

A Warm Welcome To Manfred, ND!

The New

# MANFRED NEWS

Suggested Annual  
\$10.00 Contribution  
For Newsletter Expense

A quarterly newsletter published by Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. (MHP, Inc.), a non-profit corporation founded July 25, 2000 for the purpose to gather and preserve the history of the Manfred area, and also to encourage preservation of its historic buildings. Suggested annual contribution to help defray the cost of this newsletter is \$10.00 payable to MHP, Inc., P.O. Box 321, Harvey, ND 58341. You are invited to visit Manfred's website at <http://www.manfrednd.org>. Wanda Melchert, newsletter editor, [wormelchert@westriv.com](mailto:wormelchert@westriv.com).

Volume 3, Issue 2

Page 1

June 2003

## ➤ A Remarkable Future For Manfred! ⬅

### Dedication of the Manfred Heritage Museum, Saturday July 26, 2003



A little settlement on the prairie...with a new beginning!

In 1893, this location was chosen by the Soo Line Railroad because of the good water source of the James River.

In 1894, a bustling village was founded on this place to serve the flood of homesteaders settling in the area.

Today Manfred is blessed with a bright new future as home for a museum celebrating rural America!



Aerial photos by Bill Ongstad  
April 2003



A prairie place continually greeting...  
A river of antiquity flowing by,  
Train whistles saluting Manfred for 110 years,  
Its farming community, and Highway 52 travelers.

## The New Manfred News

On a rather pleasant spring day, two groups of motorists happened by Manfred at the same time and enjoyed a tour of the Melby-Rogness Home restoration project. This jovial group included:



From left: Isabelle Goldade, Alice Feist, Glennis Muscha, Ginger Fritchie, Elsie Martinson, Myrtle Rogness.

The 1930 federal census records for Manfred Township have recently been entered into the Manfred Resource Center thanks to Ethel Bolyard. This joins the records she had entered back in 2000 for the federal census of 1900, 1910, 1920 and the county census of 1915 and 1925. These records are a rich source for Manfred history.

March 3<sup>rd</sup> gave opportunity for Dianne Johnson Aull and Wanda Melchert to attend an interesting talk in Bismarck on road signs presented by the ND Department of Transportation.

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, Maridel Sprenger and Wanda Melchert attended a Museum Display Workshop at Valley City sponsored by the State Historical Society of North Dakota. The workshop was lead by Claudia Berg-Director of Museum and Education, Jenny Yearous-Curator of Collections, and Shawn Holz-Curator of Exhibits. For the museum displays, Manfred folks living in Bismarck are gearing up to mount historic photos prepared by Audrey Solheim.



Claudia Berg, Jenny Yearous, Shawn Holz of the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

### In Memory

- Mabel Wahlberg  
*August 13, 1910 - March 17, 2003*
- Kenneth M. Elton  
*June 6, 1931 - March 18, 2003*
- Jerry Froeber  
*September 26, 1928 - March 18, 2003*
- Orval Roble  
*February 21, 1919 - March 20, 2003*
- Ida Strauss  
*September 3, 1908 - April 14, 2003*
- Richard W. Rogness  
*July 26, 1927 - April 22, 2003*
- Ordean Gladheim  
*February 7, 1926 - May 1, 2003*
- Marcel Saint  
*March 30, 1922 - May 1, 2003*
- Bertha Ostrem Satterlee  
*October 6, 1907 - May 5, 2003*
- Wayne Hustoft  
*August 5, 1935 - May 16, 2003*

#### Restoration progress...

Work progress on the Melby-Rogness Home since the March newsletter includes: Footings poured and permanent steel support beams installed in the basement to support the mid section of the home, lead by Paul Gunderson; the living room, dining room, and bedroom taped by Lefty Erickson and textured by Paul Gunderson; walls painted and the wood floors sanded. Volunteer workers assisting in this phase were: Pete Anderson, Wesley Boese, Wanda Melchert, and Herbert Ongstad, with Esther Boese providing dinners. Wow! The home is coming along wonderfully well. Much heartfelt thanks to the volunteers!



### Contributions to MHP, Inc.

(General Fund)

Clarence Alveshere  
Duane and Shirley Alveshere  
Pete and Rose Anderson  
In Memory of Richard Rogness  
Kevin and Tresa Boese  
Muriel Boyum  
LoAnn and Wayne Dybing  
Ellery and Eleanor Ehni  
Dorothy Nertrout Harris  
Derald and Ruth Hoover  
Everett Johnson  
Larry Johnson  
Floyd Lindbo  
Pamela Lucas  
Mary Sue Lund  
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Gene and Betty Melby  
Kenneth and Jeanne Melby  
In Memory of Ordean Gladheim  
Alma and Audrey Nelson  
Herbert Ongstad  
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Jean LeClaire Peterson  
W.E. and Mary Peterson  
Lena Roble  
Marilyn Saint  
Fred Schmidt  
John and Carol Schroeder  
Merlin and Laurie Schwartz  
James and Helen Severud  
Irene Sommer  
Bryce and June Streibel  
Pearl Swang  
Emmett Turner  
Reiner and Ruth Widiger

### Contributions To Help

#### Defray Newsletter Expense

Ward Alveshere  
Donald A. Anderson  
Glen Bendickson  
Ervin and Evelina Boese  
Leona and Walter Fehr  
Jim Helenski  
Derald and Ruth Hoover  
Everett Johnson  
Larry Johnson  
Arlene Krause  
Pamela Lucas  
Jamie Johnson Maier  
Elsie Martinson  
Kenneth and Jeanne Melby  
Judy Pohl  
Myrtle Rogness  
Marilyn Saint  
Harold and Patti Sauter  
John and Carol Schroeder  
Pearl Swang

*Thank you so much for your contributions!  
What significant help this is for Manfred!!*

## *Celebrating A New Beginning at Manfred!*

A note of much thanks to everyone who provided items for this June Newsletter: To Bill Ongstad for a bird's eye view of Manfred through the aerial photos. To Genevieve Keson, Dale and Darlene Miller, and Mildred Reiswig for photos and information on the Miller Family History. With farming as the foundation of the Manfred community, quite a treat awaits you in the following history articles of some special farming photos including: the building of a barn, blowing the straw from the separator directly into the barn, and some hay stacking techniques.

Manfred... a little settlement on the prairie... with a new beginning! Such very good news! July 26<sup>th</sup> will mark a very significant day in the life of Manfred and its historic trade area, when the Manfred Heritage Museum is dedicated. Not only will this museum help brighten the future for the Manfred area, but it will help tell the history of this region as led by the Wells County Historical Society. Come spend the day... visit the Wells County Museum at Fessenden in the morning. Then in the afternoon bring your lawn chairs and umbrellas with you to Manfred, to witness as this museum takes its first baby step to serve as a voice celebrating rural America and its history. If the weather is inclement, the dedication will take place in the Vang Church building. If you are unable to attend, we invite you to send a greeting by either regular mail or E-Mail to the addresses found on page one.

Just three years after establishing the non-profit organization Manfred History and Preservation, Inc., its founding purposes are coming to fruition: that is, in collecting the history of Manfred and in encouraging preservation of some of its historic buildings. These two purposes now blend together in harmony as a museum begins its life. Bringing this unique museum into existence is due entirely to the many dedicated people who have gladly given of themselves in the past and also in going forward through: financial contributions, the help of MHP, Inc. officers and board members, the help of property owners, volunteers helping in either the history or the preservation work, and also people who are providing historic items to help tell the visual story.

### *Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. Presents A New Museum Dedicated to Honoring Rural America!*

*You are invited to the...  
Dedication of the  
Manfred Heritage Museum  
Saturday, July 26, 2003*

*9:30-11:30 a.m.  
Open Hours of the  
Wells County Museum at Fessenden, ND  
9:30 a.m. Guided tour of items that came from the Manfred area*

*1:30 p.m.  
Dedication Ceremony of the Manfred Heritage Museum  
begins with the flag raising at the post office followed by  
a program on the grounds of the Melby-Rogness Home*

*Following the ceremony,  
join us for soft-serve ice cream in the Vang Church basement.  
Open House of museum ongoing, except during dedication program.*

## *Manfred Heritage Museum*

### *Celebrating Rural America*

The Manfred Heritage Museum, under the guidance of Manfred History and Preservation, Inc., will serve as an education and resource facility. Though the museum will feature history of the village of Manfred and its traditional trade area, its function will be to help tell the story of the settling of America and to honor America's rural communities. The history will be shared right in its authentic setting. Among the buildings of Manfred, three properties are planned to house displays for the museum dedication. Each building represents an important aspect of the life of a rural community: *Church*-1906 Vang Lutheran, *Business*-1905 Beiseker Bank-Manfred Post Office, and *Home*-1903 Melby- Rogness Home.

*The historic news entries below are from the Wells County Free Press newspaper.*

### ***Vang Lutheran Church***

- April 13, 1906 -

*"The foundation for the new church is already under construction. There was a rock hauling bee last Saturday, and Monday Reier Reistad, the popular mudslinger, commenced to lay the wall."*

- August 24, 1906 -

*"The Vang church building is finished and all that remains to be done is to put in the seats, pulpit and other fixtures. Erick Hedahl is doing the painting and will soon have it finished. It is a small church but of a fine design and well put up. Contractor Andrew Beito and crew finished up last Tuesday (August 21) and left in the evening for Elbow Lake, where they have a church to case up and put in the furniture."*



Vang Lutheran Church, built in 1906 to serve as a place to gather for worship, today continues to serve its congregation. The building, listed on the National Register in 2001, is beautifully decorated with its original wood furnishings and tin interior. A display featuring photos of the former pastors and confirmation classes is located in the basement. Also planned, is a display honoring the church organizations that served the early Manfred community.

### ***Melby-Rogness Home***

- September 10, 1903 -

*"We called at the lumber office of Ole Melby, but we understand Ole was over at his new residence, which is nearing completion, hence we failed to see him. But Ole is certainly building a nice large house and when completed will have one of the most comfortable homes in Wells County."*

Celebrating it's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday this year!



The 28x28 home was built by O.K. and Mary Melby in 1903. Mary died in 1936 and Ole in 1940. Sam and Lilly Rogness purchased the home in 1942. Lilly died in 1944. In 1948, Sam married Myrtle Mortenson. Sam died in 1971, and Myrtle continued there until 1981 then moving to Harvey where she continues to live. After a series of owners, this home came under the care of Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. in the year 2000. It will serve as museum headquarters and a meeting place, be decorated as a home with historic décor and displays, and in time possess full services. Its garage will contain a farm display.

### ***Beiseker Bank-Manfred Post Office***



- July 29, 1905 -

*"Contractor H. J. Beiseker was here Tuesday measuring up the grounds for the new bank building. The building will be put up of brick & be 20x30 with a 7-foot basement under the entire floor."*

This structure was built in 1905 as part of the Beiseker bank system. Sophus Ongstad was treasurer of the bank 1903-1908. The Manfred State Bank closed in 1919. During the following years, the building served as the office for local business men such as Olaf Anderson. In 1944, it was purchased, by the then postmaster Oscar Ongstad, to serve as the Manfred Post Office. In 1964, Edgar Flick became owner and served as postmaster from that time until the post office closed in 1992. In 2002, the property was sold to the current owners Richard and Wanda Melchert. It will serve as an historic photo and artifact gallery. Plans are to nominate the building to the National Register in 2004, and reinstall the original grand interior molding in time for its 100<sup>th</sup> year in 2005.

Other historic buildings in Manfred include: Two groups of grain elevators, Dr. Owen's home later that of P.B. Anderson, 1903 Vang Lutheran Church parsonage, 1910 Manfred School, 1905 Nennie Johnson-Lars Ostrem Home with a National Register nomination planned in 2004, Jens Renden Home, Martin Melby Home, 1890s Roger's Lumber Co-Helmer Solheim Gas Station, 1890s T.K Rogne-Soderback-Solheim Home, 1908 Johnson's Place-Cash Store, 1916 Manfred Motors Co., 1906 Hotel Johnson. Also, several historic places can be found in rural Manfred, some of which are: 1915 Johnson Sears Catalog Home currently in the National Register process, a number of barns, some cemeteries. Also of interest...Visible to the settlers when they arrived though no longer much in evidence today were: Indian camping sites along the James River, evidence of the buffalo's earlier presence, and wagon wheel tracks of the early Mouse River Trail. Of note, Manfred played an important role as railhead, from where lumber supplies were hauled to new villages springing up all around the area.

*A museum sharing its story, simply and naturally, in honor of America's rural places*

## The David and Amolia Miller Family History

Soon after arriving in America in 1896



*The David and Amolia Miller Family*

From left: Standing at back David Jr. and the nanny.  
Seated: David Sr. with Henry standing in front of  
him, Alexander, Amolia holding Carl.

David and Amolia Kunz Miller were born to German parents in Karlsruhe Russia. David was born the eldest of three children September 9, 1858, and Amolia was born July 29, 1861. David and Amolia immigrated to the United States in 1896 together with their children David, Alexander, Henry and Carl in hopes of a better life for their family. Henry, then four years old, remembered the boat trip very well. He said that his mother brought her own garden seeds with her so they could have a garden in the New World to feed the many little mouths.



*The Miller Family passport, dated 1896*

*Printed in the Russian language, handwriting in the German language*

David and Amolia homesteaded in Rusland Township. Three more children were born to them there: Rose, William and Benjamin. They were saddened to lose two of their children: their only daughter Rose in about 1897 at 6 months of age, and then their son Carl in 1899 at age 4. David and Amolia were charter members of the Manfred Seventh Day Adventist Church, and also donated the land where the present church building was built in 1910. They were one of the first families to have a telephone. Their sons Ben and Bill carried on the farming. Amolia died at the homestead June 24, 1924. Then on November 26<sup>th</sup>, Ben and Bill were each married. Bill and Ida moved to CA, and Ben and Emma took over farming the homestead. David died at Bowdon May 23, 1931.

MANFRED					
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36
1	6	5	4	3	
12	7	8	9	10	
13	18	17	16	15	

*Location of David Miller Homestead.*

*Land: SW 1/4S1/2 of NW1/4 of Sec. 13 & SE1/4 of NE1/4 of Sec. 14 in Rusland Twp. 148-72*



*Home of David and Amolia Miller  
Photo taken in 1917*



*David and Amolia Miller, c. 1920*

The Miller family history and photos from Growing with Pride-Harvey history book, Fessenden Centennial History Book, 'The Family Tree of Fred Miller' - June 16, 1993, Genevieve Keson, Mildred Reiswig, Dale and Darlene Miller.

*David and Amolia Miller History, Page 2**David and Amolia Miller's Children***David Jr.**

1883-Death date unknown. Married Susie Emilia Thon 1882-1958. Farmed near Mercer. Four children: Alice 1909 (Elvin Seim), Dallas 1910-1962 (Pearl Lasher), Hazel 1918 (Dick Dillingham), Wilbur 1922-1983.

**Alexander J.**

1890-1972. Married Molly Deede 1894-1990. Farmed at Manfred. Five children: Genevieve 1915 (Erven Keson), Lorna 1919-1933, Dale 1927 (Darlene Fandrich), Darlene 1927-1933, D. Roger 1935 (Joyce Sivertson).

**Henry H.**

1892-1975. Married Marie MacAdams 1894-1972. Farmed at Manfred. Marie was a schoolteacher. Six children: Loryl 1917-1982 (Retha McCann), Lola 1919-1962 (Richard Chase), Muriel 1920-1999 (Alan Cohen), Ruth 1922-2000 (Ed Pucci), Wayne 1924-1951, Wesley 1930-1989 (Doris Johnson).

**Carl**

1895-1899

**Rose**

c.1896-died at 6 months

**William J.**

1902-1979. Married Ida Lucas 1903-1991. Farmed with brother Ben until 1924 and then moved to Stockton, CA. William was a lineman for the Pacific Gas and Electric Co. Ida was a supervisor of telephone operators. No children.

**Benjamin B.**

1904-1982. Married Emma Rodacker 1901-1989. Farmed with brother Bill until 1924, and then Ben took over farming the homestead. Two children: Mildred 1928 (James Reiswig), Myron 1934 (Cleo Brandhagen)

*Sons continue in the farming tradition...*

*Five of David and Amolia's seven children reached adulthood. Each of these five farmed for part or all of their careers.*

*Four of the five sons are pictured here together with their wives in 1972:*



*Couples from left:*

*Alex and Molly Miller  
Henry and Marie Miller  
Bill and Ida Miller  
Ben and Emma Miller*

*Son...*

*Henry and Marie Miller History*

*From the writing of their daughter Ruth E. Miller Pucci*

There was a special schoolteacher, Miss MacAdams, who had attended the University of Minnesota for her education. She was teaching in one of the Schools in Rusland Township, Wells County near Manfred. As romance started and continued, my parents Henry and Marie were married December 24, 1914. Their first year was spent with his parents and mother continued her teaching. The second year, they moved to Chaseley where they lived for about one year. In 1916, they moved back to Rusland Township, Section 9 where they built a small home. January 9, 1917 their first son Loryl was born. As time passed, Lola was born 1919, Muriel 1920, Ruth 1922, and Wayne 1924.

In 1925 we moved to Pine City, MN where mother had grown up. Grandfather MacAdams was getting quite well up in years and was ailing. In 1927, at age 99, he passed away and after a short while we returned to our "Little House on the Prairie" in Wells County where we lived and tried to survive the elements. Everyone in the family had their chores to do. There was always plenty to do like herding of cattle on the open range or helping in the harvest. In 1930, another son Wesley was born.

There were a couple of very bad years of drought, so dad decided to have an auction sale. This took place in 1934. We then went bag and baggage to California where we settled on a dairy farm near the small town of Clements. There we continued our lives, where we children grew up, married and had our own families.

Our parents celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 24, 1964. Mother passed away December 12, 1972 and dad November 10, 1975.

From "Growing with Pride," Harvey area history book

# The Alex and Molly Miller Family History

*Written by son Dale Miller and his wife Darlene*



*Alex and Molly Miller*

30	29	28	27	26	25	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	31
1	6	5	4	3	2	1
12	7	8	9	10	11	1
13	18	17	16	15	14	1
3	14	19	20	21	22	2
25	30	29	28	27	26	2

*Alex and Molly Miller Farm  
Sec.25, T.148, R.72, Rusland Twp.*

Alexander J. Miller, born August 21, 1890 in Karlsruhe Russia of German descent, immigrated to the Manfred area in 1896 together with his parents David and Amolia and brothers David Jr., Henry, and Carl. He met and married Molly Deede who was born March 15, 1894 at her parents homestead in the Manfred area just 3 miles northeast of the Miller farm. (See Deede Family History, The Manfred Newsletter Dec. 2002, page 4.) Alex and his brother Henry each married in 1914. Alex and Molly first lived with his parents, after which they started farming in St. Anna Township. Then in 1917, they purchased farmland along the James River near his parent's farm. There they built up a farmstead, living in a granary until their Sears Bungalow Catalog Home was built which they called home for 47 years.



*The Alex and Molly Miller Farmstead in 1955, showing their 1917 Sears Home with additions*

Alex and Molly had five children: Genevieve 1915, Lorna 1919, twins Dale and Darlene 1927, and D. Roger 1935. Life on the farm was busy and interesting especially with the set of twins, Dale and Darlene, who were not usually at a loss for something to do like finding the goose eggs and playing with them until they broke... so much for the goose crop. In 1933 tragedy struck the family, when Darlene died January 28<sup>th</sup> of pneumonia at the age of 5 years and 10 months. Six weeks later, Lorna died at the age of 13 years and 10 months from complications of an appendicitis operation. In spite of these losses, leaning on God, they kept on with their business of farming.



*1928, Alex and the twins Darlene and Dale  
who are sitting on the 1928 Chevrolet one-ton truck.  
Besides being used in farming, the truck was outfitted like an early RV  
with kerosene stove and mattress roll for a trip to CA with five people.*



*1928, Molly with the twins  
Dale and Darlene*



*Alex and Molly's children:  
Dale, Genevieve, and Roger*

*Alex and Molly Miller History, Page 2*

*Alex plowing the garden with a four-horse drawn two-bottom plow, 1929.*



*A 300 gallon gas tank along side the Avery tractor, which used 100 gallons of gas per day.*



*Son, Dale, using the Farm Hand Hay Stacker, Mid 1940s.*



*Molly & Alex in 1950s checking grain crop.*



*The straw blown directly into the barn from the separator, and the grain is collecting in the 1928 Chevrolet truck.*

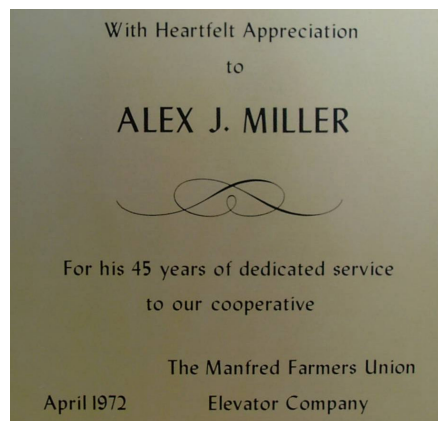
*Sister-in-laws Molly & Marie, cooks for the cook car.  
In background, the Avery tractor is belted to the Avery separator (not in view).*

*Home and Community*

Alex and Molly were members of the Manfred Seventh Day Adventist Church. Alex was very involved with the Manfred Farmer's Union Elevator Company. He served as secretary and board director, respectively, for 45 years. Alex died in 1972, and Molly in 1990.



*Photo at left: Farmer's Union Elevator Convention at St. Paul, MN in the late 50s or early 60s. From left: ?, Art Strauss, Molly and Alex Miller, Harry Swang.*



*Pictured at left: Plaque honoring Alex Miller in recognition of 45 years of service to the Manfred Farmer's Union Elevator.*

*Farming...*

Horses were the main source of power for pulling farm equipment for Alex, until he purchased a gas Avery tractor with a 12-bottom Avery plow. This tractor was also used for running an Avery threshing machine, which enabled Alex to harvest for many of the neighbors. In 1964 when Alex and Molly retired from farming, their machinery was much more modernized.

*Five Generations...*

Molly enjoying a great great grandchild.



1983

*From left:*

*Grandmother Arlys  
Great grandmother Genevieve  
Great great grandmother Molly holding baby Keaton.  
Father Monty*

## *The Ben and Emma Miller History*

*Taken in part from the Fessenden Centennial History Book*

Ben Miller and Emma Rodacker were married on November 26, 1924. Ben was born July 8, 1904 on the homestead of his parents David and Amolia Miller. Emma was born 1901 in St. Anna Township, the daughter of Matt and Sophia Rodacker. Ben and Emma settled on the farm of his parents in 1924, and were the first ones in their area to install a Delco 32 volt light plant for electric lighting. Ben and Emma continued the farming operation until retiring to Fessenden in 1955, and in time their son Myron took over the farming.



*Emma and Ben Miller in 1949 upon the occasion of their 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary*



*Settling at the homestead of his parents, Ben built up the farm with barns and other structures. See farm location map on page 5. Photo taken in 1948.*

### *Home and Community...*



*A stone creation by Ben*



*A windmill creation by Ben*

After retiring, as well as building their home in Fessenden located one block west of First Lutheran Church, Ben did carpentry, plumbing, electrical, and remodeling work.

In addition, Ben was an amateur photographer and had a dark room to develop his film. Photos by Ben Miller in the Manfred history collection include among others "Mary Hovey at the Central Switchboard", and "Sons of Norway Hall Burning."

Ben was active in community and church affairs throughout his life. He served as township clerk for many years and served in the capacity of elder, treasurer, deacon, and Sabbath school superintendent in the Manfred Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Emma loved flowers and as a result their yard was always beautifully arrayed with flowers and flowering bushes. She also enjoyed quilting. Emma served at church as class teacher and leader of the women's missionary society.

Ben died in 1982. Emma continued to live in their home in Fessenden until not long before her death in 1989.



*The beauty of flowers in Emma's care*



*Hand quilting by Emma*

*Ben and Emma Miller History, Page 2**Farming...*

Ben was a progressive farmer, being the first, together with Phillip Deede, to have combines in the area. Ben was skilled with his hands and built both of the barns on his farm, one in 1941 and the other about 1945. The photos below express the energy and ingenuity of farming, seeing what could be accomplished through a team effort.



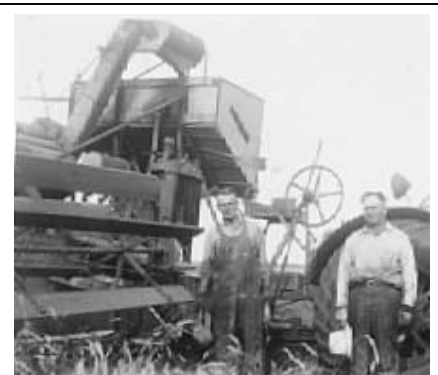
*Ben's children Mildred and Myron help to stack the hay. A rope over the haystack is connected to a vehicle on the other side of the stack, ready to pull the hay to the top, c.1941.*



*The construction of Ben's second barn in 1945. Ben and the hired man Willis Westman are shown on the roof, nailing roof boards in place. The barn built in 1941, appears in the background.*



*The first two combines in the area owned by Ben Miller and Philip Deede. Ben Rogelstad is between the combines with his bulk fuel truck. 1941*



*Ben Miller and Phillip Deede 1941*



*From left back: The time of harvest 1941  
Hired man, two California relatives, Mildred Miller, Emma Miller, Willis Westman a hired hand, Phillip Deede, Ben Rogelstad, Ben Miller. Front: Child of hired man, Myron Miller.*



*Spring's Work  
'The Gang' on four tractors each with a pony drill.  
Ben Miller, Philip Deede, ?, Willis Westman*

## Miller Family Album

### *Genevieve, Daughter of Alex and Molly Miller*



Genevieve and Erven Keson  
1975

*Daughter*

*Son*

Genevieve married Erven Keson in 1935. They had two children, Arlys & Ardean. Genevieve and Erven lived and farmed 6 miles SW of Manfred. In 1966, Ardean, at the age of 16, lost his life in a car accident. Erven died in 1982. Arlys lives on their farm today. She had two children: Monty and Mindy. Monty is a Nurse Anesthetist and lives in Iowa with his wife LaRae and their three children Keaton, Brittany, and Katlin. Mindy graduated in May 2003 from Minot State University in nursing. She and her husband Kent Opdahl live near Manfred.

*Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren:*



Arlys  
1962



Ardean  
1965



Monty and Family  
1990



Kent and Mindy  
1994

### *Roger, Son of Alex & Molly Miller*



Roger and Joyce 1964

Roger is a nurse anesthetist and lives with his wife Joyce in Oregon.

### *Myron, son of Ben and Emma Miller*



Myron Miller

Myron and his wife Cleo live in California. They have four children: Nadine, Tim, Mark, and David, and thirteen grandchildren. While living at Manfred, Myron taught music lessons to many students. The Manfred School Organ he taught lessons on, is one of the pieces in the Manfred Heritage Museum display.

### *Mildred, Daughter of Ben and Emma Miller*



Standing from left: James and Mildred Reiswig 1991  
Seated from left: Roy & Susan Haines, Pamela & Dale Timothy.

Mildred and James were married June 3, 1951. Pamela was born in Fairbanks, Alaska and is a nurse practitioner in Loma Linda CA. Dale is a pharmacist. Susan is a nurse anesthetist and Roy is a physician. They live in Dayton, Ohio. Mildred taught school at Eigenheim #1, the same school where her father and she both graduated from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and where her children attended until the school was redistricted. Mildred and James have lived and farmed on Section 34 of Rusland since 1951 except for two years when they were in Alaska while James served in the Army 1953-1955.

### *Dale, Son of Alex and Molly Miller*



1997

From left back: Marlin and Denise Weikum.

From left front: Carol (holding Eric) and Lynn Dale Miller, Michelle Weikum, Darlene and Dale.

To the right of Michelle: Nicholas Miller.

To the right of Darlene: Jarred Weikum.

Dale and Darlene bought the Russell Mayer farm 7 miles SW of Manfred and chose farming for their occupation. They have two children: Denise who is a nurse working in Denver CO. Lynn Dale is a physician in Boulder CO. Dale and Darlene have four grandchildren.

Exciting New Beginning!

# The New MANFRED NEWS

Annual Subscription of  
\$10.00 for the  
Manfred Newsletter

*'The New Manfred News' is a quarterly newsletter published by Manfred History & Preservation, Inc. (MHP, Inc.), a non-profit organization founded July 25, 2000 for the purpose gathering the history of the Manfred area and encouraging preservation of its historic buildings. Historical and financial contributions as well as volunteer help, enable the Manfred history and preservation projects. Thank you for your help!*

*The Manfred Heritage Museum is located at Manfred, ND along Hwy 52 in Wells County. For information call 701-547-2564.*

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Volume 3, Issue 3

Page 1

September 2003

*Dedicated July 26, 2003*

## Manfred Heritage Museum

*Celebrating Rural America*

### Purpose Statement

*The Manfred Heritage Museum, which includes historical and artifact displays, physical sites, web site, and resource center, is dedicated to provide present and future generations the opportunity to learn about the important contributions rural places such as Manfred have given to North Dakota and to America.*

### Announcing

## A NEW MUSEUM!

**Given name:** Manfred Heritage Museum

**Date dedicated:** July 26, 2003

**Size:** A tiny rural village and its traditional trade area.

**Attending the celebration:** 225 friends and family of Manfred coming from around America and Canada

What a happy and significant day for Manfred!

Congratulations  
Manfred....



...on a wonderful  
new future!

### Ribbon cutting culminating the dedication ceremony

#### Representing:

Future generations –  
Lloyd Norstedt

History of Manfred –  
historian Audrey Solheim

Manfred History and Preser.,  
Inc. (MHP, Inc.) –  
president Wanda Melchert

Harvey Area Chamber of  
Commerce - Oscar Clapper,  
Sheila and Jerry Schroeder

Harvey Mayor's Office -  
Linda Knudtson



Representing the three  
buildings participating in the  
dedication:

Vang Lutheran Church –  
president Verna Bowers

Melby-Rogness Home –  
former owner Myrtle Rogness

Bank-Post Office –  
former owner and last  
postmaster Edgar Flick

#### Representatives for the ribbon cutting ceremony:

From left: Lloyd Norstedt, Oscar Clapper, Linda Knudtson, Verna Bowers, Myrtle Rogness cutting the ribbon, Sheila Schroeder, Wanda Melchert, Edgar Flick, Audrey Solheim, Jerry Schroeder

Information on NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION and DEDICATION SONG BY LAVERNE JOHNSON, See Page 2

## The New Manfred News

### Visitors to the museum during August

Warren Nelson, Darlene Hoopes, Joelyn Bymoen Scriba, Sharon Ekrem Wallery, Jurene Wallery, Ray and Elaine Nelson Homan, Myron and Virginia Soiseth, Bob and Donna Foster, Butch and Darlene Boese, David Boese, Harley and Norma Kittelson, Dick and Vangie Tulp, Marlys Piatz, Violet Seidlinger, Myrtle Rogness, Kathy Lawter, Elsie Martinson, Audery Solheim, Laverne Johnson, Maridel Sprenger, and Kevin, Tresa, Tanya, and Tyler Boese.

### In Memory

Mrs. Bert (Gladys) Miller

*September 15, 1911 - August 21, 2003*

Mary Deede Naves

*February 6, 1901 - August 21, 2003*

Ervin Boese

*August 16, 1920 - August 26, 2003*

David Holwegner

*December 17, 1951 - August 30, 2003*

Arthur Treft

*February 28, 1918 - September 2, 2003*

### Laverne's Manfred Song – 2003

- Composed and sung by Laverne Johnson for Museum Dedication on July 26, 2003.
- CDs and cassette tapes should be ready before Thanksgiving
- All profits will be donated to Manfred History and Preservation, Inc.
- \$10.00 for CD or cassette tape (mail orders please add \$2.00 for packaging & postage)
- Mail orders to: Laverne Johnson  
2126 N. 7<sup>th</sup> St.  
Bismarck, ND 58501

### Newsletter Subscription Information

The Manfred Newsletter will begin regular annual subscription in 2004, rather than volunteer contribution as has been done in the past.

For those who have made a contribution to MHP, Inc. at anytime in the past, your subscription is effective through December 2004. If you have not made a contribution, you can subscribe to the 2004 newsletter with a check of \$10.00 to MHP, Inc. (A notice for subscribing to the 2005 newsletter will be announced later in 2004.)

## Contributions

### Contributions to MHP, Inc.

Clarence Alveshere  
Kermit and Florence Alveshere  
Ward Alveshere  
Christine Anderson  
Donald A. and Fran Anderson  
John A. Anderson  
Orren and Karen Anderson  
Peter B. and Jackie Anderson  
Susan Roble Bertch  
Karen Rodne Beutler  
Marvin and June Bieber  
Verna Bowers  
Muriel Boyum  
Wm and Lorraine Brye  
Timothy R. Cook  
Hildor and Nellie Deede  
Orville and Rita Dove  
Donald and Jackie Earl  
Arlene Ehni in memory of Ida Strauss  
Roger and Darlene Flick  
Ivan and Peggy Gandrud  
Richard and Carolyn Golberg  
Hadley and Eileen Haugen  
Fred and Peggy Hillen  
Myrna Hoekstra  
Derald and Ruth Hoover  
Charles and Ellanora Houtkooper  
Laverne Johnson  
Russell L. and Judy Johnson  
Genevieve Keson  
Paul and Roberta Knudson  
Lorene Koenig  
Archie and Elaine Kreiter  
Joan C. Lake  
David and Carol Langseth  
Sigrid Langseth  
James and Audrey Larson  
Kermit and Beverly Larson  
Kathy Lawter  
Ella Lenz  
Eileen W. Mead in memory  
of Edna Johnson Howie  
Art and Florence Melby  
Paul M. Miller  
LeRoy and Ella Naves  
George Nelson  
Astrid Ongstad in memory  
of Walter Ongstad  
Dennis Opdahl  
Doris and Donna Piercy  
Lester and Lorraine Quie  
Karen Ravnaas  
James and Mildred Reising  
Darlene Roble  
Berger and Olive Rodne  
Roger and Bobbi Rogelstad  
In Memory of Richard Rogness:  
Doris and Donna Piercy, Friends,  
Elsie Martinson, Myrtle Rogness  
Gordon and Betty Schimke

Ron and Janine Schmitz  
Richard and Mary Schulz  
Merlin and Laurie Schwartz  
James and Helen Severud  
Irene Sommer  
Margaret E. Sprague in memory of  
Delores Renden  
James and Maridel Sprenger  
Willys and Violet Springer  
Ted and Margaret Thorson  
Arlene Triebold  
Dean and Alicia Vorland  
Wm C. and Carol Weymouth  
Alvin and Elaine Wittmaier  
Lucille Wiese

### Manfred Newsletter Subscriptions

Loren and Kathy Alveshere  
Walter and Leona Fehr  
Richard Fehr  
Robert Fehr  
Marne Grinolds  
Frank and Peggy Hillen  
Charles and Ellanora Houtkooper  
Kathy Lawter  
Rod and Angie Marchand  
Paul Miller  
Alma and Audrey Nelson  
Cora Nelson  
James and Mildred Reising  
Arlene Rittmiller  
Richard and Mary Schulz  
Violet Seidlinger  
James and Helen Severud  
Willys and Violet Springer  
Bryce and June Streibel  
Jane Uggerud  
Katherine Weber  
Lucille Wiese

### Historical Contributions

Some recent contributions of historical items

Pete Anderson-P.B. Anderson table, on  
longterm loan.  
Harry Detling-Copy of family picture  
Gene and Betty Melby-Burkum items  
Wanda Melchert-Sewing box from Cash Store  
Pam Norstedt-School books  
Astrid Ongstad-WWI&II Military uniforms  
and other items, pictures, history  
Marilyn Saint-Pictures, Assand Store  
silverware and trade token  
Joelyn Bymoen Scriba-Pictures  
Helen Severud-Skogmo pictures and history  
Adolph Shirley-School desks, butter churn,  
woodworker planes, cupboard, kitchen table  
Brenda Skalet-Pictures, Books in Norwegian  
Alice Anderson Smith-Papers, pictures  
Janice Steffen-Lindbo pictures and history  
Lorraine Rau-A bowl of Myrtle Rogness  
Ruth Widiger-Roll top desk of Sam Rogness

## *Welcome everyone... A new life has begun in Manfred!!*

Welcome everyone to this very special issue sharing about the Dedication of the Manfred Heritage Museum and its wonderful future! Also featured on pages 9-11 is a lovely piece about Clarence Alveshere and his artistry in wood. Thank you to Clarence, his daughter Carol Moldenhauer, and son and wife Loren and Kathy Alveshere for helping with the photos and information. Be sure to see page 2 for ordering Laverne Johnson's song she wrote especially for the Dedication. This song, by Manfred's own troubadour, was a very big hit! You won't want to miss having a copy of this studio recording for a donation of \$10.00. Thank you Laverne for your gift of this song to Manfred, and for designating the proceeds to MHP, Inc. Please also see page 2 for important information regarding newsletter subscription. In honor of the opening of the Manfred Heritage Museum, it would be wonderful to install a Time Capsule. If you have a message or anything else you would like to put into a capsule for Manfred, please let us know.

### *Dedication Day*

July 26, 2003, the 'birth' of the Manfred Heritage Museum!

A significant event for Manfred, for Wells County, for the state and the nation!

A museum dedicated in honor of America's rural places!

Dedication Day began with a tour in the morning of the Wells County Museum where visitors had the opportunity to view the Anderson Room, the Viking Ship replica, and other exhibits. The dedication ceremony at Manfred in the afternoon began with great honor at the bank-post office building where the American Legion Color Guard presented the colors. The American flag was then raised on the bank-post office flagpole by Edgar Flick the former owner of this building, and the National Anthem was played by the Harvey City Band.



#### **American Legion Color Guard**

Mark Schmitz, Commander of Fessenden Color Guard  
Lynn Baltrusch, Fessenden  
Art Melby, Harvey  
Vern Pranke, Fessenden  
Owen Wallace, Fessenden  
Reiner Widiger, Fessenden

#### **Harvey City Band**

Peggy Lemer, Director  
Delores Baltrusch  
Ted Heitzmann  
Tim Huseth  
Bob Lilliquist  
Bob Lorenz  
Heather Melson  
Brent Muscha  
Amanda Prouty  
Ted Sitz  
Judy Titus



The dedication program continued at the south lawn of the Melby-Rogness Home, beginning with a prayer by Paul Gunderson, a story with the children by Wanda Melchert, recognizing the volunteers, messages given by state officials and local folks excerpts of which are found on pages 6 and 7, a song written and sung for the dedication by Laverne Johnson, and the ribbon cutting ceremony as shown on page 1. The three buildings included in the dedication were also participants in their own way: the bank-post office with the raising of the American flag on its flag pole, the Melby-Rogness Home with Myrtle Rogness pressing its door bell, and Vang Lutheran Church with Pete Anderson ringing its bell.

Concluding the dedication was a musical program by the Harvey City Band whose sounds were enjoyed throughout the village as people viewed the buildings or took a walking tour. Soft-serve ice cream was served in the Vang church basement, and handcrafted items were for sale there by Verna Bowers with one half the proceeds going to MHP, Inc. This remarkable and successful day for Manfred was perfectly wonderful, and much enjoyed by everyone.



## Museum Displays

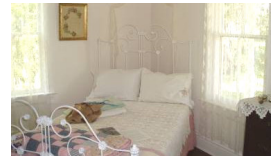
Bank-Post Office



Historic photo displays



Vang Lutheran Church



Melby-Rogness Home



Historic home furnishings from the Manfred area



WW I &amp; II Display

At left is original bank and post office teller cage. At right is the Manfred School Organ which is still in perfect playable condition.

## Dedication Day Acknowledgements

Thank you to everyone who attended the very successful Dedication Day of the Manfred Heritage Museum, some of whom are listed on page 8. This tiny village was blessed with your presence on this special historic day. Thank you to those who participated in the program as shown on Pages 1, 3, 6, and 7. Thank you for photographs by Rose Anderson, Jeanne Flick, Betty Melby, Richard Melchert, Merlin Schwartz, Laurie Schwartz, and Audrey Solheim.

Thank you to the volunteer workers and all who provided supplies and equipment: Bob Anderson, Pete and Rose Anderson, Rod Anderson, Wesley and Esther Boese, Verna Bowers, Edgar and Jeanne Flick, Laverne Johnson, Curtis Lamm, Wanda Melchert, Pam and Lloyd Norstedt, Herbert Ongstad, Merlin and Laurie Schwartz, Audrey Solheim, Reiner and Ruth Widiger. Plus special thanks to Perry Anderson for providing the sound system and his expertise, tents, and ice cream machine... to Dale and Shirley Opdahl for use of their flatbed trailer which served to haul chairs and also served as the platform stage for the program ... to the City of Harvey for use of the chairs.



New fixtures to shine their light in the museum buildings



### Special gifts to the Manfred Heritage Museum upon the occasion of the dedication.

Light fixtures given by Audrey Solheim in memory of her mother, Annie Solheim—a chandelier for the dining room of the Melby-Rogness Home and the fan light for the bank-post office.

Vinyl lettering for the Manfred signs made and given by Marilyn Stanley.

American flags given by Edgar and Jeanne Flick for the bank-post office building, and by Wanda Melchert for the Melby-Rogness Home.

Chantilly lace curtains. Fabric given by Muriel Boyum, made by Kathy Alvesshere, and installed by the Manfred Homemaker's Club.

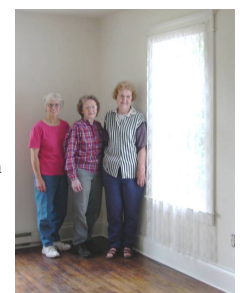
### Special display items on loan for the day

Coin box for Manfred pay telephone: Pete Anderson

Early Manfred telephone: Astrid Ongstad

Photo displays of Rod Anderson and Edgar and Jeanne Flick

Perry Anderson providing sound system for dedication program

Members of the Manfred Homemaker's Club  
Kathy Alvesshere, Verna Bowers, Esther Boese

Samples of the attractive new signs in Manfred



Welcome sign installed by Pete Anderson, Herbert Ongstad, Wesley Boese



Chairs unloaded from Opdahl's flatbed trailer

## *Your Contributions and Volunteer Work are Making a Difference in Manfred!*

The Manfred Heritage Museum is 'born!' Just so wonderful! This success is possible because of contributors some of whom are listed on page 2, and also the volunteer workers! To each of you, thank you for caring and giving of yourselves!! The projects have a wonderful start, with much more to come that will benefit Manfred with the help of everyone. You are all making a very positive difference for Manfred!!

With unswerving focus and good spirit, the workers continue making forward progress. There remains much to do, but we are delighted to have finished three rooms on the main level of the Melby-Rogness Home. In addition, workers helped with restoration work at the bank-post office and church buildings, in order that these buildings could also be ready in time for the dedication. These pictures help give a glimpse of the wonderful effort – folks busy preparing for the 'birth.' During 2003, the following helped make it possible for the museum to open....

\*North wall of Melby-Rogness basement was built and midsection supports installed: volunteer contractor Paul Gunderson together with Pete Anderson, Wanda Melchert, and Wesley Boese, Harvey Ready Mix, and Mark Faul with his back hoe.

\*Interior restoration of the Melby-Rogness Home headed by -  
 Insulation: Pete Anderson, Wanda Melchert, and Wesley Boese  
 Electrical: Fritz Wohl and Shawn Olson  
 Sheet rock: Greg Seidel and his helpers  
 Taping and mudding: Lefty Erickson  
 Texturing: Paul Gunderson  
 Refinishing floors: Wanda Melchert  
 Molding and baseboards: Herbert Ongstad

Historic materials contributed by Ervin & Evelina Boese and Shari Nyhus.

\*Front door restoration: Perry Anderson, Verna Bowers, Darlene Brecht, Rod and Lori Brecht, Wanda Melchert, Herbert Ongstad.

\*Carpentry work on one or both of the Melby-Rogness Home and the bank-post office: Perry Anderson, Greg Seidel with his helpers Dale Nerlien and Daryl Bergrud.

\*Painting regarding one or both of the Melby-Rogness Home and the bank-post office: Verna Bowers, Wanda Melchert, Pam and Lloyd Norstedt, Crystal Roller, Reiner and Ruth Widiger, and Rita Seidel with her helpers KayDee Melby, Sara Muscha, and Ashley Weigelt.

\*Photo display preparation for the bank-post office was done at the First Lutheran Church basement at Mandan, ND: Dianne Aull, Lowell and Muriel Boyum, Laverne Johnson, Wanda Melchert, Herbert Ongstad, Lyle Schulz, Audrey Solheim, Maridel Sprenger, Louise Wachter.

\*Yard care and clean-up in Manfred: Jacob Anderson, Perry Anderson, Pete and Rose Anderson, Rod Anderson, Wesley Boese, Wanda Melchert, Herbert Ongstad, Joyce Ravnaas.

\*Furniture and other display items installed: Jacob Anderson, Perry Anderson, Verna Bowers, Bruce Melby, Gene and Betty Melby, Richard & Wanda Melchert, Herbert Ongstad, Reiner & Ruth Widiger.

\*Vang Lutheran Church carpeted by Tom's Home Furnishing, foundation sealer applied by Betty and Gene Melby and Brent Muscha.



1. Wesley Boese hauling debris from garage area.
2. Pete Anderson, Wanda Melchert, and Wesley Boese pouring footings for supports in basement.
3. Herbert Ongstad glazing a glass pane.
4. Electrical installation by Fritz Wohl and Shawn Olson.
5. Reiner Widiger and Verna Bowers priming south side of garage.
6. Gene, Marsha, and Betty Melby, Herbert Ongstad, Bruce and KayDee Melby help unload the Burkum piano.
7. Reiner Widiger, Herbert Ongstad, Jacob Anderson, Verna Bowers, Pete and Rose Anderson bring in the roll top desk. This desk was given to the museum by Ruth Widiger, she having inherited it from her father Perry Anderson. It was in the basement of the Rogness home in pieces. Sam Rogness gave the pieces to Perry Anderson who reconstructed the desk.
8. and 9. Greg Seidel and his helpers Dale Nerlien and Daryl Bergrud remove the partition in the bank-post office building.
10. Painters Ashley Weigelt and Crystal Roller in the P.O. supervised? by Roky the dog, Manfred's town constable.
11. Painters Pam and Lloyd Norstedt in the P.O.
12. Painters KayDee Melby, Ashley Weigelt, Ruth Widiger, Sara Muscha, and Rita Seidel in the Melby-Rogness Home.
13. Muriel Boyum, Audrey Solheim, Lyle Schulz at a photo work session.
14. & 15. Audrey Solheim, Maridel Sprenger with her granddaughter, Louise Wachter with her daughter, and Laverne Johnson worked together on photos for the gallery in the bank-post office.



## *Dedication Messages*

### *State and local folks sharing...*

**Dale Bentley, Executive Director of Preservation North Dakota**

**Dale assisted with the founding of MHP, Inc., and has served as a key guide for the Manfred projects**



Dale Bentley

As I was driving into Manfred today, I thought Manfred is not just history anymore. Manfred continues to make history, and all of us here today are a part of that. Preservation North Dakota, of which I am the Executive Director, held our annual historic preservation conference in 2000 right here in Manfred. That conference showcased the spectacular Vang Lutheran Church. But during that conference, it was very evident to all those in attendance that the community of Manfred had such a strong sense of place and a strong sense of community. I think that is evident here again today. Vang Lutheran was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2001. I was pleased to be on the review board at that time. To my knowledge, Manfred had the largest ever contingent of people accepting a National Register nomination! Preservation North Dakota was pleased to award the Vang Lutheran Church a Grass Roots Preservation Grant in 2002. We helped them with some foundation work and some gutter work. Vang Lutheran Church is truly one of North Dakota's most inspiring Prairie Churches!

The community of Manfred has a great story to share, and a strong sense of place to convey. The efforts here to preserve and interpret Manfred's history won all of those involved 'The Preservation Success Story' award from Preservation North Dakota in 2002. The efforts here are unmatched in towns several hundreds or thousands the size of the community of Manfred and this is important! I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for allowing me to share in the progress here in Manfred and this celebration today. I would like to offer you my heartfelt thank you for all of those involved in the projects. I urge you to continue to make history in Manfred and continue to celebrate your past.

**Merle Paaverud, Director of the State Historical Society of North Dakota**

**Merle and his staff represent a wonderful support and guide for the Manfred projects**



Merle Paaverud

It is great to be here! It's an honor and a privilege to come to Manfred on this special day. I'm from a place not too far away from here, Finley. But really, it's Sherbrooke and Pickard. Sherbrooke is gone! It's now only in memory. Sherbrooke is where I grew up. People left and didn't stay with it, and so it's a ghost town now. All there are, is memories... a few little buildings... a few little stones here and there. But, it's gone, except in my memory and in my heart. Things like that are happening all over North Dakota. It's hard to see it.

I think Manfred sets a great example for the local area, for our state, and for our great nation. Efforts like this are what we need in order to hold onto our past. We all need to know where we came from, where we're going. Places like this are called home base. You never forget them. We work with a lot of preservation programs and try to help where we can. I've got a great staff of people that have background and training, where they can help provide technical assistance. But, what makes me feel best, is when I see the people get involved... when the people say "We can do this, and let's get together and get it to work." It comes from the heart of both the people from my staff, and from the people that really work there. This is what is happening right here in Manfred. It's coming from you.

I would also like to point out what a great partner Preservation North Dakota is! They bridge that gap between state government operation and help on the grass-roots level. That's where our strength is. Volunteers are our strength, and people who jump in and try to make a difference. What a great example Manfred is! Congratulations to all the people who have worked on this wonderful, wonderful project! I see not only a past, but I see a great future. Thank you to you! Keep up the good work. Congratulations! Give us a call when you need some help.

**Mary Kate Ryan, Architectural Historian for the State Historical Society of North Dakota**

**Mary Kate will help guide Manfred's upcoming National Register nominations**



Mary Kate Ryan

Hi! I am Mary Kate Ryan, the brand new architectural historian for the State Historical Society of North Dakota. Yesterday, we held our state Historic Preservation Review Board meeting, of which I am the secretary. This is the board that reviews the National Register nominations. We had a discussion about one of the major problems in preservation- that people come into a town like Manfred and they see buildings that are dilapidated and falling down. What they lack is the vision to see what they could be like after preservation. And that is what the people of Manfred have.

We have the Vang Lutheran Church that was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001. With that recognition, one of the main things that comes is that people start realizing that this is an important historic place in the history of this town, of this township, of this county, and therefore of the state. So this vision to see what things could be like after preservation, is what we need in this state. We need to preserve the historic resources that bring people to North Dakota, that tell the story of North Dakota. That is what has happened here! Manfred is a great example of what can happen when people have vision.

## *Dedication Messages (cont.)*



Paul Gunderson

**Paul Gunderson, Volunteer Contractor**

**Paul has led work on the foundation project and serves as mentor and guide.**

It's great to see everyone here. I'm not from this community. I'm from the community to the north here, called Heimdal. But, that community would not exist if this one had not been here, because virtually all of the lumber and all of the building materials that were used to construct that community in 1903-1905 came from Manfred. Indeed, a good number of those materials were ordered I suspect from one of the desks in this home.

It's been a pleasure to work with the community here, and help move this project along. Everyone is special, and we've had some great times together. It's been fun.

**Jerry Klein, Senator**

**Jerry is an energetic promoter of Wells County serving in the North Dakota Senate**



Jerry Klein

In this last legislative session, we've been discussing a lot about out-migration and what we are going to do to keep the young people in North Dakota or even just bring people back. As we did research, we looked at everywhere from northern Ontario to Texas – rural America is going away. People are moving to the city.

I'm a farm boy from New Zealand that wound up in the grocery business in Fessenden. Talking about growing up, we would go to town Saturday night. Dad would be visiting with all the neighbors, mom would buy her groceries, and I'd wait at the cream station for the egg and cream check. Then, I'd run the check over to the grocery store so I could hang around with my friends. If you couldn't buy it in the local town, you didn't need it or you bought it in the catalog.

I've been in Fessenden 25 years. We celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> year in the grocery business here, and Manfred is a part of the county and part of my community. It's great to be here! I really appreciate all the work these volunteers have done. Manfred should be proud of what's been accomplished.



Linda Knudtson

**Linda Knudtson, Representative from the Harvey Mayor's Office**

**Linda conducted the ribbon cutting ceremony dedicating the Manfred Heritage Museum**

I think this is such a great day! I commend the people of Manfred and all who have helped. I am envious because I wish we had this in Harvey, and we will work on something. This is definitely wonderful for the Manfred community. They've done a wonderful job.

**Lorraine Rau, President of the Wells County Historical Society and curator of the Wells County**

**Lorraine has served as a mentor and friend of Manfred**

I was really thrilled this morning to see so many people come to the Wells County Museum, and visit the Anderson room there and all the other exhibits. It was just a joyful time.

I want to congratulate all the people working on this project. I think it is just great to live in a community where people are enjoying working together like we have at the Festival Hall since that was restored, and now for Manfred.



Lorraine Rau

**Wanda Melchert, President of Manfred History and Preservation, Inc.**

**Wanda is coordinator of the Manfred history and preservation projects**

What a privilege and great blessing it is working together with the many friends of Manfred, both near and far, for the benefit of Manfred and its rich history. The inspiration for the Manfred projects came from the thoughts and dreams expressed by people in the area. The concepts were then presented to the Manfred Township Board at their March 2000 meeting, at which time the board gave its vote of confidence in support of the history and preservation projects. Sincere thanks goes to the Manfred Township Board for that initial encouragement, thereby setting the projects in motion.

Since that time, the projects have garnered much interest and success. The non-profit organization Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. (MHP, Inc.) was founded July 25, 2000, and then on June 21, 2001 Vang Lutheran Church was listed on the national register. In 2002, MHP, Inc. was named North Dakota's "Preservation Success Story for 2002" by Preservation North Dakota. The newsletter, 'The New Manfred News,' and the 'manfrednd.org' website are both receiving high praise. Audrey Solheim, Manfred's historian is busy gathering the history of Manfred, MHP, Inc. is currently overseeing restoration of the Melby-Rogness Home, and other National Register nominations are planned.

With the Manfred Heritage Museum now begun, we need to give thought toward ensuring its existence long into the future. We would not wish for our dedicated efforts to be all for naught. It would be wonderful to think that Manfred might still be sharing its story 100 or 200 years from now. We who care about Manfred and possess memories of this place are the ones who can ensure its future by remembering Manfred in our financial and estate planning. Manfred has a wonderful story to share of rural America with both the present and the future generations.



Wanda Melchert

### *Greeting Card*

*Best wishes on the opening of the Manfred Heritage Museum from the members of the  
Central North Dakota Genealogical Society of Harvey, ND.*

## About 225 people attended the dedication

Rogene Aadnes, Towner, ND  
 Ron Aadnes, Stanley, ND  
 Ward Alvashere, York, ND  
 Bob Anderson, Dickinson, ND  
 Christine Anderson, Harvey, ND  
 Don A. Anderson, Azle, TX  
 Lowell and Amy Anderson, Heimdal, ND  
 Orrin and Karen Anderson, Minot, ND  
 Perry, Laurie, Jacob, Sam Anderson, Fessenden, ND  
 Pete and Rose Anderson, Manfred, ND  
 Rod Anderson, Goodyear, AZ  
 Delores Baltrusch, Harvey, ND  
 Lynn Baltrusch, Fessenden, ND  
 Debra Barr, Meadview, AZ  
 Albert Bauman, Golden Valley, ND  
 Gerald and Darlene J. Bauman, Golden Valley, ND  
 Loren and Darlene L. Bauman, Golden Valley, ND  
 Dale Bentley, Buffalo, ND  
 Lydia Boese, Harvey, ND  
 Wesley and Esther Boese, Manfred, ND  
 Joe and Ethel Bolyard, Kenosha, WI  
 Verna Bowers, Harvey, ND  
 Hazel Bowlinger, Harvey, ND  
 Lowell and Muriel Boyum, Mandan, ND  
 William and Lorraine Brye, Harvey, ND  
 Alma Buchfink, Beulah, ND  
 Tim Cook, Williston, ND  
 Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Corneliusen, Wellsburg, ND  
 Hildor and Nellie Deede, Fessenden, ND  
 Wayne and LoAnn Dybing, LaMoure, ND  
 Hugh and Gloria Edwards, Rugby, ND  
 Larry and Carol Fisher, Las Vegas, NV  
 Corey and JoAnn Flick, Minot, ND  
 Edgar and Jeanne Flick, Manfred, ND  
 Helen Fritchie, Hurdsfield, ND  
 Lee Fry, Zap, ND  
 Paul Gunderson, Heimdal, ND  
 Dorothy Harris, Sidney, MT  
 Steven Harris, Minot, ND  
 Hadley and Eileen Haugen, Fessenden, ND  
 Becky Heise, Valley City, ND  
 Ted Heitzmann, Harvey, ND  
 Gwyn Herman, Bismarck, ND  
 Charlie and Ellanora Houtkoooper, Fargo, ND  
 Tim Huseth, Harvey, ND  
 Ernest and Alma Isaak, Golden Valley, ND  
 Ervin and Delma Jassmann, Golden Valley, ND  
 Larry Johnson, Modesto, CA  
 Laverne Johnson, Bismarck, ND  
 Verna Johnson, Harvey, ND  
 Gennevieve Keson, Harvey, ND  
 Robert Kopseng, Harvey, ND  
 Bill and Sandy Krebs, Oshkosh, WI  
 Wilma Lang, Zap, ND  
 Peggy Lemer, Harvey, ND  
 Bob Lilliquist, Harvey, ND  
 George Litke, Fessenden, ND  
 Bob Lorenz, Harvey, ND  
 Elsie Martinson, Harvey, ND  
 Art and Florence Melby, Harvey, ND

*Some of the folks present for this happy occasion are listed here...*

Gene and Betty Melby, Manfred, ND  
 Ken and Jeanne Melby, Fessenden, ND  
 Richard and Wanda Melchert, Golden Valley, ND  
 Heather and Shadyn Melson, Harvey, ND  
 Dale and Darlene Miller, Harvey, ND  
 Veronica Miller, Buffalo, ND  
 Brent Muscha, Manfred, ND  
 Curtis L. Nelson, Devils Lake, ND  
 Melvin Newson, Bismarck, ND  
 Pam and Lloyd Norstedt, Harvey, ND  
 Doug and Lou Oglesby, Enderlin, ND  
 Herbert Ongstad, Manfred, ND  
 Arron, Carrie, Natalie, Levi Opdahl, Fessenden, ND  
 Shirley Opdahl, Harvey, ND  
 Arnt and Phyllis Ostrem, Gresham, OR  
 Larry Ostrem, Osgard, CA  
 Merle Paaverud, Bismarck, ND  
 Jessie Paulson, Harvey, ND  
 George and Verna Pederson, Dodge, ND  
 Donna Piercy, Bremerton, WA  
 Doris Piercy, Bremerton, WA  
 Vernon and Joyce Pranke, Fessenden, ND  
 Amanda Prouty, Harvey, ND  
 Bill and Darlene Quenette, Moorhead, MN  
 Lorraine Rau, Fessenden, ND  
 Ellen Renner, Beulah, ND  
 Darlene Roble, Harvey, ND  
 Charlotte Rogne, Grassland, Alberta Canada  
 Jerry and Linda Rogne, Atmore, AB, Canada  
 Myrtle Rogness, Harvey, ND  
 Mary Kate Ryan, Bismarck, ND  
 Marilyn Saint, McHenry, ND  
 Viola Scheermeister, Zap, ND  
 Mark Schmitz, Manfred, ND  
 Jerry and Sheila Schroeder, Harvey, ND  
 Stan and Luella Schroeder, Ellensburg, WA  
 Merlin and Laurie Schwartz, Sioux Falls, SD  
 George Seidlinger, Littleton, CO  
 John and Carol Sellie, Cathay, ND  
 Elmer and Myra Seversen, Fessenden, ND  
 Peter and Helen Severud, New Hope, MN  
 Bob and Joy Sheedy, Port Angeles, WA  
 Dorothy Simenson, Zap, ND  
 Ted Sitz, Manfred, ND  
 Audrey Solheim, Bismarck, ND  
 Peg Sprague, White River Junction, VT  
 Peter Sprague, White River Junction, VT  
 Dale and Janice Steffen, Cooperstown, ND  
 Nick and Lynn Thomas, Devil's Lake, ND  
 Mary A. Thompson, Harvey, ND  
 Ted and Margaret Thorson, Bemidji, MN  
 Judy Titus, Manfred, ND  
 Arlene Triebold, Leeds, ND  
 Chip and LaVerna Unruh, Zap, ND  
 Darrell Van Hall, Buffalo, ND  
 Owen Wallace, Fessenden, ND  
 Lewis, Judy, Ashley Weigelt, Manfred, ND  
 Reiner and Ruth Widiger, Fessenden, ND  
 Alice Wiest, Harvey, ND



## Clarence Alveshere

### *His Artistry in Wood*



Clarence Alveshere

Clarence's love of life permeates throughout his wooden creations... love of family and home, love of farming, and love of God and His Creation. His first adventure in woodworking occurred in 1946 with the desire to build a dollhouse for his daughter Carol and a small barn for his son Loren. Then in 1974 when he retired from farming, he was able to begin in earnest to explore the craft of woodworking. His wide interest in working with many different woods spans from carving by hand to creating designs using power tools, large to small projects, the common down-to-earth themes of life to the humorous, and the intricate to the simple... all beautifully made and treasured by the many people blessed to receive these wooden creations. Members of his family have gladly joined Clarence in various aspects of his craft such as helping with scaling the patterns and painting on his creations. The photos here give us the opportunity to enjoy viewing some of his artistry.



The toy house and barn Clarence made for his children, Loren and Carol. Created in c.1946.



Floral design on glass clock door

Clarence's parents purchased the clock above at left in 1868. One of the replicas Clarence made can be seen above on the right. Dora Heil, mother of Tami Heil Alveshere, beautifully painted the floral design on each replica precisely as it appears on the original.



Clarence made six mahogany replicas of the clock for members of his family in 2001-2002.

### *Heirloom Replicas*



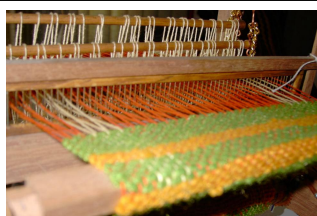
Rug Loom made in 1988

Replica of the loom Clarence's mother Mallen Gaasdal Alveshere made rugs on. Clarence's son Loren scaled it to 1/5 size of the original loom. This replica is made of walnut wood and has totally working parts just like the original full-scale loom.

1/10 size oak replica of the winder used to organize the loom threads in preparation for placing them on the loom as the warp of the rugs.



Rug Warp Winder made in 1988



Detail showing the rug Clarence & his wife Lena made on this replica loom.

Walnut wood replica of the spinning wheel of Clarence's mother. He and his daughter-in-law Kathy scaled this working replica to 1/3 the original size.



Spinning Wheel made in 1995