

The New MANFRED NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 1

November 2013

A Warm Welcome to Manfred!

Change of Mailing Address

Should your mailing address change, please notify:
MHP, Inc., P.O. Box 321, Harvey, ND, 58341,
Help MHP, Inc. save on return postage charges. Thank you kindly!

manfrednd.org

Enjoy visiting Manfred's web site: manfrednd.org
Tabs of special interest: Biography, Business, Newsletter

In this Issue

Manfred School History - Part 11 September 1970-May 1973

With this issue, the Manfred School History concludes with the closing of Manfred School in 1973. Thank you to everyone who has helped bring this significant history to life! The great news is that the closing of the school is not the end of the story! Read and see. Three cheers for Manfred School and its future!!!

The Annual Manfred School Picnic

The Annual Picnic

Memorable to the generations of students who attended Manfred School was the school picnic held the last day of school. Not only was this event highly anticipated by the students and teachers, but was an event the whole community looked forward to each year. The photos here and on page 2 were taken by Wesley and Esther Boese at the annual school picnic in May 1968.



A crowd pleaser – The food line



The teachers for the 1967-1968 School Year
Myrtle Rogness, Signe Lesmeister, and Laverne Johnson

Memories of the Last Day of School and Annual Picnic

Pam Norstedt recalls that “early on the last day of school we cleaned in the classroom and checked our books for pencil marks and erased them. Later, we played ball, swung on the swings, and ate a picnic outside with ice cream for dessert. Our parents always came.”

Audrey Solheim recalls “having several kinds of races on the road that went between the church and the schoolhouse. There were three-legged races where two people ran side-by-side with the center legs tied together; and there were measured races with the goal line identified and groups of school children racing against each other. Of course, the potluck lunch that our parents brought and having the community involved in the last day of school made this day special.”

A Manfred School Picnic



The 7th and 8th students, June Boese, Teresa Fandrich, Joleen Albrecht, George Seidlinger, Dale McBain, and Paul Boese with their teacher Laverne Johnson



Parents and community members enjoying the food and conversation



MHP, Inc. General Fund

P. O. Box 321, Harvey, ND 58341

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

Peter and Rose Anderson
in honor Wesley and Esther Boese's
60th Wedding Anniversary

John Bollingberg

In memory of Dagney Ellingson from

Peter and Rose Anderson

Audrey Solheim

Marie Lewis

Dale McBain

Michael and Bergit Melby

through the Lenove Employee Care

In memory of James Smith, the beloved

brother of Carolyn Smith Golberg

and Richard Smith, and from

Dorothy Bergman, Kathleen Bergman,

and Clo Rease

Leona Thon

MHP, Inc. Endowment Fund

PO Box 321, Harvey ND 58341

An everlasting fund providing for the future

Marlys Piatz in honor of Wesley and
Esther Boese's 60th Anniversary

In Memory

James A. Smith

February 24, 1940 – July 12, 2013

Son of William and Alice Anderson Smith,
Grandson of Olaf and Caroline Anderson,
Great Grandson of Knud and Guri Melby

Ann Detling Sauter

October 13, 1928 – September 11, 2013

Daughter of Matt and Mary Detling

Robert Foster

March 4, 1938 – October 11, 2013

Husband of Donna Boese Foster who is the
Daughter of Harley and Lydia Boese,
Granddaughter of Louis and Ella Boese

Kimberly J. Thorson

January 16, 1956 – November 8, 2013

Wife of Erik Thorson who is the
Son of Ted and Margaret Anderson Thorson,
Grandson of Perry and Lilly Anderson
Great Grandson of P.B. and Anna Anderson

Frances Anderson

January 17, 1925 – November 10, 2013

Wife of Donald Anderson who is the
Son of Perry and Lilly Anderson
Grandson of P.B. and Anna Anderson

Please let us know of loved ones who have passed

The New Manfred News

A quarterly newsletter published by
Manfred History and Preservation, Inc.
(MHP, Inc.)

P.O. Box 321, Harvey, ND 58341

1970-1971 School Year

Lower Grades - Grades 1-3

Laura Anderson
Kevin Boese
Jerry Fandrich

Corey Flick
Bergit Melby
Diane Ravnaas

Ruth Ravnaas
Billy Sauter
Danny Sauter

Teacher: Myrtle Rogness

JoAnn Sauter
Bridget Strauss

Upper Grades - Grades 4-6

Lila Anderson
Perry Anderson
Mark Boese
Edward Fandrich

Lee John Fandrich
Linda Flick
Myrna Flick
Arnie Melby

Laurie Melby
Michael Melby
Rodney Opdahl
Bobby Sauter

Teachers: Dorothy Steffen

Mary Beth Sauter
Mary Strauss
Tammy Strauss

Junior High - Grades 7-8

Norman Boese
Timothy Boese
Kenneth Fandrich

Louise Fandrich
Bruce Melby
Jeanne Melby

Ilona Opdahl
Karen Sauter

Teacher: Laverne Johnson

Beverly Seidlinger
Debbie Strauss



**Junior High Students
at Christmas Program**
L/R:

Tim Boese
Kenny Fandrich
Ilona Opdahl
Debbie Strauss
Beverly Seidlinger
Norman Boese
Karen Sauter
Louise Fandrich
Jeanne Melby

Laverne Johnson,
their teacher, is at
left behind curtain
playing the guitar

School Memories

Perry Anderson

I remember that Mrs. Rogness had quite a routine for her classroom, with the day starting out with singing songs along with a record on the phonograph player and also of putting our hands on a white handkerchief to be inspected by her to be sure our hands were clean. I remember playing on the ice. We would get going real good with our sleds down the hill and when we reached the ice we would stand up, open our jackets, stretch our arms out so that our jackets then served as sails. One year the ice on the river was really smooth, so with our "sails" we were able to slide all the way across the river. Attending Manfred School provided one-on-one attention with our teachers, and was a comfortable environment because we knew everyone. It was a big change going to high school in a big school.

Robert Sauter

I remember enjoying playing softball and soccer. I didn't like going to the outhouse because it had snakes. Some of the boys caught one of the snakes and painted a red stripe on it to identify it. We used a magnifying glass and burned our initials into the wood of the basement windows on the south side.

1970-1971 School Year

All Grades



L/R:

1970-1971 School Year – All Grades

Row 4: Laverne Johnson-Grades 7-8 Teacher, Bobby Sauter, Mark Boese, Edward Fandrich, Mary Beth Sauter, Ilona Opdahl, John Fandrich, Rodney Opdahl, Myron Miller-Music Teacher

Row 3: Dorothy Steffen-Grades 4-6 Teacher, Louise Fandrich, Jeanne Melby, Debbie Strauss, Bruce Melby, Norman Boese, Kenneth Fandrich, Tim Boese, Karen Sauter, Beverly Seidlinger, Myrtle Rogness-Grades 1-3 Teacher

Row 2: Perry Anderson, Michael Melby, Myrna Flick, Linda Flick, Tammy Strauss, Laurie Melby, Mary Strauss, Billy Sauter, Corey Flick

Not pictured:

Lila Anderson

Row 1: Jerry Fandrich, Bridget Strauss, Diane Ravnaas, JoAnn Sauter, Laura Anderson, Ruth Ravnaas, Bergit Melby, Danny Sauter, Kevin Boese

Arnie Melby

1971-1972 School Year

Lower Grades - Grades 1-3

Teacher: Clara Jo Dalen

John Anderson	Bergit Melby	Diane Ravnaas	Danny Sauter
Kevin Boese	Ruth Ravnaas	JoAnn Sauter	Bridget Strauss
Jerry Fandrich			

Upper Grades - Grades 4-6

Teacher: Dorothy Steffen

Laura Anderson	Corey Flick	Laurie Melby	Mary Beth Sauter
Lila Anderson	Linda Flick	Rodney Opdahl	Mary Strauss
Mark Boese	Arnie Melby	Billy Sauter	Tammy Strauss
Edward Fandrich			

Junior High - Grades 7-8

Teacher: Carol Beck

Perry Anderson	Louise Fandrich	Ilona Opdahl	Beverly Seidlinger
Timothy Boese	Myrna Flick	Bobby Sauter	Debbie Strauss
John Fandrich	Michael Melby		

School Memories

Carol Beck, Grades 7-8 Teacher

I taught the 7th and 8th Grade classes, as well as basic skills to other students needing extra help. Manfred School didn't have a regular bathroom and there was no phone. If we needed a phone, we had to find one somewhere else in Manfred such as at the elevator. Mrs. Esther Boese was the janitor, and Mrs. Fred Schindler and Mrs. Margaret McBain helped with cooking the hot item such as soup or hot dish to go with the sandwich each student brought from home. Mr. Miller was the music teacher. I had to write the test for the 8th grade testing. Mildred Ongstad, the County Superintendent came and checked the test I had prepared to see if it covered everything. For the Christmas program, the students put on "A Quiet Christmas". The 8th grade graduation ceremony was held in our classroom with parents present when the students received their diplomas.

Esther Boese, Janitor

My children stayed after school helping me clean the school. Everyone had their job such as to empty waste baskets, wash blackboards, dust the erasers, or vacuuming. I remember my son Mark would write on the calendar each day they worked, and at the end of the month I would send a check to their savings account for the amount they had earned. Keeping the furnace going was an ongoing job beginning in the early morning, during the day, and also we'd come again in the evening depending on the weather. My husband Wesley and his brother Rich would help with the furnace and other things that needed to be done. My morning began by picking up the school mail, filling the furnace with coal, and ringing the bell. Vacations were a good opportunity to scrub and wax the floors. Skating parties were a special part of Christmas vacation. Wesley would clear the snow from a spot on the river with the tractor. I remember a skating party on St. Patrick's Day with a bonfire on the ice, and the very next day the river was running! I have Lillian Melby's notebook of recipes which came in handy when I was asked to fill in occasionally in the kitchen. We had a dog named Old Shep who hung around the kids going wherever they went. One time, one of my kids called by phone saying "Mom, come and get the dog." In keeping watch of my kids, Old Shep wasn't letting the school board go into the school for their meeting.

Myrna Flick Hoekstra

I found it interesting being the only girl through all of the eight grades in my class of five students, and also in being a member of the last 8th grade graduating class from Manfred School. The spare classroom upstairs was set up as a room for exercise which we used when the weather wasn't nice enough to play outdoors. In that room, a half-court for basketball had been set up where the boys played basketball in the center part of the room and the girls did marching along the perimeter of the room. Everyone loved Mrs. Rogness as their lower grades teacher. Esther Boese let me help her ring the school bell and I remember she made everything fun. I took piano from Myron Berg in the library room upstairs, and I remember that my grandmother Margaret McBain cooked for a few years in the hot lunch program.

1971-1972 School Year

All Grades



L/R:

1971-1972 School Year – All Grades

Row 4: Edward Fandrich, Mark Boese, Beverly Seidlinger, John Fandrich, Bobby Sauter, Myrna Flick, Mary Strauss, Laurie Melby, Carol Beck-Grades 7-8 Teacher

Row 3: Dorothy Steffen-Grades 4-6 Teacher, Ilona Opdahl, Louise Fandrich, Tammy Strauss, Tim Boese, Debbie Strauss, Michael Melby, Mary Beth Sauter, Rodney Opdahl, Clara Jo Dalen-Grades 1-3 Teacher

Row 2: Lila Anderson, Laura Anderson, Bergit Melby, Bridget Strauss, Diane Ravnaas, Ruth Ravnaas, JoAnn Sauter, Linda Flick, Arnie Melby

Row 1: Jerry Fandrich, Perry Anderson, Billy Sauter, Corey Flick, Danny Sauter, Kevin Boese, John Anderson

1972-1973 School Year *Final Year of Manfred School*

Lower Grades - Grades 1-3

Teacher: Clara Jo Dalen

John Anderson
Peter Beck Anderson

Kevin Boese
Bergit Melby

Diane Ravnaas
Douglas Ravnaas

JoAnn Sauter
Julie Sauter

Upper Grades - Grades 4-6

Teacher: Sandra Walth

Laura Anderson
Lila Anderson
Jerry Fandrich

Linda Flick
Corey Flick

Laurie Melby
Ruth Ravnaas

Danny Sauter
Billy Sauter

Junior High - Grades 7-8

Teacher: Mabelle Wahlberg

Perry Anderson
Mark Boese
Edward Fandrich

Lee John Fandrich
Myrna Flick
Michael Melby

Arnie Melby
Rodney Opdahl

Robert Sauter
Mary Beth Sauter

The Closing of Manfred School

News Items from Wells County Free Press

March 1973 News Entry

Electors in the Manfred School District voted 35 to 12 to close down their school at the end of this term and to join other districts. Ervin Boese, a school board member, said about half of the Manfred district would annex to Harvey and half to Fessenden.

May 1973 News Article

Last Day for Manfred School

Each year at the close of the school term, residents at Manfred get together for a combined school-community picnic. Last Thursday was no different, except it marked the final of such occasions at the school.

Manfred School District No.20 is in the process of being dissolved and students next year will be attending classes in either Fessenden or Harvey. Annexation processings are underway and should be completed this summer.

As for Thursday's picnic, it marked the 63rd year the school had been in operation at the present site of the "red brick schoolhouse". There were other places in Manfred where school was held before 1910 and according to records at the County Superintendent's office, sessions dated back to 1897-98.

The present building was constructed in 1910. An item from the Manfred correspondent carried in the September 16, 1910 Wells County Free Press stated: "Manfred's new red brick schoolhouse is about completed. Contractors Harrison and Boas are to be congratulated on good work. School will begin September 19, 1910."

Attending the picnic Thursday was Perry Anderson, Harvey. He was a student at the school when it opened in 1910. He made a special effort to "be at the last picnic."

Another guest at the occasion was Mrs. Myrtle Rogness, a teacher at the school for 26 years before retiring recently. Also present was Mrs. Bertha Melby, who attended school in Manfred before the "new school" was built.

When the present school opened in 1910, there were 51 students enrolled with 27 in the first three grades and 24 in four through eight. Lillian Covert and Ray E. Covert were the first teachers in the new school. Maude Regan was County Superintendent at the time of the school's opening.

Teachers at the school this past year were Clara Jo Dalen, Mrs. Mabelle Wahlberg and Sandra Walth. Members of the present school board are Warren Hoover, president; Peter Anderson; and Ervin Boese. Mrs. Warren Hoover is clerk and Mrs. Fred Koenig, treasurer.

1972-1973 School Year

All Grades



L/R:

**1972-1973
School Year
All Grades**

Back Group Standing:

Lila Anderson
Myrna Flick
Mary Beth Sauter
Mark Boese
Laurie Melby
Edward Fandrich
Linda Flick
Rodney Opdahl
Billy Sauter
Michael Melby
Bobby Sauter
Lee John Fandrich
Arnie Melby
Perry Anderson

Front Row Standing:

Laura Anderson
Bergit Melby
Ruth Ravnaas
Diane Ravnaas
John Anderson
Kevin Boese
Corey Flick
Danny Sauter

Kneeling:

Peter Beck Anderson
Douglas Ravnaas
Julie Sauter
JoAnn Sauter
Jerry Fandrich

School Memory

Michael Melby

I remember that the classes were very small which made it possible for the teachers to work one-on-one with the students. I felt that we students had an advantage having come from a small town and that we could learn so much. Another thing is that the parents were so involved in everything regarding their children and would take turns with other parents. The whole community was connected. I remember one time we boys challenged each other to see how far we could tip our desks without falling over, and our classmate Myrna who joined in with us on this tipped so far that her desk fell over. We enjoyed going down to the river and also in making snow forts. When we were in Grades 7 and 8, we felt pretty good because we had special privileges such as playing basketball on the half-court in the room next to our classroom. We used to enjoy going up to Schlenker's for 10¢ pop and to Stella's with a couple of cents to buy penny candy. Things were so much simpler then, when we created our own fun.

GREAT NEWS!!

The Closing of Manfred School in 1973 was not the end of the story!

A New Future Is Unfolding for Manfred School!

**A new future for Manfred School began in 2005
with the founding of the non-profit organization, Rural Vestige Alliance (RVA)**

Milestones toward Manfred School's future:

- **2006 – Purchase of Manfred School with the financial help of a number of former students**
- **2009 – Roofing of Manfred School through grants from the State Historical Society of North Dakota and Preservation North Dakota, a gift from North Dakota Telephone Company, and contributions from friends of the school**
- **2010 – Volunteers cleared out accumulated debris from the school building and grounds**
- **2011 – Installation of replica of original portico over front door, through a grant from Preservation North Dakota**
- **2013 – A grant awarded by the State Historical Society of North Dakota, the match made possible through individual contributions**



This 1910 photo of Manfred School is serving as a guide for the restoration of this beautiful school building

Thank you for your contributions to RVA making possible the match for the recent grant from the SHSND!

The following article appeared in the November 2, 2013 issue of the Herald-Press

Manfred School Awarded Capital Improvement Grant from SHSND in 2013

Rural Vestige Alliance, a non-profit organization based in Manfred, North Dakota, was recently awarded matching grant funds from the State Historical Society of North Dakota through the Cultural Heritage Grant Program as appropriated by the North Dakota State Legislature. The Capital Improvement funds are to be used for restoration of Manfred School.

The major areas of grant work for the school building include 1) Window restoration; 2) New front door; 3) Front steps restoration; 4) Plaster repair of the interior first floor level; 5) Carpentry repair of the interior first floor level.

Contractor Greg Seidel of Cathay will do the carpentry work, and Bruce Terpening of Terpening Construction of Maddock will do the cement work. Restoration of the windows and plaster repair will be done by volunteers. Total cost of the project is estimated at over \$25,000. The projected completion of this grant project is November 2014.

Future plans for the Manfred School building are for it to serve as part of the Manfred Heritage Museum's exhibits, depicting early school days. The school was built in 1910 and continued to operate until 1973. Restoration of Manfred School has been encouraged by many people ever since the Manfred projects began in 2000. To date, repairs to the school building have included roof repair, shingling, and reinstallation of the original portico over the front door.