

Celebrating the enchanting story of the

Melby-Rogness House

Once upon a time,

a gentleman named Ole (O.K.) Melby and his wife, a fair lady named Mary, built the house of their dreams in 1903.



Ole and Mary Melby

It was a wonderfully quaint and comfortable home for the two of them, often filled with the voices and laughter of family and friends. Ole was blest to do well in his business enterprises, and was known to share his good fortune by providing financial backing for the enterprises of others in the community. Mary often hosted gatherings of the Vang Ladies Aid in their home. Mary lived to 1936 and Ole to 1940.

Blest a second time

when in 1942 after two years of quietly waiting, voices and laughter were heard once again - this time by Sam Rogness and his wife Lilly and their two sons Richard and Allan. But, great sadness came upon this home when Lilly died in 1944. In 1948, much joy returned when Myrtle Mortenson became Sam's wife.

Myrtle was a Manfred school teacher, remembered by all as a remarkable instructor. Sam lived to 1971. Myrtle remained in this home until 1981, after which she moved to Harvey.



Sam and Myrtle Rogness

Blest yet again

after having endured significant decline, this house was propelled into its wonderful and bright future when, in 2001, it came under the care of Manfred History and Preservation, Inc.



Melby-Rogness House in 2001

Just as the Melbys, Rognesses, and many others of old made a significant difference in the well-being of Manfred, all who today provide financial contributions and/or volunteer countless hours, have been 'waving' a magical wand in the restoration, inside and outside, of this special building. Many, many thanks to everyone!!



Ole Melby at far left at his home in Manfred ND, together with his parents and siblings. Notice the upper and lower spindles and columns on the porch.



Sam and Myrtle Rogness greatly enjoyed their home and yard.



The Melby-Rogness House in 2008

Completion of restoration work is made possible through a Cultural Heritage Grant provided through the State Historical Society of North Dakota from funds appropriated by the North Dakota Legislature. The matching funds and in-kind volunteer hours are being provided by all of you who so kindly support MHP, Inc. and the Manfred projects.

The modern-day portion of the enchanting story of the Melby-Rogness House unfolding before our very eyes through a matching grant

2007-2009 Cultural Heritage Grant

The grant time-span is September 2007 – April 2009

1. Water System

Completed

The water line and septic system were installed the fall of 2007 by Mark Faul of Faul Excavating, Hurdsfield. Rick Anderson of Central Plains Water District, Fessenden, connected the rural water. Jim Dodd of Central Valley Health District, Jamestown, served as advisor. Bathroom floor repair was done by Greg Seidel, Cathay. Jon Krapu of Tri County Plumbing and Heating, Harvey, installed the plumbing during 2008. Also in 2008, a flower garden was started in the drain field area to the north.



Digging the trench for the water line on south side of the Melby-Rogness House



↑ Unloading drain file pipes and septic tank → to be installed on the north side of the house



The kitchen sink soon after installation. Cabinet came from the Cash Store. Sink was rescued from a dumpster. Hand pump was purchased.

2. Storm Windows

Completed

The Marvin traditional-style wooden combination storm windows were purchased with the help of Arnie Selzler of Mid Dakota Lumber, Harvey, and installed in the spring of 2008 by Greg Seidel and his team.

(Photo of storm window will be added)



The porch being enjoyed this fall by Red Hatters L/R: (Rose and Verna will be able to supply the names on Friday)

3. Porch Spindles

Completed

The upper spindles and six of the corner pieces were given by Pete Anderson, Manfred, and four other corner pieces were made by Clyde Moldenhauer, Dodge. The lower spindles were purchased. Greg Seidel and his team did the installation. The painting of the spindles was done by Esther and Wesley Boese, Manfred.

4. Exhibits and Décor

Yet to do

Development of the exhibits and décor for the Melby-Rogness House and large garage will take place in the coming months. Featured in the exhibits will be an overview of Manfred's history, history of the major owners of this house, farming history exhibits, specialty exhibits, information boards on the artifacts, and a listing of contributors and volunteers.

From dreams to reality!

The pioneers dared to dream. They were willing to put determination into action, in order to cross the ocean. They maintained their focus and their dream became reality with the chance of a new start in America. As friends of Manfred, we modern-day pioneers have dared to dream. We have been willing to put determination into action, maintaining our focus to help Manfred share its story. So it is, the dream of the restoration of the Melby Rogness House has become reality! This historic house now stands proudly, once again, to warmly greet all who enter to experience its unique and wonderful story.