

# The New MANFRED NEWS

Volume 10, Issue 3

February 2013

## A Warm Welcome to Manfred!

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Tabs of special interest: Biography, Business, Newsletter

### In this Issue

## Manfred School History September 1962-May 1967

The school memories continue for the time period September 1962-May 1967. Thank you to everyone who has shared memories of their schooldays. These memories add a wonderful personal touch to the school history.



Myrtle Mortenson Rogness, shown in these photos, began teaching the Lower Grades classroom at Manfred School in the fall of 1944. She continued teaching at Manfred School through May of 1971 when she retired.

## The Lower Grades Classroom Of Manfred School



**Remember the chalk boards, and seeing your papers on display in the classroom?**

One of the classrooms in Manfred School will be set up like a classroom. Items are in the process of being collected such as an original teacher's desk, student desks, maps, hand bell, and books. There are even some school papers in the collection.

**Any items regarding Manfred School are most welcome for the school exhibit!**

## The New Manfred News

*With the continuing help of supporters, Manfred is growing toward its exciting mission to help tell its story from rural North Dakota. In grateful thanks! MHP, Inc has the Melby-Rogness House and First State Bank-Manfred Post Office in its care, and oversees the Manfred projects in general.*

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of Roger Burgstahler  
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Marlys Piatz  
Floyd and Barbara Simmons in memory  
of Rev. John Langseth and family  
Audrey Solheim in memory  
of Mabel Melchert

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Enabling restoration of Manfred School and the Solheim House

Jean Narksompong  
Joelyn Scriba in memory  
of Anna Ekrem Bymoan  
Maridel Sprenger in memory  
of Warren and Bielda Hoover  
Audrey Solheim in memory  
of Helmer and Annie Solheim

### In Memory

#### Carol Detling

*December 2, 1952 – October 27, 2012*  
Wife of Bill (Willy) Detling who grew up  
at Manfred the son of Matt and Mary Detling

#### Lucille Wiese

*December 13, 1919 – December 7, 2012*  
Daughter of Rudolph and Annie Wiese. Lucille  
recalled coming to Manfred for shopping.

#### Wilfred "Icky" Neuenschwander

*January 20, 1920 – January 8, 2013*  
Son of Otto and Lillian (Haugen) Neuenschwander,  
Grandson of Tollef and Berit Haugen

#### Edna Tebelius

*March 16, 1927 – January 27, 2013*  
Edna taught the upper grades at Manfred School  
in 1956-1957 and 1957-1958

#### Emily Sommer

*April 29, 1915 – February 20, 2013*  
Wife of Eldon Sommer who farmed together  
in the Manfred area until 1959

*Please let us know of loved ones who have passed*

### Manfred Newsletter

Thank you for your newsletter  
subscriptions! 91 new or renewing  
subscriptions have been received since  
last reported!!

### The New Manfred News

A quarterly newsletter published by  
Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. (MHP, Inc.)  
P.O. Box 321, Harvey, ND 58341

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News and history items are most welcome!  
Editor: Wanda Melchert, wrmelchert@gmail.com  
Historian: Audrey Solheim, administrator@manfrednd.org

### Dedicated to History and Education

MHP, Inc., dedicated to education and the well being  
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## Part 9 - Manfred School History

### September 1962 - May 1967

#### 1962-1963 School Year

For the 1962-1963 school year, the lower grade room consisted of grades 1-3 and the upper grades room consisted of grades 4-8

##### Lower - Grades 1-3

Teacher: Myrtle Rogness



##### 1962-1963 Lower Grades Students

Joleen Albrecht	
June Boese	
Paul Boese	
Cindy Ehni	Connie Koenig
Jeffrey Ehni	Garlet Melby
Kim Ehni	Marsha Melby
Patty Fandrich	Pamela Nelson
Teresa Fandrich	Raenette Olson
Alan Fehr	Gene Sather
Ardis Flick	Kathy Sauter
Randy Flick	George Seidlinger
Marilyn Johnson	Susan Sommerfeld
	Ricky Strauss
	Randy Strauss
	Mary Wolf

##### Upper - Grades 4-8

Teacher: Louise Cummins

Ronald Albrecht	Jean Fehr	Virgil Melby	Mary Seidlinger
Clara Detling	Dianne Johnson	Curtis Nelson	Nancy Sommerfeld
Loretta Detling	Frances Koenig	Owen Nelson	Darcie Strauss
William Detling	Shirley Koenig	William Ongstad	Frances Thomas
Lamont Fandrich	Curtis Melby	Suzanne Sather	John Wolf
Frances Fehr			

##### School Memories

###### Frances Thomas Goldade

Mrs. Froeber was the cook when I attended Manfred School and served wonderful meals. Myrtle Rogness, Louise Cummins and Marlys Piatz were my teachers, and Lars Ostrem was the janitor. I remember ice skating and the school programs. Our 4-H Club also gave programs with Mrs. Olga Johnson as leader.

###### Frances Fehr

Our lower grades teacher, Mrs. Rogness, really worked with all of us regarding our lessons. The school programs were such a big deal for the students. As a kid the Sons of Norway Hall where the programs were held, looked very large to me. This hall was heated by a coal stove located in the back of the building. The set-up for the school programs was so basic. The curtains were bed sheets hung on a wire by safety pins. Mrs. Rogness would pull the curtains apart and serve as the MC, which she did this so ably. I remember there was a room in the back where cookies were brought for a lunch after the program. When we played a game like softball at school, it didn't matter if you were a boy or a girl. We all played together. There were two boys attending school who had muscular dystrophy. Because of this, they weren't able to go up and down the stairs. The students took turns serving as what we called "carriers", who would carry these two boys up and down the stairs. I remember that we children took it in stride helping those with special needs as a normal part of our day. A sad event for all of the students was when Jeffrey Hager died in a fire when their house burned.

## A School Program

L/R:

Darcie Strauss  
 Garlet Melby  
 Patty Fandrich  
 Pamela Nelson  
 Kathy Sauter  
 Marsha Melby  
 Mary Wolf  
 Marilyn Johnson  
 Connie Koenig  
 Teresa Fandrich  
 Joleen Albrecht  
 Cindy Ehni  
 June Boese in foreground

Program photos provided  
 by Esther and Wesley Boese



1961-1962 School Year - Girls with their dolls

### School Memories

#### Dianne Johnson Aull

In preparing for school programs, we practiced first at the school and when we knew our lines pretty well we had a dress rehearsal at the hall. Mrs. Cummins would sometimes have her son, Jack, come and play the piano at school. He was a wonderful player, playing like a celebrity. Hearing him play made music more special. My 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Mrs. Lewis, had a master's degree and was extraordinary. She inspired me and made me think about becoming a teacher. Because of her guidance, I was able to go to the state speech competition. She also helped us prepare for the state exams. Our parents took an interest what we were doing, and would visit school. After the ice was frozen on the river, Sam Rogness would walk around on it to ensure that the ice was safe before the teachers would allow us to go skating. Everyone thought it was the greatest, playing on the ice at lunchtime. The older kids would clear off the snow from the ice.

#### Shirley Koenig Freeze

Mrs. Rogness was the best teacher ever. I liked that she was so organized and I never remember her hollering. The reading groups each met with Mrs. Rogness one after the other, with the rest of the students working quietly on studies at their desks. It was something how Mrs. Rogness could manage this. When we had our Halloween parties, the cloak room was set up as a haunted room. It was very scary and I remember we had to put our hand in a bowl that was said to contain eye balls when actually it was grapes. I found it a big thing moving from the little room (lower grades) to the big room (upper grades). Lars Ostrem, the janitor, rang the school bell. It was the best sound ever. Lars was so professional in everything he did like ringing the bell right on time and in keeping everything neat and orderly. When I was about 10 years old, we went to Disney Land where I got a pencil box in the shape of a cigar box that had Disney characters pictured on the outside. I enjoyed using this at Manfred School. My lunch pail was old but it didn't matter. It might contain a bologna sandwich or deviled ham on homemade bread made by my mother, maybe fruit, and a homemade bar or cookie.

One year we had to each order flutes (flutephones), which were of good quality. To me it was like being in a band when we played our flutes together. I remember the good and cold water from the water fountain. On Fridays, we would have YCL (Young Citizens League) meetings after school. Also on Friday was potato day when we were each to bring a potato for lunch. Though I love baked potatoes now, I didn't like them then so I would "forget" my potato. But it turns out that extra potatoes were always on hand, so a potato was baked for my anyway. We were three sisters in our family. I thank my mother for wanting us girls to have braces we obtained from an orthodontist in Devils Lake. Nobody in school ever teased me because of my braces. We would have someone in each seat of the swings and then each would swing as high as we could. Then we would grab the swing chain of the person next to us. After grabbing the chain of another swing, we would feel our arms being yanked, but we found it great fun swinging wildly this way and that way together. Dianne Johnson and I would sit on the teeter-totter and dream about having a horse ranch together, but we wanted to be sure not to have boy friends to spoil our plans. Later, when we car-pooled with the Hoovers to high school in Fessenden, I had a thing for David Hoover even though Dianne and I had our dream. I asked David if he would be my boy friend. He said "I can't be your boy friend, but I can be your friend boy." He and I have teased about this through the years. Everyone was friends and there seemed to be no other world but Manfred and Manfred School. Going to high school tore us apart.

## 1963-1964 School Year

### Lower - Grades 1-4

Teacher: Myrtle Rogness

Joleen Albrecht	Teresa Fandrich	Garlet Melby	Kathy Sauter
David Boese	Alan Fehr	Jeanne Melby	George Seidlinger
June Boese	Ardis Flick	Marsha Melby	Susan Sommerfeld
Norman Boese	Randy Flick	Pamela Nelson	Randy Strauss
Paul Boese	Marilyn Johnson	Doreen Olson	Ricky Strauss
Kenneth Fandrich	Connie Koenig	Raenette Olson	Mary Wolf
Patty Fandrich	Bruce Melby	Karen Sauter	

### Upper - Grades 5-8

Teacher: Dorothy Lewis

Ronald Albrecht	Frances Fehr	Shirley Koenig	William Ongstad
Clara Detling	Jean Fehr	Virgil Melby	Mary Seidlinger
Lorretta Detling	Dianne Johnson	Curtis Nelson	Darcie Strauss
Lamont Fandrich	Frances Koenig	Owen Nelson	John Wolf

### School Memories

#### Lamont Fandrich

I remember that in order to go ice skating on the river, we needed to have our parents sign a permission slip. Once we turned in our permission slip, we could go skating.

#### Curtis Nelson

I remember that going to Manfred School was fun. We played baseball, tag, basketball, skating, playing in the snow, sliding, and snowball fights. My brother Owen was one grade above than me in school. I probably enjoyed history and English classes the most.

#### Bill Ongstad

I remember on the first day of school when I was 6 years old, the teacher had me stand on the school steps where she introduced me to the other students. The lower grades teacher, Mrs. Rogness, had a record player she would use when we sang songs like "America the Beautiful", "My Country 'Tis of Thee", and "Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory." She also had fake money with which we practiced counting out change. The "coins" were made out of thin metal pieces in the size of real coins. Mrs. Rogness had a cloth with blocks drawn on it that she would lay out on a table where we could build a town with pieces of wood to create buildings and also there were cars made out of wood for us to use. Playing with this worked well on days when we couldn't play outside because of the weather.

When turning in the permission slip signed by my parents allowing me to skate on the river, I had the idea that I would be receiving a paper "Permit." So the first days I didn't go skating because I was waiting to be given my "Permit." One time I ate some candy in class and I noticed the teacher then wrote my name on the blackboard. She kept me in at recess and asked me what I had been eating. When I told her I had eaten some candy, she then let me go.

We had started a newspaper in the upper grades class. Some boys had chased the girls with snakes, so I wrote about this in the paper. I had given out copies of the newspaper. Later, my teacher said that if we were going to have a newspaper then we should not pass out copies outside our classroom and just keep it among ourselves in our room. Apparently, when the superintendent read about the snake episode, she had talked with my teacher about it. My classmate Lamont Fandrich and I would push each other in competition to see who could have the highest score in school. Initiation was conducted by the older students for the new fifth grade students coming into the big room, making them do various things like to bring them a left-handed monkey wrench. When the older students were satisfied with what they had us do, then the initiation time was over. Some of the older students were not always so nice to the younger students, but I remember Harry Detling was always nice to the little kids. I remember Evan Ostrem as a janitor at Manfred School and also his son Lars.

## 1964-1965 School Year

For the 1964-1965 school year, the lower grade room consisted of grades 1-3 and the upper grades room consisted of grades 4-8

### Lower - Grades 1-4

Dee Ann Albrecht  
David Boese  
Norman Boese  
Tim Boese  
Kenneth Fandrich

Louise Fandrich  
Ardis Flick  
Bruce Melby  
Jeanne Melby  
Doreen Olson

Raenette Olson  
Ilona Opdahl  
Kathy Sauter  
Karen Sauter  
Beverly Seidlinger

### Teacher: Myrtle Rogness

Susan Sommerfeld  
Debbie Strauss  
Ricky Strauss  
Paul Wolf

### Upper - Grades 5-8

Joleen Albrecht  
Ronald Albrecht  
June Boese  
Paul Boese  
Lorretta Detling  
Lamont Fandrich

Patty Fandrich  
Teresa Fandrich  
Alan Fehr  
Jean Fehr  
Randy Flick  
Marilyn Johnson

### Teachers: George Billy (4 mos.), Roberta M. Franzen (5 mos.)

Connie Koenig  
Frances Koenig  
Garlet Melby  
Virgil Melby  
Curtis Nelson  
Pamela Nelson

William Ongstad  
George Seidlinger  
Darcie Strauss  
John Wolf  
Mary Wolf

### School Memories

#### Frances Koenig Kostad

We loved putting on the Christmas program. It was always special and very fun. Laverne Johnson was giving guitar and ukulele lessons, so several of us were able to perform with our instruments for the Christmas program. The biggest memory during my Manfred School years was when I heard that J.F. Kennedy had been shot. The pre-school children living in town knew just when to come over to the playground when the school-age students came out for recess or noon break. A little pre-school girl was on the playground that day and told us that the President had been shot. We didn't believe her, so we ran to our teacher and she obtained a transistor radio for us to hear for ourselves. It wasn't long and our parents came to the school to take us home early that day. Also, I remember our teacher having the radio on so we could listen to the World Series while we did our studies.

We had to stand in a straight line in the basement waiting to go upstairs after we finished eating lunch until all the students were finished eating and in line, before our teacher said we could go up and then outside to play during the noon hour. I remember being so wet when we came in from playing. The girls couldn't wear pants except under their dress or skirt. After recess in the winter, there would be a lot of kids sitting carefully on the hot radiators trying to dry their pants.

We students would plead with the teacher, as to which of us would get to clean the chalk board and the erasers because we all wanted to do it. For some reason we thought this was fun. However, to go to the front of the class to write on the blackboard was unsettling, as I was scared I would not spell the words correctly. Before the river froze over, the ditches along the road would sometimes accumulate water and freeze. Though there wasn't much room to skate, we would skate in the ditches anyway. I very much enjoyed playing softball in the spring and fall. Our dad would give us a ride to school after he had finished milking. However, because I wanted to arrive at school earlier than that in order to play softball before school, I would walk and my sister Connie would go with me. We lived a mile east and a little south from Manfred and we would go by way of walking on the railroad track. There was the road we could have walked on, but we kids simply liked to walk on the track.

For the parties such as the Halloween party, Mrs. Rogness invited our parents and pre-school siblings, which was great fun. We would be all dressed up. Also, our parents were welcome to visit school whenever they wished; a couple of mothers would usually come together. Having them sitting at the back of the room was fine with the students; but when the superintendent would visit, even though she was nice, we felt a bit scared hoping our school would pass her inspection. The last day of school was always the picnic when our parents and others from the community would come. One year there was a blizzard with wet heavy snow, but every student made it just the same for this important day and the picnic was held indoors. It was a very good experience growing up attending Manfred School and being in the Manfred community. Our whole life revolved around the school building because many organizations would meet there, like the Farmer's Union meeting being held in the basement.



George Billy



Roberta M. Franzen

# 1965-1966 School Year

## Lower - Grades 1-4

Teacher: Myrtle Rogness

Dee Ann Albrecht  
Perry Anderson  
Norman Boese  
Timothy Boese  
Kenneth Fandrich  
Lee Fandrich

Louise Fandrich  
Ardis Flick  
Myrna Flick  
Bruce Melby  
Jeanne Melby  
Michael Melby

Doreen Olson  
Raenette Olson  
Ilona Opdahl  
Kathy Sauter  
Karen Sauter

Robert Sauter  
Beverly Seidlinger  
Susan Sommerfeld  
Debbie Strauss  
Paul Wolf

## Upper - Grades 5-8

Teacher: Signe Lesmeister

Joleen Albrecht  
Ronald Albrecht  
June Boese  
Paul Boese  
Lorretta Detling

Patricia Fandrich  
Teresa Fandrich  
Alan Fehr  
Jean Fehr  
Randy Flick

Marilyn Johnson  
Connie Koenig  
Frances Koenig  
Garlet Melby  
Pamela Nelson

George Seidlinger  
Darcie Strauss  
John Wolf  
Mary Wolf



Signe Lesmeister

## School Memories

### Lorretta Detling Graumann

My memories attending Manfred School include having good teachers, but probably one of the best teachers a person could have had for Grades 1-4 was Mrs. Rogness. The "first" teacher a kid has really makes a difference and Mrs. Rogness made learning fun. At recess, I remember playing games like tag, Hop Scotch, ball games, and Red Rover. The swings, merry-go-round, and teeter-totter were fun, too. I remember getting a big sliver on my hand from the wooden teeter-totter. In the summer, you would be so thirsty after recess you could hardly stand waiting in line until your turn came to get a drink at the water fountain. At Halloween, I remember the teachers turned the coatroom into a "haunted house." It was scary to go through, but really fun.

There were three of us in the 1st and 2nd grades, but we lost Jeffrey Hager, so it was just Frances Koenig and me from Grade 3 on; she was my best friend. I remember Mrs. Froeber being a very good cook. Sometimes we brought our own potato for baked potatoes and would carve our initials on it so we would get the same one we brought. I was always curious about what it looked like on the second floor of the schoolhouse, but it was closed off.

I also have a kind of painful, embarrassing memory. For one of the Christmas programs, I volunteered to sing one verse of a song as a solo. But, when the time came for me to sing--it was total stage fright and I didn't sing one word. Mrs. Rogness was very gracious and didn't make anything of it. In the 8th grade, I remember one time when Frances Koenig got dropped off for school. She was driving, so naturally I asked my dad if I could drive. When he said "No," of course I said, "Well, Frances got to drive." He still said "No." The end of the school year always brought an outdoor celebration with games like the gunny-sack race, 3-legged race, egg-and-spoon race, and also lots of ice cream! Looking back on it, it was a wholesome experience to attend Manfred School.

### Marlys Boese Platz

(Junior High teacher in 1966-1967)

A kitchen, and a dining room with tables and benches, was set up in the basement. Lillian Melby was hired as the cook. She was an excellent cook. Her chili was very tasty and everything she made was oh so good. I have her goulash (barbeque) recipe. She would make buns from scratch to have with the goulash. Lillian was always so happy and she would decorate the dining room with seasonal decorations.



Lillian Melby,  
School Cook  
beginning the school year  
1965-1966

## School Memories

### Marlys Boese Piatz, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades teacher in 1966-1967

The Manfred School Board couldn't find anyone to teach the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades class for the school year 1966-1967, so I was asked to help. Though my teacher's certificate was not up to date, I was granted an emergency certificate if I would take a class. I was able to take a math class through the television early every morning right from my home. I needed to have it very quiet in the house, so my children had to remain upstairs until the television class was over. Beside teaching 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, I also taught an hour each day of remedial reading, helping students from all the grades to improve in their reading. Ronnie Albrecht was a fantastic artist and created pictures on one of the blackboards using colored chalk, each picture made in keeping with the different seasons of the year. I wish there had been a way for those pictures to have been saved.

With a busy schedule of teaching during the day and then at home in the evening taking care of my family, I hadn't had time to do any Christmas baking. On the last day of school before Christmas vacation began when I came out to my car, there was a big box on the seat of my car. It was full of many kinds of baked goodies that my Aunt Evelina Boese had made. For me it was the best gift I have ever received. If I had been given \$1,000.00, this wouldn't have compared to how wonderful it was to have this box to bring home for my family to enjoy.

### Ron Albrecht

My school teachers were Mrs. Myrtle Rogness in the lower grades, Mrs. Dorothy Lewis for Grade 5, Mr. George Billy until Christmas of Grade 6 with Mrs. Roberta Franzen for the remainder of the year, Mrs. Signe Lesmeister for Grade 7, and Mrs. Marlys Piatz for Grade 8.

My favorite "subject" was recess. We played softball in the fall and spring on the north side of the school between the school and the Solheim House. Sledding and more sledding is what we liked to do all winter long. I liked going to Manfred School with its small atmosphere. It was a shock when we went to high school, going from where you knew everyone to where you knew no one. I vividly remember the county nurse coming to visit and also having white rice on Fridays with cinnamon, sugar and milk. Mrs. Froeber was the cook, until the last two years while I was at Manfred School when Lillian Melby became the cook.

There was one time when Bill Ongstad and I were out on the ice during the noon break. Bill had his skates on and was pulling me on my sled. We heard the bell ring, but decided to ignore it, and then we finally came back about 20 minutes later. I remember we did a lot of pranks. One time, George Seidlinger, John Wolf and I put a potato in the tail pipe of Mrs. Franzen's car. We also put tacks on her chair but she seemed not to notice them, as they fell off her when she stood up. When we did pranks on our teacher George Billy, he would put us in what he called the "dungeon" (the cloak room), but we would slip out the other door of the cloak room and go down to the basement. The west room on the main floor was the lower grades room, the east room was the upper grades room, and the east room upstairs was for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades.

During the last two years I attended Manfred School Myron, Miller was the music teacher with his studio located in the library upstairs. I took piano, but didn't learn the notes very well. I mostly memorized the songs, and played some by ear. I liked Myron Miller really well as our music teacher, and in helping us with the music programs.



Announcing for the Christmas Program was Junior High Teacher, Marlys Piatz on the stage of the Sons of Norway Hall (the hotel building)



Ronnie Albrecht wearing a Santa cap, sang one of the solos for the December 1966 Christmas program, singing to the tune of "The Happy Wanderer" with words that Santa Claus would have sung like, "I am the happy wanderer when Christmas comes again." His mother had bought him a gold velour shirt special for this Christmas program. Myron Miller, the music teacher, is shown accompanying Ronnie at the organ.

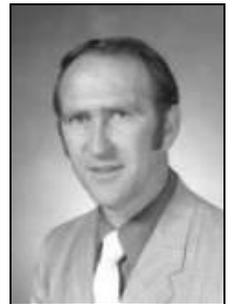
# Christmas Program, December 1966



### From the Manfred Grade School Christmas Program in December 1966

Thank you for photo identification assistance from Esther Boese, Norman Boese, Mike Melby, and Pam Norstedt

1Teresa Fandrich, 2Joleen Albrecht, 3Connie Koenig, 4Pamela Nelson, 5Patty Fandrich, 6Garlet Melby, 7Ardis Flick, 8Kenny Fandrich, 9Allan Fehr, 10Ilona Opdahl, 11Dee Ann Albrecht, 12Perry Anderson, 13Mark Boese, 14Arnie Melby, 15Myrna Flick, 16Beverly Seidlinger, 17Paul Wolf, 18Tim Boese on xylophone, 19?, 20George Seidlinger, 21Randy Flick, 22Ronnie Albrecht, 23Mary Wolf, 24Norman Boese, 25John Wolf, 26Marilyn Johnson, 27Bobby Sauter, 28Darcie Strauss, 29Rodney Opdahl, 30June Boese, 31Michael Melby, 32?, 33Jean Fehr, 34Louise Fandrich, 35Debbie Strauss, 36Kathy Sauter, 37Paul Boese, 38Tammy Strauss, 39Bruce Melby, 40Mary Beth Sauter. Not in view: Edward Fandrich, John Fandrich, Jeanne Melby, Karen Sauter, Susan Sommerfeld.



Myron Miller

Myron Miller, shown accompanying at the organ, taught piano and organ. At first, the music students came to his home for their lessons. Later, Myron joined the staff at Manfred School and had a music studio in the library upstairs. This was very convenient for the students, who took turns going for their lessons during the school day. Also, Myron did a marvelous job with leading music for Manfred School.

### Two of the 1966 Christmas Program Numbers



Tammy Strauss, Arnie Melby, Mark Boese, Mary Sauter, John Fandrich, Rodney Opdahl



Tim Boese, Paul Wolf, Debbie Strauss, Ilona Opdahl