendik's home. Bestemor's fingers were never idle. She was known for her carding of wool, spinning, knitting and braiding rugs. She was an avid reader, especially when the "Decorah Posten" came in the mail. She furnished the family with all the wool knit stockings and mittens they could use in addition to all the braided rag rugs the eight room home used. After a brief illness she passed away on March 15, 1926 at the age of 90 years. Rev J. N. Langseth conducted last rites. She was laid to rest in the Vang Cemetery near Manfred.

Excerpts from an article written by Even Ostrem in 1934

The Silver Wedding Anniversary of Ole and Gina Onstad

It was the 18th of March 1934, 25 years since Ole Onstad and Guri Rogne were married in Vang Church here in Manfred. For that occasion their neighbors arranged a party for them at the Sons of Norway hall. Mr. Onstad is the president for the Sons of Norway lodge "Fagerlund", and this particular day somehow fell on the regular social meeting time, thus he had no way of knowing what sort of special program had been planned. Mr. Onstad led the meeting as usual and announced the program. Several amusing fun-filled plays were given, piano solos, readings, to mention a few. The last on the program brought Mr. Con Hedahl on the stage to speak and explain the special reason they were gathered here this evening. He asked Oscar Melby to lead forth the silver wedding couple. Mr. Hedahl read telegrams and then presented the wedded couple a set of silverware in memory of the day.

Mr. Onstad, taken by surprise, stood up and thanked everyone on his behalf and that of his family for the gift and the honor shone to them. After the program, all were invited to have coffee, goodies, and a large wedding cake. After the festive lunch, the Manfred musicians came with their instruments to begin playing for the grand march, followed by a dance. Thus a festive evening ended. Mr. and Mrs. Ole Onstad were both born and reared in Øystre Slidre, where they have many relatives and friends, which I am sure send them a dear thought regarding their milestone in their life. From the heart, now we wish that many years will add to that fest of gold in the future, 25 years from now. May good health and luck follow them on their way to this mark.

Neighbor, Even Ostrem



Left: Emil and Linda Onstad
October 1, 1949

Below: Emil and Linda's daughter, Mary, with her husband Dean Hauf and son Anthony

Below:
Emil and Annie, together with cousin Carolyn Rogne Peters



Below:
Gathering at the Ole Onstads



From left: Gina Onstad, Ann Cook, Annie Onstad, Anna Anderson (P.B.), May and Ole Melby, Anna Melby (C.C.), P.B. Anderson, Ole Onstad. Children: Bobby Cook, Unknown, Unknown, Clarence Cook.



1904
Gina's claim shanty had two rooms: a living room that served also as the bedroom, and the kitchen - dining room.

Right:
Ole Onstad on a bicycle in front of the Manfred Livery



Below:
Gina's mother Marit Rogne

Below right:
Gina's sister Kari and her husband Knut Gilbertson



Helmer S. and Annie Solheim, Page 1

Helmer S. Solheim, one of ten children, was born September 9, 1901 to Severt S. Solheim and Bertha Ramsfield on their farm in Fram Township northwest of Manfred. Annie Marian Onstad was born December 5, 1909 to Ole E. Onstad and Gina Rogne at her parent's homestead northwest of Manfred, ND, and baptized March 27, 1910 at Vang Lutheran Church, Manfred, ND. In 1943, Helmer and Annie married at Harvey. They had one daughter Audrey, and in 1968 celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary at Vang Lutheran Church.

1968



Annie and Helmer S. Solheim



In 1941, Helmer painted the barn of Harold Bakken



←
Helmer painting the upper part of the barn with the help of a platform



Helmer and his brother Oscar helping their parents, Severt and Bertha, in farming their land



Helmer on his motorcycle



←
Helmer painted the barn of Fred Mohr in 1945, with the rib boards painted white to look 'striped'



Helmer at left on the steamer with Hank Ostrem on right, as he tests out Helmer's fork

Christy Ostrem → (Anderson) by the steamer's water tank which bears a greeting to Helmer on his birthday. Oscar Melby on steamer at back.



←
Annie and Helmer during World War II when Helmer served with the Army in the Infantry



PVT Helmer Solheim

Helmer received his elementary education in a country school in Fram Township, attended Bethel Lutheran Church, helped on his parent's farm and also worked for neighbors whenever the opportunity arose. In time, he became a skilled painter and followed that trade. He painted many farm buildings and houses through the years, both inside and out.

He is well-remembered as fireman for the steamer of the threshing rig owned by its engineer O.J. Melby. He served in this key position, from the early 1920s until WWII. Christy Anderson of Harvey recalls that Helmer brought much fun to the harvest work with histeasing, which fellow workers handed right back to him. As recalled by Pete Anderson of Manfred, Helmer, donned in a painter's cap, stayed on the job pretty much all the time during the harvest season. At night, he made sure the fire in the firebox kept going. Beginning about 4 a.m., he started firing up the firebox until the boiler reached the proper pressure. Then during the long hot days, he continued to feed straw into the firebox starting at 6 a.m. until 6 most days but as late as 10 p.m. in the evenings. Meals would be brought out to him, the separator man, and the engineer, since they needed to keep a close watch of the machines. With chalk in hand, Helmer was also in charge of writing the weather report on the side of the water tank on the steamer.

In 1942 during World War II, Helmer was called into the Army to serve his country as a PVT COB 354 in the Infantry. At the same time, three of his other brothers were also in the service.

Helmer S. and Annie Solheim, Page 2

Annie attended elementary school at Manfred, and graduated from Harvey High in 1928. Dianne Johnson Aull recalls that Annie roomed with the Opsal sisters during high school, Dianne's mother Olga Opsal Johnson and her aunt Martha Opsal Mathison. After high school, Annie attended Interstate Business College in Fargo for a year, and cooked three seasons for the threshers in O.J. Melby's cook car. (See Sept. 2002, Pages 7.)

Her training in office work led her into many interesting positions. In 1934, she secured a position with the Federal Relief Administration in Fessenden for \$45 per month. With her first month's salary, she was not only able to pay for her room and board, but had enough left over to buy her first silk dress. In January 1935, she took the position of Deputy County Supt of Schools, then in January 1937 with the National Farm Loan Association's Group Office in Fessenden five years, and in 1942 with the U.S. Dept of Navy in the legal division of the Bureau of Aeronautics in Washington, D.C.

On October 12, 1943, Helmer and Annie wed at the Lutheran parsonage in Harvey. Pete Anderson recalls that a few days after the wedding, he, together with 12 to 15 others, among them Oscar Olsen and Leslie Johnson, gave Helmer and Annie a chivary. The well wishers assembled outside the home of Annie's parents, where Annie and Helmer were staying, and banged on cans and pails until Helmer and Annie came out onto the front porch to greet them.

Helmer and Annie had first met at Luther League functions when the Bethel and Vang Leagues met together on occasion. During their first year of marriage, they farmed with Annie's brother Emil. On February 18, 1945, their daughter Audrey was born in Harvey, ND. Also in 1945, they bought the Manfred Standard Oil Gas Station from Harley and Lydia Boese. Then in 1948, a home was purchased in the northwest part of town overlooking the James River. Helmer joined Vang Lutheran Church in 1947 and was an active member, serving two three-year terms as trustee. Annie was church treasurer for two years, Vang Ladies Aid president two years and treasurer three years.

Laverne recalls that the Solheims were a central part of the community, active in Vang Church, Fagerlund Sons of Norway, and the American Legion in Harvey. Annie was conscientious and efficient in all she did. Under her care, their yard was like a park. Rose Anderson remembers all the beautiful fresh-cut flowers Annie would bring to church to place on the altar. Annie was asked by Supt of Schools for Wells County, Mildred Ongstad, if she might take the position of Deputy Superintendent. So Annie accepted, and on August 21, 1967 began many enjoyable years working for Mildred.

Helmer continued through the years with the gas station business. Folks recall passing their time away visiting at the station, in the winter gathering around the pot belly stove and in the summer relaxing on the bench out front. When there was a gathering, Helmer was the one who would get the games going like canasta, whist, pinochle, or horseshoes. His daughter Audrey remembers there being a horseshoe court by their home and also near the station. People would often stop by to play horseshoe with him. Helmer died November 21, 1969. He was buried at Vang Church Cemetery with military honors.

After Helmer's passing, Annie sold the station to Ted Jorstad. She continued in her position as Deputy Supt until retiring in 1975. She remained active with teaching Sunday School for 17 years and Vacation Bible School for 5 years, School District treasurer for many years, held a temporary position as clerk in the Manfred Post office, as well as parish secretary for Trinity Bethany Lutheran Church of Harvey 5 years.

In 1986, Annie sold her home in Manfred and moved to Bismarck. She joined the Sverdrop Sons of Norway Lodge, and Trinity Lutheran Church of Bismarck. Annie and her daughter Audrey took a trip to California to visit her cousin Carolyn Rogne Peters, and also traveled together to Norway in 1972. Annie remained active in various activities, enjoyed being with people and contributing to society. Her many friendships were demonstrated by the 130 people who attended her 90th birthday party, an event she thoroughly enjoyed. Annie died December 12, 2002 in Bismarck, ND and was laid to rest in Vang Cemetery.



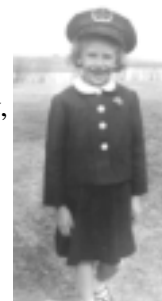
↑ Late 1930s
Annie and
Helmer
Solheim
October 12,
1943 →



← South View

The Solheim
Home
1947 to 1986

East View →



The Solheim Service
Station

↑ Audrey in about
1950 trying on
her dad's hat

Helmer at his
service station →



Annie and Helmer Solheim with their
daughter Audrey in 1968, on the occasion
of their 25th Wedding Anniversary



Annie and her
daughter Audrey
in 2000, when
a tree was
dedicated in
Audrey's honor
at the Sons of
Norway Park in
Bismarck.

Audrey Solheim

Audrey Helene Solheim was born in Harvey, ND to Helmer S. and Annie Solheim. She grew up in Manfred and attended Manfred School through 8th Grade. She didn't have very far to walk, as the properties of her parent's home and the school were adjoining. Family gatherings are especially memorable to Audrey. She relates, "I remember the many Solheim family picnics we had in our yard, especially when my aunts and uncles from the state of Washington would come to visit in the summer. Then, all of the aunts, uncles and cousins in the area would come, too. Holidays were generally spent with the Onstads, either in Manfred or in Minot. It was great to be able to spend time with them."

Audrey graduated from Fessenden High School in 1963, and received a BS degree in Business Education from Minot State College in 1967 with post graduate work in Office Education at UND. She taught one year at Beach, and two years at Drake in the Vocational Business and Office Education field. She moved to Bismarck in November 1970, where she worked for the Legislative Council during the session. When the session was over, she took a position with Vocational Education working there until June 1978. She then took a position with Legal Services of North Dakota and continues in this capacity. Audrey is an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Bismarck. Her pastime activities are based on her lifetime interest in heritage in three primary areas: Her own family research, Sons of Norway and Manfred History and Preservation, Inc.

For her family research projects, Audrey has had an interest in genealogy and family history ever since high school. Audrey has readily adapted her interest through the means of computer technology. She has, over the years, developed a vast data base of, not only her family, but also many people from the communities of Manfred and Heimdal where her grandparents lived and raised their families. Some of her family genealogy, stemming from Norway, extends back prior to the Viking Age. For family reunions, she creates displays of the family history to help those attending better understand their heritage.

Sons of Norway has always been an important part of Audrey's life. Her parents and grandparents were all active members and, as a result, she was 'born' into Sons of Norway. Audrey joined Fagerlund Sons of Norway Lodge of Manfred in 1969, and then in 1972 transferred to Sverdrup Lodge at Bismarck. Both her father and grandfather served as presidents of Fagerlund, and likewise, she has also served as president, for Sverdrup Lodge in 1991. She has served in many other positions both district and local including: trustee, publicity director, recreation chairman, secretary, vice-president, and co-chairman of the Lutefisk Supper. Currently, she serves as newsletter editor, assists with the folk dance and chorus groups, and is a member of the book club. Audrey has visited Norway three times: July 1972 with her mother Annie to visit relatives in Valdres; July of 1989 with Ella Nordby (Nayes) which enabled her to meet relatives on her father's side in Stavanger; August 2000 for the International Sons of Norway Convention in Norway held in Stavanger after which she flew to Oslo and from there went to Valdres to visit relatives.

Audrey is Manfred's multi-talented historian and a remarkable asset for Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. (MHP, Inc.) She has always had an interest in Manfred's history, as an extension of her family's history. Audrey's mother had a great interest in history and actively worked to preserve it. Among her history work, Annie compiled a 3-volume set of the Vang Ladies Aid History. She also served as a resource for MHP, Inc. Audrey has followed in her mother's interest of history. She not only organizes the history of Manfred, but also is the Administrator of Manfred's web site manfrednd.org and serves as president of MHP, Inc. She participates on various committees with the goal to benefit Manfred and its history. In November 2003, Audrey had the opportunity to buy her father's service station building; the oldest building in Manfred built in 1894. During 2004 and 2005, she restored the exterior of this building with the help of a contractor and several volunteers, to look very much like it did when her father, Helmer, owned it. The station now stands proudly, greeting people as they enter Manfred. The Solheim Service Station will be dedicated, as part of the Manfred Heritage Museum collection of historic buildings, during a celebration gathering planned for July 2, 2006.

Audrey at the Minot
Scandinavian Høstfest
October 2005 →

Audrey at her father's
station in Manfred
c1950 - "Fill-er up?" ↓



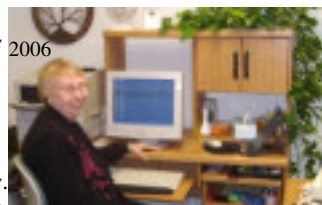
Audrey Solheim

In 1998 at Fargo, ND,
Audrey and Annie had
opportunity to meet
Onstad relatives from
Norway. They are seen
wearing the festive
dress called a bunad
and jewelry called solje.
↓



Heritage is put into action when
the Sverdrup Folks Dancers and
Chorus of Bismarck perform, as
they did at Manfred Days in
July 2001 at Manfred. Audrey
can be seen directing above, and
dancing in the inset at right.

Audrey's talents 2006
at the computer
greatly benefit
both her work
and also her
pastime activities. →



←
Audrey carries
on the common
interest in
heritage, she
and her mother
Annie shared

The Solheim
Service Station,
restored under
Audrey's care,
is once again a
cheerful greeter
for Manfred. →

