

The New MANFRED NEWS

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\$10.00 Contribution
For Newsletter Expense

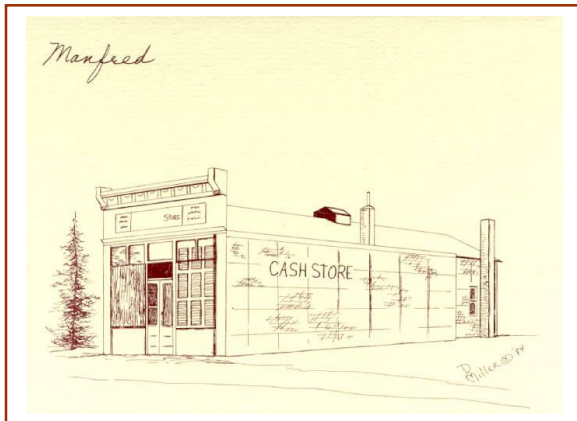
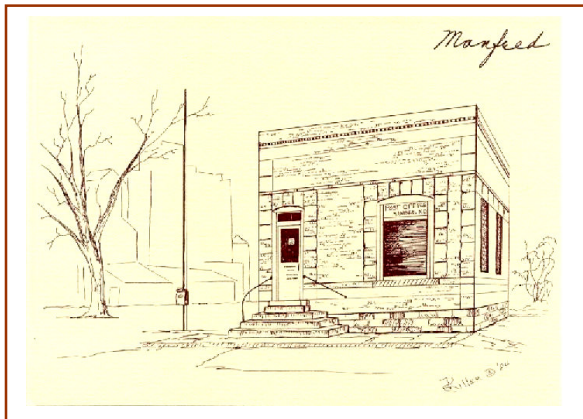
A quarterly newsletter published by Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. (MHP, Inc.) a non-profit corporation founded July 25, 2000 for the purpose of gathering and preserving the history of Manfred and its trade area, and for restoring and caring for some of its sites. Suggested annual contribution to help defray the cost of this newsletter is \$10.00 payable to MPH, Inc., P.O. Box 321, Harvey ND 58341. You are invited to visit Manfred's website at <http://www.manfrednd.org>.

Volume 2, Issue 1

Page 1

March 2002

Greetings From Manfred, North Dakota!



Manfred Post Office, Manfred School, and Cash Store
Pen and ink sketches by Dorothy Miller of Heaton ND
Printed by Eldredge Publishing Company
Set of 12 - 4x6" note cards, 4 of each design - \$6.00 from MHP, Inc.

Manfred, Your Town

There are more fancy towns than this little town,
There are towns that are larger than this,
And the people, who live in the tinier town,
All the city contentment may miss.
There are things you can see in the wealthier town
That you can't in a town that is small
And yet up or down there is no other town
Like Manfred, your town, after all.

It may be that the street
Thru' the heart of the town
With a welcome your coming await.
On the glittering streets of the glittering town,
By the palace and pavement and wall,
In the midst of the throng,
For your town you will long,
For Manfred, your town, after all.

Is it not with money you measure a town,
Nor the miles that its borders extend;
For the best things you gather whatever the town,
For contentment, enjoyment, and friends,
If you live, work, and trade in Manfred, your town,
In spite of the fact it is small,
You will find that this town, that Manfred, your town,
Is the best little town after all.

Author Unknown

*This poem appeared in the February 23, 1915 issue of the
Wells County Free Press, The Manfred News*

The New Manfred News

Phase 2 is under way!!!

Exciting news to report! Work on Phase 2 for the Melby Rogness home is under way! In a series of workdays the last months of 2001, volunteers removed the pipes located mainly in the basement, as well as, molding, kitchen cabinets, plaster, and lath from inside the building. Envision the activity in Manfred: crowbars in motion, plaster falling, laths piling up, swatches of original wall paper carefully saved for history, molding bundled up and labeled, arms hauling out gutted materials. One more such day planned for March 4 should complete this work. Because of this important volunteer help, it will soon be possible for the installation and restoration work to begin including: electrical wiring, followed by insulation, sheetrock work, woodwork, and also reinforcement work in the basement. Very special thanks to each one who has volunteered their time, expertise, and equipment so far in Phase 2: Jacob Anderson, Perry Anderson, Pete Anderson, Wesley Boese, Verna Bowers, Ivy Brye, Kerry Ebel, Dan Fiesel, Paul Gunderson, Lewis Hove, Wanda Melchert, Bill Ongstad, and Herbert Ongstad. Anyone is welcome to come join in the fun.



Some of the volunteer crew December 14, 2001 outside the Sam Rogness house, from left: Bill Ongstad, Perry Anderson, Verna Bowers, Pete Anderson, Kerry Ebel, Paul Gunderson, Dan Fiesel. Photo by Bill Ongstad.

Items available through MHP, Inc. include: Note cards 12 at \$6. Wooden nickels 5 at \$1. Writing pens, 'I Love Manfred' pins, magnets, and key chains \$1.50 each.



In Memory

From June 2001 To Present

Allan L. Rogness

July 25, 1934 - June 20, 2001

Donald Froeber

Aug 29, 1925 - June 29, 2001

Lester Burkum

Sept 16, 1912 - July 10, 2001

Wayne T. Roble

Feb 12, 1921 - Sept 05, 2001

Alvin B. Solberg

Oct 29, 1903 - Jan 06, 2002

Leslie M. Johnson

Dec 27, 1910 - Feb 02, 2002

Gathering together the Manfred History

Greetings Friends! Calling for the history of Manfred and its trade area. Please send such things as your memories and history, copies of photos, old video footage, & tape recordings of music making to MHP, Inc.

We can do it!

Dear friends of Manfred! Wow! Together we can accomplish the goals of Phase 2 to complete work on the interior and basement. You have the opportunity to help make dreams come true...smile!! Even if you live far from Manfred, you can help with Phase 2 through your financial contributions.

Do you have photos of the Manfred Band from the 1920s and later? We'd love to have copies of them. So far, the band collection includes photos from 1908 and 1918.

The Feb 23, 2002 issue of the Herald Press reports that Roger Ehni, son of Manfred farmer Skeet Ehni, ran in the Olympic Torch relay. Congratulations!!!

Please continue to send in names of Veterans who came out of Manfred, for a listing to appear in a later newsletter.

Contributions

Thank you so much to the following for your contributions to Manfred History and Preservation, Inc., December 2001-February 2002

Contributions to MHP, Inc.

(General Fund)

Donald Anderson

Muriel Boyum

Hildor and Nellie Deede

Hadley and Eileen Haugen

David and Carol Langseth

Kenneth and Jeanne Melby

Richard and Wanda Melchert

In memory of Leslie Johnson

Doris and Donna Piercy

Alice Smith

Myrtle A. Sailer

Leif and Katherine Thorson

Marlys Koenig Welstad

Contributions To Help Defray Newsletter Expense

Donald Anderson

Pete and Rose Anderson

Perry and Lauri Anderson

Peter Beck and Jackie Anderson

Glen Bendickson

Kevin and Tresa Boese

Mark and Sharla Boese

Norman and Diane Boese

Wesley and Esther Boese

Muriel Boyum

William and Lorraine Brye

Inez Burgstahler

Anna Bymoen

Hildor and Nellie Deede

June and Jeff Farias

David and Jill Howie

for Malena Coleman

Sigrid Langseth

Kenneth and Jeanne Melby

Brian and Laura Muscha

Doris and Donna Piercy

Evelyn Schlenker

Gerald and Jeanne Schlenker

Audrey Solheim

Dorothy Stansberry

Leif and Katherine Thorson

Marie Vargason

Marlys Weisser

Marlys Koenig Welstad

Welcome Everyone to this Gathering Place...

Welcome everyone to the fifth issue of the 'The New Manfred News', with a circulation now reaching over 400! Yes, welcome to this place where, together, we are gathering the history of the Manfred trade area... a history that will not be lost because of the help of people from all around the country. A special thank you to Karen Rodne Beutler, Edgar Allen Flick, Bert Miller, and Marie Nelson Vargason for memories and history included among these pages. Additional information for this issue comes from 'Growing With Pride Harvey Area History Book', 'The Harvey Herald Press', 'The Wells County Free Press', 'Compendium of History and Biography', interviews, and research. Your memory 'visit' begins with a fascinating stop at the Manfred Post Office together with a bit of a tour about town, and then follow out to the north edge of Manfred Township to the lovely Bethel Lutheran Church.

Not only are memories celebrated here, but also they add richness to the lives of everyone. Wow, what you see among these pages is only a glimpse of the interesting history that we are hoping to gather together. Thank you to all who are working on recording your memories of Manfred and your family, and also are looking for history relating to the Manfred trade area among your family albums, trunks, genealogy and history collections, to name a few. Come share your memories... possible topics include: The Wells County Fair, 4-H, participating in play day, and other summertime memories. Farming memories including threshing. The elevator man, doctors, barbers, pastors, blacksmith, and others. School days, teachers. Manfred-Fram Telephone Co. and Central Office. Area churches such as East Vang Lutheran Church. Manfred businesses, organizations and clubs, early homesteaders, Manfred Band, and any other special memories. Together we are celebrating Manfred history! Have a wonderful time with your 'visit' to Manfred!

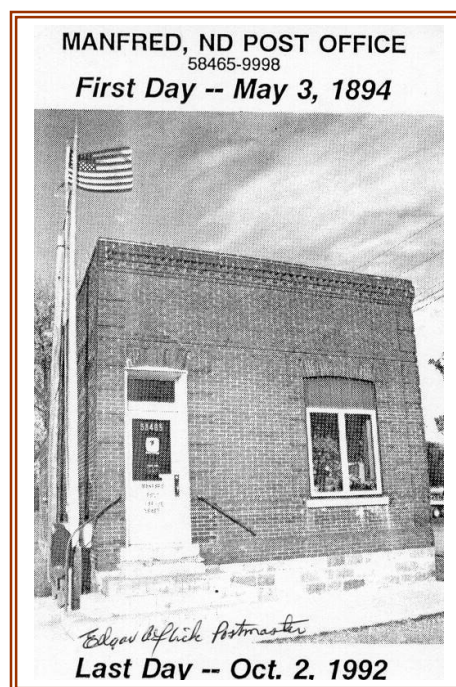


Manfred Post Office



From the time when the village of Manfred first began, the Manfred Post Office provided a vital service to the entire Manfred community, supplying a full range of postal services for nearly 100 years from May 3, 1894 to October 2, 1992.

Throughout its history, thirty individuals served in the positions of fulltime postmaster or carrier. Much appreciation goes to all these employees and the many substitutes serving the Manfred community throughout its history. As part of the Manfred history, we want to collect photos and biographies or memories of each of Manfred's postal workers. We will be grateful for your help, and in the following pages is a start with narratives of T. K. Rogne, Edgar Allen Flick, and memories by Marie Nelson Vargason of her father Albert Nelson.



Commemorative Post Card
By Edgar Allen Flick
Printed by the Herald Press

The history of where the post office was located in Manfred is in the process of being gathered. During the first 50 years, 1894-1944, the post office was located in various places, the last being a small wooden structure that was then located between the hotel and the garage. That building was later moved to the Harley Boese farm. Then from 1944 to its closing in 1992, the Manfred Post Office found a nice home in the old bank building, as seen in the photo here and also the sketch on Page 1.

Upon the occasion of the closing of the Manfred Post Office, the postmaster at that time, Edgar Allen Flick, made this eventful day memorable for his postal patrons by having The Herald Press print the postcard as shown here. He then applied the Manfred postmark to the back of this collector's card showing the final day of business, Oct 2, 1992, to give to the postal patrons.

Serving the Manfred Community 1894-1992

From The Wells County Free Press
The Manfred News:

~ ~ ~

March 15, 1907

The eastern mail order houses are getting a strong hold on some of the people in the rural district. One of the strongest factors in their favor is that they handle everything, and it is even said that they send out haircuts neatly done up in a package and sent by mail.

September 20, 1907

The post office department has established a rural mail route to run north and east from Manfred, to commence the first of November 1907, and are now advertising for a carrier. Application blanks can be had at the post office at Manfred.

October 3, 1907 (Early Manfred store...)

Rognlie & Sorenson are selling mail boxes. All those who want to get a box on the new mail route should please call on them at once, so as to get their boxes in time.

March 6, 1908

Emil Ranum is laid on the shelf for repairs, having contracted a case of mumps. Art Skogmo is substituting on the rural mail route.

May 15, 1908

Postmaster LeGrand has moved the post office into the building owned and recently renovated by C. C. Melby. The new quarters are papered and painted and makes the neatest post office in the state, and the patrons of the office have reason to be proud of the new location Postmaster LeGrand has provided.

(C. C. Melby moved the old Sletten building to the north, making it front east right opposite the hotel.)

July 22, 1915

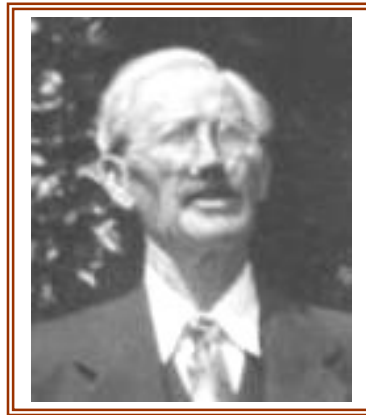
Tally Braaten returned from Minneapolis Tuesday with an auto. Tally will give Uncle Sam some service on the mail route. Have you seen the smoke go by?

January 18, 1917

Postmaster Ole Ranum is back at his old job at Uncle Sam's post office after having been confined to a Harvey hospital for treatment of tonsillitis.

~ ~ ~

First Postmaster of Manfred Thorstein K. Rogne, Tenure 1894-1900



Thorstein K. Rogne

Narrative written in 1899...

Thorstein K. Rogne, the efficient and well-known postmaster of Manfred, Wells County, was identified with the business interests of that thriving town from the early days of its existence. He is a man of good business qualifications, has met with success in every enterprise in which he has embarked, has built up an enviable reputation from integrity of character, and is highly esteemed as an exemplary citizen.

T. K. Rogne was born in Valdres, Norway on January 13, 1859. He was the sixth of seven children, growing up on a farm, and thereafter graduated from a military school in Christiania in 1880. He immigrated to America in 1881, spent one year in Wisconsin doing farm work, and then lived five years at Minneapolis, Minnesota. There, he worked on a Scandinavian newspaper during the winter months, and spent the summers with a surveying party. Then during four months in 1888, he visited his native land of Norway. After this, he went to North Dakota and took government land in Foster County, where he farmed using oxen during his first two years there.

In 1892, he went to Wells County and located near Manfred.

In company with Lars Burkum, he established the first general store at Manfred in 1894. He disposed of those interests in 1898, and afterward established a furniture and hardware business, erecting the largest building (52 x 52 feet) in town. After conducting this business a year and a half, he sold it to J. L. Berg. He has held the office of postmaster for five years (since 1894), and was the first officer appointed at Manfred.

Mr. Rogne takes an active part in local affairs, and has served as county surveyor four years. He has watched the growth of the town of Manfred, and has aided materially in its advancement. Politically, he is a Populist, and stands for reform principles under any name.

'Compendium of History and Biography',
page 810, narrative written in 1899

Information gathered from

T. K. Rogne's descendents:

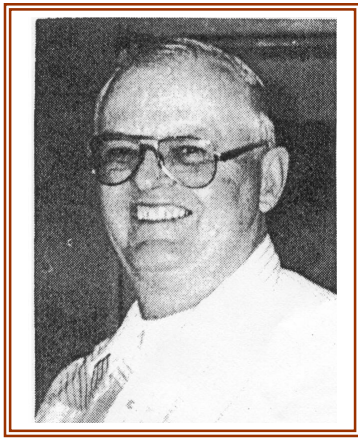
Thorstein Kristenson Rogne, born January 13, 1859 in Valdres Norway and died March 5, 1950 at Millet Alberta Canada, was married 1888 in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Marit Andersdotter Forstaa, (or Fystro), born November 25, 1863 in Norway and died January 16, 1947 in Millet, Alberta, Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. Rogne had six children. They were: Carl (1888-1920) and Ragna (1891-1979) born in Foster County ND, Andrew (1893-1958) George (1895-1901) Mamie (1897-1976) Thomas (1899-1990) born in Manfred Township, and George (1902-1993) born in Millet, Alberta, Canada. In 1901, Thorstein and his family moved from Manfred to Millet, Alberta, Canada, and lived there the remainder of their lives.

A Founding Father of Manfred

Last Postmaster of Manfred

Edgar Allen Flick, Tenure 1964-1992



Edgar Allen Flick

Edgar Allen Flick was born in 1928 to Ray and Gena Melby Flick, Ray having been born at Binford North Dakota in 1888 and Gena at Manfred in 1895. Ray and Gena met after they had each filed on homesteads near Malta, Montana. They married in 1919 and continued farming near Malta where their five children were born: Clayton 1921, Margaret 1924, Marion 1926, Edgar 1928, and Roger 1930.

Edgar began grade school in Montana, and then in 1935 the family moved to Manfred where he continued his schooling. He attended high school at Harvey, and then served as a medic in the 7th Infantry during the Korean War 1952-1953. After the service, he returned to the Manfred area where he took over operation of the family farm that had been homesteaded by his grandparents, C. C. and Anna Melby.

On January 21, 1955, Edgar married Jeanne McBain, daughter of Henry and Margaret McBain. Henry had homesteaded south of Manfred prior to his marriage. Jeanne graduated from Fessenden High School, and later worked for the ASCS Office in Fessenden from 1969, until her retirement in 1994.

Edgar and Jeanne had five children: Randy 1955-1981, Ardis 1956, Myrna 1959, Linda 1961, and Corey 1962. All of their children attended Manfred School until it closed in 1973, and thereafter continued their schooling in Harvey. Edgar and Jeanne feel greatly blessed with their ten grandchildren.

On January 3, 1964, Edgar became postmaster of the Manfred Post Office, serving as its longest tenured postmaster for nearly 29 years until it closed on October 2, 1992. He received a 30-year award in recognition of service with the government for his combined military and postal years. He assumed the position of postmaster, 70 years after his great uncle T. K. Rogne had begun as Manfred's first postmaster in 1894. Also it happened that when the only grocery store in Manfred owned by Stella Sorenson closed in 1988, Edgar established a small grocery store in the post office building that operated as a convenience to the community for 3½ years.

Edgar and Jeanne retired from farming in 1993, having carried on the fine tradition of growing crops, and also of dairy cattle, beef stock, and laying hens at various times. Skilled also in welding, carpentry, and mechanics, and possessing an inventive nature, Edgar has made many useful and interesting items through the years. Edgar and Jeanne continue to live on their farm during the summer, and in Apache Junction AZ during the winter.

*Compiled by Wanda Melchert,
Based on family interviews and the
Growing With Pride Harvey History Book.*

Letter sent in 1992:

*To the Postal Patrons of the
Manfred Post Office*

Having been your Postmaster since January 3, 1964, and now being 64, I feel that the time has come to take advantage of the retirement now being offered to Postal employees.

With the handwriting on the wall for small Post Offices, a decision to retire was made, mainly because of the handicapped accessibility law, which would require a 31-foot ramp here, as well as other expensive changes. I do not feel I could easily convert or comply with that law. I therefore terminated the lease of the building effective on October 2, 1992 at 6:00 p.m. I understand that postal services will be suspended at the Manfred Post Office effective close of business October 2, 1992. Additional information concerning the closing of the Manfred Post Office will be forthcoming from the United States Postal Service.

I thank you all for your support over the years of the office, and for your concern of my health and well-being. It's been great serving you and your families these 28 plus years.

Yours truly,

*Edgar A. Flick
Postmaster, Manfred, ND*

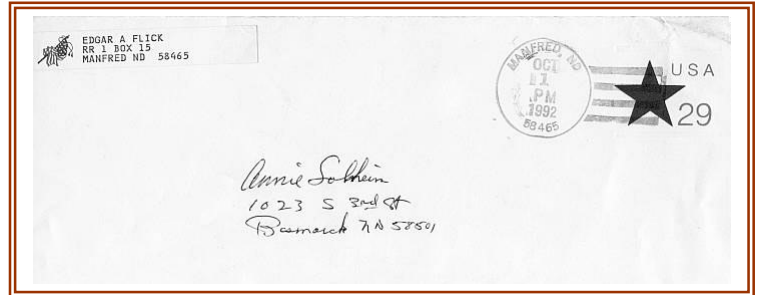
A Brief History of Those Who Served the Manfred Post Office

The List of Manfred Postmasters and Rural Route Carriers on Record in the National Archives

List provided by Edgar Allen Flick

Postmasters

Thorstein K. Rogne, May 3, 1894
 Isaac L. Berge, March 31, 1900
 Swan N. Willborg, March 8, 1902
 Axel L. LeGrand, November 13, 1906
 George Gilbertson, May 25, 1911
 Gertrude LeGrand, March 22, 1912
 Ole Ranum, January 3, 1914
 Ernest B. Braaten, February 1, 1921
 Jerit Biever, April 1, 1925
 Oscar Ongstad, May 1, 1944
 Marlys J. Koenig, Acting - July 31, 1962
 Edgar A. Flick, January 3, 1964



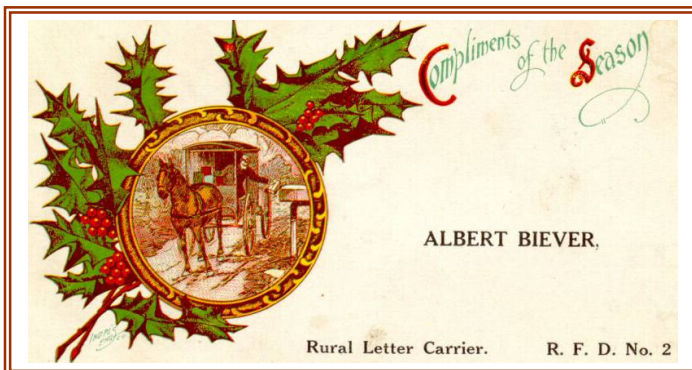
*One of the last letters sent from the Manfred Post Office
 Envelope provided by Annie Solheim*

George Gilbertson was the only one to have served both as postmaster and as rural route carrier.

Carriers for Rural Route 1

Emil G. Ranum, November 1, 1907
 George Gilbertson, September 1, 1908
 Ole L. Opsal, January 1, 1910
 Edward Rappuhn, December 1, 1911
 James M. Morrison, December 19, 1913
 Harry N. LeGrand, April 2, 1917
 Martin K. Melby, April 20, 1918
 Clarence A. Melby, May 1, 1919
 Albert N. Biever, May 1, 1920
 Albert J. Nelson, May 1, 1935
 Ivar Ravnaas, April 1, 1952
 Kermit T. Melby, March 23, 1953

*Route 1 later transferred to the Harvey Post Office,
 (Then based out of Harvey, Kermit Melby continued as
 the carrier to the Manfred area until his retirement in 1984.
 At that time, Pete Anderson became the next carrier, and
 in 1992 the present carrier, Jerry Axtman, began.)*



*Christmas greeting from Rural Letter Carrier, Albert Biever postmarked
 December 23, 1916 sent to his patrons Mr. and Mrs. Ole Onstad
 Greeting card provided by Annie Solheim*

Carriers for Rural Route 2

Eric K. Moen, May 1, 1909
 Albert Biever, July 1, 1910
 Ole L. Opsal, December 1, 1911
 Ernest Rappuhn, September 10, 1912
 Taale Braaten, April 16, 1913
 E. L. Soderback, October 22, 1918
 G. T. Lindbo, November 14, 1918
 Frank J. Biever, April 14, 1919
 Albert J. Nelson, May 1, 1920
Route 2 was discontinued on April 30, 1935

Carrier for Auxiliary Route

Clayton Anderson, December 1, 1935
Auxiliary Route was discontinued on March 31, 1937.

Manfred ND 58465-9998



*Taale Braaten, pictured here about 1918, makes use of horse power, thus
 making it possible to deliver the Mail regardless of the road conditions.
 Photo provided by Myrtle Melby Sailer*

Albert N. Biever, Albert J. Nelson,
 and Ole L. Opsal each served on
 both Routes 1 and 2.

END

Memories Of The Town I Was Raised In, Manfred ND

By Marie Nelson Vargason

Memories of her father as Mail Carrier:

I came to Manfred as an infant in the early 1920's. My parents, Albert and Rose Nelson, came there when my Dad was appointed Rural Mail Carrier. He continued in this work until he retired 32 years later. He had many experiences driving the route. The Model T was not dependable in the winter, so he had to get a team of horses. They were not able to go fast and because of this, he would do half the route one day and the other half the next.

The horses often would become 'spooked' when their hooves slipped on the snow and ice, and they would then take off running for home. He then would have to slide out of the sled onto the snow bank, with his mail sack fastened to his neck. The weather was terribly cold, often -30 and -40 degrees on some days. Dad then had to walk home and, sure enough, the horses would be standing in the yard by the barn waiting to get in. It was scary for all of us, because we weren't sure what had happened to Dad.

When the Model A came out, another mailman invented something to put on the car wheels so they could get through the snow. They looked like caterpillar wheels, and were quite a job to change. We had lots of snow during that time, so he was glad when bigger cars were introduced, enabling him to use tire chains instead. He had a lot of mail during those early years, due to the transportation problems. No one could get to the bigger towns to shop, so people had to order by mail from catalogs like Sears and Wards. Even baby chicks came by mail.



*Albert and Rose Nelson
Taken in 1944 on the occasion of their
25th Wedding Anniversary*



*Marie Vargason second from right,
with daughter Diane & family*

In those years, there were two local trains; one going east and one going west, so the mail and cream cans and sometimes furniture came by train. The farmers had to bring their own cream cans to the depot and pick up the empty ones. Ole Rudi carried the mail between the post office and depot for several years. When there was more mail than he could carry, he'd use a large two-wheel cart to take the mail over in. In those days, the post office was a small building between the livery stable and the hotel. Later, when trucking became the means of transporting, the trains lost so much business they had to stop running.

Memories of Manfred:

Olaf Anderson owned the livery stable, and when it burned down the Ford garage came there. Several horses and pigs had died in that fire, and as a result, we could smell roast pork for two or three weeks. It was a great loss. The hotel had a pool hall downstairs and a place for a barber shop. The last barber I remember was Ralph Hager who was married to Anna Rogness. Manfred was an active town until the drought and depression came.

The Jim River was one place the kids could have fun. We would swim in it until the algae and weeds came. In the winter, we would ice skate where the snow hadn't drifted. We had no park then, but we played baseball in LeGrand's pasture and also Jenny's pasture. The boys would gather there and some of the fathers came to join in. It was fun when Heimdal or Wellsburg played against us.

The Sons of Norway hall was enjoyed by all of us. The black and white movies with Looney Toons, Tom Mix, Roy Rogers and others were fun to watch, even though we had to read the lines at the bottom. When a vender came, we could get popcorn for 5 cents a bag and also Cracker Jack and penny candy. The films often broke, and could not be repaired. The lutefisk and lefse dinners, and dances we had were lots of fun to go to. We all liked to watch Ole Gladheim dance the polka and the schottische. He was so light on his feet, the partners had to really work to keep up.

Vang Lutheran Church and Sunday school had many members at the time I was home. Pastor Langseth was there for 30 years or more. When there was a ballgame at 1:00 p.m. Alvin would tell his father "Cut it short Dad, we have a ballgame". Pastor Langseth was known to be long-winded!

Does anyone remember when Manfred had a band? I remember seeing pictures of this band, but after my mother died many of those pictures were gone. My Dad played the big bass drum. Since we were not known as a musical family, my Dad always said he was the only one in town big enough to carry it! He was 6 ft 2in tall. He loved to joke.

*Children of Albert and Rose Nelson:
Marie 1919, Thomas 1921, Arlene 1923,
Robert 1924.*

*Albert Nelson, Longest Serving
Employee of the Manfred Post Office.
Tenure, 1920-1952*

Memories of Manfred: The Matt Miller Family History

By Bert Miller

In 1888, Matt (Math) Miller left the small country of Luxembourg, which is similar in size to Wells County. After sailing across the Atlantic Ocean for three weeks, he arrived at Ellis Island NY and went through customs without any problems. After seeing the sights of NY, he was on his way to MN where many Luxembourgers had settled. He then decided to come to ND, where the government was offering land to new settlers. The railroad ended at Sykeston at that time, and there he found work among the homesteaders. Later he learned of land opening up south of Harvey.

He obtained a homestead claim and a timber claim in Forward Township located about six miles west of Manfred ND, which is still in the Miller family today. The claims were dated March 30, 1897. Prior to settling on his homestead, he worked for a rancher near Bowdon ND. His pay turned out to be six cows. The next spring, Matt drove these cows on foot to his new ranch where the first task was to build shelter, that of a cabin and a barn. Constructing these buildings took most of the summer, because he also needed to clear some of the land in order to plant a crop the next spring.



*Matt Miller
1867 - 1954*



*Mrs. Matt (Marie) Miller
1882 - 1964*

After the crop was harvested the next year, Matt hauled it to Sykeston the nearest railroad and market at the time. This meant a day's journey to Sykeston, and the next day travel back to the ranch. Such a trip gave him the opportunity to buy basic supplies such as sugar, flour, coffee, and perhaps a new pair of overalls. Other needs he raised on his land.

He married Magalina Hart. Born were: Henry, Elizabeth, Peter, and John. Magalina died in 1904 when John was born. Matt then decided to visit his people back in Luxembourg, which he did. A family by the name of Stadelman took care of his children for him while he was gone.

Soon after returning, he married in 1905 to Marie Fonk, also a Luxembourger. To them were born Cecilia who died in infancy, Donald, myself (Bert), Marianne, and Lucille.

Manfred ND became the Miller business town, which had all the stores to accommodate a family for all its needs. There were the Burkum and Aasand Department Stores, John Nelson with his John Deere Dealership for machinery and parts, a number of grain elevators to market the farmer's grain, the Johnson Confectionary and Barber Shop where we bought bottled pop. John Hannes, a large man, worked there and sold us the pop. My favorite was crème soda, which I buy to this day whenever I see it for sale. Another interest was to watch the blacksmiths Renden and Fieback pound plow shears among other things. They made the sparks fly. I recall the post office, the Soderback Grocery Store, the C. C. Melby Store, the Lutheran Church, and a bit later the Roble Garage, and the hotel managed by Christ Anhorn.

In the days when Olaf Anderson had a garage, I still remember them bringing a Star car out to sell to my father. As I recall no sale was made. We had an EMF car, which stands for 'every morning fixing'. Both the north and the west routes out of our farmyard had potholes that were full of water most of the time. My brothers knew how fast to hit them in order to get through. The water would splash high and far when attempting to clear a hole. If we were lucky enough to get to the other side, the spark plugs got wet and the engine stopped. So it took a mop job before we could go again.

Memories of Manfred: Miller Family History (Page 2)

I recall the stockyards which were used by my father a great deal, because he was a livestock buyer and shipped by rail a large quantity of stock to the south St. Paul market. On the days when stock was received at the yards, all the kids in Manfred were there to help. Especially do I remember Gordon and Clayton Anderson, the Ostrem brothers, and many more. I imagine the going pay for the kids was a nickel or a dime, which bought a big bar of candy. Do you know how hard it is to load hogs into a cattle car? Well, Matt had a little dog by the name of Nipie. She could get the hogs up the shoot in record time. These stock days took place in Manfred about three or four times a month, and were like a circus coming to town.

One experience my brother Donald had was when his mother was going to buy him a pair of overalls. When the time came to try them on, Don would not do it. With some kind persuasion, our mother finally got them on him and a sale was made. This took place at the Burkum Department store, in the days when our parents drove to Manfred by buggy in the summer, or by sleigh in winter. To watch for their return, we would climb up the windmill to see if they would soon be home with the pop.

The school we attended was ½ mile north of the home buildings. One morning, I decided I didn't want to go to school, being a stubborn Luxembourger. My mother came with a tree branch and let me have it. I now believe that this licking was a good thing,

because from then on, I learned to behave better. They say spare the rod and save the child. I wonder.

Very interesting, was the way the mail was delivered to the depot and trains. A man would carry the mail sack or sacks from the post office to the train depot, and then the sack was put onto the mail car. The Dinky was the train that stopped at all the towns along the line. The Mountaineer was a through train, morning and evening, which did not stop in the smaller towns.

To accommodate the mail onto the train was another story... A post stood near the track with a hook on it. The hook was the same height as a hook attached on the mail car. The bag of mail was hung on the post and the hook on the mail car would catch the bag of mail as the train went by. Tricks to all trades? I think the man who carried the mail bag to the depot was connected to a dray line, who took care of such things as coal hauling and freight delivery. You young old-timers probably remember the man who carried the mailbags, I cannot recall his name.

The Matt Miller family moved to Harvey in 1920 when I was in the 4th grade. I am the only member of the family to have lived in Harvey all my life. I am now 91 with all my marbles in working condition, although some think I lost them long ago. The Lord has been good to my wife Gladys and me, with fairly good health. What else matters?

We wish all the Manfred people good health and happiness, and may the good Lord bless each and every one.

*Bert and Gladys Miller
of Harvey ND*



*Bert and Gladys Miller
Photo taken in 1941 or 1942*

Photos and information for this article provided by Bert Miller, and also information used with permission from the Growing With Pride Harvey History Book.

*Feb 19, 1908
Matt Miller, the cattle king,
shipped a carload of fine cattle to
the St. Paul market last Saturday.
Mr. Miller deals extensively in
livestock and understands the
business thoroughly.*

*April 24, 1914
Math Miller shipped two cars of
hogs and cattle Saturday.
Mr. Miller ships one or two cars
of stock every fortnight.*

*From the Wells County Free Press, The
Manfred News column*

~ The End ~

Mystery Corner...



Can you help identify this house?

The History of Bethel Lutheran Church

The Bethel Lutheran Church was organized on June 2, 1896 under the leadership of Pastor Andreansen.

The following officers were elected at the first business meeting held at the Ole Rostvedt home in October of 1896:

Osmund Eilertson, president

Ole Sauer, secretary-treasurer

S. L. Broe, T. T. Hauge,

Ole Rostvedt, trustees

Osmund Eilertson, song leader.

A church was built in 1898, as more members had joined by then.

The congregation was served by Pastor J. J. Loftaas of Minnewaukan ND until 1905. Pastor Loftaas made the trip to Bethel Lutheran by driving a team and buggy, or team and sleigh a distance of 40 or 45 miles. He came only once every 3 weeks, if weather permitted. He would arrive Saturday evening and stay with members of the church until Monday morning. During Loftaas' ministry, Bethel Lutheran became affiliated with the Hauge Synod and the constitution was adopted.

Upon Pastor Loftaas' retirement a call was sent to Pastor Edward S. Hovland, a new graduate from Red Wing Seminary at Red Wing MN. He accepted the call and served Zion Lutheran Church, Maddock; Bethania Lutheran, rural Esmond; and Bethel Lutheran. He and his family resided at Maddock from where he also made the trips by team and buggy until 1916, when the churches helped him secure a Model T Ford Touring car.

Bethel Lutheran Church Manfred Township, Wells County



Photo by Audrey Solheim

Charter Members

~ ~ ~

Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Broe

Mr. and Mrs. Ole Berve

Mr. and Mrs. Ole Sauer

Mr. and Mrs. Osmund Eilertson

Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Hauge

Mr. Ole Rostvedt

Mr. Gust Rostvedt

Mrs. Sophie Rostvedt

Miss Serene Rostvedt

In 1915, a new church structure was built at the same location, and dedicated on July 16, 1916. The old church structure was sold to Ole Rostvedt, who moved it to Heimdal and remodeled it into a hotel. Later, it was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Art Lindgren, Heimdal Postmaster, who used it as a post office and living quarters.

Bethel Lutheran Church had a membership of nearly 250 parishioners through the 1940s. As families decreased in size and farms decreased in number, the membership began to decline.

The last church officers of Bethel Lutheran were:
Robert B. Wallin, chairman and Pastor
Selmer Rodne, secretary and sexton
Hazel Berve, treasurer.

Bethel Lutheran held a special service on May 30, 1994; it's last Memorial Day service. For this service, the church was once again filled with members and descendants of those whose names had filled the membership lists through the years. Bethel Lutheran Church closed its doors in August of 1994.

Blessed be the memory of this church and its people.

Pastors who have served Bethel Lutheran Church:

1896-1897 Pastor Andreansen

1898-1905 Pastor J. J. Loftaas

*1906-1918 Pastor Edward S.
Hovland*

1919-1940 Pastor T. J. Lund

1940-1948 Pastor G. O. Gronseth

1949-1953 Pastor Marvin Odland

1954-1960 Pastor Edson Hartje

*1960-1966 Pastor K. Roger
Johnson*

1966-1968 Pastor Arnold Anklaam

1968-1972 Pastor Harley Frey

*1972-1975 Pastor Robert
Samuelson*

1975-1978 Pastor Daniel Lazeki

*1978-1985 Pastor James
Amspacher*

*1986-1994 Pastor Robert B.
Wallin*

*Article used with permission from Growing
With Pride Harvey Area History. Additional
information by Karen Rodne Beutler.*

*Bethel Lutheran
Church,
Serving the Manfred
Area 1896 - 1994*

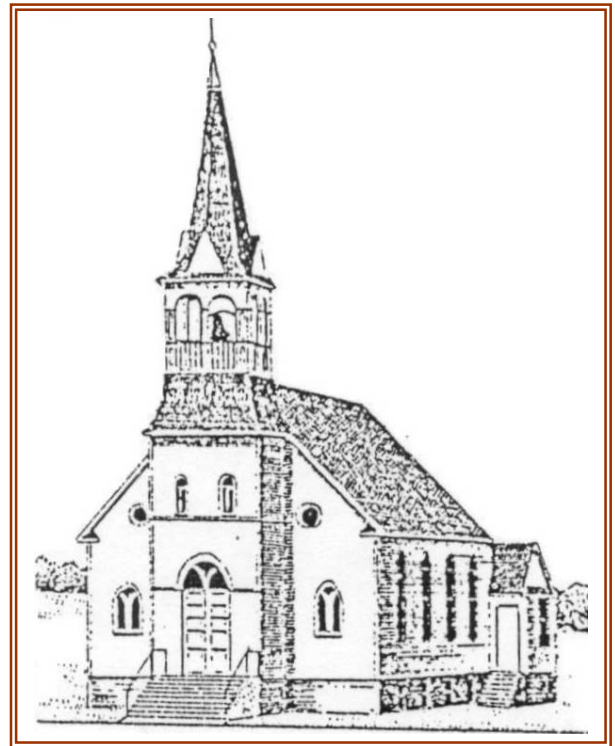
Tribute to Bethel Lutheran Church

*At the crossroads, on the prairie,
 Stands an old familiar friend.
 It's been a landmark for the traveler,
 A sanctuary to the end.
 It was built amongst the farmsteads,
 Overlooking fields of grain,
 By new settlers from Norway
 Who wished to worship in God's name.
 They built it on a firm foundation;
 Built to weather any storm,
 T'was built on faith and prayers and values,
 A new community did form.
 Families came to Christmas programs,
 Listened to the church bell ring,
 While in English and Norwegian
 Familiar hymns they did all sing.
 They had communion at the altar,
 Wore Easter finery in the spring,
 Had special meetings in the summer
 To renew their faith in Him.
 Confirmation, fall church suppers,
 Sunday School and Ladies Aid,
 And the enjoyment of a visit
 While eating food the women made.
 Years have passed with many changes,
 All have grown older or moved away,
 And so many of our loved ones
 Have gone on, in heaven to stay.
 Behind this church, we've honored memories
 With a flower or a stone.
 They're those settlers and their families
 Who made Bethel their church home.
 Now we'll gather in this building,
 One last time to bid farewell
 To this church upon the prairie
 That has served it's people well.
 It's doors will close, holding the memories
 Of times past and long ago,
 But in our hearts and in our spirits
 The seeds of faith in God will grow.*

By Karen Rodne Beutler

Tribute to Bethel Lutheran Church

Poem By Karen Rodne Beutler



*This tribute was read at the final
 Memorial Day Service held May 30, 1994 at
 Bethel Lutheran Church.*