

# The New MANFRED NEWS

Volume 9, Issue 3

February 2012

## A Warm Welcome to Manfred!

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Tabs of special interest: Biography, Business, Newsletter

## Manfred School History September 1939-May 1945



Posing on the ball field to the north of Manfred School in 1940

*L/R*

*Back:* Lowell Peterson, Morris Ravnaas, Richard Rogness, Frank Mattis, Morris Hagemeister

*Front:* Pete Anderson, Ordean Gladheim, Wilber Peterson, Donald Breyer, Kenneth Melby, Gene Melby

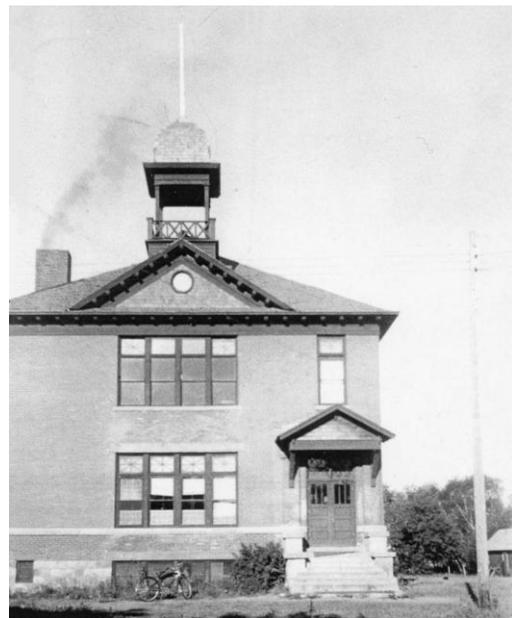


Posing by the school steps with a hand-crafted airplane in October 1940

*L/R:* Donald Breyer, Joe Smith, Richard Rogness

What a delight to continue the Manfred School history with this issue on the years September 1939-May 1945!

Thank you to everyone who has shared school memories in this issue, enabling us to enjoy glimpses of school days from the early 1940s through your eyes.



The east side of Manfred School in 1940

The old red school barn partially in view to the right

### School Memory by Donald Anderson

The old red barn was straight north from the two toilets. The game "Anti-I-Over" was played at the barn. We used a larger type ball, like the size of a volleyball. If the ball made it over the top of the roof, rolled down the other side and caught by someone on the second side that side would yell "Anti-I-Over" and then run to the first side. If they could hit someone from that first side with the ball, they would shout "Pig's Tail" and the person hit would be out. The side with the most remaining team members was the winner.

## The New Manfred News

### In Memory

#### Mary Louise Peterson

February 15, 1927 – April 30, 2011  
Wife of Wilbur Peterson who was raised by his  
uncle and aunt, Jens and Marie Renden

#### Lorraine J. Schlecht

February 29, 1936 – November 27, 2011  
Lorraine's mother Linda Brunsvan VanErp  
was married to Emil Onstad

#### Kathryn Albrecht

October 2, 1952 – December 30, 2011  
Wife of Ron Albrecht the son of  
Cliff and Audrey Albrecht

#### Rita Wolf Harris

January 17, 1948 – January 7, 2012  
Daughter of John and Delores Wolf

#### Kenneth Melby

November 2, 1925 – February 1, 2012  
Son of Oscar and Bertha Melby,  
grandson of Knud and Guri Melby

#### Frances Sileti Johnson

April 19, 1948 – February 10, 2012  
Wife of David Johnson the son of Leslie and Olga  
Johnson, grandson of John and Malena Johnson

*Please let us know of loved ones who have passed*

### Rural Vestige Alliance

1026 S 3<sup>rd</sup> #3, Bismarck, ND 58504  
Manfred School and  
Rogne/Soderback/Solheim House

*Many thanks to these contributors for your help  
toward the Manfred School restoration project.  
RVA is in the process of applying for a grant and  
looking forward to accomplishing significant  
restoration during the 2012 season*

Orren and Karen Anderson

Rod Anderson

Jeff and Mary Bermann in memory  
of Joe and Ida Strauss

Inez Burgstahler

Tim R. Cook in memory of  
Wilbur and Mary Peterson

Elaine and Ray Homan

Judy Pohl in memory of  
Nennie and Alpha Johnson

Kathy Rogenes

Joelyn Scriba in memory  
of Anna Ekrem Bymoan

### Manfred Newsletter

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

*With the continuing help of supporters, Manfred is  
growing toward its exciting mission to help tell its  
story from rural North Dakota. In grateful thanks!  
MHP, Inc has the Melby-Rogness House and  
First State Bank-Manfred Post Office in its care,  
and oversees the Manfred projects in general.*

### MHP, Inc. General Fund

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

Richard Aasand

Michael and Bergit Albrecht through  
United Way of the Greater Triangle

Kermit and Florence Alvshere

Loren and Kathy Alvshere

Donald A. Anderson

John Anderson

Peter and Rose Anderson

in memory of Lorraine Sommerfeld

in memory of Kenneth Melby

Peter B. and Jackie Anderson

John and Margaret Bollingberg

Verna Bowers

in memory of Kenneth Melby

Muriel M. Boyum

in memory of Kenneth Melby

Gerald and Karen Beutler

Joe Bolyard

Manfred and Marjorie Deutsch

Orville Dovre

Judith Duerre

Ellery and Eleanor Ehni

Frances Fehr

Larry Fisher

Corey and JoAnn Flick

Leslie and Connie Foss

Joan Frey

in honor of Rose Anderson's kindness

Bob and Gwen Green

Richard and Carolyn Golberg

Ron Harris

in memory of Rita Wolf Harris

Hertz Funeral Home

David Hoover

Laverne Johnson

Ray and Beth Leischner

Floyd Lindbo

Josh and Jamie Maier

Paul McBain

Grace Melby

Carroll Mortenson

National Bank of Harvey

Curtis and Rita Nelson

Luann M. Olson

Orvin Ongstad

Ken and Katherine Oxta

Betty Pepple

Klaus Raab

### MHP, Inc. General Fund (cont)

Keith Ranum

Karen Ravnaas

in memory of Ingvald and Olida Ravnaas

Arlene Rittmiller

Willajean Rogelstad

Carolyn Rodne

Loren Sailer

Gordon and Betty Schimke

Mark Schmitz

Richard Schultz-Schultz Small Engine

Steven and Ruth Schultz

Merlin and Laurie Schwartz

Richard and Devella Smith

Myron Soiseth

Margaret Sprague

Maridel Springer

Jim and Jacqueline Thuma

Arlene Triebold

Verendrye Electric

Margaret Walz

Duane and Cecilia Weinmann

James and Janet Wright

### MHP, Inc. Endowment Fund

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

Muriel M. Boyum, Richard and Wanda  
Melchert, Merlin and Laurie Schwartz  
in memory of Kenneth Melby

Audrey Nelson

Pam Norstedt

### The New Manfred News

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

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News and history items are most welcome!

Editor: Wanda Melchert, wrmelchert@gmail.com

Historian: Audrey Solheim, administrator@manfrednd.org

### Dedicated to History and Education

MHP, Inc., dedicated to education and the well being  
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Historical Society, State Historical Society of North  
Dakota and other historical groups.

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Manfred Heritage Museum  
open May through September

www.manfrednd.org

## Part 5 - Manfred School History

### September 1939 - May 1945

#### 1939-1940 School Year

##### Lower - Grades 1-4

Teacher: **Ida Monson**

Verna Anderson	Carol Gladheim	Lowell Hustoft	Susan O'Neill
Glen Bendickson	Cora Gladheim	Myron Hustoft	Patrick O'Neill
Joanne Bendickson	Ora Gladheim	Roger Hustoft	Margaret Renden
Kenneth Elton	Donald Hagemeister	Earl Leischner	Doris Rogelstad
Lillian Elton	Gerald Hagemeister	Ethel Melby	Allen Schimke
Roger Flick	Arlene Hustoft	Dorothy Nertrout	

##### Upper - Grades 5-8

Teacher: **Anna Ekrem**

Donald Anderson	Donald Gross	Frank Mattis	Morris Ravnaas
Peter Anderson	Kenneth Gross	Gene Melby	Harley Rogelstad
Fern Bendickson	Margaret Gross	Kenneth Melby	Richard Rogness
Florence Bendickson	Alice Hagemeister	Anna O'Neill	Gordon Schimke
Marjorie Biever	Margaret Hagemeister	Virginia O'Neill	Lillian Schimke
Donald Breyer	Morris Hagemeister	Duane Ongstad	Luverne Schimke
Edgar Allen Flick	Robert Hagemeister	Lowell Peterson	Joseph Smith
Marian Flick	Helen Holzer	Wilbur Peterson	Marian Smith
Ordean Gladheim	Marlene Holzer	Inez Ravnaas	

##### Wells County Free Press News Entries

**September 7, 1939**

School opened here Monday. Miss Monson, from Minnesota is teaching the lower grades and Miss Ekrem of New Rockford the upper grades.

**December 28, 1939**

The school program given at the Sons of Norway Hall Thursday evening was well attended and a lovely program was given.

**April 4, 1940**

The Manfred School had a try-out for declamation contest Monday and quite a few attended. Judges were from Fessenden.

**May 16, 1940**

Manfred grade school received 98 points (the top scorer!) in the class B division of the Wells County Annual Play Day held at the Fairgrounds in Fessenden. They won the shield again, this being the 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

**May 30, 1940**

7th and 8th grade exams were held Tuesday and Wednesday. A picnic Friday and graduation exercises Saturday evening in the hall closed a successful term of school.

##### Memories from Former Students

**Norma Olsen Holwegner - 1936 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduate**

I attended Manfred School for the first and second grades and then again for the eighth grade. When I was in the eighth grade, I sang a duet with Luella Boese for the spring music contest. Even though I had come down with a cold, the judge said we had done real well and gave us a high mark. I sang the soprano.

**Orlien Melby - 1937 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduate**

When I was tall enough to reach, I began driving the kids to school. One winter, it never went above zero for six weeks, but even so we didn't miss one day of school. The janitor for the school, Oscar Ongstad, would be waiting for us to come. He would help take my horses down to the barn and put them in, because my hands were too stiff from driving to unhook the horses. There were about four families that drove to school. We had a long narrow barn where the horses stayed during the day. We brought hay from home for feed. Then at night, we'd hook up the horses, ready to go back home.

In the winter, it was often below zero in the morning when we drove to school four miles in the sled. By the time we got to town my sandwich, most often jelly, was as hard as a brick. Our dinner buckets were kept in the cloak room which wasn't the warmest place, because the door was closed. At noon, my sandwich was often still hard as a rock, so I laid it on a radiator to try and warm it up. Those radiators really made a lot of noise.



1939-1940 Upper Grades 5-8

Teacher: Anna Ekrem

← L/R

*Back Rows:* Gene Melby, (behind Gene)-Kenneth Melby, Morris Hagemester, Frank Mattis, Florence Bendickson, Duane Ongstad, Pete Anderson, Ordean Gladheim, Wilbur Peterson, (behind Wilbur)-Joe Smith, Lowell Peterson

*3<sup>rd</sup> Row:* Marjorie Biever, Marian Flick, Virginia O'Neill, Luverne Schimke, Helen Holzer, ?

*2<sup>nd</sup> Row:* Lillian Schimke, Marlene Holzer, Anna O'Neill, Marian Smith, Margaret Hagemester, Robert Hagemester, Gordon Schimke, Morris Ravnaas

*1<sup>st</sup> Row:* Donald Anderson, Harley Rogelstad, Inez Ravnaas, Alice Hagemester



1939-1940 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class

L/R ↑

*Back Row:* Morris Hagemester, Wilbur Peterson, Kenneth Melby, Frank Mattis, Ordean Gladheim, Lowell Peterson, Peter Anderson

*Front Row:* Marjorie Biever, Florence Bendickson, Virginia O'Neill, Luverne Schimke, Helen Holzer

## 1939-1940 and 1940-1941 School Years



**Oscar Ongstad**  
Oscar served as janitor

**Teachers for 1940-1941 School Year →**

L/R: Anna Ekrem, Upper Grades and Adele Hanson, Lower Grades standing in front of the Jens Renden home where they were staying for the school year



1940-1941 Upper Grades 5-8

Teacher: Anna Ekrem



1940-1941 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class

L/R ↑ Donald Breyer, Richard Rogness, Joe Smith, Duane Ongstad, Marian Flick

← L/R

*3<sup>rd</sup> Row:* Margaret Hagemester, Marlene Holzer, Lillian Schimke, Marian Flick, Edgar Allen Flick, Duane Ongstad, Joe Smith, Richard Rogness

*2<sup>nd</sup> Row:* Fern Bendickson, Marian Smith, Alice Hagemester, Lillian Elton, Arlene Hustoft, Margaret Renden, Robert Hagemester

*1<sup>st</sup> Row:* Donald Anderson, Harley Rogelstad, Donald Breyer, Morris Ravnaas, Gene Melby, Gerald Froeber, Gordon Schimke

*Girls in front:* Verna Anderson, Inez Ravnaas, Doris Rogelstad

## 1940-1941 School Year

### Lower - Grades 1-4

Teacher: Adele Hanson

Ruth Anderson	Carol Gladheim	Joseph Holzer	Ethel Melby
Glen Bendickson	Cora Gladheim	Lowell Hustoft	Dorothy Nertrout
Joanne Bendickson	Ora Gladheim	Myron Hustoft	Orville Rodne
Wesley Boese	Donald Hagemeister	Roger Hustoft	Allan Rogness
Kenneth Elton	Gerald Hagemeister	Adeline Leischner	Allan Schimke
Roger Flick	Muriel Hagemeister	Earl Leischner	Ellorine Schimke
Betty Froeber			

### Upper - Grades 5-8

Teacher: Anna Ekrem

Donald Anderson	Gerald Froeber	Gene Melby	Harley Rogelstad
Verna Anderson	Alice Hagemeister	Duane Ongstad	Richard Rogness
Fern Bendickson	Margaret Hagemeister	Inez Ravnaas	Gordon Schimke
Donald Breyer	Robert Hagemeister	Morris Ravnaas	Lillian Schimke
Lillian Elton	Marlene Holzer	Margaret Renden	Joseph Smith
Edgar Allen Flick	Jeannine Howe	Doris Rogelstad	Marian Smith
Marian Flick	Arlene Hustoft		

### Wells County Free Press News Entries

#### September 12, 1940

School opened in full swing Monday, with Miss Hanson in the lower grades and Miss Ekrem in the upper grades.

#### October 2, 1940

The Manfred School is putting on a Carnival Sat evening, October 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be a program, booths, bingo and all that goes with a carnival. The public is cordially invited.

#### November 21, 1940

The Manfred School is being wired this week, which will be greatly appreciated by all, especially the teachers.

#### January 4, 1941

Miss Hanson arrived Saturday from Valley City to resume her school duties and Miss Anna Ekrem arrived Tuesday from New Rockford. She was unable to get here on account of blocked roads so there was no school Monday.

#### June 5, 1941

8th Grade graduation was held in the Sons of Norway hall Thursday evening, and the school picnic was held Friday at the school grounds.

### Memories from Former Students

#### Kenneth Melby

I was in a harmonica quartet. The teacher got four of us boys going on playing harmonica: Frank Mattis, Wilber Peterson, Pete Anderson, and me. We each had certain notes we were supposed to play.

#### Donald Anderson

Manfred School was a busy place and filled with students. Most everyone carried a half-gallon pail to school which held their sandwiches. There wasn't much fruit – no money to buy any. The school hallway contained a sink and also a kerosene stove. Sometimes, the teacher announced that the next day the students should bring a potato to school. The next morning, the students marked their potato and then the teacher put all the potatoes in the oven. Toward noon the tasty smell of the baked potatoes filled the air. The students also brought milk from home to drink. A special treat was when the teacher made hot chocolate from the milk brought by the students combined into a large container and heated on the stove.

At noon and at recess we liked to ice skate. I started with some old clamp-on skates which were actually a threat to human life. We would play hockey, the stick being tree limbs and the pucks were frozen horse turds.

We boys noticed that the ice cutters had cut large ice blocks from the river northwest of the Soderback House (later Solheim House). There were 15-20 ice blocks, 24" to 36" thick, setting around the hole formed from cutting ice. We boys decided to push the blocks back into the hole. The ice cutters were probably not very happy when they found the ice blocks back in the water.

#### Gordon Schimke

Our family lived across the street from the school, between the Biever and Froeber families. We did a lot of things at school. Manfred School had a number of good athletes and we all enjoyed participating in Play Day. I remember picnics at the Leonard Rogelstad farm. They had a nice grove of trees.

# 1941-1942 School Year

## Lower - Grades 1-4

Teacher: Florence Kluck

Ruth Anderson	Donald Hagemeister	Marlys Jenny	Ellorine Schimke
Joanne Bendickson	Muriel Hagemeister	Edward Ravnaas	Myron Soiseth
Lucille Bendickson	Isabelle Holzer	Orville Rodne	Arlene Strauss
Wesley Boese	Joseph Holzer	Allan Rogness	James Strauss
Kenneth Elton	Lowell Hustoft	Joyce Rogness	Elaine Strauss
Carol Gladheim	Roger Hustoft	Allan Schimke	Morris Weigelt
Wesley Gross	Wayne Hustoft		

## Upper - Grades 5-8

Teacher: Clara Kluck

Donald Anderson	Cora Gladheim	Robert Hagemeister	Morris Ravnaas
Verna Anderson	Ora Gladheim	Marlene Holzer	Margaret Renden
Fern Bendickson	Donald Gross	Arlene Hustoft	Doris Rogelstad
Glen Bendickson	Kenneth Gross	Myron Hustoft	Harley Rogelstad
Lillian Elton	Margaret Gross	Ethel Melby	Gordon Schimke
Edgar Allen Flick	Alice Hagemeister	Gene Melby	Lillian Schimke
Roger Flick	Gerald Hagemeister	Dorothy Nertrout	Marian Smith
Betty Froeber	Margaret Hagemeister	Inez Ravnaas	Donald Strauss
Gerald Froeber			

## Wells County Free Press News Entries

**August 7, 1941**

The Manfred School Board met this week and bids were received for bus driver and janitor.

**September 4, 1941**

Martin Melby purchased a Chevrolet car, as he is the school bus driver this year.

**September 11, 1941**

School opened Monday with Mrs. Kluck in the upper grades and her daughter, Miss Kluck, teaching the lower grades.

**November 5, 1941**

The school carnival, held at the Sons of Norway hall was well attended and a neat sum was realized.

**December 25, 1941**

The Manfred school children gave their Christmas program Friday evening in the Sons of Norway Hall.

**January 29, 1942**

The Red Cross meeting was held at the school house Friday, and Red Cross work has been started in our community.

**June 4, 1942**

The Manfred School closed Friday, and Mrs. Kluck and Florence Kluck left for Valley City where Florence will attend teachers college.

## Memories of Former Students

**Arlene Hustoft Triebold**

Everybody knew everybody. School was a lot of fun. In fact, sometimes during recess or at noon we played "school." When the weather was nice, we enjoyed playing games outside and swinging on the swings. We lived west of Manfred and would cut through the fields when going back and forth to school.

**Doris Rogelstad Rudel**

We were outside a lot. We played "King of the Hill" where we'd have two snow banks, one for each side, and throw snow balls at each other. When we hit an opponent, we shouted "Warrior Down!" The side with the most standing in the end was the winner. At noon we'd ice skate. We didn't have a warming house, but instead built a fire in a tire.

We invented games and took everything to the limit. We tried to swing so high that that we felt the swing could almost go over the top. The teeter-totter was very popular. We played on it in the regular way with one or two students going up and down on each end, but we had another way too. One student sat on one end and gripped the board tightly with their hands. Four of us standing around the other end of the teeter-totter slammed the board down as fast and as hard as we could. The person on the other end had quite a ride. Or, if two people were on, the second person would try ending up on the shoulders of the first person. Playing hopscotch by the steps is a special memory, especially when it became warm enough outside to wear anklets instead of the long brown stockings worn during the winter.

There was one game we played on the south side of the school between the school and the church called "Send". It was played using two large circles we made in the dirt. The north side of the school was where we played other games such as softball. Both boys and girls played together and everyone had a chance to be captain.

## 1942-1943 School Year

### Lower - Grades 1-4

Teacher: Florence Kluck

Darlene Anderson  
Ruth Anderson  
Wesley Boese  
Carol Gladheim  
Wesley Gross  
Muriel Hagemeister

Isabelle Holzer  
Joseph Holzer  
Roger Hustoft  
Wayne Hustoft  
Marlys Jenny  
Marvin Nelson

Edward Ravnaas  
Orville Rodne  
Roger Rogelstad  
Allan Rogness  
Joyce Rogness  
Claudia Schepp

Myron Soiseth  
Lyle Sommer  
Arlene Strauss  
Lucille Strauss  
Richard Ulrich

### Upper - Grades 5-8

Teacher: Clara Kluck

Verna Anderson  
Kenneth Elton  
Lillian Elton  
Roger Flick  
Betty Lou Froeber  
Ora Gladheim  
Cora Gladheim

Kenneth Gross  
Margaret Gross  
Alice Hagemeister  
Donald Hagemeister  
Gerald Hagemeister  
Marlene Holzer  
Arlene Hustoft

Lowell Hustoft  
Myron Hustoft  
Ethel Melby  
Gene Melby  
Dorothy Nertrorst  
Inez Ravnaas

Margaret Renden  
Doris Rogelstad  
Marian Smith  
Donald Strauss  
Elaine Strauss  
James Strauss



Lower grades teacher  
Florence Kluck in 1943

### Wells County Free Press News Entries

**September 17, 1942**

School opened Monday with Mrs. Clara Kluck in the upper grades and Florence Kluck in the lower grades.

**November 26, 1942**

The school carnival held Friday night was well attended. Everyone, especially the youngsters, enjoyed themselves very much. Mrs. Tony Breyer won the blanket.

**April 8, 1943**

The Red Cross had their regular meeting at the schoolhouse Thursday afternoon.

### Memories from Former Students

#### Dorothy Nertrorst Harris

The students of Manfred School were divided into two classes, the lower grades 1-4 and the upper grades 5-8. The students were taught the lessons of their grade, but they would also be absorbing lessons taught to other grades in the room. Like if you were in the 1st grade you were picking up on what the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades were learning through listening, the same was true when you moved into the upper grade classroom as a 5<sup>th</sup> grader, you were hearing and absorbing what the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades were being taught. So it was quite an education.

We liked to skate so much that instead of taking the time to eat our lunch at noon, we'd often hurried down to the river to skate in order to fit in all the skating time we could. But, having baked potatoes was special and, to this day, I love baked potatoes. I liked spelling and remember the fun times at Play Day. We tried walking on 2x4s without falling off, compete in softball throws, 3-legged races, and other events.

#### Doris Rogelstad Rudel

We weren't allowed to go upstairs in the school, so the students were filled with intrigue about it. I like art, so was permitted to go upstairs to draw backdrops for our plays, and Verna Anderson was permitted to go up with me. Our classrooms downstairs were well-supplied with library books, but we knew there was a library room upstairs. Verna and I worked on the artwork as we were supposed to do but couldn't resist taking a peek at the library room and all the books in there. When we returned back downstairs, our classmates eagerly inquired what it was like upstairs.

I remember the alphabet for penmanship class in view above the top of the blackboards, as well as the large container of paste from which paste for each student was doled out into little cups when we had art class. It was a beautiful, wonderful school, except I was spooked about the basement as it was rather dark. We always used the outdoor toilets, but if the weather was bad we then had no choice but to go down the basement where there was an indoor toilet. I remember one day in school, one of the boys snuck a garter snake into the classroom in his pocket and put the snake in his desk, but it got out. The snake's visit was short-lived when it was spotted crawling around the floor by students and the teacher.

# 1943-1944 School Year

## Lower - Grades 1-4

Teacher: Mrs. Hans Peterson

Darlene Anderson	Norval Hustoft	Orville Rodne	Lyle Sommer
Ruth Anderson	Wayne Hustoft	Roger Rogelstad	Arlene Strauss
Marlys Boese	Marlys Jenny	Allan Rogness	Audrey Strauss
Wesley Gross	Marvin Nelson	Claudia Schepp	Lucille Strauss
Muriel Hagemeister	Edward Ravnaas	Myron Soiseth	Richard Ulrich
Isabelle Holzer			

## Upper - Grades 5-8

Teacher: Jennie Lloyd

Verna Anderson	Cora Gladheim	Joseph Holzer	Dorothy Nertrout
Wesley Boese	Ora Gladheim	Arlene Hustoft	Margaret Renden
Kenneth Elton	Kenneth Gross	Lowell Hustoft	Doris Rogelstad
Lillian Elton	Donald Hagemeister	Myron Hustoft	Donald Strauss
Roger Flick	Gerald Hagemeister	Roger Hustoft	Elaine Strauss
Betty Froeber	Mae Helland	Ethel Melby	James Strauss
Carol Gladheim			

## Wells County Free Press News Entries

### March 16, 1944

The school children are collecting waste paper. Two loads have already been taken to Fessenden.

### April 6, 1944

Manfred School to Present an Operetta: On Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, the Manfred public school will present a grade operetta, "The King's Sneezes" at 8 o'clock p.m. Featured will be the playlet, musical numbers, etc. A good deal of preparation has been put into this production, and it promises to be excellent entertainment for the people of the community.

Featured in the operetta are Wesley Boese, Verna Anderson, Ethel Melby, James Strauss, Wayne Hustoft, Kenneth Elton, Donald Strauss, Elaine Strauss, and others.

### April 20, 1944

The operetta given by the school Friday night was a success. A large crowd attended, and everyone enjoyed it very much.

### June 8, 1944

The money that was taken in for the grade operetta, "The King's Sneezes", amounted to \$25.00 after expenses were paid. This was used to buy rings for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class, and playground equipment: three balls, three bats, and a baseball mitt.

## Memories from Former Students

### Ethel Melby Bolyard

Because our school was small, we got to be good friends with all the other children. I went to school with some of my cousins and neighbors. In the winter, we did a lot of skating on the river there. That was a big thing for us. We skated a lot.

When my brother Gene got to be in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, he was able to drive the truck to school sometimes. We thought we were pretty big shots that dad would actually let him take the truck. That was really special.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation ceremony was usually held at the Sons of Norway Hall because it had a nice big hall. The graduation was a regular ceremony, and all the graduates would sit on the stage and received an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Certificate.

### Wesley Boese

I remember wanting to have a pair of ice skates so badly. My parents finally bought me a pair from *Blandings* in Harvey. We played "Whip", in which the children held hands in a line. While the students at one end of the line remaining in place, the students at the other end of the line would start skating in a circle, faster and faster. By the time the line was up to speed, the outside person was really flying around the circle.

When I was attending Manfred School, the elevator manager was Emil Schepp. Some of the boys had the idea to go into the elevator during their noon break while Emil Schepp was home to have lunch. Some of the boys even went way up inside the elevator. It wasn't long and the teachers learned of this, and after that no one was permitted to leave the school grounds. I remember that Norman H. McCain was the depot agent. I think he also cut ice on the river and sent it by rail to be used for refrigeration.

I remember the play we put on called "The King's Sneezes". Elaine Strauss played the queen, and I played the king.

## An Operetta Presented in 1944 by Manfred School

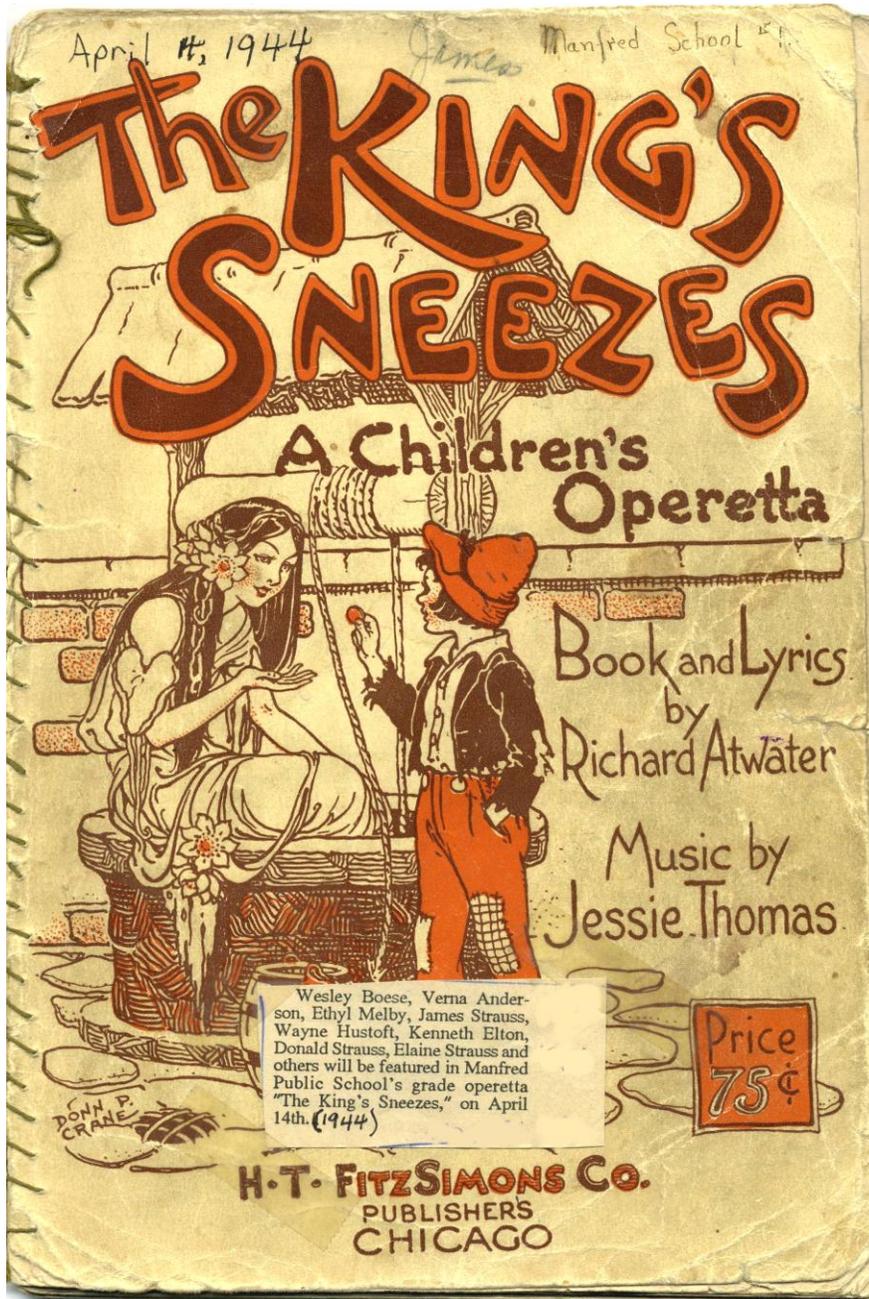


Image of the operetta booklet cover provided by Wesley and Esther Boese

### Title Page

**THE KING'S SNEEZES**  
OR  
MAX AND HIS MUSIC BOX

**Operetta in One Act**

Book and Lyrics  
by  
RICHARD ATWATER

Music by  
JESSIE THOMAS

*Edited by Emil Soderstrom*

*Price 75 cents*

H. T. FITZSIMONS COMPANY  
Music Publishers  
CHICAGO

### Characters

King Nicholas  
Queen Dorothy  
Princess Lucy Lacy Lisabel  
Max Luckyfoot  
Willie Belldropper  
Ben Bunslogger  
Tim Threadripper  
Waterlily  
Fiddlers Three  
King's Herald  
Candlestick Makers  
Tailors  
Bakers  
Queen's Pages  
Village Girls  
Chorus of Boys composed of Tailors,  
Bakers, Candlestick Makers,  
and if desired the Fiddlers Three

### The Story

"The happy and contented villagers of Cranbury Cross have but one worry. Their beloved King Nicholas has the sneezes. At times it is very amusing, but the village watchman considers it a serious offense to laugh when a king sneezes, and casts all offenders into the dungeon, as he did the Fiddlers Three. King Nicholas has let it be known that anyone who can cure him of this malady will not only be made Prince, but will receive half of his kingdom. A poor ragged lad, Max Luckyfoot, is able to cure King Nicholas of his sneezes through a series of situations beginning with a Magic Music Box he acquires as one of three wishes granted by Waterlily, the water witch. The king is so happy that he pardons the Fiddlers Three, makes Max a prince, and grants him half the kingdom. The village of Cranbury Cross is once again happy." The operetta included ten musical numbers sung by the characters including: *'Tis the Custom of Cranbury Cross*; *Bread and Bed and a Penny a Year*; *Ding, Dong, Bell*; *The King and the Queen and the Watchman*; *Now Parade*; and *When that Tune Starts to Play*.

# 1944-1945 School Year

## Lower - Grades 1-4

Teacher: Myrtle Mortenson

Marlys Boese  
Betty Detling  
Manuel Detling  
Grace Detling  
Wallace Helland  
Duane Holzer

Isabelle Holzer  
Norval Hustoft  
Wayne Hustoft  
Marvin Nelson  
Dale Opdahl

Edward Ravnaas  
Ione Rodne  
Roger Rogelstad  
Claudia Schepp  
Myron Soiseth

Lyle Sommer  
Arlene Strauss  
Audrey Strauss  
Joseph Strauss  
Richard Ulrich

## Upper - Grades 5-8

Teacher: Mildred Nelson

Ruth Anderson  
Wesley Boese  
Burga Detling  
Lena Detling  
Kenneth Elton  
Roger Flick  
Betty Froeber

Carol Gladheim  
Cora Gladheim  
Ora Gladheim  
Mae Helland  
Joseph Holzer  
Lowell Hustoft

Myron Hustoft  
Roger Hustoft  
Marlys Jenny  
Ethel Melby  
Dorothy Nertrout  
Verneil Opdahl

Margaret Renden  
Orville Rodne  
Allan Rogness  
Elaine Strauss  
James Strauss  
Lucille Strauss

## Wells County Free Press News

### November 9, 1944

The Manfred school children held their Halloween party Tuesday evening at the schoolhouse. A nice time was had by all and a delicious lunch was served.

### November 16, 1944

The Carnival given by the Manfred School Friday evening was very well attended. Everyone enjoyed it a lot. Mrs. M. F. Jenny got the blanket and M. K. Melby the box of groceries.

### December 29, 1944

The Manfred School gave a Christmas program Friday evening. Everyone enjoyed the program very much.

### May 31, 1945

June 5 is school election. Everyone should turn out to vote, as some very important issues will be voted upon.

### June 14, 1945

The Red Cross met at the schoolhouse Thursday afternoon.

## Memories from Former Students

### Ruth Anderson Widiger

I loved going to school and couldn't understand how some children didn't like it. I especially liked Reading and English, and I liked all my teachers.

I wonder how many times we ran around the school building running and playing... maybe a million times. I remember the ash pile just behind the school, not far from the playground. We were warned not to go near the ash pile. That was like an invitation for the boys, who would run into it. I remember that one boy burned his feet badly because of live embers in the ash pile. The King's Sneezes was quite a production. I was part of a dancing girls group.

### Claudia Schepp Durgian

My father served as an elevator manager in Manfred. We were the first ones to live in what was known as the elevator manager house. For a few years, two teachers boarded at our home, Myrtle Mortinson and Lorraine Roland. They had purchased candy ready for the carnival that the school would soon be putting on. Our tiny white dog named Poochie was very familiar with candy and with the wrappers. The teachers had gone out for a while and left their door ajar just a little. When they returned, all the candy for the carnival was ruined, as Poochie had gotten into it. We had one sick dog. Through the many years after this, my mother would laugh when she recalled about Poochie and the candy for the carnival.

I'll never forget what a thrill it was to sing "Away in the Manger" for the school Christmas program when I was in first grade in a duet with another a little girl in first grade who had a beautiful voice, and that little girl was Darlene Anderson.

The first bell rang at 8:30 a.m. and at 9:00 a.m. the last bell rang, at which time we were to be in the school. The bell was also rung to come in after recess and at the end of the lunch hour. Even Ostrem was the janitor, and he usually rang the bell, or a teacher might do it too. The bell rope was located on the left in the foyer. After recess, we would form a big line at the water fountain for a drink. There was also a washstand in the hallway in order to wash our hands.

Living in Manfred was a great time. I can't imagine a better place to have grown up than Manfred.

# 1944-1945 School Year

## 1944-1945 Lower Grades – all together



←

L/R:

*Back:* Manuel Detling, Richard Ulrich, Wayne Hustoft, Edward Ravnaas, Roger Rogelstad, Dale Opdahl, Myron Soiseth, Lyle Sommer

*Middle:* Audrey Strauss, Ione Rodne, Claudia Schepp, Betty Detling, Arlene Strauss

*Front:* Norval Hustoft, Wallace Helland, Duane Holzer, Joe Strauss

### Small groups from the photo above



#### Back Row

Manuel Detling, Richard Ulrich, Wayne Hustoft, Edward Ravnaas, Roger Rogelstad, Dale Opdahl, Myron Soiseth, Lyle Sommer



#### Middle Row

Audrey Strauss, Isabelle Rodne, Claudia Schepp, Betty Detling



#### Middle and Front Rows

*Back:* Audrey Strauss, Ione Rodne, Claudia Schepp, Betty Detling, Arlene Strauss *Front:* Wallace Helland, Norval Hustoft, Duane Holzer, Joe Strauss

## 1944-1945 Upper Grades



L/R:

*Back:* Roger Flick, James Strauss, Elaine Strauss, Cora Gladheim, Betty Froeber, Peggy Renden

*Middle:* Allan Rogness, Orville Rodne, Dorothy Nertrout, Ora Gladheim, Ethel Melby

*Front:* Ruth Anderson, Verneil Opdahl, Lucille Strauss, Marlys Jenny, Burga Detling, Carol Gladheim



Mildred Nelson  
Upper Grade Teacher



Even Ostrem,  
School Janitor

#### Claudia Schepp Durgian

Peggy Renden and I were reporters for the newspapers. She and I went from house to house asking if they had any news, and then we would sit down together and write out the news. Peggy sent the Manfred news to the Wells County Free Press and I sent the same thing to the Harvey Herald. For our pay, we each received 5 cents per one inch of printed news.

#### Audrey Solheim on Claudia's memory

This is a favorite memory I have of Claudia and Peggy – they would come to our house each week to collect news. I was so impressed by these older girls – I was young and impressed by everything they did. I remember they rolled up the legs of their blue jeans, so fashionable for the day! My mother always had many inches of news for them.