

The New MANFRED NEWS

Suggested Annual
\$10.00 Contribution
For Newsletter Expense

A quarterly newsletter published by Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. (MHP, Inc.), a non-profit corporation founded July 25, 2000 for the purpose of gathering and preserving the history of Manfred and its trade area and for restoring and caring for some of its sites. Suggested annual contribution to help defray the cost of this newsletter is \$10.00 payable to MPH, Inc., P.O. Box 321, Harvey, ND 58341. You are invited to visit Manfred's website at <http://www.manfrednd.org>.

Volume 2, Issue 4

Page 1

December 2002

Warm Holiday Greetings From Manfred, North Dakota!



These historic holiday postcards came into the Manfred collection during 2002.

Thanks Roger Rogelstad and Alice Anderson Smith for them!

Above: This card sent to us from Roger Rogelstad was given to him by his cousin who had found it in an antique store in Valley City, ND. On card back: Addressed to Mrs. Ole Nystuen of Dennison, Minn. Postmark January 7, 1916, Manfred, N. Dak.

English translation of the card as written in Norwegian:

Thank you so much for the money gift you sent me. This evening we will take in the Valdres Stevne in Manfred. We have obtained a little snow, but not enough to use our sleigh to easily tour during this Christmas. Here it is calm and good. Anne

At right: This card was found tucked inside one of O.K. Melby's books given by Alice Anderson Smith. It was originally sent by Reier (R.O.) Reistad, a local farmer and craftsman, and friend of the Melbys.

The warmest and best greetings to everyone from the little village of Manfred, that is warmly remembered in the hearts of many of you! A place of fresh beginnings soon to introduce its exciting new future!

Announcing The grand opening reception of The Manfred Museum July 26-27, 2003

A museum in an authentic village setting

Mark your calendars for this significant and exciting event in the life of Manfred!

Come celebrate and witness together the beginnings of its new adventure, when it shall begin serving as a voice in honor of rural America and its history. The time of the museum's Opening Ceremonies will be announced later.

Welcome to the eighth issue of the Manfred News! Thank you to all the contributors! Your help adds much richness to the history of Manfred. If this is your first issue, we are ever so glad to say hello and hope you enjoy the visit. Pause to enjoy some holiday greetings from Manfred, then jump in by taking in the many activities at Manfred this fall on pages 2 and 3, followed by histories of the 82-year old Fagerlund Sons of Norway Lodge, a return visit to Bethel Lutheran Church, and the Rodne and Deede stories with a common link in celebrating barns.

Your financial contributions to MHP, Inc. will help complete the restoration of the Melby-Rogness home. Also, a wish list for this home includes: display cases, bookcases, utility shelves, old fashioned ceiling lamps and curtain rods, etched glass for the front door.



The New Manfred News, Page 1

A correction to the September 2002 issue in the Frovig-Alveshere article, page 9 under 'The Children': The two children of Fern are Darlene who uses the name Gail, and Diana. Our apology for this error.

For the program at the Wells County Historical Society Sept. 9, Wanda Melchert gave a talk on the progress of the Manfred projects.

A very successful open house celebration, for the beautifully restored Festival Hall in Fessenden, was held on Oct. 6. The people in the area deserve much credit for all their efforts in the restoration of this much loved building, so it can once again be used and enjoyed by the community. Congratulations!

Vang Lutheran Church Ladies Aid held their Harvest Festival, Oct. 20 featuring a pot luck dinner, bazaar and bake sale, and a very interesting talk given by Elenore Dossenko. A good time was had by all.

Representing Manfred History & Preservation, Inc., Wanda Melchert attended the 14th Annual Governor's Conference on North Dakota History, held at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck on Nov. 15-16. The theme was "Making Connections: Cultural Heritage Tourism in North Dakota." She was pleased to meet folks who serve in tourism, museums, preservation, and North Dakota government, finding the conference to be very helpful.

MHP, Inc. has prepared its very first brochure, the purpose of which is to announce the opening of the Manfred Museum in July of 2003. Its debut distribution was for the history conference. A version of it will soon be available for use by The Harvey Area Chamber of Commerce in their travel packets.

Our sincere sympathy to Lorraine Rau, President of the Wells County Historical Society, in the passing of her husband, Leonard Rau, on November 2, 2002.

Historical Records for the Manfred Museum

Historic records preserve much of the rich history about a place. All of us, as Friends of Manfred, have reason to raise a great cheer, because historic records for Manfred have indeed been kept safe and sound through the many years!! Isn't this fantastic!!

Our sincere thanks to the following people for safeguarding Manfred's historic records. These records are now becoming a part of the museum archival collection. The care of the records by these people shall be noted on a plaque for the museum archives.

*The records of Vang Lutheran Church
were in the care of
Edgar and Jeanne Flick.*

*The records of the Manfred School
District were in the care of
Pete and Rose Anderson
and Ervin and Evelina Boese.*

*The records of the Manfred Township
were in the care of the township officers.*

Contact MHP, Inc., should you have records for the
Manfred Museum archival collection.

History Contributions

Thank you so much to the following, for your recent historic item contributions for the Manfred history collection

Ervin & Evelina Boese
*1st State Bank of Manfred expandable file,
Grain kicker, Fanning mill, Blacksmith's anvil*

Elaine Koble
Burkum silverware

Floyd Lindbo
1920s oil painting by Nennie Johnson

Art Melby
1911 Wells County Atlas

Elsie Martinson & Audrey Solheim
Sons of Norway dishes

Edgar & Jeanne Flick
Old Manfred News information

Marlys Weisser and Doreen Kartes
Photo of 1952-1953 upper grade class

Lorraine Rau
Bible of Cecilia Olstad

Sigrid Langseth and Tom Nelson
Historic photos

Pam Norstedt and Orvin Ongstad
Manfred memories

Financial Contributions

Thank you so much to the following, for your recent financial contributions to Manfred History and Preservation, Inc.

Contributions to MHP, Inc. (General Fund)

Kermit and Florence Alveshere
Donald Anderson
Lowell and Muriel Boyum
Emmett Turner
Edgar and Jeanne Flick
Gwyn Herman
Al and Norma Holwegner
Elaine Homan
John and Mary Hovey
Laverne Johnson
Irene Koenig
Joe and Joan Lake
Trygve and Linda Letness
Elsie Martinson
Richard and Wanda Melchert
Thomas Nelson
Robert E. O'Neill
Jean LeClaire Peterson
Myrtle Rogness
Richard Rogness
Myrtle Sailer
Merlin and Laurie Schwartz
Barbara Langseth Simmons
in memory of her father, Joel Langseth
Arlene D. Triebold
Elaine Wittmaier

Contributions To Help Defray Newsletter Expense

Clifton and Audrey Albrecht
Kermit Alveshere
Donald Anderson
Carroll and Harriett Bjorke
Leonard and Alice Martin
Orlien and Zelda Melby
Lorraine Rau
Berger and Olive Rodne
June M. Rost

Happy 100th Birthday

Elmer Gerald Melby

Born in Manfred October 17, 1902
Elmer's parents were Manfred homesteaders,
Gilbert Melby and Esther LeGrand Melby

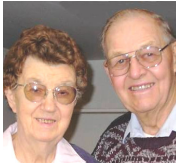
*Congratulations
Elmer on your
100th Birthday!*

*Best wishes
from Manfred!*



The New Manfred News, Page 2

Thank you Ervin & Evelina Boese



Thank you Ervin and Evelina for all the joy and blessings you have so generously given to everyone! Best wishes in your new home near your family.

A lovely farewell gathering took place October 24 for Ervin & Evelina at Vang Lutheran Church, Manfred.

Ervin and Evelina Boese
4033 Lark Circle, Grand Forks, ND 58201
701-775-7175

Beiseker Bank-Manfred P.O. Building Changes Hands



Wanda Melchert together with Jeanne and Edgar Flick in front of the P.O. building.

In 1964, Edgar and Jeanne Flick purchased the post office building when Edgar became postmaster of the Manfred Post Office. The post office closed in October 1992, after which time Edgar and Jeanne continued to care for the upkeep of this building.

After 38 years of ownership, they have decided to sell their Manfred property, which extends south to the elevator road and includes the Cash Store. On Sept. 30, 2002, Wanda and Richard Melchert became the new owners. Both couples are pleased that this property will have a bright future as part of the Manfred museum collection. The building's rich history, together with exhibits about Manfred, are planned to be featured.

In Memory

Maurice Haugen
July 2, 1912 – November 28, 2002

Restoration Activity in Manfred this Fall

Hurrah for the good progress in Manfred! The basement walls of the Melby-Rogness home are finished and the last corner of the house will soon be leveled, a wall on the house was repaired, the underground electrical line has been trenched by electrician Fritz Wohl, some cleanup took place, and the Vang church foundation is now protected. Wow!

A gigantic size thank you to the volunteers who have given so generously of their time and skill in the ongoing projects at Manfred!! Everyone is wonderful to work with, both paid and volunteer, and so willing to do whatever jobs need to be done. Volunteers this fall: Jacob Anderson, Perry Anderson, Pete Anderson, Rose Anderson, Wesley Boese, Verna Bowers, Bob Everetts, Paul Gunderson, Kathy Hoornaert, Wanda Melchert, and Herbert Ongstad. Those providing use of equipment or donated supplies: Perry Anderson, Pete Anderson, Edgar Flick, Paul Gunderson, and Herbert Ongstad.

A very special thank you to Ervin and Evelina Boese for making available whatever items from the old Edwin Sommer farmhouse, that might be useful for the Manfred projects, before this structure was destroyed. Items salvaged include baseboard molding, a window, lap siding, and a metal heat vent.

The Melby-Rogness Home

Phase 3 of the basement cement block wall project consisted of excavating on the northwest corner of the house, and building walls on the west and north sides. A remarkable effort well done!



A 6'x6' portion of the west wall of the dining room, having deteriorated over the years due to water damage, was restored. A window salvaged from the old Edwin Sommer farm home, has a future now as a 'new' window in the Melby-Rogness Home. A great endeavor!

Showing the window being removed from the old Sommer farm home, and then installed as the 'new' window in the Melby-Rogness home...



Around Manfred

Three-grain truckloads of metal debris were hauled out of Manfred and taken to Pius Krenzle's Auto Wrecking. The Ravnaas lot is looking much better, having been cleared of an old garage and two small sheds. Manfred owners keep neat yards!

Vang Lutheran Church

Projects completed at Vang Church include restoring the front cement steps, painting the railing, and completing work on the foundation and drainage project. This work is being funded, in part, through a Prairie Churches matching grant.

Prairie Churches Grant Participants

Mark Faul
Backhoe to remove old sidewalk
Brian Elverud
Mason to resurface the 1918 foundation
Robin Rost
Installation of gutters and downspouts
John Dethloff
Landscaping to improve drainage around foundation
Volunteers Perry Anderson, Pete Anderson, and Wanda Melchert
Install metal flashing. Rake earth & seed grass.

Appreciation Gathering, November 3

Regular Contributor to the Washington Post, Jason Wilson, and also Dale Bentley of Preservation North Dakota attended this gathering held in honor of the remarkable progress of the Manfred projects in 2002, and to recognize the volunteers who have helped make it possible. Jason is doing a story about the Prairie Churches of ND. On Nov. 27, Michael Williamson, a photographer on assignment with the Washington Post regarding this story, also visited Manfred.

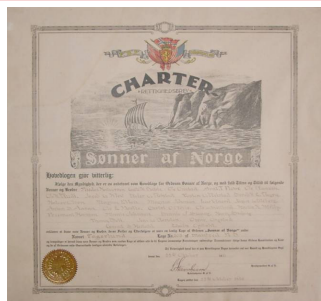
Photo of Jason Wilson taken by Carrie Opdahl of The Herald Press



Jason Wilson
Regular Contributor
to the Washington Post

History of the Fagerlund Sons of Norway Lodge, Page 1

On October 22, 1920, fifteen men met to form Fagerlund Lodge No. 203, Sons of Norway. Officers were chosen and Ole Onstad became the first president. \$104.50 was paid by the initial members. Then, on October 25, 1921, 29 people gathered together to draw up the charter.



Charter members of the Fagerlund Sons of Norway Lodge

A.S. Aasand	Magnus Johnson	Olaf Norlie	Christ Roble
Tomas Bole	Nennie Johnson	Oscar Ongstad	Bendik Rogne
Gullik H. Dahle	Jacob Klev	Edwin Opdahl	Ole H. Rudi
Magnus Elton	Jorgen Lilleberg	Ole Ranum	Bennie Swang
Dr. Arnt Flowe	Halvor Olson	Jens Renden	Harry Swang
Nicoli Halvorson	Ole Onstad	Reier Reistad	Iver Vinard
Freemont Hanson	M.K. Melby	T.O. Reistad	Ole Watland
Conrad Hedahl			

The newly formed lodge met for some years on the second floor of the C.C. Melby Store. At that time, the Fagerlund Lodge admitted only men. The women started thinking it would be interesting to organize a Daughters of Norway lodge. The men heard of the rumor, and quickly squelched the idea by inviting the women to join with them. So on February 3, 1922, twelve women and one man were initiated into the Fagerlund Lodge: Mrs. Anton (Emma) Aasand, Mrs. Ernest (Eva) Braaten, Emil Christianson, Mrs. Emil (Ingeborg) Christianson, Elida Faanes, Mrs. Con (Clara) Hedahl, Mrs. Fred (Annie) Lindbo, Annie O. Melby, Mrs. Oscar (Bertha) Melby, Mrs. Nels (Cora) Nertrout, Mrs. Oscar (Christine) Ongstad, Mrs. Nels (Marie) Renden, Lilly Rodne (later became Mrs. Perry Anderson).



During 1920-1926, Fagerlund Lodge met in the upstairs ballroom of the C.C. Melby Store (foreground).
Photo provided by Myrtle Sailer.



In front of the Sons of Norway Hall (Burkum building), Manfred, ND. Believed to be from left: Halvor Olson, ?Ernest Braaten, ?Mabel Hovey, ?Jens Renden, ?Bernice Hovey, Conrad Hedahl, Helmer Solheim, ?Edwin Hedahl, Oscar Melby.
Photo provided by Norma Holwegner.

In 1926, the former Burkum Store (then known as the A.S. Aasand Store) was purchased to use as a lodge hall. This building served the lodge very well with its stage, kitchen, and large hall. Many folks have fond memories of activities held there. In October 1952, the building was accidentally destroyed by fire. Valuable lodge records and property were lost. However, items pulled from the burning building included the piano, the charter, a Viking ship made by Nennie Johnson and Jens Renden, dishes, and chairs.



Lars Burkum at his store prior to 1916. Later it served as the Fagerlund Sons of Norway hall for 26 years, 1926-1952.
From the Burkum Collection



In October of 1952 this much enjoyed building burned, and the search for a new lodge home soon began. Notice piano in foreground.
Photo provided by Mildred Reiswig

Fagerlund Lodge History, Page 2

In 1953, the Breyer Hotel (originally known as Hotel Johnson) was purchased as the new lodge home. It was redecorated and furniture was added. Much volunteer labor was donated by willing members to keep the place going as a lodge hall. The building was also used for annual elevator meetings and school programs.



After their hall burned, the Fagerlund Lodge purchased the hotel at Manfred in 1953 which was used until the 1980s.

Photo taken about 1906. *From the Johnson Collection.*



A social at the hotel lodge hall. The Viking ship, rescued from the fire, is now located in the Wells County Museum in Fessenden. The elk horn had been in Nennie Johnson's barbershop in Manfred. *Fagerlund Lodge Collection.*

Fagerlund Lodge Manfred, ND

Photos from Fagerlund Lodge Collection



Dr. Lowell Boyum, sharing a Jule (Christmas) story



50-Year members recognized:
Perry Anderson, Lilly Anderson,
Bertha Melby, Lars Ostrem

Celebrating 82 Years Of Preserving Cultural Heritage



Lilly Anderson, playing a Jule carol



Mother and daughter harmonizing together,
Olga Johnson and Dianne Aull

For many years, Fagerlund Lodge met twice a month... on the first Friday for a business meeting and on the third Friday for a social. Some of the delightful social activities have included:

- Home talent plays
- Basket socials
- Shadow socials
- Fiddler's contests
- Dances
- Lutefisk suppers
- Whist parties
- Masquerades
- Movies
- Picnics
- Julefests
- 17th of May fest
- Hardtime parties
- Anniversary celebrations
- Programs



Olga Johnson, Lilly Anderson, Martha Mathison, singing as a trio in Norwegian



Bertha Melby & Norby Helgeson dancing to the music of Lars Ostrem & Gene Melby



Myrtle Rogness, Betty Melby, Marsha Melby, Margaret McBain having fun serving lunch.

Fagerlund Lodge History, Page 3



One of the many picnic gatherings through the years.

Photo taken in the Fessenden Park July 8, 1979. Photo by E. S. Killie.

From left Standing: Norby Helgeson, Peter Anderson, Lars Ostrem, Archie Stokke, Leslie Johnson, Oscar Mathison, Lloyd Rogelstad, Lawrence Fritchie, Kermit Melby, Clifford Berg, Art Gunderson, ?.

From left Seated: Martha Mathison, Lilly Anderson, Margaret McBain, Bertha Melby, Rose Anderson, Olga Johnson, Lucille Fritchie, Myrtle Rogness, Elsie Martinson, Annie Solheim, Helen Fritchie, Anna Iverson, Clara Meyer.

From left on Ground: At edge-Perry Anderson, John Anderson, David Johnson, Ella Helgeson, Savannah Lee, Peter Anderson, Jr. Don Johnson, Shannon Bodine.

In the 1980s, because of needed repairs to the building and its high heating costs, the members decided to discontinue using the hotel building. An auction was held at the Harvey Armory where the contents of the building were sold. Later, the building was also sold.

Fagerlund Lodge met for a time at the Fessenden City Hall. After this the group began meeting in member's homes, which continues today.

Celebrating 82 years since its founding, the Fagerlund Sons of Norway Lodge continues to enjoy monthly gatherings of fun and fellowship. The current membership includes: President-Peter Anderson, Donald Anderson, Rose Anderson, Dianne Aull, Verna Bowers, Helen Fritchie, Gwyn Herman, Laverne Johnson, Elsie Martinson, Arthur Melby, Richard Melchert, and Myrtle Rogness.



Fessenden 75th Anniversary Parade, July 17, 1968 Photo by Audrey Solheim

From Left: Roy Fandrich, Pamela Nelson, Marilyn Johnson, Mrs. Roy (Lucille) Fandrich, Ardis Flick, Teresa Fandrich.



2001 Julefest, from left front: Helen Fritchie, Myrtle Rogness, Elsie Martinson, Florence and Art Melby. Back: Verna Bowers, Rose & Pete Anderson. Photo by Wanda Melchert

The Sons of Norway Mission Statement

The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote, preserve, and cherish a lasting appreciation of the heritage and culture of Norway and other Nordic countries while growing soundly as a fraternal benefit society and offering maximum benefits to its members.



Detail of the Fagerlund Lodge charter

Document Sources: Fagerlund Lodge history, photos as noted, Harvey Growing With Pride book, Fagerlund Lodge members.

The Norwegian Table Prayer

*I Jesu navn, går vi til
bords, og spise og drikke
på ditt ord. Dig Gud til
ære, os til gavn, så får vi
mat, I Jesu navn. Amen.*

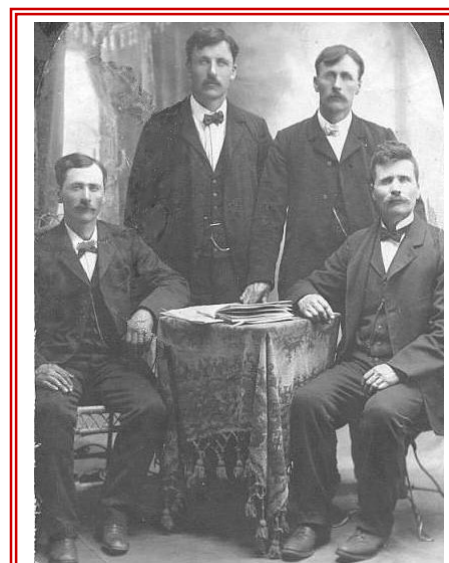
In Jesus name,
go we to the table
to eat and drink
at thy word.
God to honor, we to gain,
so receive we food,
in Jesus name. Amen.

Rodne Family History, Page 1

The Rodne Brothers

Lars Olsen Hebnes and his wife Sigrid Olsdotter Vormestrand farmed at a place called Rodne, which was located in Imsland, Rogaland, Norway. Here they raised their five children: Karen b. abt 1861, Sevrin b. abt 1863, Ole Johan b. 1864, Haldor b. 1867, and Ole Lars b. 1871. As was the custom in those days, the children were named after relatives. In this family, two children were named Ole for their grandfathers, Ole Hebnes and Ole Vormestrand. Karen, the eldest child, inherited her parents farm. Her four brothers, desiring to find their own place and hearing of the land of opportunity in America, came searching for their future in this country.

The brothers first lived at Buxton, ND and worked in that region for a time. They each eventually came to Wells County. The oldest brother, Sevrin, decided to go back to Norway where he married and settled on a farm called Stuvik, thereafter used Sevrin Stuvik for his name, as was the custom. Over time, Ole J., Haldor, and Ole L. filed on homesteads near one another about 7 miles NE of Manfred in Fram Township. There they engaged in farming, and raised their families. They became affiliated with Bethel Lutheran Church located just south from their homesteads, remaining lifelong members.



The Four Rodne Brothers
From left: Ole J., Severin, Ole L., Haldor

Three Brothers Settled Near One Another North of the Village of Manfred in Fram Township

Ole J.

On Section 25
SW25, T150, R71

Haldor

On Section 26
E26, T150, R71

Ole L.

On Section 35
S35, T150, R71

Map →

5	30	29	28	27	26	25	30
6	31	32	33	34	35	36	31
1	6	5	4	3	2	1	6
2	7	8	9	10	11	12	7
3	18	17	16	15	14	13	18
4	19	20	21	22	23	24	19
5	30	29	28	27	26	25	30

About the three brothers:

Ole J. & Maggie Rodne

Ole J., b.Mar. 15, 1864 at Imsland, Rogaland, Norway, d.Oct. 11, 1947 in Heimdal, North Dakota, married on Dec. 24, 1892 at Buxton, ND to Maggie (Margit Olsdotter Knutson) b. June 1, 1869 in Vinje, Telemark, Norway, d. Jan. 7, 1964 in Harvey. After coming to America as a young man and then working on farms at Buxton, ND for several years, O. J. as he was known, dreamed of having his own farm. The dream came true when he went west to Wells County and filed on land north of Manfred in 1893. After making arrangements for a claim shack to be placed on this land, he returned to Buxton for his wife and young child. After loading all their belongings and piling them high into a horse-drawn wagon, they made their way westward across the prairie. Their journey came to a joyous conclusion when they saw the claim shack, in place, ready to serve as their first home.

Ole and Maggie had nine children:

1. Louis died in infancy.
2. Sarah 1895-1995 (Mrs. Lawrence Georgeson) of Heimdal.
3. Mabel 1897-1963 (Mrs. Ole Skifton) of Big Fork, MT.
4. Lilly 1899-1998 (Mrs. Perry Anderson) farmed near Manfred.
5. Lloyd 1902-1989 married Ida Watland of Heimdal. He farmed in Manfred area, also worked at the Shipyards at Seattle, WA.
6. Henry 1904-1979 took over the farm of his parents.
7. Clarence 1907-1944. Farming, and a radio retail store in Heimdal.
8. Caroline 1910-1991 (Mrs. Sivert Dovre) farmed near Fessenden.
9. Norma 1913-1995 (Mrs. Jake Rogness) farmed near Manfred.



Ole J. and Maggie Rodne Family
From Left: Clarence, Sarah, Ole J., Henry, Caroline, Mabel, Lloyd, Maggie, Lilly, Norma



Ole J. and Maggie Rodne Farmstead in 1910
From left: Henry, Lloyd, Clarence, Ole holding Caroline, Maggie, Lilly, Sarah, Mabel
Present farmstead owner, Bill and Anne Ongstad

Rodne Family History, Page 2

Haldor Rodne

Haldor b. Aug. 23, 1867 in Imsland, Rogaland, Norway
d. Mar. 8, 1953 at Manfred, ND, married in April 1901 at Bethel Lutheran Church, Manfred Township to *Delia* Ring from Iowa
b. Oct 11, 1870 in Nedstrand, Norway, d. Oct 31, 1952 at Manfred, ND. Haldor immigrated in 1894, coming first to Buxton. When he came to Wells County, he lived with his brother, Ole J. They used oxen for breaking the sod. In 1900, Haldor decided to homestead for himself, locating on land very near to his brother.

Haldor and Delia had eight children:

1. *Selma* 1902-1961 (Mrs. Casper Berve) Casper was of Wells County. They farmed near Fessenden.
2. *Louis* 1903-1992 married *Clara Overland* of Manfred. They farmed in the area, and then moved to Mayville, ND.
3. *Tom* 1904-1979 farmed Haldor's farm together with his brother Selmer.
4. *Harley* 1906-1983 married *Phyllis Howard* of Ryder & farmed at Parshall.
5. *Clara* 1907-1988 (Mrs. Ben Rogelstad) Ben was of Fessenden, working as a Standard Oil bulk dealer there.
6. *Selmer* b. 1909 married *Nora Ramsfield* of Williston. Selmer continued farming the home place after his father.
7. *Gilma* b. 1911 (Mrs. Roland Howard) farmed at South Hutchinson, KS.
8. *Ruth* b. 1915 (Mrs. Bernard Skifton) Bernard was of Sanish, and they farmed north of Heimdal.

Ole L. Rodne

Ole L. b. Feb. 17, 1871 in Imsland, Rogaland, Norway,
d. Feb. 29, 1956 at Manfred, ND, married on Mar. 24, 1896 in Hillsboro, ND to *Anna O. Lunde* b. Aug. 10, 1875 in Suldal, Norway, d. Aug. 31, 1939 in Harvey, ND.

In his early teens, Ole joined the Norwegian seamen and experienced high adventures. He immigrated in 1892 and worked in Buxton for a year before homesteading in Wells County in 1893. One winter day, he had to fight off a wolf pack with his jack knife, but finally made it back to his claim shack. In 1910, he and his family of seven children returned to Norway to visit his dad and family. They stayed three years during which time the twins, Laura and Gina, were born.

Ole and Anna had ten children.

1. *Sena* 1897-1985 (Mrs. Andrew Hillisland) lived at Heimdal & Seattle.
2. *Lars* 1898-1964 married *Inez Erickson* of Manfred, & worked at Seattle.
3. *Oliver* 1900-1987 married *Inga Overland* of Manfred & farmed near there.
4. *Arthur* 1903-1964 worked 40 years for farmer *Nels Nertrust*.
5. *Otto* 1905-1951 worked on the homeplace.
6. *Alfred* 1907-1968 married *Mabel Dovre* from Manfred, Alfred worked at a shipyard in Seattle.
7. *Carl* 1909-1979 married *Agnes Stenerson* of Dodge & farmed near Dodge.
8. *Gina* 1912-1991 lived in Seattle and Ohio working for wealthy families such as the *Rockefellers* and *Milikins*.
9. *Laura* b. 1912 (Mrs. Bill Cook) Bill had come from Ohio. Laura was a motel supervisor in Seattle.
10. *Berger* b. 1913 married *Olive Stenerson* from Dodge & continued farming the home place after his father.



Haldor and Delia Rodne Family
From Left... Back: Selma, Tom, Lewis, Harley, Selmer
Front: Clara, Haldor, Ruth, Delia, Gilma.



Haldor and Delia Rodne Farmstead
Present owner is their son Selmer and wife Nora Rodne



From left: Ole L. and Anna Rodne Family
Back: Sena, Otto, Lars, Oliver, Arthur, Alfred
Front: Laura, Ole L. Carl, Berger, Anna, Gina



Ole L. and Anna Rodne Farmstead
Present owner is their son Berger and wife Olive Rodne

Rodne Family History

*The following poem and painting were created
by Ole L. Rodne's son, Berger Rodne*

Seasons

By Berger Rodne

*It's now autumn on the prairies,
All the leaves are turning brown.
Here the rain is gently falling
On the wet and soggy ground.*

*Summer left us in a flurry
Birds, they fluttered and moved on.
How we all enjoyed their visit,
And their cheerful little song!*

*Winter's chill is fast approaching,
How we dread its murky white.
Howling blizzards o'er the prairies,
While the mercury is out of sight.*

*Then we'll sit in by the fireside,
Where it's cozy, warm and quiet.
Look to springtime with its glory,
What a joy to be alive!*

*As we journey on through life
With many a sorrow, care and strife.
We lay it all in the master's hand
And walk with Him to the Promised Land.*

*There we'll walk on the golden shore,
In peace and bliss forever more.
Oh, come and join that happy throng,
To sing and praise in celestial song.*

This poem received the Golden Award in 1987 at the "World of Poetry" Convention Las Vegas, NV, and was featured in The Herald Press 'Poet's Corner'.



Painting by Berger Rodne
Suldal, Norway, the homeland
of Berger's mother, Anna (Lunde) Rodne.

Bethel Lutheran Church History



The first building of Bethel Lutheran Church
on the occasion of a Ladies Aid sale and auction. 1902 or 1904

The first church building for Bethel Lutheran congregation was constructed in 1898. There was also a barn for the horses at the NW corner of the property. After the barn was no longer needed, it was moved to the Ames Georgeson farm. When the congregation had outgrown the first Bethel church building, a larger building was built in 1915. Ole Rostvedt purchased the 1898 church building and moved it to Heimdal. The roof was raised and a second story added and it became a hotel with 8 or 9 rooms upstairs, serving as lodging for traveling salesmen and also for some of the teachers. It contained a lobby on the main floor and also served food. Later the building functioned as a café and the Dew Drop Inn. Then, Art and Lilly Lindgren, the Heimdal Postmaster, purchased it and used it as the Heimdal post office and living quarters where Lilly continues to reside.

Photo identification of some of the people from left:

At the back: *Man standing with hat and scarf is Haldor Rodne, in front of him on the right is his wife Delia, and the boy in front of him is his son Lewis. To the right of Haldor is his brother Severin Rodne with a flat top hat.

*The couple in dark clothing standing just to the left of the front door is Mr. and Mrs. Ole O. Foss, Sr. The taller couple to their right is Mr. and Mrs. Seltvedt.

*The young man standing the highest near the center of the photo is Severt Foss. The young man in front of him is his brother, Ole O. Foss, Jr.

Toward the front: *The first man seated in front from the left is Ole J. Rodne. In front of him is his son Lloyd, and to his left is his wife Maggie holding Lilly who has on a white dress.

*The lady with hat and the taller man with hat standing to the right of Ole J. Rodne is Mr. and Mrs. (Sofie Watland) Sven Erfjord.

*The lady seated in front of Sven Erfjord and to the right of Ole J. Rodne is Mrs. (Anna) Torger Hauge who is holding Martha. Her son Tennes with hat is sitting on the ground in front of her.

*The couple seated to the right of Mrs. Hauge is Mr. and Mrs. (Karen) Osmund Eilertson.

*To the right of Osmund Eilertson, the second lady standing and the man to her right is Mr. and Mrs. (Gunda) Ole Rostvedt. Karen Eilertson and Gunda Rostvedt were sisters.

*Standing at the far right end of the group is a lady in a white blouse and seated in front of her is her husband, Mr. and Mrs. (Anna) Ole L. Rodne together with their children from left Lars, Oliver, Sena.

*Others unidentified, but known to be on this photo are Andrew Foss, Mr. Natland, Nick and Andrew Rogness, Carl Olson, Elvira Larson, Tom Overland, the Solheims, Solbergs, and Berves.

Photo from the Anderson Collection. History by Josie Georgeson. Identification by Olive & Berger Rodne and Josie Georgeson (Josie's father and grandparents were Ole O. Foss, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Ole O. Foss, Sr.)

Additional information on Bethel Lutheran Church is in the March 2002 Vol.2, Issue 1, Pages 10-11.



Manfred poet and artist, Berger Rodne
and wife Olive Rodne

Sources for the Rodne Family and Bethel Lutheran Church histories and photos include:
Perry and Lilly Anderson family
Josie Georgeson
Harvey 'Growing With Pride' book
Wanda Melchert
Berger and Olive Rodne
Selmer and Nora Rodne
Audrey Solheim

Celebrating Barns

Question: In earlier days, what was the most important farm building? **Answer:** The barn!

Barns merit great appreciation for helping to found America, making it possible for our ancestors to survive out on the prairie. Barns were the essential centerpieces of the farm, serving as home for the animals that were the source of power for the work and source of food & livelihood for the farmer.

The barn was so important that it was usually the first main structure of sod or wood the settler built, after hastily putting up a small temporary shelter for the family to live. This photo collection gives examples of some still-existing barns in the Manfred trade area... including gable-roof structures from the earliest years, and hip-roof structures beginning about 1910. A few of the later barns were built with a round roof (not pictured). Have fun on this tour of barns!

The earliest barns were usually built by the farmers with the help of neighbors, but sometimes also by a carpenter. During the years of great expansion beginning about 1915 and into the 1920s when there was a flurry of building activity, it was common for the farmer to hire carpenters to build for them, many of whom were farmers now specializing in the carpentry trade. Some of the known builders who served the Manfred trade area include: Deede Bros., Knut Dovre, Jacob G. Klev, Melland Bros. of Wellsburg, Gullik Nordtorp, Ole Olson of Heimdal, Christ Rogne, John Skiftun, Strom Bros., Haaken Tessem.

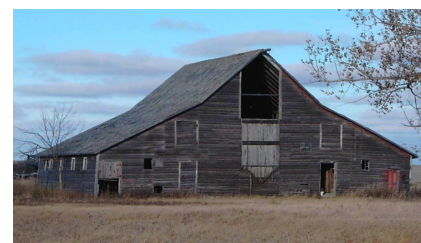
The majority of barns were constructed before the 1930s. After WWII when mechanization took over and horses were no longer needed, many barns throughout the area continued to serve faithfully as dairy parlors until many of the farmers ended this source of income during the 1950s through the 1970s.

Due to deterioration, fire, storm damage, or removal, only a small number of barns remain in existence. Several of these barns continue to serve as a storage place for equipment, and a few are still actively used in such ways as a workshop. The rural landscape begs to retain these precious structures. Barns represent a vital time-frame in our heritage. May we give thanks to those who have barns gracing their farmsteads, in their continuing care of these historic buildings. Let's proudly protect barns for their great contribution to America!

Sources: Special thanks to Manfred area folks for their help, and to Pete Anderson and Herbert Ongstad as advisors, and to Rose Anderson and Wanda Melchert for photos.



Gable-roof barn built in the 1890s for/by homesteader, Ole L. Rodne. Present farm of his son, Berger Rodne.



Gable-roof barn built in the 1890s for/by homesteader, Sven Erffjord. The old Vernon Sommer place.



Gable-roof barn built in 1909 by homesteader, Jacob Seltvedt with the help of his neighbors. Present farm of his grandson, Don Seltvedt.



Oldest known hip-roof barn built in 1910 for homesteader Ole J. Rodne. Builder unknown. Present farm of Bill Ongstad. Notice wooden cupolas.



Hip-roof barn built in 1915 for homesteader Haldor Rodne by John Skiftun. Notice wooden cupola. John also built the second Bethel Church in 1915. Present farm of his son, Selmer Rodne.



Hip-roof barn built in 1928 for early farmer Thomas Alveshere under contract with Martin Honer and erected by Edgar Bjorke and a Lien. Present farm of his grandson, Loren Alveshere.



Hip-roof barn built in 1915 for homesteader P.B. Anderson. Builder unknown. Present farm of his grandson, Peter Anderson.



Hip-roof barn built in 1915 for settler Sofus Ongstad by Ole Olson of Heimdal. Present farm of his son, Herbert Ongstad.



Hip-roof barn built in 1915 for homesteader Andrew Deede by his sons Gottlieb and Phillip Deede. Now owned by Julia Knodel.



Hip-roof barn built in 1915 for early farmer Oscar Melby by Gottlieb and Phillip Deede. Early photo shows horses outside their barn home. Present farm of his son, Gene Melby.

The Andrew Deede Family History

Andrew Deede (Andreas Diede) was born 1853 in Karlsruhe Russia of German descent. He married Dorothy (Jonothea) Frank. They immigrated to America with their four young children in 1892, homesteading three miles west and one mile south of the village of Manfred. After this, three more children were born to them.

The children of Andrew and Dorothy Deede:

1. *Gottlieb Sept. 14, 1885-Oct. 1939 married Margaret Broomersine of Bowdon. They farmed at the home place, and then moved to California in the 1920s.*
2. *Pauline 1886-Feb. 22, 1969 (Mrs. Julius Herman). Julius was partner in a Butcher shop in Harvey. They later moved to Tracy, California.*
3. *Kate Nov. 28, 1889-Oct. 8, 1978 (Mrs. John Hirschhorn). Farmed SE of Manfred.*
4. *Christine Sept. 19, 1892-Oct. 1939 (Mrs. Jacob Hauser). They first farmed on her father's home place, and later moved to Walla Walla, Washington.*
5. *Mollie Mar. 15, 1894-Oct. 3, 1990 (Mrs. Alex Miller). Farmed SW of Manfred.*
6. *Amelia Sept. 21, 1896-Jan. 22, 1997 (Mrs. John Lang). First lived at Chaseley, ND and later moved to Tracy, California where John worked in a sugar factory.*
7. *Phillip Aug. 18, 1900-May 28, 1997 married Hilda Rodacker. They farmed the home place of Hilda's parents SE of Manfred.*

Andrew's wife Dorothy died in 1901 at Manfred, leaving him with seven children ages sixteen to one year old. Later, Andrew married Mary Hauser also from Karlsruhe, Russia who had four children from her previous marriage: Jacob, Christ, Rose, and John. Andrew changed the spelling of his name from Diede, as noted in the '1911 Wells County Atlas,' to Deede. His brother John and descendants retained the Diede spelling. Andrew died April of 1949 at Manfred.

Andrew and His Brothers Homesteaded Southwest of Manfred in Rusland Township Map →

Andrew homesteaded in 1892 on Sec.2, T.148, R.72, his brother John in 1891 on Sec.E10, T.148, R.72, and his brother Gottlieb in 1894 on Sec.W10, T.148, R.72. After Andrew retired from farming, he moved to Harvey where his pastime was gardening. His produce was always the first of the season, for which the grocers were waiting to sell. The barn and house on his farmstead still stand, but are no longer used. John moved to Woodworth, ND west of Jamestown; his gable-roofed barn still exists and the farm is active in the care of present owner, Walter Fehr. Gottlieb moved to McClusky, ND and then to Pickardville, ND where he established a sheep ranch; his farmstead at Manfred is gone now.

Andrew's Two Sons, Phillip and Gottlieb, Were Carpenters in the Manfred Area

Andrew's two sons Gottlieb and Phillip worked together as carpenters beginning in 1915 when Phillip was only fifteen years old. They built whatever types of buildings were needed by area farmers such as barns, granaries, and additions to existing buildings.

To begin a building project the brothers ordered the needed materials, which were then delivered by wagons directly to the building site. One might wonder how many wagonloads were necessary in order to haul the large quantity of materials needed to build a barn. The brothers would then measure the lumber to the proper lengths and cut it with handsaws ready for the building project. After all was prepared, they would then recruit men to help them erect the structure.

Phillip had expressed how pleased he was to help the area farmers with their building projects. Two of these hip-roofed buildings are still in existence: the one on his father's homestead, as well as, the barn on the Gene Melby farm built in 1915. Another barn no longer in existence, built in 1920, was that of Mike Fischer.



The Andrew Deede Family

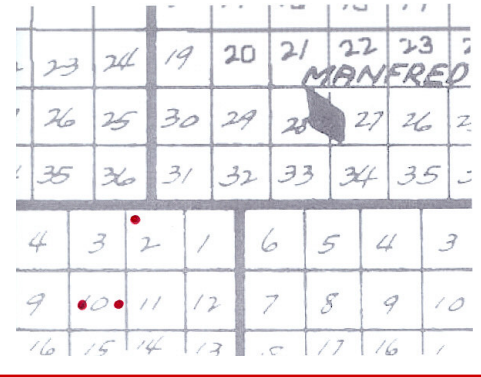
From left seated:

Andrew, Phillip, Mary Hauser Deede, Kate.

Standing from left: Rose Hauser, John Hauser, Amelia, Christ Hauser, Mollie, Christine.

Children not pictured: Jacob Hauser, Gottlieb and Pauline Deede.

Photo provided by Genevieve Keson



Hilda and Phillip Deede

Phillip and his brother Gottlieb built barns together

Photo provided by Hildor and Nellie Deede

Sources: Genevieve Keson, Wells County Atlas, Phillip Deede, Walter and Leona Fehr, Hildor and Nellie Deede, Art and Ruth Fischer.