

The New MANFRED NEWS

Volume 10, Issue 4

July 2013

A Warm Welcome to Manfred!

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Tabs of special interest: Biography, Business, Newsletter

In this Issue

Manfred School History - Part 10 September 1966-May 1970

What a fun time we're having with the Manfred School history! Thank you to everyone who has shared memories and photos of their schooldays! The school's history is greatly enriched with your help!

School Children Visiting the Manfred Heritage Museum



Pictured are some of the students and one of the teachers, Mrs. Barb Deck, from Harvey who came to Manfred on an outing in May. Excitement reigned as students tried out an early student's desk, viewed early school papers and books, explored around Manfred, and enjoyed a treat of gummy bears. The shouts and glee of children rang throughout the village and a fun learning experience was had by all.

In Memory

Bill Weymouth

September 1, 1933 – February 23, 2013
Husband of Carol Gladheim Weymouth, who was the daughter of Ole and Clara Gladheim, granddaughter of Ole and Guri Melby Ranum. Carol died in 2010.

Bill Quenette

July 20, 1933 – February 28, 2013
Husband of Darlene Anderson Quenette, who is the daughter of Gordon and Christie Ostrem Anderson, granddaughter of Olaf and Caroline Melby Anderson and Even and Kjersti Ostrem

Please let us know of loved ones who have passed

Newsletter Subscriptions

Thank you for your newsletter subscriptions! 41 new or renewing subscriptions have been received since the last newsletter issue!!

Contributions to other Manfred non-profit organizations

Johnson-Ostrem Preservation Fund

1000 Jill Ave #23, Harvey, ND 58341
Johnson/Jacobson/Ostrem House, Garage and Privy

In remembrance of Rasmus and Margaret Jacobson
Joelyn Scriba

In memory of Bill Quenette
Bill and Sandra Krebs
Darlene Quenette
Audrey Solheim

Melby Heritage Society

1000 Jill Ave #23, Harvey, ND 58341
Olaf and Lena Anderson House, Hotel Johnson and Privy, and Johnson's Place/Cash Store

In memory of Bill Quenette
Bill and Sandy Krebs
Darlene Quenette

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.

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Deborah Cunningham
Leo Detling
F.O.E. #3080 Harvey Eagles-parks
Marlys Goebel
Milton and Adeline Guy
Myrna Hoekstra
Barbara and Norma Holwegner
Dave and Kathy Lawter
Paul McBain
Mark Nelson
Michael and Luann Olson
Robert and Judy Pohl
Lorraine Quie
Karen Ravnaas in memory of Morris and Joyce Ravnaas, Oliver and Alma Ravnaas, and Ivar Ravnaas
Otto Rodne
Carol and John Schroeder
Richard and Denelle Smith
Myron Soiseth
Robert and Bonnie Swanson
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MHP, Inc. Endowment Fund

PO Box 321, Harvey ND 58341
An everlasting fund providing for the future
Marvin and June Biever
Laverne Johnson
Paul McBain
Richard and Wanda Melchert
in memory of Bill Quenette
Irene Skogmo

1966-1967 School Year

For the first time since 1932, the students were divided into three classes instead of two: Lower Grades 1-3, Upper Grades 4-6, and Junior High 7-8

Lower Grades - Grades 1-3

Dee Ann Albrecht
Perry Anderson
Mark Boese
Timothy Boese
Edward Fandrich

John Fandrich
Louise Fandrich
Myrna Flick
Arnie Melby
Michael Melby

Ilona Opdahl
Rodney Opdahl
Mary Beth Sauter
Bobby Sauter

Teacher: Myrtle Rogness

Beverly Seidlinger
Debbie Strauss
Tammy Strauss
Paul Wolf

Upper Grades - Grades 4-6

Norman Boese
Kenneth Fandrich
Patricia Fandrich
Alan Fehr

Ardis Flick
Randy Flick
Marilyn Johnson
Connie Koenig

Bruce Melby
Garlet Melby
Jeanne Melby
Pamela Nelson

Teachers: Signe Lesmeister

Kathy Sauter
Karen Sauter
Susan Sommerfeld
Mary Wolf

Junior High - Grades 7-8

Joleen Albrecht
Ronald Albrecht
June Boese

Paul Boese
Teresa Fandrich

Jean Fehr
George Seidlinger

Teacher: Marlys Platz

Darcie Strauss
John Wolf



1966-1967 Lower Grades

Row 3: Bobby Sauter, Myrna Flick, Beverly Seidlinger, John Fandrich, Michael Melby, Rodney Opdahl, Mark Boese, Myrtle Rogness-Teacher
Row 2: Dee Ann Albrecht, Debbie Strauss, Louise Fandrich, Tammy Strauss, Tim Boese, Paul Wolf, Ilona Opdahl
Row 1: Edward Fandrich, Mary Beth Sauter, Arnie Melby, Perry Anderson



1966-1967 Upper Grades

Row 3: Patty Fandrich, Marilyn Johnson, Mary Wolf, Signe Lesmeister-Teacher
Row 2: Garlet Melby, Connie Koenig, Randy Flick, Norman Boese, Pamela Nelson, Kathy Sauter, Ardis Flick
Row 1: Karen Sauter, Jeanne Melby, Susan Sommerfeld, Alan Fehr, Kenny Fandrich, Bruce Melby

1966-1967 Class Photos



1966-1967 Junior High

Row 2: George Seidlinger, Paul Boese, June Boese, Darcie Strauss, John Wolf, Marlys Platz-Teacher
Row 1: Jean Fehr, Joleen Albrecht, Teresa Fandrich, Ron Albrecht

1967-1968 School Year

Lower Grades - Grades 1-3

Lila Anderson
Perry Anderson
Mark Boese
Edward Fandrich

John Fandrich
Linda Flick
Myrna Flick
Arne Melby

Laurie Melby
Michael Melby
Rodney Opdahl
Bobby Sauter

Teacher: Myrtle Rogness

Mary Beth Sauter
Mary Strauss
Tammy Strauss
Glenn Wagner

Upper Grades - Grades 4-6

Dee Ann Albrecht
Norman Boese
Timothy Boese
Kenneth Fandrich

Louise Fandrich
Ardis Flick
Bruce Melby
Jeanne Melby

Ilona Opdahl
Karen Sauter
Kathleen Sauter
Beverly Seidlinger

Teachers: Signe Lesmeister

Debbie Strauss
Randy Strauss
Ricky Strauss

Junior High - Grades 7-8

Joleen Albrecht
June Boese
Paul Boese
Patty Fandrich

Teresa Fandrich
Alan Fehr
Randy Flick

Marilyn Johnson
Connie Koenig
Dale McBain

Teacher: Laverne Johnson

Garlet Melby
Pamela Nelson
George Seidlinger



Laverne Johnson

School Memories

Laverne Johnson, 7th & 8th Grades Teacher

Memories of a Manfred Teacher

Twelve years after graduating from Manfred Grade School, I was back, but this time on the other side of the desk. Many features of the schoolhouse, playground, neighborhood, and town had not changed in 12 years, however, some things seemed strange to me.

During my grade school days, the upstairs of the school was strictly off-limits. Occasionally though, daring students would sneak up the dark stairs to take a quick peek at the dusty classrooms crammed with old desks and other cast-off items, faint reminders of Manfred High School, long gone.

Now, lo and behold, a wondrous transformation had taken place. The upstairs east room had become a modern, brightly-lit classroom with a combination library/music room next door; and the west room was a makeshift gym set up for basketball.

Speaking of the gym, one day when I was absent, my substitute teacher was horrified to discover that over the noon hour, my students had used colored chalk to cover the walls of the gym with gigantic flowers and other works of art that they dedicated to me. The sub figured the students would be in BIG trouble, but I thought the drab gym walls had been much improved by the colorful artwork. Besides, I felt flattered.

Another strange situation for me: I still thought of Myrtle Rogness as my teacher! How could I now think of her as my colleague! As it turned out, her graciousness and professionalism soon took care of my concerns, and all was well.

I have fond memories of my days as a teacher at Manfred School. I remember the Christmas programs, where the students displayed uninhibited talent to wow the community. Throughout the county, the Manfred 7th and 8th graders had reputations of excellence in YCL and fair projects. My students worked hard and played hard. Besides, they were really nice kids. Lucky me!

June Boese Farias

We were like a family at Manfred School. I liked ice skating and playing "King of the Hill". One time while playing softball, I fell down at first base and got my clothes all muddy. We had music during the day and Myron Miller was our music teacher. The Christmas programs brought all the families together. My mother made my clothes for the school programs. My teachers were Mrs. Rogness, Mrs. Piatz, and Laverne Johnson who taught us guitar. We would have hootenannies and bales of hay and lots of fun. We had current events, and a special reading program where we would try to beat each other. I received a 100 on the spelling tests all through grades 1-8. I admired Mrs. Rogness and wanted to be a teacher just like her. It has been interesting reading the memories of others – fond memories for all of us.

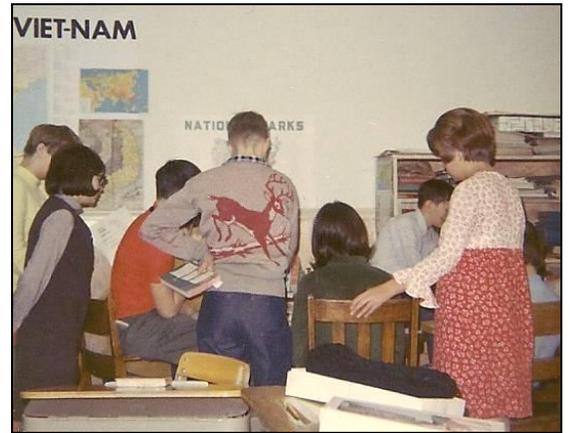
1967-1968 School Photos From the photo collection of Laverne Johnson

Junior High Classroom



8th grade class of 1967-1968

June Boese, Teresa Fandrich, Joleen Albrecht, Laverne Johnson - Teacher,
Paul Boese, Dale McBain, George Seidlinger



Working on a group project



Teresa Fandrich, Joleen Albrecht, June Boese
at Christmas time

Lunchtime for all students at Halloween



Dale McBain, George Seidlinger,
Joleen Albrecht



Paul Boese, June Boese, Alan Fehr
in foreground



Patty Fandrich and Garlet Melby
working on a project

Jr High Bowling Outing



Connie Koenig, Pam Nelson,
Patty Fandrich, Marilyn Johnson,
Garlet Melby



Dale McBain, George Seidlinger,
Paul Boese



Front: Pam Nelson and Marilyn Johnson
Back: Patty Fandrich, Garlet Melby,
Randy Flick, Alan Fehr

School Memories

Joleen Albrecht Schultz

I have a lot of fond memories of Manfred Grade School. I was so in love with school that from the start I would go home and play school with my sister or if she wasn't available, with my dolls or the cats. I have always felt that attending a school with multiple grades in one room ended up being an advantage. You were always kept busy with what your grade was learning, plus you had a review of what you had learned the year before, and a preview of what was to come. It also taught us to be independent, self-directed learners.

I had a number of great teachers in my years at Manfred. My favorites, and those who inspired me to become a teacher, were Mrs. Rogness - for her calm demeanor and her patience, Mrs. Lewis - for her kindness and wonderful smile, Mrs. Piatz - for her interest in our individual talents, and Laverne Johnson - for her humor and individualism. They were all great examples of what teachers should be.

Some of my memories are very clear, others I am not so sure about!

- The Christmas programs we did at the Son's of Norway hall were such a huge event for us. It was such a very big deal to go there for rehearsals, as well as the evening program. I still wish I had been brave enough to sneak away and explore the upper floor of the hotel!
- Sometimes on a Friday, if you had a note from home, the teacher's permission, and a nickel, you could walk to Stella's at lunch and spend your hard earned money.
- Staying overnight with Teresa Fandrich was always a fun adventure. Watching her mom, Lucille, in action was amazing. There were a lot of hungry boys in that family! I still have never had a better cinnamon roll than she made!
- June Boese learning to play guitar was a life-changing (or at least recess-changing) event. I wonder how many times we sang, "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?"
- I have a vague memory of some sort of "saved" honor system for reserving playground equipment for the next recess. It involved putting a rock on something to hold your swing or place on the teeter totter. I can't remember how you were able to prove that it was actually your rock that was there, but I do remember that you had to risk being late coming in from recess so you were the last one off the swing or carefully time a trip to the bathroom (outhouse) to get a rock placed before the next recess or lunch.
- I think I remember a pet day when we were in Mrs. Rogness' room - and I think the pets were kept in boxes in the cloak room - but it always sounds kind of crazy when I tell other people about it!
- I remember how important Valentine's Day boxes and Halloween parties were. I also remember that we had a hand in planning, organizing and decorating for special events. When my kids were in school and all of those events were being planned and executed by parent volunteers, I always felt that we were cheating the kids of the things they could be learning by planning their own events.

My overall memory of Manfred Grade School is that it was a great place to spend formative years. I have friends who are from all over the country, and I have never wished I could switch places or grade school experiences with any of them. When my kids were little we used to watch Andy Griffith reruns with them. One day the oldest, who was about six years old at the time, said, "Mom, don't you wish you could have grown up in a place like that, where you could just ride your bike anywhere?" Even in the eyes of a six year old, we were very lucky.

Paul Boese

I remember what a community-wide celebration the final day of school was. It seemed like the whole township came to school for lunch. Everyone came, even if they didn't have children in school. I remember Dad taking time off from spring work and Mom bringing lots of food. The weather was usually great. I do remember a snowstorm when I was in 5th grade. We blamed it on the teacher we didn't care for. The last day consisted of getting final report cards. We all checked the back of the final report card which had a line that the teacher had to sign if we were to be promoted to the next grade. There was a lot of eating, playing softball, pictures and summer good byes.

Getting to school was sometimes an adventure, especially in the winter. We car-pooled with Ongstads, Albrechts, and Ehnis. There were a couple of spots on the road going north from Manfred that would collect quite a bit of snow. The worst spot was by the cemetery. Clifton Albrecht was driving the morning after there had been a lot of snowing and drifting. He could see that there was a big snowdrift and an extended stretch of deep snow. He backed the 1950 Ford and then hit the gas. We were flying when we smashed through the big drift. The momentum carried us through the rest of the deep snow. It was very exciting and would probably be illegal today. What a great way that was to start the school day!

1968-1969 School Year

Lower Grades - Grades 1-3

Teacher: Myrtle Rogness

Laura Anderson
Lila Anderson
Mark Boese
Edward Fandrich

Corey Flick
Linda Flick
Arnie Melby
Laurie Melby

Rodney Opdahl
Mary Beth Sauter
Billy Sauter

Mary Strauss
Tammy Strauss
Glenn Wagner

Upper Grades - Grades 4-6

Teacher: Marlys Piatz

Perry Anderson
Timothy Boese
Norman Boese
John Fandrich

Kenneth Fandrich
Louise Fandrich
Myrna Flick
Bruce Melby

Jeanne Melby
Michael Melby
Ilona Opdahl
Bobby Sauter

Karen Sauter
Beverly Seidlinger
Debbie Strauss

Junior High - Grades 7-8

Teacher: Leila Faul

Patty Fandrich
Alan Fehr
Ardis Flick

Randy Flick
Marilyn Johnson

Connie Koenig
Garlet Melby

Pamela Nelson
Kathy Sauter



Leila Faul

School Memories

Marlys Piatz, Grades 4-6 Interim Teacher

The Grades 4-6 teacher that was scheduled to teach in the 1968-1969 year had had cancer, but was not strong enough by the time school started to be able to teach, so I was asked to teach this classroom.”

Pamela Nelson Norstedt

In grades 1-4, I remember we brought pots and lids and big spoons to school to use as instruments, and then we would march in a circle in our classroom for music. I remember sitting on those little chairs and waiting turns to read from the reader books with Mrs. Rogness, and the rest of the grades had to keep busy doing their schoolwork behind us. We had big tables that were our size in the back of the room where we did art and coloring. We had to raise our arms to go to the bathroom. There was the outhouse, but when the weather wasn't nice we used bathrooms in the basement which were a little spooky. Salamanders and lizards would sometimes be found there. I remember Ricky and Randy Strauss and their struggles with going down the stairs for lunch, and how we had to wait our turn and let them go first. We tried to help them, but I remember we would get in trouble from the teacher if we went past them on the steps. Ricky and Randy were always so happy when they reached the basement.

We used to bounce the balls on the side of the schoolhouse during recess. The John Froebers would sit outside in lawn chairs and watch us play. The end-of-the-year picnic was always so much fun and having our families there with us. We used to skate on the river and sled down the hills during recess in the winter. During the spring and fall, we played softball and were also on the swings. We would try to swing high and then jump off and fly through the air and land on our feet. The ones who could get past the bar were usually Alan Fehr and Randy Flick. We had a reading machine that would test our reading speed and comprehension. I was always reading fast and liked to do those reading tests. I'm still a fast reader. Mrs. Melby was the cook and made the best buns and Sloppy Joes. We had to bring our own potato to bake with our initials on it. I remember Norman Bose charging a nickel for us to watch him eat box elder bugs.

When we were in the 7-8 grades and the weather was unfavorable outside, we played basketball upstairs in the west room during break time. Our 7-8 grades classroom was in the east room also on second floor. The upstairs was our space to have with no little kids around. I remember Patty Fandrich sliding into first base and breaking her leg. Alan and Randy got her up on her other foot and half carried her. After Mrs. Rogness checked her out, they helped her into the school. She sat in the chair by the door and Mrs. Rogness laid a cold wet cloth on the leg where the bone was sticking out. One kid had to run and get her dad from the elevator, since we did not have a phone at school. I remember she came to school later lying in the back seat with a cast on her leg. She missed school a few days. We walked to her house and visited one day during school and sat in the living room and visited. I think that was in 7th grade.

School Memories

Marilyn Johnson Sjaastad

When we were first and second graders, some of us girls formed the “Billy Lover’s Club.” We’d have short meetings to figure out how to make Billy Ongstad fall in love with us. Some of the strategies involved dropping something near him to see if he’d pick it up, “accidentally” bumping into him, or other schemes. At first, I think Billy was oblivious to this and one time I remember him grouching a bit as he tripped over us while trying to play softball. I think eventually someone told him and he walked toward us with his arms outstretched. We yelled, giggled and screamed, so excited that we had succeeded in making Billy fall in love with us! The club sort of dissipated, as we never again received much attention from Billy.

Manfred School received some government funding after a drought year. Some of this funding was used to divide the students into three classrooms instead of two, hire another teacher and restore the upstairs for the 7th and 8th grades. We were all excited about this change. However, one night while watching TV, I overheard Dad saying to Laverne, “You know they need a teacher for the 7th and 8th grades in Manfred.” “On no!!!!,” I thought. I could not imagine anything more mortifying than having my sister for my teacher! I prayed and prayed that it wouldn’t happen. But, it did. However, upon starting school that year, I quickly found out that it would not be a problem. Laverne was such a cool and fabulous teacher, and I was not treated any differently from the other kids.

Connie Koenig Oscheim

It was so much fun growing up at Manfred with seven students in my class. I liked math the most, and caught onto it. We would sit and listen to the upper grades. Mrs. Rogness was our teacher through the 4th grade. Everyone had fun playing tricks on our teacher Mr. Billy. He went with the flow and didn’t get upset. The school picnics and the school programs were a big deal. I studied ukulele with our teacher Laverne Johnson. She decorated with hay bales for a school program where a group of us played our instruments. She brought something new to the school.

Our family lived between Manfred and Fessenden, and we walked to school. There was a gravel road we could use, but we preferred to walk on the railroad tracks which our mother would be upset about. My mother worked in the post office. Every winter, we put on our warm clothes to go down to the river and play on the snow hills. I loved pumping on the swings. If we didn’t go home right away after school, we went to Stella Sorenson’s store and played rummy and solitary. We couldn’t have our picnic outdoors on the last day of school of my 8th grade because it had snowed, so we held it in the school at which time our 8th grade graduation was also celebrated. Our family spent a lot of time with the Ervin and Wesley Boese families, with the kids playing together and the adults visiting.

Ardis Flick Zerr

At the beginning of the school day, Mrs. Rogness would put the record player on and we sang “My Country ‘Tis of Thee” and a few other songs along with the record player. We also said the “Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag” each morning. I remember practicing penmanship, reading for the teacher while sitting in the little chairs, the cloak room for our coats and overshoes, and how everyone would get in line to wash their hands. We had to raise our hand for permission to go for a drink or to the bathroom; I think one finger indicated we wanted a drink and two fingers was for the bathroom. I remember we had Valentine boxes for Valentine’s Day. We jumped rope to many jump roping chants, played on the teeter-totter, bounced the ball against the school, played kick ball and touch football, and I remember a game called “Break the Rope” were we held hands. I remember the Rings as part of the playground equipment. We had fun ice skating and sledding were we would slide on our feet down the slope to the river.

I took piano lessons from Myron Miller on a piano upstairs. For the Christmas program, we walked in a line to the hotel. We played flutophones in school and learned songs to perform for the program. There was a speech specialist who came regularly to the school to help people with speech issues. His name was Mr. McFaden. Also, Mildred Ongstad would visit as superintendent. I remember Lillian Melby, the school cook, made awesome chocolate cake with white frosting to die for. It was so moist and delicious.

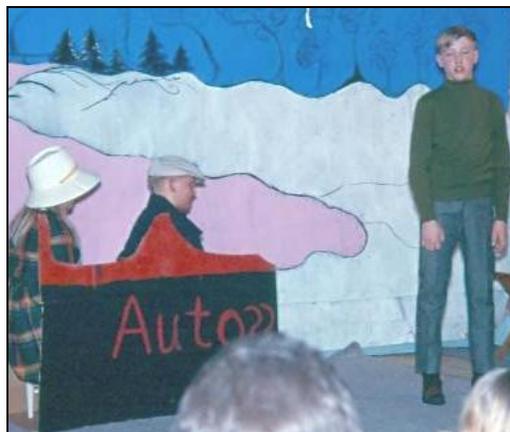
In Junior High, our teacher Laverne Johnson took us on field trips, one was to the School for the Deaf at Devils Lake. For the school picnic, everyone in the community was invited. Everyone was everybody’s friend. There was no separation. We were all friends. Kathy Sauter and I were the only two in our 8th grade and I have a picture of the two of us when we graduated from 8th grade in 1970. It was a culture shock when it came time to attend high school in Harvey where we had lockers and needed to change rooms for every class. We students coming in from the small schools felt out of our comfort zone, feeling the loss of bonding we had had in our small schools.

December 1968 Christmas Program

From the photo collection
of Wesley and Esther Boese



Row 3: Garlet Melby, Pam Nelson, Connie Koenig, Marilyn Johnson, Patricia Fandrich, Ardis Flick, Kathy Sauter
Row 2: John Fandrich, Debbie Strauss, Norman Boese, Randy Flick, Alan Fehr, Jeanne Melby (In costume), Louise Fandrich, Karen Sauter
Row 1: Myrna Flick, Michael Melby, Perry Anderson, Bobby Sauter, Beverly Seidlinger, Ilona Opdahl, Bruce Melby, Kenneth Fandrich



Louise Fandrich, Kenneth Fandrich,
Norman Boese



Row 2: Jeanne Melby (In costume), Louise Fandrich, Karen Sauter, Norman Boese, Kenneth Fandrich, Bruce Melby
Row 1: Timothy Boese, Beverly Seidlinger, Ilona Opdahl, Myrna Flick, Debbie Strauss, John Fandrich, Michael Melby, Bobby Sauter, Perry Anderson



Row 2: Alan Fehr, Garlet Melby, Connie Koenig, Patricia Fandrich, Debbie Strauss, Randy Flick
Row 1: Marilyn Johnson, Pamela Nelson, Kathy Sauter
At piano: Myron Miller, music teacher

Myron Miller, Music Teacher

I taught music in the Manfred School system for about five years and found it to be a truly great experience. The students and their parents were so nice to work with. My music studio was located in the library in the upper story. Students would come throughout the day from their classrooms for their music lessons. I have very fond memories of those years, and enjoy keeping in touch though this newsletter. Greetings to former students, parents and colleagues!

1969-1970 School Year

Lower Grades - Grades 1-3

Teacher: Myrtle Rogness

Laura Anderson	Ruth Ravnaas
Lila Anderson	Billy Sauter
Jerry Fandrich	Danny Sauter
Corey Flick	Mary Strauss
Linda Flick	Glenn Wagner
Laurie Melby	Troy Wagner

Upper Grades - Grades 4-6

Teachers: Leila Faul

Perry Anderson	Michael Melby
Mark Boese	Ilona Opdahl
Timothy Boese	Rodney Opdahl
Edward Fandrich	Bobby Sauter
John Fandrich	Mary Beth Sauter
Louise Fandrich	Beverly Seidlinger
Myrna Flick	Debbie Strauss
Arnie Melby	Tammy Strauss

Junior High - Grades 7-8

Teacher: Laverne Johnson

Norman Boese	Jeanne Melby
Kenneth Fandrich	Karen Sauter
Ardis Flick	Kathleen Sauter
Bruce Melby	



Junior High Class, Spring of 1970

Bruce Melby, Kenneth Fandrich, Norman Boese, Laverne Johnson-Teacher, Kathy Sauter, Karen Sauter, Ardis Flick, Jeanne Melby

School Memories

Norman Boese

I have many fond memories of Manfred School some that are fit for public consumption.

Throwing snowballs: Winter lasted so long that we all developed very strong arms and excellent throwing mechanics. Tim Boese got hit in the face with a particularly well-thrown attempt, so the teachers said we were no longer allowed to engage in this pursuit. Prohibition proved impossible to comply with or enforce.

Basketball: Cleaned out the upstairs storage room to turn it into a basketball gym of sorts. Ceiling was only 15 feet high so we had to shoot with very little arch on the ball. It was so cold in that gym in the winter that after a while basketballs would refuse to bounce, so we kept three balls on the one radiator in the room as warm spares.

Throwing rubber balls into the rain gutters on the roof of the school: Had to be able to throw hard (as the school is very tall) and had to be very accurate to make the ball land and stay in the gutter. This was a challenge that kept many of us entertained for hours.

There were five kids in my seventh grade class and two in the eighth grade with Laverne Johnson as our teacher. I remember Laverne Johnson having us read multiple newspapers every day and being quizzed on the content. To this day, I can remember the names of President Nixon's cabinet members and the Secretary General of the UN. Sad that I can't name present day members of either organization.

Laverne would pile our two classes into a pair of cars and we would head out on field trips: Bismarck (Capital), Jamestown (Anne Carlsen Center), Minot (State Teachers College). Laverne treated us like young adults, which was completely unexpected and not entirely deserved.

We were made to take speed-reading and comprehension training, which consisted of watching words spit out of a projector whose speed would be increased as your reading scores improved. I remember watching my older cousin Paul as words zipped by on his screen and wondering if I would ever be able to read that fast. This training has proved to be one of the most beneficial skills I was ever taught.