

The New

MANFRED NEWS

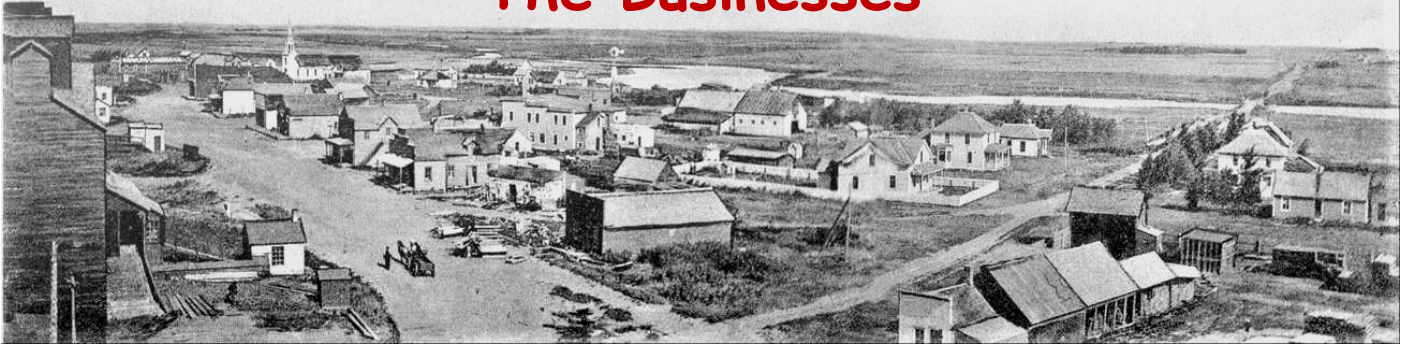
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A Warm Welcome to Manfred!

Acknowledgements This review of Manfred's businesses is made possible because of those who preserved Manfred's history from its beginning, property records of the Wells County Recorder's Office, Manfred news entries in the Wells County Free Press, church records, historic photos from many sources, and interviews with many people. Thanks are endless!!
Wanda Melchert-editor, Audrey Solheim-historian

Through the Years of the Manfred Community - The Businesses -



▲ Manfred in 1907 with its prominent Railroad Boulevard

Envision the energetic activity of the early communities with the railroad, elevators, and businesses! Many of Manfred's first business buildings faced the elevators that flanked the railroad tracks. Buildings pictured above along Railroad Boulevard are from L/R: at the far west end is Rogers Lumber Co which has 'Roger Lumber Co' printed in white letters on the roof (west yard), Burkum Store, Willborg/Soderback Store, Elsaas and Sletten Store, Mead and Nelson Store, the former Kodalen Hotel, Nelson Meat Market, Nelson Feed Mill, Nelson Implement, in the foreground east of Lake Avenue is the former O. K. Melby lumberyard which was at that time the east yard of Rogers Lumber Co. The Anderson Livery and Dray line barn is pictured midway in town closer to the river. The newest buildings in this photo were Vang Lutheran Church and Hotel Johnson, both built in 1906.



▲ View from the south end of Main Avenue in late 1908

Big changes came to Main Avenue by the end of 1908, when five building structures were added. New to the west side of Main, the C. C. Melby Department Store, and north from there were two buildings moved from Railroad Blvd-the Elsaas/Sletten and Mead/Nelson buildings, and north of these Nennie Johnson built his pool hall and barber shop. New on the east side of Main was Jens Renden's Blacksmith Shop. Also pictured at far left were the Burkum Store and Willborg/Soderback Store. Pictured in the foreground right of the blacksmith shop was the former Kodalen Hotel and right of that is pictured the meat market.



◀ Main Avenue from the north in November 1908

L/R: Anderson Livery and Dray line with rigs out front, small barber shop building/second post office location on Main, hotel, blacksmith shop, Manfred's first elevator-Royal/Regan and Lyness, C. C. Melby Department Store and community hall, former drug store, first post office location on Main Avenue, Johnson's Place, First State Bank barely seen at right which later became the third and final post office location on Main Avenue.

Lila Anderson and Jeff Hokanson in memory of Marvin Miller-General Fund and Betty Steinberger-Manfred School
 Peter and Jacqueline Anderson
 Peter and Rose Anderson in memory of Darlene Quenette and Curtis Nelson
 Claudia Berg
 Mary Bermann
 Gerry and Karen Beutler
 Ronald and Joseph Biever
 Kevin and Tresa Boese for School Windows
 Norm and Diane Boese
 Tim and Lyn Boese
 Eric and Nancy Bollingberg
 John Bollingberg
 Shari Burgess
 Nancy Conner, Becky Wilcox, Ginger Barrett in memory of Darlene Quenette
 William and Nancy Conner
 Dee Ann Skolness
 Garry and Betty Detling
 Harry Detling
 Marjorie Deutsch
 Orville and Rita Dove
 Judith Duerre and Sonja Stomswold
 Don and Jackie Earl
 Jim and Donna English
 Wayne and Chris Everett for Hotel Johnson and Johnson's Place/Cash Store
 Farmers Union Oil-C-Store for Field Day
 Frances Fehr
 Jon and Gloria Fehr
 Fessenden Coop Assoc. for Gen. Fund and Field Day
 Fessenden Thrift Shop for Gen. Fund and Field Day
 First State Bank of Harvey for Gen. Fund and Field Day
 Larry Fisher for Ostrem House
 Myrna Flick for Post Office/Bank
 Lillian Gedrose in memory of Ellorine Goebel
 Linda Georgeson
 Carolyn Golberg in memory of Darlene Quenette
 Gooseneck Implement for Field Day
 Joel and Lorretta Graumann in memory of Matt and Mary Detling, Ann Sauter, Lena Walz, Betty Froeber, Manuel Detling, Leo Detling, Grace Thueringer, Clara Elhard
 Gwen Green
 Dean Hagen
 Mary Jean Hanson
 Craig and Vicki Harper for Comfort Station
 Harvey Eagles Club for General Fund and Field Day
 Hertz Funeral Home for General Fund and Field Day
 Hinrichs SuperValu Foods for Field Day
 Andrea Holtman for Hotel Johnson & Johnson House
 David and Lois Hoover
 Derald and Ruth Hoover
 John and Mary Hovey for Comfort Station
 Mark and Linda Hovland
 David and Jill Howie
 Carol Jensen
 Mary Kaufman
 Kiwanis Club Project Fund for Field Day
 Terri Kline
 Linda Knudtson for Field Day
 Bill and Sandy Krebs in memory of Darlene Quenette for Ostrem House
 David and Carol Langseth for Comfort Station
 Kathy Lawter for Manfred School
 Linda Letness for Post Office/Bank
 Doris Lippelgoos
 Mark and Mimi Lithun in memory of Lyle Sommer for Manfred School

Rod and Brenda Lloyd
 Jim and Debbie Lochow
 M & G Repair for Field Day
 Josh and Jamie Maier
 Dale McBain in honor of the McBain Family
 Ronald McBain
 Richard and Carol McKinven
 Orin J. Melby
 Steve and Jisele Mitchell
 Clyde and Carol Moldenhauer
 Brian and Laura Muscha
 Jean Narksompong
 NDTC Dollars in Motion for Field Day
 The Family of Curtis Nelson would like to thank everyone for the memorial donations to MHP. Inc. Curtis believed in the projects, helped when he could and enjoyed seeing the progress.
 Again, Thank You!
 Nelson Funeral Home for Field Day
 Audrey K. Nelson
 Pam Norstedt for Comfort Station
 Michael and LuAnn Olson
 Opdahl Concrete for General Fund and Field Day
 Aaron and Carrie Opdahl
 Dale and Shirley Opdahl
 Larry A. Ostrem for Ostrem House and Vang Church
 Katherine Oxta
 Merl and Kathy Paaverud
 Phyllis Pantsari for Comfort Station
 Delores R. Payne
 Keith and Cathy Peltier for Field Day
 Bob and Joyce Pestal for Field Day
 Precision Tax Service for Field Day
 John M. Quie Family Living Trust in memory of Lorraine Quie for Manfred School
 Klaus Raab
 Joel and Sally Anne Rall for Comfort Station
 Keith Ranum
 Karen K Ravnaas in memory of Patti Jo Ravnaas
 Larry and Billie Joe Reutter for Field Day
 Marlene Ripplinger
 Marvin and Julie Rodacker
 Carolyn Rodne
 Otto E. Rodne
 Willajeane Rogelstad
 Kurt Jeanne Rudel
 Gordon and Betty Schimke
 Jamie Schindler
 Curt and Charyl Schlenker
 Gerald and Jeanne Schlenker in memory of Curtis Nelson
 Gerald and Jeanne Schlenker
 Mark Schmitz
 John and Carol Schroeder
 Steven and Joleen Schultz
 Gene and Judy Schwartz for Field Day
 Merlin and Laurie Schwartz
 Taylor and Erin Seibel
 Floyd and Barbara Simmons in memory of Rev. John Langseth Family for Comfort Station
 Keith and Brenda Skalet
 Trygve and DeeAnn Skolness for Comfort Station
 Sandra D. Skroch for Post Office/Bank
 Richard and Denelle Smith for Anderson House
 Audrey Solheim for Solheim House
 Jerry and Dorothy Stansberry
 Janice Steffen
 John and Jennifer Strauss for Comfort Station
 Richard Strauss
 Sverdrup Sons of Norway of Bismarck
 Robert and Bonnie Swanson

Shirley Teske
 Raenette Tewes
 The Arthur Companies for Field Day
 Mae C. Thompson
 Margaret Anderson Thorson in memory of Donald Anderson for Comfort Station
 Jacque Thuma in memory of her mother Adele Hanson Eide for Manfred School
 Richard and Karen Turner
 Bryan and Jane Uggerud
 Vorland Land Company for Field Day
 Dean and Alicia Vorland for School and Church
 Bruce and Betty Wahl
 Warehouse Grocery for Field Day
 Duane and Cecilia Weinmann
 Marlys Weisser
 Reiner and Ruth Widiger
 Wiest Associates, LLC for Field Day
 Jim and Janet Wright

MHP, Inc. Everlasting Fund

Loren and Kathy Alvesshere
 Orren and Karen Anderson
 Anderson Family for Peter Anderson Memorials
 William Detling in memory of Matt and Mary Detling, Leo Detling, Clara Elhard
 Gordon and Rebecca Dove
 Laverne Johnson and Gwyn Herman
 Ray and Beth Leischner
 Ronald McBain
 Richard and Wanda Melchert in memory of Darlene Quenette, Curtis Nelson, Peter Anderson, Paul Gunderson, Gordon Schimke
 Audrey Solheim in memory of Peter Anderson and Curtis Nelson
 Margaret Anderson Thorson

In Memory

Arlene Ring Rittmiller

July 29, 1926 – August 20, 2021

Jerry Schepp

September 7, 1942 – November 2, 2021

Jeff Bermann

January 14, 1954 – February 19, 2022

Curtis Nelson

May 26, 1951 – May 7, 2022

Robert 'Bob' Kopseng

February 24, 1937 – June 10, 2022

Peter O. Anderson

July 11, 1926 – July 12, 2022

James Fehr

September 13, 1948 – July 15, 2022

Leslie Foss

June 2, 1940 – December 16, 2022

Gordon W. Schimke

November 29, 1930 – December 16, 2022

Paul D. Gunderson

September 7, 1940 – December 17, 2022

Please let us know of loved ones who have passed

A Review of Businesses for Manfred, ND

This issue summarizes all known business entities that served the Manfred, North Dakota community through the many years. Each business was important to ensure the success of the community. Listed first in this history is the entity that literally put Manfred on the map, that of the railroad.

1. RAILROAD

1893 Soo Line – The railroad tracks through Wells County were completed in 1893, and the train began running that same year. The Minneapolis, St Paul, & Sault Ste Marie Railway, known as the Soo Line Railroad, was the initiating business for the creation of the future town of Manfred by setting up a water stop at this site and giving Manfred its name. Water stops were needed every 7-10 miles to resupply the steam engine with water and fuel such as coal. As a result, the James River at the site of Manfred was dammed to create a pond to draw water from for the steam engine. The railroad was crucial for transporting goods to and from Manfred, for the benefit of both the merchants and the farmers.

1953 Soo Line's last run of steam locomotives and the beginning of diesel locomotives

2009 CP – Soo Line Railroad sold to the Canadian Pacific Railroad Company (CP) which continues tooting its 'hello' to Manfred numerous times every day

2. GRAIN ELEVATORS *Located south of Railroad Blvd*

Grain elevators were erected along the railroad tracks enabling the grain from the elevator to be loaded directly to railroad cars to transport by rail to the grain mills located in larger cities. Manfred had five elevators.

- 1.** Woodworth Elevator was built in 1907. In 1929, it was purchased by the Riebe Grain Elevator Company and in 1940 was moved by rail to the west side of the O & M Elevator.
- 2.** Osborne McMillan Elevator (O & M Elevator) was built in the late 1890s. O & M Elevator built a second elevator in 1907. The third elevator to join this complex in 1940 was #1 listed Woodworth Elevator. In 1991, this set of three elevators became the Manfred Grain Company, and in 2010 this complex was demolished.
- 3.** Royal Elevator was built in 1894 as Manfred's first elevator. In 1907, it was purchased by Regan and Lyness; in 1928, purchased by Riebe Grain Elevator Company; and in 1942, it was moved by rail to the site of Manfred Farmers Elevator.
- 4.** Manfred Farmers Elevator was built in 1905. Elevator #3 was moved to this site in 1942, and in 1957 an additional elevator was constructed. This elevator complex was also known as the Farmers Union Elevator and later became the Manfred Station of the Fessenden Cooperative Association. Elevator #3 of this elevator complex was later demolished.
- 5.** C.G. Ireys Elevator was built in early 1900. George Reiter purchased it in the late 1920s. Fate unknown.



▲ Manfred Depot



▲ Axel Le Grand and Caroline Rodne walking the rail with Manfred Depot visible in the background



▲ Manfred's Depot and Elevators in 1910

◀ Elevators from L/R:

1. C. G. Ireys
2. Manfred Farmers
3. Regan and Lyness
4. Osborne McMillan
5. Woodworth

3. CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

Of great importance to settlers establishing new communities was to organize churches and schools.

Unlike other 'business' endeavors instituted by entrepreneurs for a financial gain, religious and educational endeavors stemmed from the settlers' desire to have these foundational entities in their lives.

Churches

In the Manfred trade area, six churches were built - listed below. Those of the Catholic faith attended St. Augustine Church-Fessenden or St. Cecelia Church-Harvey. Several of the Baptist faith attended the First German Baptist Church-Fessenden, and those of the Congregational faith attended the Congregational Church of Fessenden.

Church	Location from Manfred	Year Founded	Outcome
Bethel Lutheran Church (Hauge Synod)	6 Miles Northeast	1894	Closed 1994
Bethania Lutheran Free Church*	7 Miles North	1896	Merged 1945
Manfred Evangelical Church	In Manfred, East side	1927	Closed 1935
Manfred Seventh Day Adventist Church	6½ Miles Southwest	1894	Continues
Vang Lutheran Church	In Manfred, West side	1894	Continues
East Vang Lutheran Church**	7 Miles Northeast	1901	Closed 1943

* Bethania Lutheran Free Church merged with Trinity Lutheran Free Church of Harvey in 1945

** Vang Lutheran Church was divided in 1902 to form Vang Lutheran Church and East Vang Lutheran Church

Schools

1892 Public schooling for Manfred Township and St. Anna Township began with the two townships combined as the St. Anna School District

1897 Two school districts formed: Manfred School District #20 and St. Anna School District #21

Manfred School District had 3 one-room schools until schools #2 and #3 closed and transferred to #1 in Manfred:

School #1 – In Manfred 1895-1910. In 1910, sold and moved to become a home

School #2 – Northeast of Manfred-first on Nertrout land 1895-1915, then on Solberg land 1915-1935

School #3 – Northwest of Manfred on Rogness land 1895-1928

1910 Manfred School -Red brick school built *Original Townsite-Bk1, Lots 7, 8, 9, 10*

1973 Manfred School District #20 dissolved, and the remaining students transferred to either the Fessenden School District or the Harvey School District

1974 Purchased by the Johnson family and renovated to serve as a home for Dianne Aull and family

1993 Purchased by Harry Detling

2006 Manfred School purchased by the non-profit organization Rural Vestige Alliance for the Manfred projects

2017 Transferred to Manfred History and Preservation, Inc.

4. TELEPHONE AND ELECTRICITY

Telephone Service for the Manfred Community

1908 Two phone companies organized: Manfred-Fram Telephone Co. and Merchants Telephone Co. which soon joined together as Manfred-Fram Telephone Co.

1909 Central Office building constructed *Original Townsite-NE corner Bk 3, Lot 8*

1917 Addition built on the Central Office

1927 Coal shed constructed

1954 The phone system was in poor condition, so farmers joined together to rebuild their lines with the assistance of Bell Telephone

1962 Bell Telephone bought out the local telephone groups in about 1962

1993 North Dakota Telephone Company (NDTC) became the service provider



▲ Central Office was located just west of the bank/post office building-visible at left edge of image is Farmers Elevator- Central Office dismantled in the 1950s

4. TELEPHONE AND ELECTRICITY (cont.)**The Coming of Electricity**

Kerosene lamps provided lighting in the first years, before the Delco-Light system was introduced in 1916. Joe Biever was the Delco light man based in Fessenden. Of the many Delco Light plants installed, these were noted in the Wells County Free Press: in 1924 Hanson and Halvorson Store strung a wire to light Jens Renden's blacksmith shop, and in 1928 Andrew Solberg installed an electric light plant on his farm. The Otter Tail Power Company of Fergus Falls, MN, founded in 1909, was working its way westward erecting poles and stringing wire to connect small communities to electricity. The highline poles came through Manfred in 1927. Farms along the pathway of the poles between towns were able to connect to the electrical poles. During World War II, the installation process was put on hold but began again about 1947. It wasn't until the early 1950s that the Manfred trade area was fully connected to electricity.

Helland Electric *Original Townsite-B3, middle of Lot 6*

Arnie Helland had an electrical shop in Manfred as 'Helland Electric' for a short time in the 1950s before moving his business to Harvey. His shop in Manfred was located between the bank/post office building to the north and the Cash Store to the south. The footprint of this building can still be seen. Building fate unknown.

5. POST OFFICE Established at Manfred in a mercantile business on May 3, 1894

Years	Location	Postmaster
1894-1900	Burkum and Rogne Mercantile	Thorstein K. Rogne
1900-1902	I. L Berge Hardware Store	Issac L. Berge
1902-1906	S. N. Willborg Store	Swan N. Willborg
1906-1911	Old Dakota Hotel on Railroad Blvd, in 1908 relocated to the Sletten building, moved to Main Street by C. C. Melby	Axel Le Grand
1911-1912	Sletten building	George Gilbertson
1912-1914	Sletten building	Gertrude Le Grand
1914-1921	Began in the Sletten building, in 1915 was moved to the Stuberg building on the east side of Main-north of hotel	Ole Ranum
1921-1925	Stuberg building	Ernest Braaten
1925-1932	Stuberg building	Jerret Biever
1932-1944	Rented the bank building and later purchased it	Jerret Biever
1944-1962	Bank building purchased by Oscar Ongstad	Oscar Ongstad
1962-1964	Bank building (acting postmaster)	Marlys Koenig
1964-1992	Bank building operated by Edgar Flick until 1992 closing	Edgar Flick
1992-2002	Continued ownership by Edgar Flick	
2002-2009	Richard and Wanda Melchert for Melby Heritage Society	
2009 & on	Manfred History and Preservation, Inc.	



*T. K. Rogne
First Postmaster*



*Edgar A. Flick
Last Postmaster*

1 3 Three Post Office locations on Main Avenue 2

1 1908-1914 Sletten building north of Drug Store – sign reads 'Post Office-Manfred ND'

2 1915-1932 Stuberg building north of hotel (a barber shop at time of photo)

3 1932-1992 First State Bank building on left at north end of Main (a bank at time of photo)

2 Small building at right was north of hotel and served as second post office location on Main Ave



6. LUMBER

Rogers Lumber Company

1894 The first business in Manfred – Rogers Lumber Company with Gullik Nordtorp, manage, located on Gullik's land on the outskirts west of Manfred. (1st location) Gullik moved back to Norway in 1899

1899 Gullik's friend, O. S. Hedahl, became manager and moved building to Railroad Boulevard (2nd location-see page 1)

1912 Building relocated from west yard to east yard (3rd location)

1932 Business closed (See Service Station for use of this building from 1933 and on)

Manfred Lumber Company *Le Grand's Addition-Bk 1, Lot 12*

1902 O. K. Melby established the Manfred Lumber Company in 1902

1908 Sold to Rogers Lumber Company and became its east yard

Langworthy Lumber Company (unknown location though we have a photo of it)

1907 Langworthy Lumber set up in many communities

1910 Manfred news entry reported, "The two lumberyards at this place have been made into one, the Rogers yard taking over the stock of the Langworthy yard and the later company leaving Manfred."



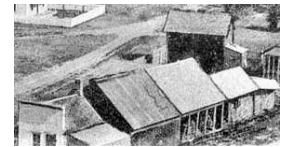
Gullik Nordtorp operated the first Manfred business



*Rogers Lumber (3rd location): Le Grand's Add.-Bk 1, Lot 12
▼ 1902 – Same lot – ▲ 1912*



Ole K. Melby



Manfred Lumber Company

Langworthy Lumber



7. BANKING **First State Bank of Manfred** *Original Townsite-Bk 3, Lot 6*

1902 T. L. Beiseker established bank in former Kodalen Hotel *Bk 4, Lots 9 and 10*

1905 A brick building constructed on Main Avenue for the bank

1925 Served as the office building for Olaf Anderson

T. L. Beiseker ▶

1932 Served as the Manfred Post Office until it closed in 1992

1992 Ownership continued with Edgar Flick

2004 Sold to Richard and Wanda Melchert for Melby Heritage Society

2017 to present - Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. (MHP, Inc.)

Future plans: Exhibit of Manfred's commercial history



*▲ Bank/Post Office Building in 2021
◀ First Cashier Sofus Ongstad*

8. MEDICAL

Midwives During early pioneer and settlement years, midwives were often summoned to assist women in childbirth. The midwife came to the couple's home when the time neared for the baby to be born, gave assistance during the birth and stayed afterward to keep a watch on the mother and baby

1909-1913 Dr. P. A. Boyum 'Peter Arndt'-His office and residence were on second level of the C. C. Melby Store

1910-1914 Anderson Drug, Otto Anderson-Druggist, Drug store was next door to Dr. Boyum's upstairs office

1914-1920 Dr. W. R. Owen 'William Roy'-In 1914, Dr. Owen rented vacated drug store and set up both his office and his apartment. In 1917, he moved into his new home and office. Later, this was the home of P.B. Anderson, and then served as Elevator House for managers of the Manfred Farmer Elevator



*P. A. Boyum-
Manfred's
first doctor
1909-1913*



Dr. P. A. Boyum's office was located on the second level of the C. C. Melby building



*W. R. Owen-
Manfred's
second doctor
1914-1920*



*Second home and office for Dr. W. R. Owen
1917-1920*



*Druggist
Otto Anderson*



*Anderson's Drug Store
1910-1914, and then in
1914-1917 was first home
and office of Dr. Owen*

9. GENERAL MERCHANDISE AND GROCERY

Rogne and Burkum Mercantile/Burkum Store *Original Townsite-Block 3, Lot 8*

1894 Torstein K. Rogne and Lars Burkum opened the first store in Manfred as 'Rogne and Burkum Mercantile'

1901 After Rogne sold his share to Burkum, it continued as the 'Burkum Store'

1905 Lars Burkum built a new building and continued a successful business

1916 H. B. Myhre bought out Lars O. Burkum

1917 Anton Aasand and Nick Halvorson as 'Aasand and Halverson Store'

1925 H. R. Jenner purchased the building

1926 Nennie Johnson purchased the building and sold it to 'Fagerlund Sons of Norway Lodge'

1952 Served as 'Fagerlund Sons of Norway Lodge' building until it burned down the fall of 1952

L. O. Burkum ▶



◀ Burkum Store

Sletten and Elsaas Store *Original Townsite-Bk 3, Lot 4 – moved to Original Townsite-Bk 3, North end of Lot 5*

1903 Or before, was owned by Otto Sletten and John J. Elsaas as the 'Sletten and Elsaas Store'

1906 John Elsaas left Manfred to start a new store in Pekin. The building rented as a pool hall

1908 Otto Sletten sold lot and building to C. C. Melby who turned it to face Main and rented it as the Manfred Post Office until 1915

1915 Or after, Ford Supplies business for unknown length of time. Fate of the building is unknown



▲ Sletten and Elsaas Store

C. C. Melby Store *Original Townsite Block 3, Lot 5*

1908 C. C. Melby built 'C. C. Melby Store' with a community hall and doctor's office on the second level

Early 1920s C. C. Melby sold to Lars Rodne (Rodney) and Andrew Erickson as 'Rodney-Erickson Cash Store'

1925 Rodne and Erickson sold to Anton Aasand and Nennie Johnson as 'Aasand and Johnson'

1927 Andrew Flatlien purchased the business

1928 Andrew Flatlien sold to C. C. Melby, Ann Cook operated the store

1930 C. C. Melby died in California. Ann had a closing sale

in November 1930 and moved to California to help her mother

1936 The remaining store merchandise was sold

1939 The building was taken down

1941 Nennie Johnson purchased the empty Lots 4 and 5 in Block 3, creating a park for Manfred

C. C. Melby ▶



◀ C. C. Melby Department Store

S. N. Willborg Store *Original Townsite-Bk 3, Lots 2 and 3 (First grocery store, then hardware/implement store*

1900 John Benson and S. N. Willborg built this store. Benson sold out to Willborg in 1903

1917 The store was sold to Olaf Roble and V. F. Hanson as 'Roble & Hanson'

1918 Roble and Hanson sold the store to John Weber

1920 Weber sold it to Anton Aasand

1925 Anton Aasand sold business to Erik Soderback-when Erik died his son Henry took over

1947 Sold by county to John and Katie Smith. Became part of Lutt's Feed Store-Harvey

S. N. Willborg Store/
Soderback Store ▶



Nennie Johnson ▶
and Johnson's Place/
later a general store
and cash store



Manfred Cash Store *Orig. Township-Block 3, south part of Lot 6*

1908 Nennie Johnson built 'Johnson's Place' as a barbershop/pool hall

1921 Nennie turned business into a general store/cash store

1944 Rudolph and Nora Peterson as a general store/cash store (1)

1952 Ervin and Evelina Boese as a general store/cash store (2)

1956 Ed and Stella Sorenson as a general store/cash store (3)

1978 Edgar and Jeanne Flick

2004 Richard and Wanda Melchert for Melby Heritage Society

2017 Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. (MHP, Inc.) to present

1 ▼



2 ▼



3 ▼



10. HARDWARE

Quarve and Berge Hardware and Harness/ I. L. Berge/2nd store of Rognlie and Sorenson Hardware/ Manfred Hardware/Aasand and Klev Hardware/Aasand Hardware/Peterson's Repair Shop *Original Townsite-Block 2 'The Triangle'*

1898 Brother-in-laws Timan L. Quarve and Isaac L. Berge had 'Quarve and Berge Hardware and Harness Store.' Quarve sold his share and Berge continued as 'I. L. Berge Store'

1902 Paul B. Rognlie and Ben Sorenson as 'Rognlie and Sorenson Hardware Store' (1)

1908 Rognlie sold his share to Jacob Klev as 'Manfred Hardware Store' – Ben Sorenson died

1910 Executor Stener S. Aasand invested in business as 'Aasand & Klev Hardware Store' (2)

1912 Jacob Klev sold out to S. S. Aasand and business was renamed 'Aasand Hardware Store' 1 ▶

1914 S. S. Aasand sold his business to former partner Jacob Klev

1916 Jacob Klev sold the business to Anton Aasand as 'Aasand Hardware Store' (3) 2 ▶

1922 Or after - Rudolph Peterson rented the building to use as a repair shop

1932 Building was destroyed by fire

1944 Anton Aasand sold the property to Mike and Anna Jenny

1977 Present owner of property Cherry M. (Grossman) Smith



Hardware store building



Paul Rognlie



S. S. Aasand



3 ▶

Anton Aasand

First Store of Rognlie and Sorenson Hardware/Vang Ladies Aid/Served as a home

1st site: Original Townsite-Bk 1 Lot 6, 2nd site: Original Townsite-Bk 7 Lot 1

1900 Paul B. Rognlie and Ben Sorenson established 'Rognlie and Sorenson Hardware Store' kitty-corner from their mentors Quarve and Berge, and the 'I. L. Berge Store'

1902 Rognlie and Sorenson purchased I. L. Berge Hardware Store. They remodeled their old hardware building to serve as housing for visitors and newcomers to Manfred

1913 Vang Ladies Aid purchased this building with the thought to use if for their functions, but this didn't prove suitable

Building as a house in its setting by the river

1918 Vang Ladies Aid sold the building to Lars and Gertrude Hansen who moved it closer to the river and remodeled as their home

1921 Oscar and Christine Ongstad, homeowners

1976 Gary and Joan Hoornaert, homeowners

1989 Paul and Kathy Hoornaert, homeowners

2000 Harry Detling - The building was in very poor condition, so was destroyed in 2002



▲ 2nd Store

1st Store ▲

for the Rognlie and Sorenson Hardware business, pictured with Vang Church and Manfred School

Mead and Nelson Hardware Store *Original Townsite-Bk 3 Lot 5-first faced Railroad Blvd, then turned to face Main Avenue*

1900 E. W. Stein first owner of this hardware and harness store

1903 James A. Mead as 'J. A. Mead' selling hardware, harness, buggies, wagons, farm machinery

1905 John Nelson joined Mead as 'Nelson and Mead'

1906 Mead sold out to Nelson

1908 Nelson sold to C. C. Melby who turned the building to face Main. Rented to Annie Jensen as a Confectionary

1910 Rented to Otto Anderson as a drug store until February 1914 when he moved his business to Baker ND

1914 In March, rented to Dr. W. R. Owen (William 'Roy') who remodeled it to serve as his office and home

1917 Dr. Owen vacated from here and moved to his newly built home and office on Le Grand Street, this home later serving as the home of P. B. and Anna Anderson and then as the home for Farmers Elevator managers

1918 C. C. Melby dismantled the Mead-Nelson building, using the materials on his farm



▲ C.C. Melby, Owen, Ford Supply, Pool Hall, Bank

Mead/Nelson building has the pointed front, photo after 1915 - then serving as the home and office of Dr. Owen

11. OX AND HORSEPOWER

Transportation for the early settlers was by train or ox and horse. Oxen were the powerhouse for settlers when they moved to their homesteads and were also used to pull the breaking plow because of their strength and endurance to break the sod. Oxen were replaced by horses for their speed in both fieldwork and transportation.

Livery and Dray Line Barn *Original Townsite-Bk 4 Lot 15* Olaf Anderson ▶

1900 Olaf Anderson started a livery, feed stable and a dray service

He had an ice business cutting ice from the James River to ship

1909 By 1909, he was selling Ford, Regal, and Reo along with his livery/dray line

1930 Fire destroyed the barn of which Olaf said he would rebuild, however Olaf died in 1931 so the barn was never rebuilt and his business activities closed down



Anderson Livery and Dray Service

Blacksmith and Wheelwright

Gullik Dahle *Original Townsite-Bk 3 Lot 6*

Gullik Dahle ▶

1898 Gullik Dahle was the first blacksmith in Manfred

1902 Purchased by Jens Renden where he remained until 1905 when T. L. Beiseker purchased the property to build the bank. Blacksmith building was moved to the Ole Onstad farm



Olaf Tansem *Original Townsite-Bk 3 Lot 9 North of Burkum Store, kitty-corner from Vang Church*

1898 Olaf Tansem operated this business until 1905 when he leased it to Jacob Klev Olaf Tansem ▶

1907 Olaf Tansem sold his property and contents to Jens Renden who used the building materials and contents for his blacksmith shop located south of the hotel



Jens Renden *Original Townsite-Bk 4, Lot 11*

1905 Jens Renden in his second blacksmith location just south of the hotel

Jens Renden ▶

1943 Jens enjoyed a long and successful career as blacksmith. Later, the shop was moved to a farm south of Harvey for blacksmithing work. When no longer needed, it was demolished



Harness Shops

There were a few sources in Manfred for harness supplies for horses:

1. E. W. Stein which J. A. Mead took over and Nelson joined him
2. Quarve and Berge carried harness supplies among their inventories
3. Guy D. Fisher, and later Joe Bieber, in the former Kodalen Hotel

▶
Renden
Blacksmith
Shop



12. BUTCHER SHOPS AND MEAT MARKETS

Janisch Butcher Shop *1 mile west of Manfred*

This butcher shop was located on the Janisch homestead

▶
Manfred
Meat
Market



Manfred Meat Market *Original Townsite-Bk 4, West part of Lot 9 located at the south corner on the east side of Main*

1900 John Nelson had a butcher shop, feed grinding mill, and a coal and wood business on this property

1908 Ole Rostvedt bought out John Nelson's butcher shop, the coal and wood yard, and feed mill

1909 Carl Johnson the next butcher until April 1911 when he homesteaded in Montana

1911 J. E. Jensen the new butcher in lease to own – had help from his brothers George and Ole

1913 In April, sold to J. J. Erickson, his help was Ole Jensen who took over ownership with his brother Henry

1915 David and Augusta Wolff purchased from Jensen then sold to Wilhelm and Anna Goedecke

1917 Emil and Ilse Minnie Bundt – M.N. Bundt Meat Market

1922 John Wagner was the final owner of this meat market business

1925 Haakan A. Tessem purchased the building and moved it to Lincoln Ave to become his home

13. AUTOMOBILES AND FARM IMPLEMENTS

Joe Bieber ▶



G. D. Fisher Implement *Original Townsite-Bk 4, Lots 9 and 10*

1915 Guy D. Fisher purchased Koldalen Hotel for an implement business, later Joe Bieber took over and carried harnesses, horse collars and supplies, Maytag washing machines, P. & O. Line of implements

1918 The building burned down

Anderson-Melby Motor Company/ A & B Motive Company/ Manfred Motor Company *Original Townsite-Bk 4, Lot 13*

1916 Olaf Anderson and his brother-in-law O. K. Melby had the 'Anderson-Melby Motor Company'

Sold Fords, Overlands, Willys Knights, and other auto brands, as well as John Deere

1919 O. K. Melby retired and sold his share to Olaf Anderson

1920 Olaf and C. H. Blanding of Harvey formed 'A & B Motive Company' selling Ford cars and Fordson tractors

1924 Olaf sold to Martin Melby and Oscar Ongstad as 'Manfred Motor Company' backed by O. K. Melby

1926 Martin Melby and Oscar Ongstad bought out O. K. Melby

1947 Sold - See Café for the building's continued use

Martin Melby ▶



◀ Oscar Ongstad



Anderson Motor Company *Original Townsite-Bk 4, Lot 15 and Bk 3, Lot 6 across the street selling autos and implements*

1924 Olaf Anderson purchased the bank building as the office for his 'Anderson Motor Company' selling Overland, Pontiac, Whippet, Chevrolet, and farm implements ▶ ▶ ▶

1928 Standard Oil Company installed a gas pump at Anderson Motor Company

1931 Olaf Anderson died in November and his business interests were closed



John Nelson Implement/Shirley Brothers Implement *Original Townsite-Bk 4, Lot 8*

1900 John Nelson went into business with various business interests

1905 He sold McCormick Machinery, Deere, Weber and Moline Wagons, Deere Buggies, Armour's and Fairbanks' Windmills, Sharples Tabular Cream Separator. Also cattle buyer, feed grinding, and a butcher shop

1816 He built his home just north of his businesses on *Original Townsite-Bk4, Lot 7*

1925 John's wife died in 1925 and in December he sold to Gilman and Adolph Shirley as 'Shirley Brothers' backed by their father Emil, selling McCormick Machinery, Chryslers, and installed a Standard Oil gas pump

1929 The Shirley Brothers business closed, and Emil Shirley rented the Nelson/Shirley building to Rudolph Peterson who operated it as a repair shop. Emil sold the John Nelson house and moved it to Harvey

1933 Emil Shirley sold the property to Richard Jorstad who was planning to use the building as a repair shop

1935 Reier Reistad purchased the property from Richard Jorstad

1937 Ole Posttuen purchased the implement building from Reier Reistad and moved it to his farm

Service Station *Le Grand Addition-Bk 1, Lot 12*

1933 Rudolph and Nora Peterson purchased and remodeled Rogers Lumber building as a service station, moved it east further into the lot to enable gas pumps to be installed in front, service entrance was in the rear

1945 Harley and Lydia Boese purchased it, but couldn't continue because of health challenges at the time

1945 Helmer and Annie Solheim purchased to serve as a service station

1969 Ted Jorstad purchased as a service station

1974 Delbert Rask

1984 Harry Detling

2004 Audrey Solheim restored station exterior to look like it did when her father ran the station

2017 Manfred History and Preservation, Inc.



Peterson Station-1938



Solheim Station-1968



◀ Helmer Solheim



Ted ▶ Jorstad

13. AUTOMOBILES AND FARM IMPLEMENTS (cont.)**Standard Oil Bulk Station***Bulk Station west of the Manfred Farmers Elevator***1925** In existence by this year with storage tanks**1926** Emil Fiebich, agent**1928** Unknown**1931** Sam Rogness, agent (1)**1943** Peter J. Ulrich was the agent after Sam Rogness**1949** Herbert Vorland became the bulk station agent (2)**1956** Reiner Widiger was the final agent, with the bulk station closing in 1957 (3)
Reiner transferred to Fessenden as agent until retiring in 1992

1 Sam Rogness



2 Herbert Vorland



3 Reiner Widiger



Mike's Autobody ▲

Mike Melby ▶

**Mike's Auto Body** *Le Grand's Addition, Block 1, Lots 6 and 7***1984** Mike Melby purchased property in Le Grand's Addition, building a shop for his autobody business which he operated until about 1996

Harley and



Lydia Boese ▶



Jake and Evelyn

◀ Schlenker

14. HOSPITALITY**Café and Bar**

This building was originally built as an automobile retail and service business C

1947 Harley and Lydia Boese converted garage building into a café, bar, & living space**1953** Jake and Evelyn Schlenker carried on the café business together with a bar**1976** Delbert and Lois Rask**1976** or after - Chester Rau and Harry Detling had a welding shop 'D & R Welding'**1983** Harry Detling - the building used for storage

D & R Welding ▶



◀ Harry Detling



Café and Bar ▲

Hotel Buildings**Kodalen Hotel** *Original Townsite-Bk 4, Lots 9 and 10***1898** Evind S. Kodalen built the Kodalen Hotel**1900** T. L. Beiseker purchased this building as temporary location of bank 1902-1905**1909** J. R. Countryman opened a short order eating house

Kodalen Hotel ▶

1911 Wilhelm and Anna Goedecke purchased the building – use unknown**1915** Guy D. Fisher for implement business, rented by Joe Biever, destroyed by fire in 1918**1920** Jens G. Renden purchased this property adjoining his blacksmith shop

Hotel Dacotah ▶

Hotel Dacotah *Original Townsite-Bk 3, Lot 4***1904** John J. Elsaas built this hotel. He and Otto Sletten also built a general store next door**1905** Hotel couldn't keep the needed help, so closed in August of 1905, fate unknown**Hotel Johnson/Manfred Hotel** *Original Townsite-Bk 4, Lot 12*

Hotel Johnson

1906 Nennie and Alpha Johnson built the hotel building (1)

later named the

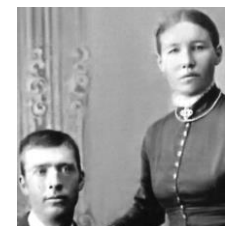
1908 Knut and Kari Gilbertson, proprietor (2)

Manfred Hotel ▼

1920 Frank and Gertrude Anderson, proprietors**1922** Christ and Marian Anhorn, proprietor (3)**1930** Anton and Josephine Breyer, proprietors (4)**1953** Sons of Norway Fagerlund Lodge #203**1988** Harry Detling**2004** Richard and Wanda Melchert for Melby Heritage Society**2017** Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. (MHP, Inc.)

(1) Nennie and Alpha

Johnson



(2) Knut and Kari

Gilbertson

(3) Chris and Marian
Anhorn(4) Anton and
Josephine Breyer

15. CONTRACTORS

STONE MASONS

Stone masons cut stones to use in building foundations. A few examples of existing stone foundations include Manfred School, the bank/post office building, and houses like the Solheim House, Ostrem House, and Anderson House. Here are known masons and an example of their work:

1905 Reier and Ole Reistad built the Burkum Store foundation

Reier Reistad ▶



1905 S. G. Klev built the St. Petre Lutheran Church of Pony Gulch foundation

1906 Reier and Ole Reistad built the Vang Lutheran Church foundation

1908 Paul Loken built the Renden Blacksmith Shop foundation

1910 Stone masons installed rock basement in former Manfred school converted to a home

CARPENTERS

Many of the settlers had carpentry skills to build their first buildings. But there were others who specialized in carpentry, though they were not often listed in the Manfred News entries. The following are a few examples of the many people who did carpentry:

1906 Mr. Beito and a crew of five men from South Dakota erected Vang Lutheran Church

1906 Fred Johnson and men erected Hotel Johnson

1908 Hans Opsahl built an addition on the A. Fisher home

1910 Church members erected a new building for the Seventh Day Adventist Church

1914 H. A. Tessem and John Aasand erected a barn for O. Brye

1915 H. A. Tessem, Halvor Saelid (Olsen), Jens and Olaf Bratten erecting a barn on O. K. Melby farm

1915 Phillip and Gottlieb Deede built many barns in the region beginning this year

1924 Several church members erected a new garage for the Vang parsonage

Haakon A. Tessem ▶



1925 Louis Rodne helped Nennie Johnson build an addition to his store

1928 Melland Bros of Wellsburg built a house for Nels Nertrøst

WELLS AND WINDMILLS

To serve as their first well, the first settlers would dig into the ground until reaching water. In addition to providing water, a well was a place to keep food items cool by hanging them in the well. Because of all the out houses, the ground water in Manfred became contaminated so water needed to be boiled to sterilize. A few of the many well and windmill installations were noted in the Wells County Free Press:

Wells

1906 K. Kleven and crew installed a well for Soo Line Depot

1906 Postmaster Willborg had a well dug for his residence

1912 Water analysis showed poor quality of six Manfred wells

1925 Wells were reported dry with the need to haul water

1926 John Smith and Mike Seil installed a well for Nennie Johnson

John Smith ▶



1929 George Remillard installed a well for Edwin Hedahl

Windmills

1906 O. C. Gongall and crew moved a windmill from the river to the water tank for the Soo Line

1916 J. G. Klev worked on Thomas Alvesshere's windmill

1929 Jacob Klev worked on Halvor Olsen's windmill

Jacob Klev ▶



1933 A number of windmills throughout area blown down by terrific winds

1939 Jacob Klev died after coming down from servicing his last windmill

1943 Don Fisher helped Leonard Rogelstad put up a new windmill

16. POOL HALLS AND BARBER SHOPS

POOL HALLS

By 1903, Nennie Johnson was operating a barber shop and pool hall-location unknown, during 1906-1907 the Sletton and Elsaas building rented as a pool hall, Manfred Hotel had a pool hall during its years of operation

Johnson's Place

1908 Nennie Johnson built a pool hall and barber shop which included a soft drink fountain See Cash Store for continued use of this building

BARBERS People who were known to have worked as barbers, providing shaves, trimming beards, and haircuts:

- Nennie Johnson began barbering before 1903 and continued until about 1920
- J. B. Dingman had a shops, barbered in Johnson's pool hall, and in the hotel
- I. T. Bassett
- R. A. Stone used the barber shop in the hotel
- Martin Stuberg barbered at *Bk 4, Lot 13*, a small building north of the hotel
- J. C. Peterson used the barber shop in the hotel
- Ralph Hager barbered in the hotel



Interior of Johnson's Place with barber chair at right, pool tables in center and counter on left

Ralph Hager ▶
One of
Manfred's
barbers



Stuberg Building *Original Township-Bk 4, Lot 13 directly north of Hotel Johnson*

1910 Martin Stuberg, barber

1912 Isabel Houg

1915 Ole Ranum moved the post office to this building in 1914

1921 Jeret Biever, postmaster used this building until 1932

1932 Unknown use

1946 Harley Boese purchased this building for Boese's Shoe Shop and Lunch Counter, and later moved it to their farm to use as a brooder house



Lydia Boese behind the lunch counter, Seated in front L/R: Merlyn Donna, Marlys Boese, Ken and Fred Schindler

17. OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICES

Ice Cutting

Cutting ice blocks on the James River supplied ice for the train and other needs in communities along the train route as well as local needs. Ice block cutters at Manfred were John Nelson and Olaf Anderson.

Cream Station

Buying cream from the farmers and testing it was a side business as a cream station that rotated to many of the businesses through the years.

Seamstress

Even though many homemakers sewed for themselves and their family, some also sewed for others in the community. Olga Anderson and Marie Renden were two well-known seamstresses.

Millinery Shops (Hat makers)

Manfred had a few millinery shops in the earlier years: Sorenson Millinery, Willborg Millinery, and Soderback Millinery that were attached buildings to their husband's stores.

Jewelry

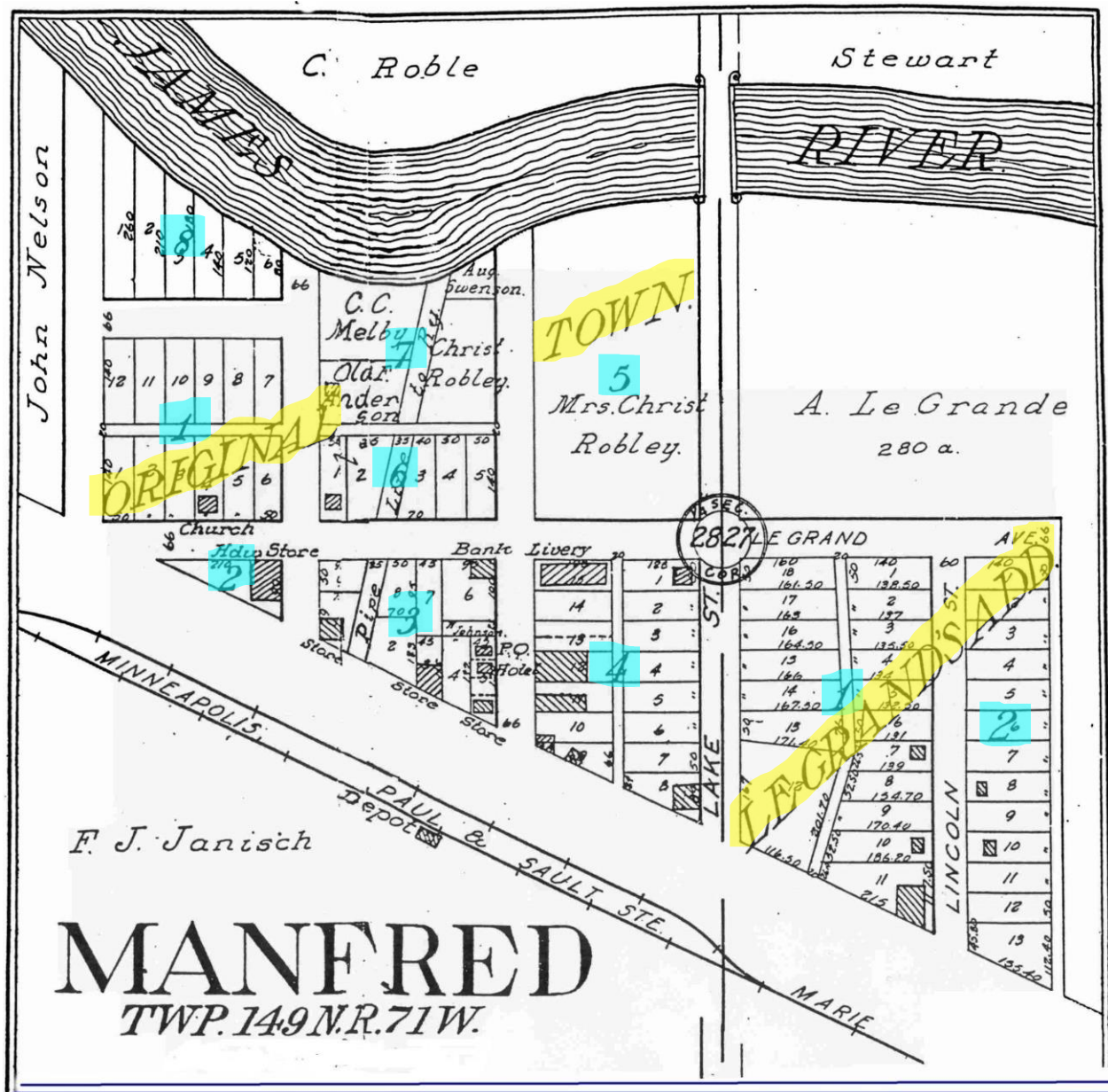
George Gilbertson opened a jewelry store in 1911 in a Manfred barbershop.

Door-to-Door

It was common for salesmen to stay at the hotel and rent a buggy from the livery and travel farm-to-farm or door-to-door in taking orders for various companies. It is known that Ernest Braaten had a good business selling McNess Products such as medicine, spices, and brushes from his vehicle. The Manfred area was also in the district for Otto Schmidt in selling the Ward Line products.

Manfred Plat Map

The color blue highlights the Block numbers – The color yellow highlights the town sections
The legal descriptions of businesses, (B for Block and L for Lot), are with the narratives in this history piece



This map of Manfred appeared in the **1911 Wells County Atlas**

Formation of the town of Manfred

The 'Original Townsite' was plated west of Lake St (now Lake Ave after the 911 addresses were established), from land of F. J. Janisch and Christ Roble. When the lots of the 'Original Townsite' had nearly been sold, Alex Le Grand platted part of his farmland which became known as 'Le Grand's Addition' located on the east side of Lake Ave.

The town platted into Blocks

The 'Original Townsite' is divided into 8 blocks: Block 1 contains the church and school. Block 2 (Triangle) contained the main hardware store. Blocks 3 and 4 contained most of the businesses, a few of which are still in existence including the Cash Store, Bank/Post Office, Garage, and Hotel. 'Le Grand's Addition' is divided into 2 blocks. Businesses in 'Le Grand's Addition' were Manfred Evangelical Church and the still-existing Service Station.