

The New MANFRED NEWS

Volume 10, Issue 1

October 2012

A Warm Welcome to Manfred!

Change of Mailing Address

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

manfrednd.org

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

In this Issue

Manfred School History September 1950-May 1955

Thank you to everyone who has shared special memories of their schooldays for the years 1950-1955. What fun for all the readers! Sprinkled throughout this issue are memories and information on the Manfred school bus route.

Have an enjoyable travel as you read!

Wells County Free Press News – Manfred School Entries

September 16, 1950

School reopened on Tuesday September 5th with an enrollment of 28 in grades 1-4 with Mrs. Myrtle Rogness teaching, and Mr. Myron Stroh teaching grades 5-8 with an enrollment of 19. The teachers of the Manfred School want to thank all the parents who visited school on Thursday afternoon.

December 28, 1950

A very large crowd attended the Manfred School Christmas program on Thursday evening. A very good program was presented followed by a visit from Santa Claus.

March 29, 1951

Due to blocked roads, the school bus here had been sort of empty the past few weeks. School was still held for the town children and those from the country who could make it in. All pupils are able to be back to school now that the school route is open. We are happy to see them all back in school again.

October 4, 1951

The enrollment of pupils in the Manfred School is 32 in the lower grades and 20 in the upper grades. Mrs. Cook of Fessenden and Mrs. S.A. Rogness are the teachers.

September 18, 1952

School started Monday, September 8th with Mrs. Sam Rogness as teacher in the lower grades room with an enrollment of 33 and Miss Betty Lou Ellingson as upper grade teacher with an enrollment of 20. We are all glad that Mr. Even Ostrem will continue his work as janitor. Miss Betty Lou Ellingson is boarding at the Helmer Solheim home.

November 6, 1952

The Manfred School had their Halloween party Friday afternoon. The afternoon was spent playing games and S.A. Rogness took pictures of the children with his movie camera. A delicious lunch was enjoyed by all. The teachers gave their pupils treats of Halloween candy.

April 30, 1953

The fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades of the Manfred School went to Fessenden on Wednesday to attend the county (YCL) Young Citizen's League Convention. 62 delegates attended from 32 leagues.

May 14, 1953

Beverly Hirschhorn of Manfred presented a piano solo at the County Music and Speech Festival held in Fessenden Hall on May 8th.

September 17, 1953

On Tuesday school started with 26 in the lower grades room and 23 in the upper grades room. The pupils enjoyed the new basketball court and see-saws very much.

January 7, 1954

Nine men and women from the Manfred community were awarded certificates for completing the Red Cross standard course in first aid. Receiving the awards were Mr. and Mrs. Warren Hoover, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Vorland, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Opdahl, and Mrs. Halvor Olsen. The course was taught by Mrs. Elmer Umland at the Manfred School in nine evening classes. She also gave the examinations.

February 4, 1954

In spite of the cold spell, the attendance at the Manfred School has been very good. The boys and girls of the school decided to help collect for the March of Dines. \$21.40 was taken in. Thanks to the pupils and teachers.

The New Manfred News

Manfred School Memories

The school memories included in recent newsletter issues are bringing much richness to the Manfred School history for which we are very thankful.

We look forward to more of the same as the school years continue through to the closing of Manfred School in 1973.

Interest in the Manfred Projects

Interest in both the history and preservation projects of Manfred has been keen. The cornerstone of the projects is naturally the history. The gathering and compiling of history continues at a brisk pace in collaboration with people coming into touch with Manfred's historian, Audrey Solheim. Many people have learned about the Manfred projects through the website manfrednd.org. Manfred's brochure is placed in places like the rest stops across ND, and also in a number of state and local places. The Manfred Heritage Museum is listed in the North Dakota Tourism Travel Guide and visitors also learn about Manfred through word of mouth, or are drawn into Manfred upon noticing restored historic buildings while traveling along Highway 52. During the May-Sept season, the museum staff can't help but notice how delighted the visitors are with their time spent in Manfred. A warm welcome is extended to all!

Acquisitions to Manfred in 2012

Many thanks to those who have kindly given historical items to the Manfred Heritage Museum during 2012. Among these artifacts include:

Orvin Ongstad – Play Day ribbons and Sunday school pin
 Kasper Berve – 1915 Norwegian Bible and 1901 confirmation certificate
 Art England – “History of Wells County”
 Sharla Boese – Salve glass containers and tins
 Wells County Historical Society – transfer back to Manfred of the Viking Ship replica built by Nennie Johnson and Jens Renden
 From various sources – Manfred business promotional items

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.

MHP, Inc. General Fund

P. O. Box 321, Harvey, ND 58341
 Contributions to the General Fund are vital for the current work of MHP, Inc. The projects are advancing with this help!

Fessenden Thrift Store
 Lowell and Karen Jensen
 John A. Johnson
 Richard and Janice Muscha and family and Gerald and Jeanne Schlenker and family in memory of Jake and Evelyn Schlenker
 In memory of Ed Piatz
 Verna Bowers
 Marlys Piatz
 Lorraine Quie
 In memory of Joyce Ravnaas
 Peter and Rose Anderson
 Verna Bowers
 Laverne Johnson
 Reiner and Ruth Widiger
 Fessenden Cooperative Association
 Olive Rodne
 In memory of Evelyn Schlenker
 Verna Bowers
 Laverne Johnson

MHP, Inc. Endowment Fund

PO Box 321, Harvey ND 58341
 An everlasting fund providing for the future

Richard & Wanda Melchert in memory of
 Wilford Hanson
 Pamela Lucas
 Curtis Melby
 Ed Piatz
 Joyce Ravnaas
 Evelyn Schlenker
 Audrey Solheim in memory of
 Ed Piatz
 Joyce Ravnaas
 Evelyn Schlenker

Manfred Newsletter

Thank you for your newsletter subscriptions! 7 new or renewing subscriptions have been received since the previous issue!

In Memory

Evelyn Pepple Schlenker

October 6, 1923 – July 20, 2012

Born and raised near Manfred, daughter of Emil and Lydia Pepple. Married Jake Schlenker and farmed near Manfred. Together they operated Schlenker's Café and Bar many years in Manfred.

Joyce Ravnaas

December 27, 1935 – July 20, 2012

Wife of Morris Ravnaas, son of Ingvald and Olida Ravnaas. Morris and Joyce raised their children in Manfred where Morris worked for the Soo Line Railroad on the section crew.

Ed Piatz

July 2, 1926 – July 28, 2012

Husband of Marlys Boese Piatz, daughter of Harley and Lydia Boese, granddaughter of Louis and Ella Boese, great granddaughter of Gustav Boese.

Pastor Wilfred Hanson

October 4, 1924 – August 6, 2012

Served for a time in the late 1980s as a supply pastor at Vang Lutheran Church in Manfred.

Pam Hovey Lucas

December 16, 1948 – August 9, 2012

Daughter of Carl and Ruth Melby Hovey, granddaughter of Oscar and Bertha Melby, great granddaughter of settlers Knud and Guri Melby

Curtis R. Melby

April 24, 1949 – September 4, 2012

Born and raised at Manfred, son of Kermit and Lillian Melby, grandson of Martin and Alma Melby, great grandson of settlers Knud and Guri Melby. Kermit is fondly remembered as a rural mail carrier.

Please let us know of loved ones who have passed

The New Manfred News

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

Suggested Subscription rate is \$10 per year.

News and history items are most welcome!

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Historian: Audrey Solheim, administrator@manfrednd.org

Dedicated to History and Education

MHP, Inc., dedicated to education and the well being of rural America, is a member of the Harvey Chamber of Commerce and Preservation North Dakota, and also partners with the Wells County Historical Society, State Historical Society of North Dakota and other historical groups.

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Audrey Solheim, President

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Wanda Melchert, Museum Director

Manfred Heritage Museum
 open May through September

www.manfrednd.org

Part 7 - Manfred School History

September 1950 - May 1955

1950-1951 School Year

Lower - Grades 1-4

Teacher: Myrtle Rogness

Orren Anderson	Nicky Grossman	Marcella Lithun	Judy Strauss
Bonnie Bender	Paul Grossman	Rosella Lithun	Richard Strauss
Merlyn Boese	Glenda Harrison	Vernon Nelson	Beatrice Thomas
Robert Breyer	Maridel Hoover	Janet Olson	Janet Thomas
Leo Detling	Johnny Johnson	Dennis Opdahl	Dean Vorland
Matt Detling, Jr.	Laverne Johnson	Gary Opdahl	Sandra Vorland
Julia Ann Fehr	Bonnie Kittelson	Jerry Schepp	John Weinmann
Ervin Grossman	Marilyn Lillemon	Jane Ellen Sommer	

Upper - Grades 5-8

Teacher: Myron Stroh

LoAnn Anderson	Grace Detling	Darlene Hirschorn	Lorraine Sauter
Marlys Boese	Violet Grossman	Larry Johnson	Dorothy Sommer
Donna Boese	Donald Helland	Marlys Olson	Lyle Sommer
Joann Breyer	Wallace Helland	Phyllis Opdahl	Joseph Strauss
Joe Detling	Beverly Hirschorn	Ione Rodne	Audrey Strauss
Manuel Detling			

School Memories

Marlys Boese Piatz

There were three of us in my grade: Audrey Strauss, Lyle Sommer, and me. My first grade teacher was Mrs. Hans Pederson. Myrtle Mortenson was my teacher for the remaining grades 2, 3, 4 in what we called the "little" room. After Miss Mortenson married, it felt different to call her Mrs. Rogness. In the "big" room, all of us girls fell in love with Mr. Stroh and were excited to have him as our teacher because he was handsome and we had never had a man teacher before. I liked school. We never started the school day without saying the pledge of allegiance to the flag. This was very important. In the winter, we would bring our shovels so we could clear a place to skate on the frozen river.

We played a game called "Clap In, Clap Out" where someone would go into the cloak room and close the door. When I was in the "little" room, being in the cloak room with the door closed causing it to be dark in there, was a scary thought. There were pegs for our coats in the cloak room with each student's name by a peg. The fire escape was off-limits to the students, with the bottom steps having been removed to discourage us from climbing it. However, we managed to climb up the fire escape anyway just like monkeys. We would go down the playground slide with wax paper under us to make a fast ride. One time while I was swinging on the swings, Even Ostrem, the janitor, came and began ringing the school bell again and again. I found out why when he said that the war (WWII) was over.

Audrey Strauss Larson

I had a wonderful 1-4 grades teacher, Myrtle Rogness. She made quite an impression on me and I've continued to think about her through the years. She was calm, even keel and had a way with kids. I loved spelling and participated in quite a few contests, receiving ribbons in this. I remember playing "Drop the Hankie" and "Anti-I-Over". We would skate on the river during the lunch break. The least snow on the ice was usually by the bridge. One time I fell on the ice and knocked myself out, ending up in the hospital overnight.

We lived on a farm about 1¼ miles east of Manfred. My siblings and I had chores to do in the morning. When I was in the upper grades, I would help make lunches for our school dinner pails which usually consisted of sandwiches and fruit. We could hear the sound of the school bell from our farm. When the first bell would ring, indicating the ½ hour point before school was to begin; we would take off running for school and make it in time before the second bell. Our route was to cut across the fields in the morning, but in going home after school we would walk by way of the road since we had more time. In the winter, our dad would sometimes take us by sled and the horses. We kept warm in the sled with the help of big robes wrapped around us.

1951-1952 School Year

Lower - Grades 1-4

Teacher: Myrtle Rogness

Orren Anderson	Julia Ann Fehr	Vernon Lithun	Audrey Solheim
John Anhorn	Glenda Harrison	Audrey Nelson	Jane Ellen Sommer
Bonnie Bender	Victor Harrison	Vernon Nelson	John Strauss
Merlyn Boese	Derald Hoover	Warren Nelson	Judy Strauss
Robert Breyer	Maridel Hoover	Janet Olson	Duane Thomas
Garry Detling	Bonnie Kittelson	Dennis Opdahl	Janet Thomas
Harry Detling	Marcella Lithun	Gary Opdahl	Sandra Vorland
Matt Detling	Rosella Lithun	Jerry Schepp	John Weinmann

Upper - Grades 5-8

Teacher: Marjorie Cook

LoAnn Anderson	Manuel Detling	Marlys Olson	Lyle Sommer
Donna Boese	Donald Helland	Phyllis Opdahl	Joe Strauss
Joann Breyer	Wallace Helland	Ione Rodne	Richard Strauss
Grace Detling	Beverly Hirschhorn	Lorraine Sauter	Beatrice Thomas
Leo Detling	Larry Johnson	Dorothy Sommer	Dean Vorland
Joe Detling	Laverne Johnson		



Marjorie Cook

School Memories

Ione Rodne Hauser

Our family returned to Manfred in time for me to begin the grade 3 with Myrtle Rogness as my teacher and also grade 4, Mrs. Jenny for grades 5 and 6, Mr. Stroh grade 7, and Mrs. Cook for grade 8. Living on a farm north of Manfred, I rode the school bus which I recall being filled with laughter. When I was 10 years old, there was so much snow that our farm became snowbound, and I was unable to attend classes in Manfred. Eddy Ravnaas used his skis to bring assignments to me and also took the completed assignments back to my teacher. Finally, the National Guard was called to plow out the roads.

I loved to be outside playing games such as Anti-I-Over and skating. I didn't have skates of my own, but my brother Orville let me use his skates. Even though they were too big for me, I skated with them anyway by putting socks in the toes. I was the only girl in my class which included Manuel Detling, Wallace Helland, Joe Strauss, and also Raymond Hieb for a couple of years. Joe Strauss and I went on to the same high school. I attended Sunday school at Vang Lutheran Church and was greatly influenced by Bertha Melby as my teacher and Christine Ongstad as superintendent.

Beverly Hirschhorn Hanson

During the winter of my first grade, we had so much snow and the roads were not open. The roads in those days were not built up like they are today. Being snowbound and unable to go to school, my mother became my teacher using the assignments sent out from my teacher. Most of my classmates were also snowbound. Joann Breyer was the only one living in town. I remember how fun it was staying over at one another's homes of my classmates.

I loved spelling. I had qualified from Manfred to attend the spelling bee in Fessenden; however, I came down with the chicken pox so I couldn't go. I enjoyed playing the piano. Ione Rodne and I did lots of things together; one of them was to accompany her in singing for church and other events. It was exciting for all of us to perform for our parents in programs. My teachers were Myrtle Rogness, Lorraine Jenny, Myron Stroh and Betty Ellingson. I still see Betty Ellingson from time to time and also was glad for the opportunity to see my classmate Dorothy Sommer at her 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Dorothy Sommer Faul

I remember the swings, merry-go-round, slide, and also of playing baseball. The tooth of one of my classmates was knocked out while playing baseball, but it was fixed so well that no one tell it had been knocked out. We loved to play "Anti-I-Over". Sometimes the ball would get wet when it ended up in the small slough located northwest from the barn. To play the game Pump Pump Polaway we would stand on each side of the road. This was a game the whole school had fun playing together, from the youngest to the oldest students. Skating on the river was fun. When the ice was hard enough, the maintainer from Fessenden would come and clean off the snow for us and then sometimes water was pumped onto this area so it could be smooth for skating. Math was my favorite subject. I remember the Christmas programs and the coffee and cookies for everyone afterward. I remember one of the farmers would pour cream in his coffee so it became half cream, half coffee. I felt like the Manfred community was one big happy family.

1952-1953 School Year

Lower Grades

Lower Grades 1-4

Bonnie Bender
Merlyn Boese
Robert Breyer
Garry Detling
Harry Detling
Neddy Detling
Jon Fehr
Julia Ann Fehr
Glenda Harrison

Victor Harrison
Derald Hoover
Maridel Hoover
Bonnie Kittelson
Marcella Lithun
Vernon Lithun
Rosella Lithun
Dennis Martel
Donald Martel

Ronald Martel
Audrey Nelson
Robert Nelson
Vernon Nelson
Warren Nelson
Gary Opdahl
Gerald Schlenker
Janice Schlenker
Patricia Schlenker

Teacher: Myrtle Rogness

Audrey Solheim
Jane Ellen Sommer
John Strauss
Judy Strauss
Duane Thomas
Janet Thomas
Sandra Vorland
John Weinmann
Roger Weinmann



1952-1953 School Year – Lower Grades

Row 4: Mrs. Rogness, Bonnie Bender, Jane Ellen Sommer, Vernon Nelson, Patricia Schlenker, Gerald Schlenker, Gary Opdahl, Janet Thomas, Derald Hoover, Audrey Solheim, Bonnie Kittelson

Row 3: Robert Breyer, Judy Strauss, Glenda Harrison, Rosella Lithun, Marcella Lithun, John Weinmann, Maridel Hoover, Sandra Vorland

Row 2: Warren Nelson, Duane Thomas, John Strauss, Merlyn Boese, Garry Detling, Vernon Lithun, Victor Harrison, Julia Ann Fehr, Audrey Nelson

Row 1: Roger Weinmann, Robert Nelson, Neddy Detling, Jon Fehr, Harry Detling, Janice Schlenker

School Memories

Dean Vorland

Myrtle Rogness, Myron Stroh, Mrs. Cook and Betty Ellingson were my teachers. We lived in the Lutheran parsonage located in the same block as the Manfred School. I remember that Myron Stroh for the school year 1952-1953 and Marjorie Cook for the school year 1953-1954 boarded at our house during the time they taught in Manfred. I remember that we used to climb the fire escape at school and jump off into the snow banks below. The swings got a lot of use where we would swing as high as we could and then bail out and land on the ground. We had a nice playground with lots of room to play. I never remember going up to the second story in the school. Going upstairs seemed to be off-limits. Manfred was a nice place to grow up, and was fun with plenty of kids to play with.

1952-1953 School Year

Upper Grades

Upper Grades 5-8

LoAnn Anderson
 Orren Anderson
 Donna Boese
 Joann Breyer
 Grace Detling

Joe Detling
 Leo Detling
 Matt Detling, Jr.
 Beverly Hirschhorn
 Larry Johnson

Laverne Johnson
 Janet Olson
 Marlys Olson
 Dennis Opdahl
 Phyllis Opdahl

Teacher: Betty Ellingson

Lorraine Sauter
 Dorothy Sommer
 Richard Strauss
 Beatrice Thomas
 Dean Vorland



1952-1953 School Year – Upper Grades

Row 3: Grace Detling, Beverly Hirschhorn, Joe Detling, Larry Johnson, Dorothy Sommer, Joann Breyer, Lorraine Sauter, Betty Ellingson-Teacher

Row 2: Beatrice Thomas, Dick Strauss, Dean Vorland, Laverne Johnson, Marlys Olson, Phyllis Opdahl, LoAnn Anderson, Donna Boese

Row 1: Matt Detling, Jr., Dennis Opdahl, Leo Detling, Janet Olson, Orren Anderson



Betty Ellingson
 Upper Grades Teacher

The 8th grade class ring of Marlys Olson. Weisser. The letters "MGS" engraved on the sash signify the words "Manfred Grade School."

Manfred School Ring



Betty Ellingson, Upper Grades Teacher

Especially memorable was teaching the class "Current Events" every Friday. Also on Fridays, the students brought potatoes that were baked in the oven to eat for their lunch. For the music contest each year, Larry Johnson participated by playing his harmonica and always did a good job. Teaching at Manfred was an enjoyable experience for me.

School Memories

Lorraine Sauter Thomas

We moved to the Manfred area in 1947 at which time, I started the 3rd grade with Myrtle Rogness as teacher for the lower grades. In the upper grades I had Myron Stroh, Mrs. Cook and Betty Ellingson. After graduation, Betty always remembered me and has kept in touch every year. I enjoyed spelling and math. For penmanship, I remember writing big "O"s and other letters over and over again. For lunch, we lined up to have soup or something hot like this to eat with a sandwich we brought from home. The boys would pick up garter snakes and chase the girls slinging the snakes at us. One time a snake landed on my shoulder which I've never forgotten. One thing I liked when it was cold out was to go skating on the river.

We lived on a farm two miles from Manfred. My sister and I walked to school when my dad was busy. Along the way, we would meet up with LoAnn and Orren Anderson at their farm and walk the rest of the way to school with them. In the winter when it was very cold, my dad used an old-fashioned covered wagon to take us to school over the snow, like the settlers would have used but set on skies. It was outfitted with a pot belly stove to keep us warm and benches along the sides. There was a little window at the front for my dad to hold the reins. He would cut across the fields with the horses. One time when dad came for us, the wintry conditions were so bad that he couldn't see where to go back home with the horses. He dropped the reins and told us that the horses would know the way home, and sure enough the horses took us home to our farm. I remember the snow coming up to the highline wire which we would step over on the way to the barn.

Manfred was a nice little community. There was a hall in town where we would put on Christmas programs. I remember Herb Vorland hauling gas, Harley Boese's restaurant and the Peterson Store for which our dad would give us a cent or two to buy penny candy. I remember farmers sitting in the restaurant playing cards when they weren't in the fields. The Froeber family lived across the street from the school, and Mrs. Froeber would teach us Sunday school at her house.

Marlys Olson Weisser

The area north of Manfred had a school bus for the students. During the 1945-1946 school year when I was in first grade, the bus driver was Herman "Bus" Weinmann and he used a regular car. My dad, Talmer Olson, served as bus driver for the school years 1946-1947 and 1947-1948. After that, Rudolph Peterson and Lars Ostrem shared the bus job. Ervin Boese drove a pickup having a wooden cover with a door at the back. He had two benches on each side where we sat. Herb and Mary Vorland drove bus too. The salary for driving the bus was \$175.00 per month, from which the bus driver paid all expenses.

During the 1945-1946 school year, there were 8 to 10 of us who rode the school bus: Wallace Helland, Dorothy and Lyle Sommer, Edward Ravnaas, Kenneth Elton, Roger Flick, Roger Rogelstad, Beverly Hirschhorn, and me. My sister, Janet, also rode the bus through all her years attending Manfred School. We lived 4½ miles north of Manfred which meant riding on the bus an hour or more in the morning and the same at night. In the winter, we children wore buckle up overshoes, snow pants, jackets, caps, and carried our dinner pails. So to fit everyone in the car, we piled on top of each other. I remember that the snowplows didn't always go through to open the roads. In the spring, the dirt roads were muddy and a challenge to drive.

Phyllis Opdahl Pantsari

I remember playing baseball and football, and ice skating was a favorite noontime activity for me from first grade and on. The spring picnic was memorable, held the last day of school each year. I remember going to Fessenden for the music festival and also for the Weekly Reader testing. My memories also include the reading groups, each group meeting with the teacher for short classes. One of the things we did at our seat was to copy what was written on the board, which would become booklets we would take to the county fair. At lunchtime, students took turns with duties in helping with the noon meal.

Larry Johnson

I started school in 1946. On my first day of school, I must have been very excited about going to school because as soon as I got into Talmer Olson's car when he drove the bus route, I started talking and talked nonstop until finally a couple of the bigger kids held their hands over my mouth to try to get me to stop talking. Talmer had a Model A that he sometimes drove when there was a lot of snow because it had high clearance and could get through the snow better than his Chevrolet. Winter was my favorite time of the school year because there were so many things to do. The first snowfall was special for playing "Fox and Goose", and then there was skating on the river, snowball fights, playing "King of the Hill", building snow forts and digging tunnels. Some of the forts and tunnels were very elaborate.

Manfred School Bus in 1947-1948 DRIVER'S CONTRACT

Manfred School Bus Route for the year 1947-1948

Marlys Olson
Weisser provided
this image of a bus
driver's contract
for her father,
Talmer Olson,
hired as the driver.

Based on the class
listing for the
school year 1947-
1948, students
living along the
Manfred School
bus route included:

- Donald Helland
- Wallace Helland
- Beverly Hirsch Korn
- Laverne Johnson
- Larry Johnson
- Marlys Pedersen
- Evelyn Pedersen
- Edward Ravnaas
- Ione Rodne
- Orville Rodne
- Roger Rogelstad
- Dorothy Sommer
- Lyle Sommer

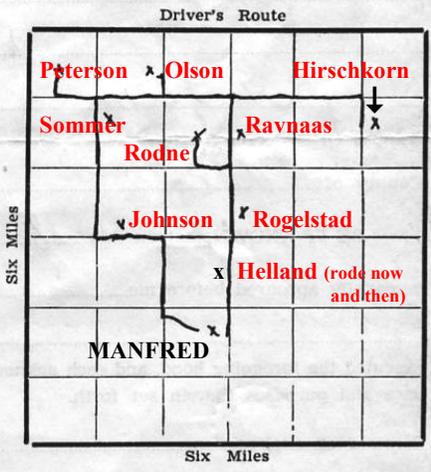
The identification
of farm locations
for these students
was provided with
the help of Lyle
Sommer and
Laverne Johnson.
(See farm locations noted
in red on the map at left.)

The driver's route
varied from year to
year depending on
changes in student
population. The
Leslie Johnson
family lived for five
years as indicated,
before moving back
to their home farm
a little to the south.

Talmer Olson began
the bus route each
morning from his
farm, stopping for
students along the
route as he worked
his way to Manfred.

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
 County of Wells } ss.
Manfred School District 20
 THIS AGREEMENT, Made this 14 day of August, 1947, between
 School District No. 20 in the County of Wells and State of North Dakota
 by the School Board and Talmer Olson who is qualified
 to act as bus driver according to the provisions of Chapter 238, Session Laws of 1931.
 WITNESSES, That the said Talmer Olson shall serve as bus driver
 in said district for a term of nine months for the sum of \$175.00 dollars per month
 commencing on the about 8th day of September, 1947, And the said Talmer Olson
 agrees faithfully to fulfill the following general obligations as set forth in this contract.

- To travel over the route herewith indicated and stop at the stations marked (.....x.....) (See plat) as determined by the school board.
- To deliver the children to the school building at 8:45 a. m., and to be ready for the return trip at 4:00 p. m. on every school day.
- To file with the principal or teacher within two weeks after opening school a complete time schedule of all stops and to change same only after due notice to the principal or teacher.
- To exercise all proper care in protecting children from injury and exposure.
- To maintain order among the children at all times when they are being transported to and from school; to allow them to enter and leave the wagon only at such places as shall be designated by the principal and to report all cases of disobedience, improper conduct and speech, and cases of tardiness.
- To stop the conveyance and cause same to be flagged across all railroad tracks by a pupil designated by the principal.
- To use no profane or indecent language within hearing of the pupils and to tolerate none from them.
- To abstain from the use of tobacco when driving the wagon and to allow no child to use tobacco in any form.
- To abstain absolutely from the use of intoxicating liquors while under contract.
- To make such daily and weekly reports to the principal as shall be required by the State Department of Education or by the local school authorities.
- To use a safe, comfortable and suitable vehicle as determined by the School Board.
- To allow the bus to be driven only by the bus driver named in the bid except as provided in S.B. No. 119, Session of 1931, the same being by written permission of the School Board.
- To make no changes on route except when directed by School Board.
- To furnish a bond in the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500)



15. To use as a bus either a Chevrolet or a the same
 to be furnished by Talmer Olson. The bus to be equipped with heater
Bus driver to furnish proper liability insurance.
 16. To assign this contract only upon written approval of School Board.
 17. To carry out the provisions of this contract on every school day it is possible to do so, and the School Board is to give the bus driver due notice of vacations and holidays when bus need not be driven.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have hereunto subscribed our hands this 14 day of August, 1947.
 School District No. 20, Wells County, North Dakota.

By { O.B. Gladheim President
Perry Anderson Clerk

NOTE:—This contract must be made out in duplicate, one copy for the driver and one copy filed with the clerk.

1953-1954 School Year

Lower Grades 1-4

Teacher: Myrtle Rogness

Garry Detling	Maridel Hoover	Gary Opdahl	Duane Thomas
Harry Detling	Orville Johnson	Gerald Schlenker	Francis Thomas
Neddy Detling	Vernon Lithun	Janice Schlenker	Janet Thomas
Jon Fehr	Audrey Nelson	Audrey Solheim	Peggy Thomas
Julia Ann Fehr	George Nelson	Dale Sommer	Sandra Vorland
Victor Harrison	Robert Nelson	John Strauss	Roger Weinmann
Derald Hoover	Warren Nelson		

Upper Grades 5-8

Teacher: Betty Ellingson

LoAnn Anderson	Matt Detling, Jr.	Rosella Lithun	Jane Ellen Sommer
Bonnie Bender	Glenda Harrison	Vernon Nelson	Dick Strauss
Donna Boese	Larry Johnson	Janet Olson	Judy Strauss
Merlyn Boese	Laverne Johnson	Dennis Opdahl	Beatrice Thomas
Joe Detling	Bonnie Kittelson	Phyllis Opdahl	Dean Vorland
Leo Detling	Marcella Lithun	Patricia Schlenker	John Weinmann

School Memories

LoAnn Anderson Dybing

I liked school real well - loved reading and liked history, geography, social studies, and English, too, but mathematics was a subject that eluded me. We played a lot of running games. Seems we were always running. With the first snowfall, we were out playing "Fox and Goose", in which the fox would try to catch the goose. The running path was a big circle made in the snow to the northwest of the school, with pathways dividing the circle into quarters.

A merry-go-round was purchased during the time I attended school. It was very popular and a lot of fun. With the novelty of the new merry-go-round, just about everyone would try to be on it at once and then one or more of the students would try to push us. I remember when Joey Strauss had gotten a bad burn on his leg and couldn't run for a while. All the boys had jack knives, but were not allowed to use them at school. However, special permission was given by the teacher so that they could play jack knife with Joey. The girls enjoyed watching this. The jack knives were kept in the teacher's drawer during the day, except during recess when the students would go out under a tree to play jack knife. A circle was drawn on the ground and each person would take a turn to see if they could flip their jack knife into the circle.

Donna Boese Foster

My teachers were Myrtle Rogness, Mrs. Cook and Betty Ellingson. Reading, I think, was my favorite subject, as I continue to enjoy reading today. Playing Anti-I-Over was fun, as well as playing on the playground equipment. In the winter, going on the ice and skating or sliding was fun. The boys built snow igloos and would put out a sign saying "No Girls Allowed." However, when the boys weren't around, we would go into the igloos anyway. I remember the Christmas programs. Sometime in the early 1950s, my dad (Harley Boese) drove the school bus using a paneled truck that he fixed up in back for the students to ride.

With my parents having the bar and café, living in the back of it was kind of fun. On Sundays, we kids would roller skate in the bar going around and around the pool table, and in the restaurant we could make malts. We became pretty good at playing pool. Our dad would tell us to let the regular customers win once in awhile because we could beat all who came in. My dad liked to tease. When the students came into the restaurant, he would say regarding candy bars, "One for a nickel, two for a dime" and the kids would take him up on that. I thought it was absolutely awesome living in a small town like Manfred. We had it really good. Though we didn't have a lot of money, life was good. There was no crime. We could play outdoors without worry.

1954-1955 School Year

Lower - Grades 1-4

Teacher: Myrtle Rogness

Garry Detling
Harry Detling
Neddy Detling
Willy Detling
James Fehr
Jon Fehr
Victor Harrison

David Hoover
Derald Hoover
Orville Johnson
Vernon Lithun
Audrey Nelson
George Nelson

Robert Nelson
Warren Nelson
Janice Schlenker
Audrey Solheim
Dale Sommer
John Strauss

Duane Thomas
Frances Thomas
Peggy Thomas
Roger Weinmann
Allan Werle
Judy Werle

Upper – Grades 5-8

Teacher: Betty Ellingson

Merlyn Boese
Leo Detling
Matt Detling
Julia Ann Fehr
Glenda Harrison
Maridel Hoover

Laverne Johnson
Marcella Lithun
Rosella Lithun
Vernon Nelson
Janet Olson

Dennis Opdahl
Gary Opdahl
Gerald Schlenker
Patricia Schlenker
Jane Ellen Sommer

Beatrice Thomas
Janet Thomas
Dean Vorland
Sandra Vorland
John Weinmann

School Memories

Laverne Johnson

I started school in 1947. For five years we lived on the North Farm and while living there, we were eligible to ride the school bus. This was the Hagemeister farm, and Hellands lived there for a short time too. What I remember about Talmer Olson driving the bus is that when the roads got heavy and he couldn't drive west from the intersection, he would hold my hand and trudge with my brother Larry and me through the snow to our farm. When he got us safely home, he would walk back to his car. I remember Rudolph Peterson and Lars Ostrem as bus drivers. Lowell Peterson drove quite a bit also. I clearly remember Ervin Boese's truck and the benches that we sat on. Some of the smaller kids rode in the cab at times when it was really cold. Other bus riders that I remember through the years were the Lithuns, Janet Olson, Jane Ellen Sommer, and John Weinmann.

The 1953-1954 school year was the final year that a county-wide 8th graduation ceremony for rural schools was held. Having scored highest in the testing for the county-wide rural schools, my brother, Larry, was named valedictorian that year by Mattie Bakken, the County Superintendent of Schools for Wells County. The graduation ceremony that year had to be cancelled because of a storm and wasn't rescheduled. The following school year when I graduated from the 8th grade, we received our diplomas and awards at the Manfred School picnic at the end of the school year. Other county-wide events that continued to be held included the music festival, spelling B's, and Young Citizen's League (YCL).

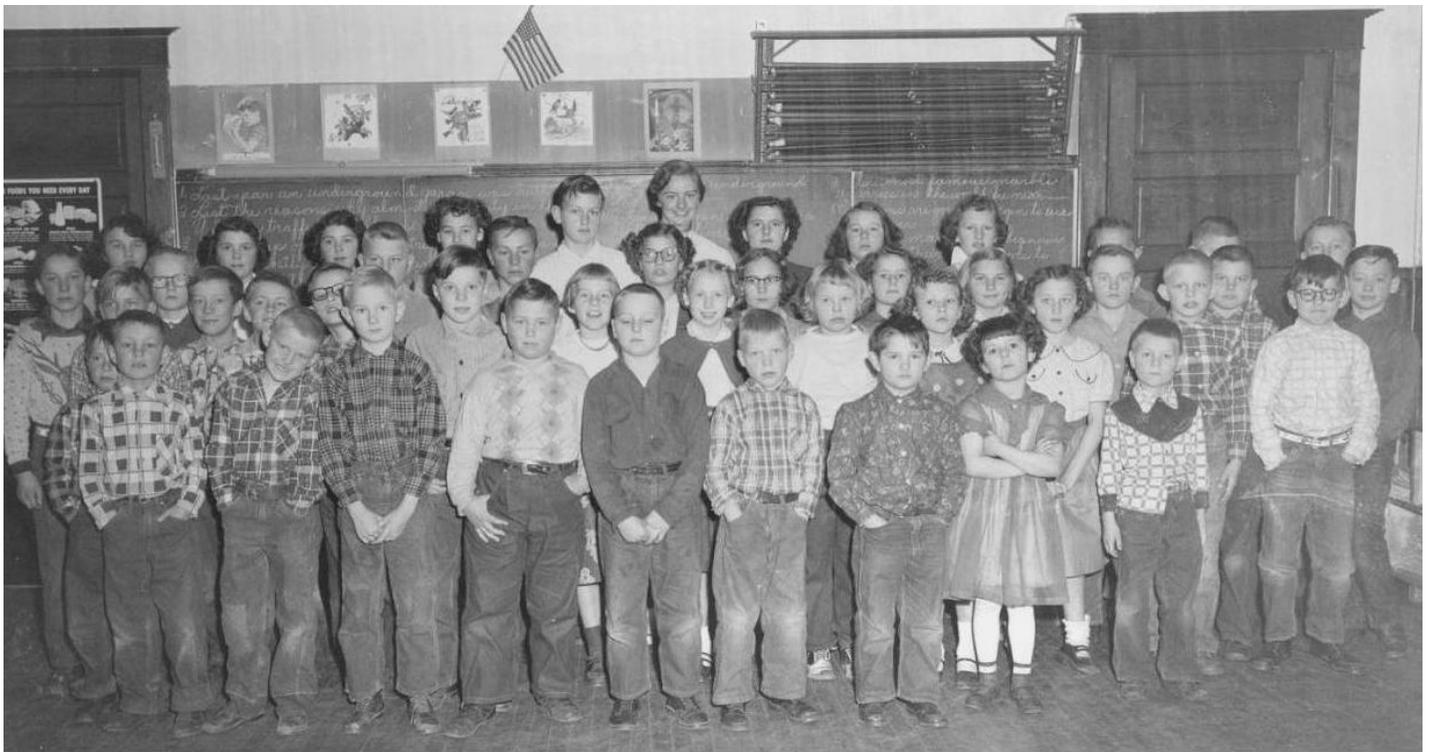
Janet "Jeanette" Thomas Miller

Myrtle Rogness, Betty Ellingson, and Edna Tebelius were my teachers - all good teachers. A kitchen and lunch room with tables to sit at in the basement with Mrs. Froeber as the cook, began during the years I attended. I enjoyed math, reading and current events, swinging on the swings, and playing soft ball. I couldn't master ice skating, but enjoyed playing games like "Fox and Goose". We used to play croquet in Audrey Solheim's yard; in fact, that's where I learned to play this game. I was related to some of the students, the Petersons and the Lithuns, so it was fun to be in school with them. In going through some things not long ago, I came across my last report card and last exam from Manfred School.

I remember Stella Sorenson in the store, the Schlenker's Bar and Café, the post office with Edgar Flick, Mr. Seidlinger manager of the Farmers Elevator, Roy Fandrich overseeing the Manfred Elevator, and Mr. Harrison as the depot agent. We lived on a farm just south of the railroad tracks very close to the depot. Because our farmstead was located right where Highway 52 was to be built, our family had to relocate the farmstead a little further to the south on our land. I helped at our farm with the chores and also did a lot of babysitting for the families living around us.

1954-1955 School Year

All Grades



1954-1955 School Year – All Grades

Row 4: Patty Schlenker, Marcella Lithun, Rosella Lithun, Glenda Harrison, Dean Vorland, Laverne Johnson, Beatrice Thomas, Janet Olson, Sandra Vorland, Merlyn Boese, Vernon Nelson, Dennis Opdahl

Row 3: Matt Detling, Jr., Gary Opdahl, John Weinmann, Leo Detling, Maridel Hoover, Jane Ellen Sommer, Janet Thomas, Julia Ann Fehr, Gerald Schlenker, Warren Nelson, Victor Harrison

Row 2: (*Closely grouped:* David Hoover, Derald Hoover, Garry Detling, Harry Detling, Duane Thomas,) Vernon Lithun, Audrey Nelson, Audrey Solheim, Judy Werle, Peggy Thomas, Janice Schlenker, Robert Nelson, Jon Fehr

Row 1: Neddy Detling, George Nelson, Orville Johnson, Dale Sommer, Roger Weinmann, Allan Werle, James Fehr, Francis Thomas, Willy Detling