

The New MANFRED NEWS

Volume 6, Issue 1

March 2006

Come Gather - Come Celebrate July 2, 2006

Warm greetings to this issue of the Manfred News, celebrating the history of the Ostrem Family who came from the mountains to the prairies. Like many others, their hearts found a welcome home at Manfred.

A Celebration in Manfred

Sunday, July 2, 2006

9:45 a.m. Choir practice for all who would like to participate in choir for the service.

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

12:00 Noon Catered lunch.

PLEASE RETURN ENCLOSED INSERT AS YOUR RESERVATION

1:30 p.m. Program. Followed by fellowship in the Vang Church basement, and open house of the Manfred Heritage Museum.

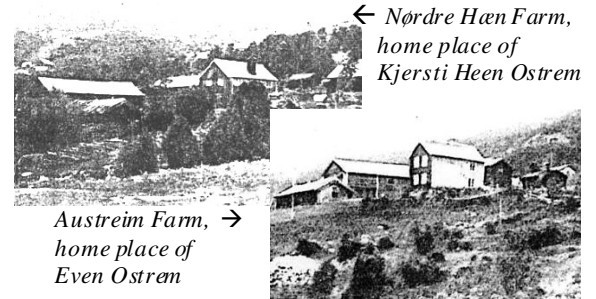
Worship Service and Program will be held at
Vang Lutheran Church

Vang, Norway



Grindafjell mountain casts its reflection into Vangsmjøsa lake. The Grindaheim settlement lies at its shore where the home church of the Ostrems, Vang Kirke (Church), is located... for which Manfred's church was named. (More on Vang Kirke in the May 2003 Issue, Page 3.)

From the Mountains...



What a contrast for the settlers who came from mountainous areas where they lived on tiny farms set into the steep slopes, and then to come to the prairies of North Dakota with its unbelievably wide expanse of tillable land.

Images from
Rod Anderson



*Soo Line Paintings
by Larry Fisher*

With his Ostrem family heritage featured in this issue, how very special it is to include images of paintings by Larry Fisher from Soo Line Railroad scenes at or near Manfred.

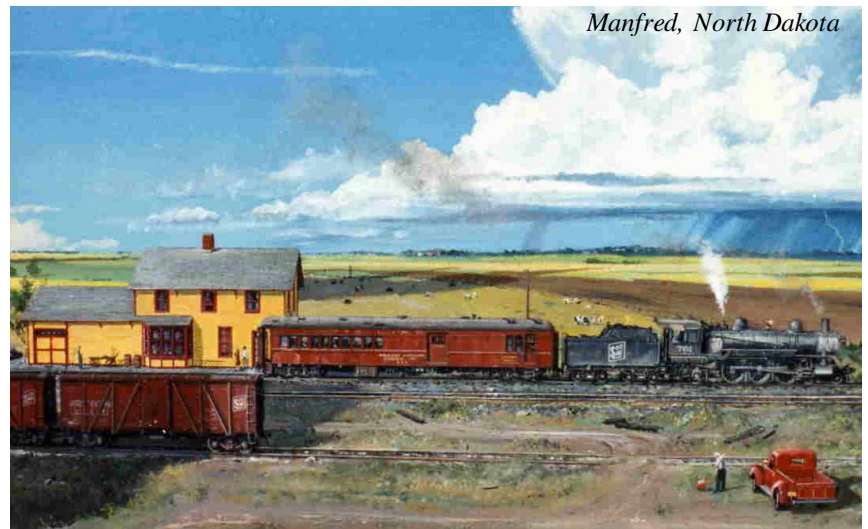
*LF
FISHER*

↑ Enderlin Local departs from Manfred, ND, Eastbound. Lars Ostrem's vehicle is crossing the tracks in this 1951 scene.

The Soo Line 3-Car Local. Larry recalls traveling by train from Harvey to Manfred to visit his grandparents→



To the Prairies...



Manfred, North Dakota

A MOMENT IN TIME... painting and narrative by Larry Fisher

Soo Line 701, a 4-6-2 light Pacific, slowly pulls away from the depot after a brief stop to pick up two passengers and a mail bag. These daily locals did not generate much revenue to the company's coffers, but they did provide a vital service to the small towns along the main. As the automobile became more popular and affordable, the little local would soon pass into history. On this day in July 1952, however, this particular moment in time will be etched forever in the memory of anyone who had the pleasure of the experience. This painting appeared in the 2003 OSH (Orchard Supply Hardware) Calendar, the month of July.

The New Manfred News

From the Museum Director...

Though the Manfred Heritage Museum is closed for the winter, the activities of MHP, Inc. have continued at a brisk pace. First of all, I'm very happy to share with you that a \$5,000 matching grant through the State Historical Society of ND, written by Audrey Solheim, has been awarded to MHP, Inc. The funds will be used to develop the museum's first exhibit, which will be installed in Vang Church this spring. If you are looking for a special way to help, you may wish to send a contribution to help MHP, Inc. with the matching funds for this project.

Three major projects have the goal of finishing in time for the July 2 celebration: **1** To develop and install the Vang Church exhibit which will celebrate, not only this church but, all the churches that were in the Manfred area. **2** To finish as much of the exterior restoration work on the Johnson-Jacobson-Ostrem House as possible. Page 11 tells more about this. **3** The Museum Division is looking forward to completing the restoration of the Melby-Rogness House interior this spring. Together we're helping Manfred share its story, our story!
Wanda Melchert

In Tribute of Clarence Alveshere

In his passing, we fondly remember Clarence Alveshere. He enjoyed writing down his memories, for which the family has the blessing of this written collection.

One of Clarence's first memories of Manfred took place in about 1926 when he and his brother Melvin drove cattle by horseback, a distance of 20 miles, to the Manfred stockyard at the east end of town. This story can be found in the September 2002 Issue, page 11. If anyone has photos or information on the Manfred stockyard, this would be most welcome for Manfred's history. Clarence was also very interested in a butcher shop he recalls located a mile west of Manfred at the juncture of the Wellsburg road, if anyone might have information on that, as well.

Clarence loved history and was also quite a sports fan. He loved farming and his family continues in this fine tradition. After retiring, he pursued his interest in woodwork and his work is featured in the September 2003 Issue, pages 9-11.

With the continuing help of supporters, Manfred is growing to ward its exciting mission to help tell the story of rural North Dakota. In grateful thanks!

General Fund

Contributions to the General Fund are vital for the current work of MHP, Inc. The projects are advancing with this help!

The Clarence Alveshere Family
Christy Anderson
John Anderson
Orren Anderson
Pete and Rose Anderson
in memory of Clarence Alveshere
Peg Bell
Glen Bendickson
Inez Ravnaas Burgstahler
in memory of Arvin Ravnaas
Hildor and Nellie Deede
Neil and Jackie Everett
Joel and Loretta Graumann and Nick Graumann
in memory of Matt and Mary Detling
Darlene Roble
Arlen and Doris (Rogelstad) Rudel
John and Carol Schroeder
in memory of Cora Ravnaas Nelson
Merlin and Laurie Schwartz
Arlene Triebold
Ronald Widiger

Designated Gifts

A current idea for designated gifts could be for the Vang Church Exhibit.

Endowment Fund

An everlasting fund providing for the future

Marvin and Diane Alveshere
in memory of Clarence Alveshere
Marvin and Diane Alveshere
in memory of Irene Koenig
Orren Anderson
Verna Bowers
in memory of Clarence and Lena Alveshere
Richard and Wanda Melchert
in memory of Clarence Alveshere
Richard and Wanda Melchert
in memory of Evelyn Gross
Ruth and Reiner Widiger
in memory of Adolph Shirley

In Memory

Clarence G. Alveshere
April 27, 1911 - January 15, 2006

Raymond Larson
January 12, 1925 - January 18, 2006

Manfred Newsletter Subscriptions

Thank you for your newsletter subscriptions! 20 new or renewing subscriptions have been received since the last issue! The year runs from January-December. If you have not already sent in a newsletter subscription for 2006, you may do so using the insert accompanying this newsletter. Also you may wish to give gift subscriptions.

The New Manfred News

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

Subscription rate is \$10 per year.

News and history items are most welcome!

Editor: Wanda Melchert, wmelchert@westriv.com
Historian: Audrey Solheim, administrator@manfrednd.org

Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. (MHP, Inc.)

'A Settler's Village Celebrating Rural America'
A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded
July 25, 2000. Its mission is to compile and share
the history of Manfred, North Dakota and its
traditional trade area, and to encourage community
pride and restoration of its historic structures.
Website: www.manfrednd.org

Manfred Heritage Museum

An educational entity of MHP, Inc. and
of the Manfred community founded July 26, 2003.
Its purpose is to provide present and future
generations the opportunity to learn about important
contributions that rural places such as Manfred
have given to North Dakota and to America.

Museum Hours

May through September: Wed-Sat 10-4, Sun 12-6
Summer 701-547-2564
Winter 701-547-3123, 701-324-2091

The success of Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. is made possible through:

1. Volunteers

Four Divisions have been established where people
are invited to volunteer in their areas of interest:

- *CORPORATE - Compiling the history, Grant writing
- *MUSEUM - Cataloging the collections
- *BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS - Care of Manfred
- *EDUCATION - Developing exhibits and programs

2. Financial Contributions

Financial contributions are vital to the work of
MHP, Inc. Ideas for giving include -

- *GENERAL FUND for current expenses
- *DESIGNATED GIFT
- *ENDOWMENT FUND for Manfred's future
Federal Tax ID#45-0458460
State of ND Solicitation #4111

3. Historical Contributions

At the core of the projects is the history of Manfred
and its traditional trade area. Historical materials are
welcome to help tell Manfred's story such as:

- *ARTIFACTS - Historical items
- *ARCHIVAL MATERIALS - Histories, Documents
- *GENEALOGIES - and other historic materials

Board of Directors

Audrey Solheim, President
Laverne Johnson, Vice President
Esther Boese, Secretary
Ruth Widiger, Treasurer
Wanda Melchert, Museum Director
Rose Anderson, Pete Anderson,
Verna Bowers, Herbert Ongstad

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

Even and Kjersti Ostrem Family History



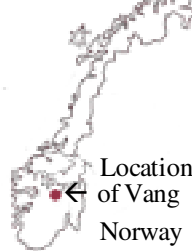
Even and Kjersti Ostrem
with their children Lars, Ivan, and Bertha



Both the Ostrem and Haen farms look south over the placid, clear blue waters of the Vangsmjøsa, a body of water 8 miles long and over a mile in width, and the majestic peak Grinda fjell, rising 4,000 feet above, less than 8 miles to the south.



Vang area in Norway



Kjersti in her sewing school class at Oslo

When Even and Kjersti Ostrem and their three young children set sail in 1909 for a temporary stay in the USA, they couldn't have imagined that a future time would see the establishment of a house museum in their name in the hamlet of Manfred, North Dakota. Though his father's farm, Austreim (Ostrem) in central Norway, was surrounded by wildly beautiful mountain streams, waterfalls, sparkling lakes, and rugged peaks, the area was at best marginal farming country, the land steep and rocky and the winters long and cold. Even and Kjersti were forced to make a decision that would lead them to a life they could never have envisioned.

Even and Kjersti's lives began in concert, having been born on farms near each other in Vang i (in) Valdres in central Norway. Even was born December 5, 1882 at Ostrem to Eivend Ostrem and Bergit H. Leine. As a young man, he served for a time in the Norwegian Army. Even's siblings were Marit b.1880, Helge b.1885, Ole b.1887, Anne b.1891, and Berit b.1896. The name Ostrem, also Østrem or Austreim, is the joining of the two words *østre* or *austre* (eastern) and *heim* (home.) The spellings, *østre* and *austre*, stem from the two national languages of Norway *østre* in Bokmål and *austre* in Nynorsk.

Not a half mile distant, Kjersti was born March 16, 1880 at Haensgårdene (The Haen's Farm) to Lars and Kjersti Haen (also Heen.) Kjersti's siblings were Torstein b.1866?, Ivar b.1865?, Ingebord b.1869, and Trond b.1875. Kjersti completed her high school at Grindaheim. She soon traveled to Oslo (then known as Christiania) to attend a cooking school patterned after schools organized by the remarkable Danish educator, bishop, composer, and poet, Grundtvig. Both Ostrem and Haen border a small pleasant stream known as Haensani, which tumbles down from Haensfjell (Haen's Mountain) and cascades over Ostremfoss (Ostrem Falls.)

It was in the Vang Church at Grindaheim, on the south shore of the lake, that Even and Kjersti were baptized, confirmed, and then married on January 20, 1903. The wedding reception took place at her parent's home. There at Vang Church their first three children, Ivan, Lars, and Bertha were baptized, Ivan born April 30, 1904, Lars born June 26, 1905, and Bertha born October 6, 1907.

As the oldest boy in his family, and in accord with the laws of primogeniture, Even was destined to inherit the family farm. The miniscule farm, Ostrem, consisted of 55 dekar (about 14 acres) of fields, 20 dekar (5 acres) other, and about 500 dekar (125 acres) of scraggly, rock-strewn forest. The *stolen* (summer pastures), named Gronstolen and Haeredalen, were located five or six miles away, above the tree line, in a barren, rocky valley of the *fjell* (mountain) known as Rysndalen.

With a wife and three children to support plus another on the way, the tiny farm in Norway could not supply Even's growing family, as well as that of his parents and his younger brothers and sisters. The inheritance had almost become a millstone around their necks, preventing decisive action. Hearing word of the rich farm land in North Dakota from Kjersti's brother, Trond, the young family made plans. They would emigrate from Norway to Tioga, North Dakota, homestead 360 acres of land within sight of her brother Ivar's farm, be in America for a time to make enough money and then return to Norway to live in relative comfort.

It was from the narrow lake crossing at Hemsingbru that Even and Kjersti and their little family departed on their long journey to America, and to the farms of Kjersti's brothers. They fully expected to return in a matter of a few years. Their radical move was only the latest in a long series of migrations which their family, and which all people have made over the millennia.

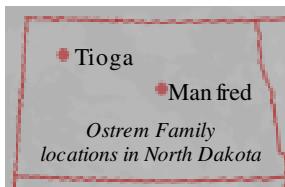
Ostrem History Acknowledgements

Rod Anderson, Bob Anderson, Christy Anderson, Darlene Quenette, Arnt and Phyllis Ostrem, Bob Sheedy, Larry Fisher, Larry Ostrem, Henry Ostrem, Sennev Nertrøst Whipple, Vang Church Anniversary Books, Wells County Free Press, Einar Haugen's Norwegian English Dictionary. Assisted by Audrey Solheim historian and Wanda Melchert editor.

Even and Kjersti Ostrem at Tioga, ND 1909-1929



From left: Henry, Christine, Even, Ivan, Bertha, Theodore, Lars, Kjersti, Evelyn
The Ostrem family traveled fourteen miles by lumber wagon to have this photo taken, changing to dress clothes after arriving in Tioga.



Using oxen in farming was common in the early settler days. Here, Even is shown working with his team of four oxen.



Even and Kjersti, together with their three young children, Ivan, Lars, and Bertha (Bert), traveled across the ocean to America in 1909, up the St. Lawrence Valley, through the Great Lakes, and then by rail across the headwaters of the Mississippi River and the Red River Valley, and, finally, across the prairies of North Dakota to within sight of the Missouri River south of Tioga. Before the year was out, on December 3, 1909, a fourth child, Henry Arnold (Hank), was born to the little family.

Even had obtained the last available homestead in the area. This piece on which he broke the sod with his four-oxen team was, unfortunately, hilly and far from rock-free. The piles of rocks from his fields lie there today in long rows in Ostrem Coulee. In time, six more children were born to them: Theodore (Ted) in 1911, Christine (Christy) in 1913, Mary Evelyn (Evey) in 1914, Arnt in 1916, Inga (Corky) in 1918 and Ivar in 1920.

Their daughter Christy recalls that though times were hard, they always had plenty to eat. The older children took care of the younger ones, and when older, they would take work elsewhere. They were members of Trinity Lutheran Church of rural Tioga, and the children attended the nearby Haustveit country school. Christy remembers her mother knitting mittens and stockings for the family out of the yarn spun from the sheep's wool. Four children had to undergo operations including five year old Ivar who sadly succumbed to an appendectomy operation at Minot in 1925. Then in 1927, Kjersti experienced the thrill of visiting her homeland, Norway, once again.

Not two years after Kjersti's trip, tragedy struck the Great Plains, and the Ostrem family, in the dual catastrophe of the depression and the great drought of the 1930s. Without crops, Even was unable to pay his bank loan, and foreclosure resulted. Deliverance arrived with an unexpected visit by Bendik Rogne of Manfred, ND, who asked Lars and his parents to farm his land two miles north of Manfred. Having previously hired Lars for a season, Bendik, was impressed with the young man's industry, honesty, and work ethic. It was a perfect solution for all concerned, and the offer was enthusiastically and gratefully accepted. →

← The Ostrem family drove fifty miles by auto to Stanley, ND to have this photo taken in 1927.

Kjersti poses with her sons:
Arnt at the plow and
Lars wrestling with a colt.
Some of the names of the horses
were Prince, King, and Lady.



From left back: Christine, Ted, Ivan, Lars, Hank, Bertha
Left front: Even, Inga, Evelyn, Arnt, Kjersti

Letters from her parents in Norway were especially important to Kjersti, who had expected to return to her beloved Norway long before. The separation wore heavily upon her, increasingly so as the years passed. Finally, in 1927, her older children pooled their resources and paid for her passage 'home.' She was accompanied by Mrs. Ebba Hovey of Tioga. A beautifully written longhand account of her trip, prepared at the request of the Decorah Posten but never published, was found in Manfred after the death of her son, Lars, in 1987.

From Kjersti's account of her visit to her birthplace in Norway:

"The trip up towards Aurdal and Vestre Slidre was delightful. It's not strange that this Motherland, Valdres, should entice her children home. When at length I saw Haensgårdene, I became speechless for a while. My emotions began to overtake me. Here lay my childhood home where I grew up and spent my best days with father and mother. Here I had many dear memories. It was difficult to hold back the tears. But a voice whispered, 'You are now grown up, and should not come home like a crying child.'

Up at Haen, my family had been standing looking out the window with binoculars all day at the automobiles that went by, waiting for me. When one finally stopped and they saw a lady walk over the bridge, they felt that it must be Kjersti coming. I had not gone far on the road when I met my brother Torstein Haen's son. He was just a little boy when we went to America. Now he was a grown man. The change was great.

As we came further up the way, my mother came to meet us. Just think, Mother! She was not so light on her feet now, and her back was bent. But it was mother with that same good heart. It seemed strange to walk in through the familiar door at Haen, where I, as a little girl, had run in and out so many times. I missed my father right away. I should never see him again. He died a few weeks before I came home. He had wished to see me again, but I came too late."

Days of feting and travel to visit friends and relatives followed one on the other, as the weeks of her visit continued. Kjersti finally returned to her home in North Dakota, having at last said goodbye to her beloved Norge.

Even and Kjersti Ostrem at Manfred, ND

The 50th Wedding Anniversary of Even and Kjersti Ostrem
 Back: Ivan, Evelyn, Lars, Christine, Henry, Bertha, Ted
 Front: Arnt, Kjersti, Even, Inga

Home for the Ostrem's in the Manfred area
 1929-1942 1942 and Ongoing



Bendik Rogne House
 Tom Marchand, Owner



The Johnson-Jacobson
 Ostrem Home

Grandpa Ostrem

Back from playing baseball on the graves
 my intrusion is stilled
 Grandfather by your violin
 sending its seldom heard vibrations
 down the silent stairs.
 Secrets breathe in those ancient notes
 flowing under the dark door...
 violin voices weaving
 invisible Norwegian dreams.
 Your thoughts echo through the strings
 sinewy sounds filling the bare space
 between soul and bone...
 Composing in your shadowy concert room
 violin pressed against furrowed cheek...
 Blue eyes shut to city cemetery view
 closed into a distant liveliertune...
 Insistent notes journey past
 grandmother's early last harvest
 in Dakota farmland dust tracing faded dreams...
 Moving bow plowing the past
 stripped away veils of the heavy summer night
 revealing a once held fjord spring.
 Your eastern voyage a soliloquy
 easing the taut strings (not for my tight presence)
 Outside the black smoke from
 the crematorium chimney, too late to choose,
 descends in cooling ashes on second base.

*An award winning poem in tribute to Even Ostrem
 composed in 1967 by his grandson Bob Sheedy*



→
 Even
 and
 Corky



Everyone enjoyed watching Even
 dancing the Springdances (Spring Dance,) with Corky or with Bertha Melby, to the music by Lars on the accordion.

The loss of their homestead to bank foreclosure, after twenty years of unremittingly hard labor, must have left the family disheartened. But they were to find in Manfred a haven and a refuge in the golden autumn of their lives. So it was that Even and Kjersti moved to the Bendik Rogne farm north of Manfred in 1929, along with their children Lars 24, Hank 20, Ted 18, Evey 14, Amt 13, and Inga 10. Ivan 25, the oldest, had moved to Chicago; Bertha 22 and Christy 16 were employed elsewhere but they returned home as often as they were able.

The warm-hearted hospitality of the Ostrem family blessed many people. They shared many fun times with area youth: sleigh rides in the winter, evenings of music and games, etc, which always concluded with a delicious lunch prepared by Kjersti. These were precious times. Music filled their home. Everyone was a good singer and several played instruments. Either Evey or Bert would be at the pump organ, Hank on guitar, banjo, or mandolin, Lars on accordion, and Christy on the spoons. Then one by one, the children began leaving. Hank attended Molar Barber School in the early 1930s, Ted joined the Civilian Conservation Corp in the mid 1930s, Christine married in 1935 and Evelyn in 1936. Arnt helped on the farm until 1936 and then headed for Chicago, and Inga (Ingrid) went to Minot.

Such were the times that the long, drought years of the 1930's conspired against every effort the family might make, as farmers, to wrest a comfortable living from the soil. The unremitting toil without seeming benefit began to appear increasingly senseless, so that when Bendik Rogne offered to sell the farm to Lars in 1940, Lars, relying on the advice of his conservative banker, declined to purchase the land, though he could have paid the asking price in cash.

Then November of 1942, Lars bought the former Nennie Johnson-Rasmus Jacobson house on the corner of LeGrand and Lake Streets in Manfred from Hilda Nelson and her family, who had lived there since 1917. Lars, and his parents, Even, and Kjersti, then moved into Manfred. During the same year, Even began working as Custodian for the Manfred School. They actively participated in Fagerlund Sons of Norway, ValdresLag, and Vang Lutheran Church. Even served as Deacon 1945-1950 and 1960-1962, and Custodian 1950-1952. Kjersti was an active member of the Vang Ladies Aid and in 1953 was awarded a "Life Membership" in that organization. She was known for her remarkable character and pleasing personality. She sewed all the clothes for her family, and received awards for her entries in the Wells County Fair.

Even and Kjersti celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1953. Even made his only return trip to Norway in 1957 and a year later on July 7, 1958 Kjersti died at the age of 78, after a short illness. During the last years of his life Even lived with his daughter Bertha in Seattle, until his death on August 20, 1975 at the age of 93. Even and Kjersti were laid to rest in Vang Church Cemetery in Manfred, as are three of their children: Lars, Henry, and Ingrid.



Kjersti and Even Ostrem
 in their home in Manfred

The Children of Even and Kjersti Ostrem

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|--------|
| 1 | Ivan | b.1904 |
| 2 | Lars | b.1905 |
| 3 | Bertha Bert | b.1907 |
| 4 | Henry Hank | b.1909 |
| 5 | Theodore Ted | b.1911 |
| 6 | Christine Christy | b.1913 |
| 7 | Evelyn Evey | b.1914 |
| 8 | Arnt | b.1916 |
| 9 | Inga Ingrid or Corky | b.1918 |
| 10 | Ivar | b.1920 |



Left back:

Ted, Lars, Ivan, Hank, Arnt

Late 1970s

Left front:

Evey, Bert, Christy, Corky

So great was their affection for the people and the community of Manfred, that the Ostrem family, children and grandchildren, made Manfred their 'home' for many years. Family celebrations, gatherings, picnics, and anniversaries were held yearly in the yard at 'Ostrem,' until not long after Lars had passed away in 1987.

1 Ivan

Ivan and
Garnet
Ostrem



Ivan was born April 30, 1904 in Vang, Valdres. In 1909 at age five, he came to America with his parents Even and Kjersti Ostrem and two younger siblings. He grew up on his parent's farm 14 miles south of Tioga, ND.

Ivan moved to Chicago in 1930 and there married Wylma. They had one child Donald or "Donnie" born in 1934. Donnie married Myrna and they had three children: Laura, Linda, and Lonn. Linda died in 2004. Donnie was a talented commercial artist, member of the Northwest Painter's Assoc. He and a partner had built three light planes, member of Aeronautics and Astronautics Assoc. He was a ski instructor, member of the National Ski Patrol and Pacific Northwest Ski Instructors Assoc. Tragically, he died at age 46 in a plane crash near Eugene, OR.

Ivan moved to Tacoma, WA in 1940 and worked in the shipyards where he met Garnet and married in 1946. Garnet had a daughter, Marlene, who married Will Anderson. They live in Auburn, WA and have two children Erin and Traci. Ivan died Sept. 4, 1986 and is buried at Mt. View Cemetery, Auburn, WA. Garnet died in 1999, after a long illness.

Lars was born June 26, 1905 on the Austreim farm in Vang, Valdres. At age four, he came to America with his parents and two siblings. He grew to manhood on his parents farm south of Tioga, ND. With younger siblings at home to help, Lars was able hire himself out to farmers, one of which was Bendik Rogne of Manfred. The Ostrem family attributes Lars for enabling their family to come to Manfred, when Bendik Rogne invited Lars and family to rent his farm in 1929. Lars and his father farmed the Rogne land until 1942, when Lars purchased a home in Manfred where he and his parents lived the remainder of their lives.

From 1942, Lars worked for farmers, some of whom were Sofus and Herbert Ongstad, and Oscar and Gene Melby. He took over as custodian for the Manfred School when his father retired from this position. Lars was active at Vang Lutheran Church and Fagerlund Sons of Norway Lodge where he received a 50-year membership pin. He was an avid golfer, and a wonderful accordion player, delighting audiences of all ages with his old-time music. Lars was good hearted and loved by all. He died Sept. 27, 1987 and is laid to rest at Vang Cemetery.

2 Lars



Lars Ostrem



Lars Talks With God

LARS Hello God! This is Lars talking, but I don't know if you can hear me. I have lived in Manfred quite a long time, but I may have to move soon. I really don't want to move, but they say if you should send for me I had better be ready to go. So, just in case, I shined my car and filled it with gas. They say the highway to heaven is beautiful and scenic. My car is rather old, so I don't know if it will go that far. So if I have some problems along the way, maybe you can send Jesus to give me a hand.

GOD Hello Lars! This is God talking. I hear you loud and dear. Don't worry about your old car. When I am ready for you, I will send a limousine and two angels to bring you. Your mother and father are sitting at a nice big table waiting for you. I heard your mother once say, "I wish I had all my children with me again." I will see that eventually she will have all her children with her again. You will ALL be around this beautiful table. Manfred is a special place on My Earth. So many beautiful families lived in and around Manfred, and many have started to come back and are sitting at their tables waiting for the rest of their families to join them. And when they are all here, we will have the biggest fiesta that Heaven has ever seen.

LARS Thank you God for telling me all this. There is one more question I would like to ask you: When all these people come into Heaven, how do you keep track of them?

GOD As my children come into Heaven, I put a star out into the heavens. I have one here for you, so when you get here I will put it out into the heavens, and it will be beautiful and shine brightly for all the world to see.

By Henry Ostrem

Henry's son Larry shares, "The passing of Lars in 1987 inspired Dad to pen a beautiful prose about his brother and his God, which I believe exemplifies the spiritual thread which runs through the entire family."

Bertha, or "Bert," was born October 6, 1907 on the Austreim farm in Vang, Valdres to Even and Kjersti Ostrem. The family moved to North Dakota and settled in the Tioga area in 1909. Bertha graduated from Tioga High School in May of 1925, but the day of her graduation turned into tragedy when her youngest brother, Ivar, died from a burst appendix enroute to a Minot hospital.

Bertha attended Minot State Teachers College that summer. Receiving her teaching certificate, she started teaching that fall. She taught in elementary schools at several locations, among them Strom School rural Tioga, Buford near Williston, Portal, and Crosby in North Dakota. She married Vern Satterlee December 24, 1941, after which they moved to Seattle. Vern was born October 7, 1913 at Williston, ND to Fred and Odea Satterlee. Shortly after their marriage, Vern was inducted into the army. He served during World War II first in North Africa and then in Italy. While stationed at the Anzio beachhead in Italy, he happened to "bump" into his brother-in-law, Ted Ostrem. Bertha graduated from the University of Washington and she taught for many years in Seattle.

Bertha and Vern helped found Hope Lutheran Church of Seattle and they were active members there for over 50 years. Memorable among their trips was one taken with the Hope Lutheran choir on their concert tour in Alaska. Vern was employed by Allied Stores until his retirement in 1976. Bertha and Vern enjoyed their golden years by retreating to a cabin at Mason Lake. They also traveled in their RV. They had two children: Audrey, who lives at Seattle, WA, and Richard who has a son Ty. Vern died September 23, 2000 at the age of 86 and Bertha died May 11, 2003 at the age of 95.

3 Bertha



Vern and Bertha Satterlee



Bertha



Vern and Bertha Satterlee
and children Audrey and Richard

Henry, or "Hank," was born December 3, 1909 south of Tioga to Even and Kjersti Ostrem. He was the fourth child and third son of ten, and was the first to be born in the United States. He was raised and educated in that area. After the Great Depression forced the family to abandon their farmstead in the Tioga area, they moved to Manfred in 1929 where Hank worked for several area farmers. He later enrolled at Molar Barber School in Fargo and worked as a barber for a number of years. Following his brother Ivan's lead, he then moved to Chicago where he was employed as a bartender for more than 22 years in several of Chicago's biggest hotels, including the LaSalle Hotel.

Hank entered the Army in 1942 and served in the Pacific Theater in New Guinea and Japan during World War II, attaining the rank of sergeant. His brothers, Sergeants Ted and Arnt, also served in that war, and all returned physically intact. Hank was discharged in 1945 and returned to Chicago where he continued working at local hotels. On the 3rd day of December 1953, Hank married June Nelson of Chicago. They made their home in Chicago where he began working for G. J. Aigner Co. On January 1, 1955, June gave birth to their only child, Larry who went on to become a health care professional. In 1958, Hank was transferred to Oxnard, CA where, in 1976, he retired as plant superintendent. June died April 1994. Henry died August 27, 1996 at Oxnard, CA, with the funeral at Vang Lutheran Church, Manfred, and with burial in the church cemetery. Hank loved golf. His son Larry said of his father, "I am sure he has a regular tee-time at God's best country club."

4 Henry



Henry Ostrem



June Ostrem



Henry and June Ostrem

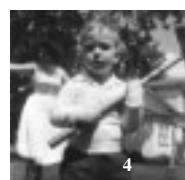
The Annual Ostrem Croquet Tournament

Contestants – Ostrem family
Location – Lars' yard in Manfred
Date – Every 4th of July for sure
Playing style – Play to win
Prize – Laughter and fun all around
The Croquet Champion – Lars
(The word was 'Look out for Lars!')

*The Ostrem family were also avid golfers,
playing together at either the Harvey or
the Fessenden golf courses.*



Croquet enthusiasts from left:
Ivan, Hank, Arnt, Ted, Lars



'Expert' Croquet Techniques

- 1) 1972 Low precision shot by Darrell Fisher, with brother Larry and father Don waiting to line up their winning shots
- 2) 1986 A perfect stroke by Don Fisher's brother, Earl or 'Bud' Fisher
- 3) 1979 Hank lining up his shot, with Corky up next
- 4) 1958 Larry Ostrem sensing the balance of the mallet

5 Theodore



Theodore Ostrem

The son of Kjersti and Even Ostrem, Theodore, or “Ted,” was born July 26, 1911, on the Ostrem homestead south of Tioga. In 1929, when the Ostrem family moved to the Bendik Rogne farm north of Manfred, Ted worked with his parents and for neighboring farmers. Ted joined the Civilian Conservation Corp in the mid 1930s, working on projects in Idaho and Utah. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army in Africa and Europe. After the war, he moved to Scappoose, OR, where he was a laborer for a manufacturing company until his retirement in the late 1970s. In 1949, he married Leona Bilyue who had a daughter LaStar who died in 1998. Leona died in 1994. Ted died June 9, 2000 and is buried at Fairview Cemetery in Scappoose, OR.

Theodore Ostrem

A soldier of World War II

The Manfred history projects are blessed to have this account of one of Manfred's soldier's, excerpts of which are included in the following piece written by Ted's nephew, Bob Anderson.

On the Sunday of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Ted was in Seattle. He joined the U.S. Army and he was stationed at Fort Lewis, WA. In November 1942, his unit landed at Casablanca, French Morocco in North Africa. Seven months later the Deutsch Afrika Korp would surrender to the British and American forces in North Africa. In a letter to his sister Christy, dated May 17, 1943, Ted wrote, “I’ve been in four major battles and I hope I’ll never see any more. It’s a terrible thing to go through, but I came out without a scratch. I can thank God for that.” In another letter from North Africa, Ted wrote that he had been reassigned to the 168th Infantry Regiment of the 34th “Red Bull” Division (168/34). He wrote, “I don’t know where we are going next, but where ever we go God will be with us like he was here in Africa.” He noted that everyone back home had to understand that he might not answer every letter he received because living in foxholes and ducking shells created “poor writing conditions.”

When the Allies invaded Sicily, Ted was in a hospital in Bizerte, Tunisia suffering from malaria. In an August 5, 1943 letter, he wrote, “My temperature is 105 and outside it’s 110.” He noted that he was resting in the first bed he’d slept in since arriving in North Africa ten months earlier. He also noted that “there are quite a few wounded being brought back to this hospital” from the fighting in Sicily. By the end of August, Ted was back with the 168th training for the next phase of the war. On September 21, 1943, the 34th Division landed at Paestum, Italy. From that day on, they were in almost constant combat with the Nazi forces. The 168th’s first major battle of the Italian Campaign would occur, with the American attempt to cross the Volturno River in October. Beyond that, would be the fight for San Vittoria. They would become involved in a 7-day battle, before driving the Germans off Mount Pantana. Success there led directly to the months-long blood bath marking the battle to break through the Nazi defenses anchored upon Monte Cassino. Ted’s outfit, the 168th, would make the first bridgehead across the Rapido River below Monte Cassino.

At the end of February 1944, Ted sent a letter home stating that he was determined to finish its composition because “I have started three to you but always got interrupted. I am now at a rest camp, so am going to try to get this letter off to you. I am getting five days rest, just think, five whole days. Guess I’m lucky at that.” He added, “The other day I received a nice Valentine from Gordy’s mother (Caroline Anderson) with a dollar bill sewed on it. It was very nice of her.” Another item went, “I spose Darlene is going to school everyday. And Rodney is quite a boy too by this time. It won’t be long till he starts school either. Well, I sure hope I can get to see you all again someday.” He’d heard from his brother Hank, then in New Guinea. “Guess he didn’t get such a good place either. Just hope he don’t have to go through anything like I have. If he does, I hope the Lord is with him.”

The 5-day rest camp, led to the 34th Division being sent onto the beachhead at Anzio, south of Rome, landing on March 19, 1944. It would be no picnic. The C.O. of the 168th would be awarded the Silver Star for leading the hand-to-hand fighting that occurred in the battle to wrest the town of Lannuvio from the Nazis. The next day, March 20th, Ted’s sister Christy would write him to announce the birth of a son Charles (Robert Gordon). Ted was an uncle again. Ted had written home April 9th to tell of a visit with Vern (Satterlee). “Will scribble a few words to you tonight, just to let you know I am fine and still at the same old stuff. I saw Vern the other night and was sure glad to see him. He looks the same as ever, even tho he has had malaria many times. They should send him home—but it seems like us guys that have been fighting since the invasion of Africa have to stick it out till the end. Well, anyway, I will be satisfied if I get back in one piece.”

As May wore into June, the Nazi defense around Anzio and Monte Cassino would give way to the Allies. The 168/34th would begin the relentless push northward past Rome. By July 28th, they had reached the Arno River in northern Italy. There, after 281 days of combat, Ted’s outfit would be taken out of the front lines for a few days rest. Soon enough they were back to “the same old stuff. I hate to think of going through that again.” It was back to the daily grind of fear mixed with hope. Around Christmas, the 168th was being handed a unit citation for its part in a battle that had occurred nearly a year earlier, January 6-13, 1944. The 168th had run into the Herman Goering Division and succeeded in kicking the Nazis out of a town called Cervaro and off a place called Mt. Tocchio.

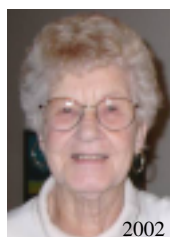
Nearly five solid months of fighting would remain for the 168th after Christmas, before the Germans would finally surrender in May 1945. Ted’s unit had fought its way north from Paestum to a place called Novaro, beyond Milan. At the end, the Nazi 34th Division would surrender to the US 34th Division. For Ted, the physical state of World War II had ended. His wartime experiences haunted him the rest of his life. In 1981, while visiting Harvey during the reunion, Ted was heard to comment that even though being nearly 70 years old, he still dreamed he was fighting the Germans. Ted was an unassuming man, modest in word and manner. He was quietly respected by his nieces, nephews, and step-grandchildren knowing that he had endured an awful experience during the war. Ted was buried with full military honors at the Fairview Cemetery at Scappoose with taps and a 21-gun salute. The American flag was presented to his brother Amt, who said that Ted would have appreciated knowing his years of service had been recognized.

It is fitting to place here the words Ted used at the end of his letters home... “Greet everyone please. Love Ted.”

6 Christine



Gordon and Christine Anderson



Christy

Gordon and Christy Anderson in 1985 on their 50th Wedding Anniversary with their children:

Standing from left: Sandi, Rod, Darlene, Bob



Back: Curt Quenette (Bill's brother), Sandy Quenette Fraser Krebs, Andrew Fraser, Avis Christiansen Quenette, Mark Quenette, Bob Anderson
Middle: Jeanne Quenette (Bill's sister-in-law), Suzanne Quenette Wagner, Madison Wagner, Sam Wagner, David Quenette, Dakota Quenette, Christy Ostrem Anderson
Front: Bill Quenette, Nikki Quenette, Stephen Quenette, Darlene Anderson Quenette

Christine, or "Christy," was born April 21, 1913 at Tioga, ND to Even and Kjersti Ostrem. When she was but seven years old, she started working for families and continued this through the years except in 1927 when she helped at home while her mother made a trip to Norway. At the time her parents moved to Manfred in 1929, Christy continued working in the Tioga area for a time and then worked for a family at Ruso, ND. In 1932, Christy followed her family to Manfred and worked for the Sellie family, and the Halvor Olsens who were then living on the Reier Reistad farm. For several years, Christy also helped in the Melby cook car during harvest season.

It was at Manfred that Christy and Gordon, or "Gordy," Anderson became acquainted, and on November 1, 1935 they were married at Minot. Gordon was born October 3, 1907 at Manfred, ND to Olaf and Caroline Anderson. He grew up and attended school in Manfred. His family moved to Long Beach, CA, where he graduated from high school. The family returned to Manfred where Gordon worked at his father's auto and implement dealership.

During the early years of their marriage, Christy and Gordon made their home primarily on the second story of his mother's home in Manfred. Two children were born to them during this time, Darlene and Rodney. Gordon started working on road construction during the late 1930s. In 1943, they moved to Harvey where Gordon worked with the Soo Line Railroad as a brakeman. Two more children were born to them, Robert and Sandra. Christy and Gordon joined First Lutheran Church in Harvey, and he was also a charter member of the Wells Eagles Aerie of Harvey. He retired in 1966 as a conductor, due to health problems. He died May 31, 1992 at Harvey and is buried in Sunnyside Cemetery at Harvey. Christy lives at Harvey, ND.

Gordon and Christy's family includes: 1. Darlene, or "Andy," married Bill Quenette, who is retired from teaching and coaching. They live at Moorhead, MN and they have four children: David married Avis Christiansen, Suzanne married Sam Wagner, Stephen married Nikki Nitz, and Mark. They have two grandchildren: Dakota and Madison. 2. Rodney, or "Rod," lives at Goodyear, AZ and works in design and landscaping. 3. Robert, or "Bob," is retired from teaching and now lives at Harvey. 4. Sandra, or "Sandy," married Jonathan Fraser and they had two children Jeffrey married Kandyce, and Andrew. There is one grandchild, Hayli. Jonathan died in 1994. Sandra married Bill Krebs and they live at Oshkosh, WI.

Memories of Darlene Quenette...

- *During the great croquet games with Lars and other family, Lars always seemed to come out the winner!
- *Games of Chinese checkers and whist.
- *Grandpa telling us stories in Norwegian.
- *Grandma dressing my brother Rod and me in front of the warm cook stove, a blizzard roaring outdoors and oatmeal and boiled eggs waiting for us at the kitchen table.
- *Watching grandma for mhome made butter into beautiful shapes with wooden molds.
- *Grandma sending us to the Cash Store for Orange Crush pop and vanilla ice cream, for a treat.
- *Grandma heating her curling iron on the kitchen stove.
- *Watching grandpashapen his ax on the grind stone.
- *Dinners and dancing at the Sons of Norway Hall, we kids falling asleep in the cloak room on a pile of coats.
- *The annual potluck picnic reunion held in Lars' yard.
- *Golfing with Uncle Lars and Uncle Don Fisher.
- *The outhouse!

Memories

Memories of Christy Anderson...

Christmas Eve held special memories when my mother made lots of lefse to go with the lutefisk and meatballs. After supper, we would hold hands and sing around the Christmas tree. We did not have electricity, so we tied candles to the branches of the tree. When the candles started burning low, we had to blow them out. We always managed to get some toys. Evelyn and I usually received a doll, and the boys received games such as checkers and dominos, which we enjoyed playing.

Memories of Darlene Quenette...

- *Lars was asked why he had fire crackers all over the house? He replied "Well, I have to have a fire alarm!"
- *Running to the end of the alley when we heard the Soo Line coming... then, counting the cars.
- *Swiping the pink mint candies in the tin box on the buffet!
- *Going to the Johnson pump to get water for grandma.
- *Grandma wrapping a hot dish in a white cotton dish towel to take to a church doings.
- *Grandma making egg coffee in her white enamel coffee pot.
- *Grandma's flat brød, julekake, søtsuppe (fruit soup) and sandbakkles and fattigmann (cookies).
- *Listening to the wonderful stories told by parents, aunts and uncles of life in the 20's and 30's.
- *Aunt Evey on the pump organ, Mom Christy on the wooden spoons and Uncle Lars on the accordion playing an old time tune.
- *The tick of the Ostrem clock

7 Evelyn

Evelyn, or "Evey," was born May 17, 1914 (on Norway's Syttende Mai) to Even and Kjersti Ostrem. She grew up and attended school near Tioga, moving to Manfred with her parents in 1929. On July 3, 1936 at Minot, ND, Evey married Donald Fisher born February 7, 1914 at Manfred, ND. They lived in Manfred, ND, where Don worked for the Soo Line Railroad. In 1942, they moved to Sparks, NV and to Richmond, CA living there for a year before returning to Manfred, and later to Harvey, ND. Don retired from the Soo Line Railroad in 1976. They had two children: **1.** Darrell married Janet Rademacher at Harvey, ND and had four children: David, Tom, Joey, and Sandra. Five grandchildren. Darrell worked on the Milwaukee Road railway out of Harlowton, MT, but he died in an auto accident in June 1978. Janet remarried and lives in Miles City, MT. **2.** Larry married Carol and they have two children: daughter Sheryl married Art Wilczynski, and son Jon. They have one grandchild, Preston.

Evey and Don were members of First Lutheran Church of Harvey. They enjoyed golfing, bowling, and being with friends and family. Don died April 9, 1994 and Evey died on July 22, 1995, and are buried at Sunnyside Cemetery, Harvey, ND. Their son Larry reminisced about their life: "My parents have some deep roots in Manfred, and they took great pride in telling 'old Manfred' stories to anyone who would listen. Our first home was a converted boxcar located just south of the Vang Church. The Fisher's and Ostrem's were pretty good friends. Lars and Dad spent a lot of time on the golf course. Our best memories of the Ostrem house always revolved around a fourth of July picnic or any Christmas day. I still brag to my friends here in Las Vegas, 50 years later that those days in Manfred were like living in a Norman Rockwell painting."



Don and Evelyn Fisher
Darrell standing, Larry in front



Don and Evelyn Fisher
on their 50th Wedding Anniversary



Larry and Darrell



Larry and Carol Fisher



Arnt and Phyllis Ostrem



Arnt and Phyllis Ostrem
on their 25th Wedding Anniversary



Children of Arnt and Phyllis Ostrem
From left: Jerry, David and Jim



↑
Arnt, Don, Lars
←
Back
Inga, Christine
Front:
Bertha, Evelyn



Family snaps

8 Arnt

Arnt was born April 20, 1916 at Tioga, ND, where he attended his first seven years of school. In 1929 when he was 13 years old, his family moved to Manfred where Arnt graduated from the 8th grade. He helped his parents on the farm and in the mid 1930s he joined the Civilian Conservation Corp where he worked on projects in Minnesota and also in North Dakota. There he helped start the Theodore Roosevelt National Park by preparing the land for bridges to be built in the park. In 1936, he moved to Chicago. Two of his brothers were employed with the same night club, and Arnt was able to secure a job there as well. For a time, he had a job as a singing bartender. Later, he moved to Iowa where his sister Inga was living and there tried his hand at farming.

In September 1942, while living in Iowa, he was called into the Army Air Corp. Arnt married Phyllis Biever in 1943 while he was stationed on Long Island, New York. Phyllis' parents had moved out to Oregon before the war, where her father worked in the shipyards. During the time Arnt was overseas, Phyllis went to live with her parents in Portland, Oregon. As World War II came to an end, Arnt was serving in Okinawa, Japan. When he came home from the service, he went to Portland to join his wife Phyllis and their 5-month old son David. Under the GI Bill, Arnt attended body and fender school and then managed the body shop of a Ford auto dealership at Portland, working in this field until his retirement in 1981. Phyllis enjoyed working as a secretary for the Portland school system for 23 years. Arnt and Phyllis have three sons: **1.** David an artist lives at Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada and he has a daughter Angela, **2.** Jerry has two children: Inga and Zachery, and **3.** Jim. Arnt and Phyllis live at Gresham, Oregon.

9 Ingrid

Inga, or 'Ingrid' also known as 'Corky,' was born May 15, 1918 at Tioga, ND. She was eleven years old when her family moved to Manfred in 1929. She attended Manfred School, and in 1932 she was confirmed at Vang Lutheran Church. Her sister Christy relates that Ingrid obtained the name Corky when someone said to her "You're a real corker!" She indeed loved life, and freely shared this love with everyone. She loved music; she always was singing; she loved dancing with her father to Lars' music; she loved telling stories. One knew that when she arrived, you would be having fun.

Ingrid lived first at Minot, and then in 1937 she moved to Chicago where her brothers Ivan, Henry, and Ted were working. An entry in the June 10, 1937 issue of the Wells County Free Press reported, "*Miss Inga Ostrem left from New Rockford Friday for Chicago where she will work as a beauty operator with her sister-in-law, Mrs. Ivan Ostrem.*" Ingrid married Jack Sheedy at Chicago, WA and they lived at Melrose and Ottumwa, Iowa. They had two children: 1. Sharon married Phil Roberge and they had seven children: Laura, Jana, Shara, Krista, Paula, Chip, and Kari. Sharon and Phil live in East Wenatchee, WA. 2. Bob married Joy and they have two children: Joa and Aaron. Bob and Joy live at Port Angeles, WA. Ingrid later married Ralph Reinholt.

During World War II, Ingrid moved to Seattle near her sister Bert. In her job with Boeing during war years, she worked inside the wings of planes because she was one of the few who could maneuver within the narrow spaces. Later she worked in a Northgate hospital and nursing home. Ingrid died June 10, 1998 at Lynnwood, WA at the age of 80 and she was laid to rest at Vang Church Cemetery, Manfred, ND.



c1943
Jack and Ingrid Sheedy and their children Sharon and Robert



← Ingrid with her children Sharon and Bob

Photo below from left: Bert, Sharon and Phil
↓ Roberge, Ingrid, and Ted



Late 1960s
Bert and Ingrid with relatives in Norway
From left: Bert, Aunt Berit (Even's sister),
Ingrid holding Bente, Sigrid holding Carrie

10 Ivar

Ivar was born April 30, 1920 at Tioga, ND to Even and Kjersti Ostrem. He shared the same birth date as his oldest brother Ivan. What was to have been a lovely day of celebration for his oldest sister Bert as she graduated from high school May 29, 1925, instead turned to tragedy for the family when Ivar, at age five, lost his life after suffering a burst appendix enroute to a Minot hospital. His sister Christy is shown standing by his grave stone at a Tioga cemetery.



A rare snap
in front of
the hotel
and the old
Manfred
Post Office

From left:
Orvin Anderson, Arnt Ostrem
was showing off his new white
shoes all the rage in Chicago,
Ted Ostrem, Lars Ostrem,
Gordon Anderson



The Johnson-Jacobson-Ostrem House has been named in honor of several of its former owners, each of whom had a great heart for Manfred.

Nennie Johnson and his wife Alpha (Skogmo) built this house in 1905. Nennie also built a hotel in Manfred in 1906 and then a pool hall-barbershop in 1908, both of which still exist.

Rasmus Jacobson, a grain manager, and his wife Margaret (Nordtorp) were the next owners of this house. Their son, James, went on to become vice president of the Chase Manhattan Bank, New York and he fondly returned often to Manfred throughout his life.

Lars Ostrem purchased this house in 1942 as a home for himself and that of his parents. His parents lived there the remainder of their lives and it served as Lars' home until he died in 1987, a span of 45 years!

Johnson-Jacobson-Ostrem House



Dedication into the
Manfred Heritage Museum
July 2, 2006

The plan for this house is to restore it so it may serve as an exhibit hall for the Manfred Heritage Museum, as well as lend its architectural presence to the ambiance of this settler's village. Restoration of the exterior is the first project, and once this is completed restoration of the interior will follow.

In 2003, a non-profit organization known as the Johnson-Ostrem Preservation Fund (A separate organization from MHP, Inc.) was established to receive funds for the restoration of this house. Contributions enabled the house to be shingled in 2003. The goal in 2006 is to finish restoration of the exterior in time for the dedication July 2. If you would like to help as a volunteer or make a contribution, please contact one of the directors: Rod Anderson, Wanda Melchert, or Audrey Solheim.

"Celebrating together a grand heritage!"