

Warm Greetings!

The New MANFRED NEWS

Annual Subscription of
\$10.00 for the
Manfred Newsletter

'The New Manfred News' is a quarterly newsletter published by Manfred History & Preservation, Inc. (MHP, Inc.), a non-profit organization founded July 25, 2000 for the purpose gathering the history of the Manfred area and encouraging preservation of its historic buildings. Historical and financial contributions as well as volunteer help, enable the Manfred history and preservation projects. Thank you for your help! The Manfred Heritage Museum is located at Manfred, ND along Hwy 52 in Wells County. Call 701-547-2564 summer, 701-324-2091 winter. Historian: Audrey Solheim, asolheim@bis.midco.net. Editor: Wanda Melchert wrmelchert@westriv.com. MHP, Inc. mailing address: MHP, Inc., P.O. Box 321, Harvey, ND 58341. Website: www.manfrednd.org.

Volume 3, Issue 4

Page 1

December 2003

*Wishing you
a joyous
season!*

Two active Prairie Churches...



Seventh Day Adventist Church of Rural Manfred



Rejoice and be glad, Your Savior is born!

*Painting by Dolores Renden
Given to Vang Lutheran Church
In 2003 by the Renden Family*

*From
Manfred,
North Dakota*

...in the Manfred area



Vang Lutheran Church in Village of Manfred

Welcome Everyone...

Welcome to this twelfth issue of the quarterly Manfred News, bringing to close a profoundly special year for Manfred with the dedication of the Manfred Heritage Museum on July 26, 2003 signifying the beginning of a new purpose for this tiny place in helping to tell the story of rural North Dakota. Manfred is a great candidate for such a story... with the railroad, the river, the elevators, its property owners, a prairie church and other historic buildings, its rural setting in a farming community, and its growing body of historical data. Manfred is indeed blessed!

The Manfred Heritage Museum is a new 'business' in Manfred made possible because of you, the volunteer workers and contributors! With your help, three rooms on the main level of the Melby-Rogness House were completed this year and are now in active use. We look forward to continuing with the restoration of this museum headquarters in the spring. A number of property owners have been busy making improvements to their properties as well; so many good things have been taking place in and around Manfred. Wow! Hang onto your 'hat' in 2004, for a whirlwind of more great improvements planned. Contractors, volunteers, and property owners are lined up ready to start again with projects next season. Many thanks for special help this fall to Curtis Nelson and Pam Norstedt for salvaging tin from the old hotel, to Roy Fandrich for helping to unload roofing materials, to John Bolin and Mid Dakota Lumber Co. for bringing materials to Manfred, to Bruce Melby for cutting away tree and brush debris, and to Pete Anderson for installing a motion light on the Melby-Rogness House.

Following the special Dedication issue in September, we now return to featuring the history of Manfred with this issue. There are stories waiting their turn for this newsletter, long into the future. We are pleased to feature the interesting Boese family story in this issue. You'll find newsletter subscription information on page 2. The enclosed flier will help you in ordering a copy of the song that has met with great success, composed and sung by Laverne Johnson especially for the Dedication. Page 3 features excerpts from the Washington Post article published in September with much thanks to Jason Wilson, its author. Thank you to the Renden family for giving the beautiful painting created by Dolores Renden. The painting now hangs in Vang Lutheran Church.

The New Manfred News

Gene Melby honored by the Dakota Transit Association

2003 North Dakota
'Driver of the Year'



Attending the awards ceremony in Grand Forks with Gene were his wife Betty, their son Arnie and his wife Norma at Gene's left, and their daughter Bergit Albrecht holding her daughter Emma at Betty's right.

September 16, 2003, Gene Melby was named 2003 North Dakota 'Driver of the Year' by the Dakota Transit Association at a conference held in Grand Forks, where he received a plaque and a jacket. On September 22nd, a reception was held in Gene's honor at the Senior Citizen's Center in Harvey, attended by many people from the region wishing to congratulate Gene on his award and to thank him for his wonderful work as transit driver with the Wells/Sheridan Aging Council for over 13 years.

In an article in The Herald-Press by Carrie Opdahl dated September 27th, the director of this agency and Gene's boss, Garnet Lukenbach, related, "Gene retired from farming and was seeking something to occupy his time. Fortunately for us, he applied for a position at our office. He quickly became part of the team and well-loved by all of his passengers. Gene has become invaluable to our agency. He is a Godsend, and his dedication exceeds all expectations."



Thank you,
Gene, for
all the
good you
do in
helping
other!

Congratulations, Gene!

Annual Harvest Festivals at Manfred churches

The Harvest Fest at the Manfred Seventh Day Adventist Church included collecting grocery items, then giving them to the Wells County Social Services at Fessenden for distribution.

The Vang Lutheran Church Harvest Festival was held Oct. 19th with the proceeds going to charitable causes and a portion for upkeep of the Vang building. A ham and scalloped potato dinner together with a bake/craft/white elephant sale followed the morning worship service. Prairie Rose and the Sidekicks performed at a 2 p.m. concert to complete this enjoyable day.

In Memory

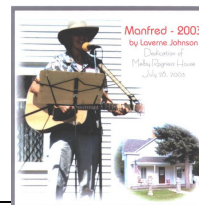
Mrs. Ernest (Sigrid) Langseth
February 2, 1913 - October 3, 2003

Laverne's Manfred Song – 2003

Laverne Johnson announces that the professional recording, of the song composed and sung by her for the dedication of the Manfred Heritage Museum July 26, 2003, is now available on either cassette tape or CD. It's Free with a contribution of \$10.00! If ordering by mail, add \$2.00 for packaging and postage. All profits will be donated to Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. Send mail orders to:

Laverne Johnson
2126 N. 7th St.
Bismarck, ND 58501

Jacket cover of CD →



Newsletter Subscription Information

The Manfred Newsletter will begin regular annual subscription in 2004, rather than volunteer contribution as has been done in the past.

For those who have made a contribution to MHP, Inc. at anytime in the past, your subscription is effective through December 2004. If you have not made a contribution, you can subscribe to the 2004 newsletter with a check of \$10.00 to MHP, Inc.

(A notice for subscribing to the 2005 newsletter will be announced later in 2004.)

New Property Owner in Manfred!

We welcome Audrey Solheim as Manfred's newest property owner! On October 11th, she purchased from Harry Detling the building that had served as her father's Standard Service Station. She hopes to restore the exterior to look as it did as a station. It is Manfred's oldest structure, having been built in 1894 as the Smith Roger's Lumber Co.



As an active service station in 1954



In 2003, longing to look like itself again

Preservation North Dakota News in brief Stories next issue

The Prairie Churches of North Dakota exhibit opened October 24th at the Heritage Center in Bismarck and will be on display for one year. Preservation North Dakota named Wanda Melchert 2003 'Volunteer of the Year' at the Gov's Conf. on ND History Nov 14th.

With the continuing help of supporters, Manfred is growing toward its exciting mission to help tell the story of rural North Dakota. Wow! Thank you!

Contributions to MHP, Inc.

Muriel and Lowell Boyum
Edgar and Jeanne Flick
Betty Froeber in memory of her husband
Gerald Froeber
Al, Norma, Barbara Holwegner
in memory of David Holwegner
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Phyllis and Harold Pantsari
Barbara Plunkett
Mary E. Rodne
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Barbara and Floyd Simmons
Audrey Solheim in memory of Ervin Boese

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Evelyn Schlenker
Gerald and Jeanne Schlenker
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Marlys Weissner

Jason Wilson, the series editor of The Best American Travel Writing, visited Manfred on November 3, 2002 during a week-long guided tour in North Dakota conducted by Dale Bentley, executive director of Preservation North Dakota. What an honor for Manfred to appear in an article written by Jason as published in the Washington Post Magazine! Thank you ever so much, Jason... from everyone!! Below are excerpts of this article...

Building the Dreams

Despite North Dakota's harsh, unforgiving climate, the prairie's beauty finds a way to survive

By Jason Wilson

Sunday, September 21, 2003; Washington Post Magazine - Page W18



Jason Wilson

...With its inhospitable climate of scorching hundred-degree summers and bitter below-zero winters, North Dakota was settled mostly in the late 19th century by hardy immigrants. One of the first things those immigrants did when they arrived was to build a church, which soon became a community gathering place for the fledgling settlement... Each prairie church, as they've come to be called, retains architectural touches that suggest the settlers' European homelands. These sturdy, well-built, utilitarian one-room churches were beacons on the treeless landscape -- sometimes referred to as lighthouses of the prairie. There are now more than 2,200 prairie churches in North Dakota... More than 400 of them now stand vacant, many in towns that are simply disappearing. Dozens more may fall vacant in the next few years due to depopulation. Because of this, in 2001 the National Trust for Historic Preservation placed the prairie churches of North Dakota collectively on its annual list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. Dale Bentley is executive director of Preservation North Dakota, a grass-roots organization trying to save prairie churches...

We began our trip, appropriately, on a Sunday morning in a place called Goshen, near Fargo, at the simple white clapboard Goshen Moravian Church, which was built by German immigrants in the 1880s... After the service, we drove northwest from Goshen into a fierce wind. By late afternoon, we reached the town of Manfred, which consisted mostly of a few dirt roads, two grain elevators, a cluster of homes, and a deserted main street with a defunct post office, an abandoned hotel and a boarded-up general store. Our host in Manfred was Wanda Melchert who gave us a tour of the old post office, the general store and a turn-of-the-century home, all of which she had purchased in hopes of renovating as the cornerstones of a future historic village. Wanda is a North Dakota native who left the state for many years, but then returned. She approached Preservation North Dakota for a small grant, and then asked for volunteer help... Vang Lutheran Church together with the Manfred history and preservation projects are now one of Preservation North Dakota's success stories. Vang Lutheran Church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and holds regular Sunday services. Wanda told me that earlier that day there had been "nine plus God" in attendance.

The reason Dale brought me to Manfred was for a special celebration for the volunteers who'd helped resurrect historic buildings in Manfred over the past several years. We took our seats in a back pew and Wanda began the program with some opening remarks. "This is the tiniest place you'll ever find," she said. "But somebody needs to speak up for small-town rural America, and it might as well be Manfred." There were dioramas displaying Manfred's history. I was surprised to see that in the early 20th century the town had boasted a blacksmith, a pool hall, a Sons of Norway lodge (the scene of many lutefisk dinners), and even a cornet band.

The first entertainment was teenager Julie Anderson, great-great granddaughter of original settler P.B. Anderson. She sang a version of "All Through the Night." After that, Verna Bowers stood and recited "The First Snowfall" by James Russell Lowell. Then, Wanda called off names, and honored volunteers present with a certificate of recognition. A contractor who'd donated a lot of his time and expertise was given a gift certificate for a new tool belt, and two jars of homemade pickled cucumbers. Then everyone sang "Polly Wolly Doodle," "Clementine," "Oh! Susanna" and, of course, "America the Beautiful." The program came to a close when Tabitha Ongstad, the great-granddaughter of Manfred settler Sofus Ongstad, sang "I Will Arise and Go to Jesus." Then we all went down to the basement and ate homemade desserts. Over coffee and Norwegian pastries, Perry Anderson, Julie's father, told me that he'd gone to school in Manfred until eighth grade, but that they'd closed the school back in 1973. Now, Perry lives a few miles away in Fessenden, near the county fairgrounds. "You don't have a lot of kids growing up here anymore," he said. "My son's school only has four kids in one class and six in the other. They're down to nine-man football in the smaller towns around here." After the sweets it was getting dark, so Dale and I said our goodbyes...

This article went on to tell of their visits to other churches, as well as of touring the badlands and the Enchanted Highway. To enjoy this article in its entirety together with the article's photos, visit your local library to see the September 21, 2003 issue of the Washington Post Magazine.

The Boese Family History

The immigrants to America, having departed from their European homelands for a strange new land, were a people of resilience, a people in hope of a better life, a people forging bravely ahead regardless of the challenges encountered. Through this Boese Family History, readers are invited to travel along as the generations of Boeses journey from their native lands to settle in their new home of America.

Julius Boese



Julius Boese

-Born in Germany-

Julius lived on three different continents during his lifetime. We begin his story across the ocean in Germany where he was born in 1826 at Koenigsburg. He grew to manhood there, and in 1854 he married Katharine Kreager who was born 1835 at Koenigsburg, Germany. Their first three children were born in Germany: Johanna (Mrs. Gottlieb Stober) in 1856, Gustav in 1859, and Martha (Mrs. Ludwig Krebs) in 1863.

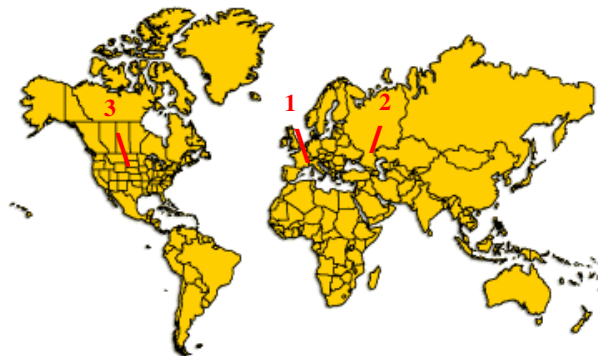
-Moved to Russia-

In 1866, Julius decided to move his family from Germany to Russia for better opportunities. Soon after their arrival that year, their fourth child Bertha Elizabeth (Mrs. Albert Burgstahler) was born in July. Two more children were born to them: August in 1869 at Odessa, Russia and Minna/Minnie (Mrs. Max Folendorf) in 1872 at Kiev. The young family lost their mother when Catharine died in 1874. In 1876, Julius married Pauline Poelke who was born in 1850. Their first child, Emil, was born in 1877, Anna (Mrs. John Beiswanger) in 1880, and then Mary Theresa (Mrs. Wendel Truedson) in 1885.

-Immigrated to America-

Longing for more freedom and the opportunity for land, Julius and his family decided to leave Russia and come to America. However, the Russians refused to let them go, so the family devised a plan to spread out, make a break across the border, and then to all meet on the other side. It so happens that as they were sneaking across the border, the Russian guards spotted them and fired upon them. Luckily, they all made it across the border safely.

Leaving from Hamburg, Germany on the ship Polaria for America were: Julius and his wife Pauline together with their children Bertha, August, Minna, Emil, Anna, Mary, and his married son Gustav and wife Augusta and their two children Arthur and Louis. The ship Polaria was equipped for both sail and power, so when the winds blew they put up the sails and used power when calm. The family arrived in New York June 21, 1886.



World Map showing migration destinations and dates for Julius Boese and his family

-1-

1826-1866
Julius was born in East Prussia Germany, as well as were three of his children.

-2-

1866-1886
Moved to Russia where six more children were born to Julius.

-3-

1886 and On
Immigrated to America where one more child was born to Julius.

-Settling in America-

The family settled in South Dakota where Julius filed his notice of Intent to become a USA citizen on October 1, 1887 in Lake County. Their last child, Harry Albert, was born in April 1888. On June 25, 1896, Julius filed for a 160 acre homestead: the NE quarter of Section 8 of Johnson Township 145, Range 69 near Sykeston, North Dakota. He broke 10 acres the first year. On September 12, 1901, Julius became a USA citizen witnessed by August H. Boese and G. F. Schlechter. In 1901 when his homestead became final, Julius was 75 years old, a widower with two children at home, a 18' x 20' house, a 16' x 20' barn, with 80 acres broken for a value of \$500. Julius died in July of 1903.

Contributors for the Boese Family History include: Photos and family information from Lydia Boese, Evelina Boese, Wesley and Esther Boese, Erich Boese, Judy Soiseth Emmel, Debora Harrison Lochow, Tim and Lyn Boese, "Harvey Growing With Pride History Book," "The Fessenden Centennial Book." Passenger list "Migration from the Russian Empire," Volume 8, May 1886-December 1887 obtained by Lonny Brakel from the State Historical Society of North Dakota Archives. "Boese's building buggies" article from the Harvey Herald Press.

Gustav Boese



Gustav and his brother August

Within his lifetime, Gustav experienced many joys and also much sorrow. Like his father, Gustav lived in three countries over the years. He was born at Shonviese, East Prussia Germany to Julius and Catharine Boese on October 9, 1859. At age six, Gustav, his parents, and two siblings moved to Russia in the hopes of better opportunities. Gustav grew to manhood there, and in about 1882 he married Augusta Poelke who was born 1862 in Russia. Their first child Arthur was born in 1883 and their second child Louis in 1884. In 1886, Gustav, his wife Augusta and their two children made a harrowing escape from Russia together with his father and family. Having crossed safely, they then made their way to Hamburg, Germany where they immigrated together to America on the ship Polaria arriving at New York on June 21, 1886. Gustav and Augusta settled at Madison, South Dakota where their son Hugo was born April 9, 1887, son Leo on April 11, 1889, and another son in 1891 who died at birth. During that same year, Augusta had to be admitted to the State Hospital in Yankton.



Gustav Boese Farmstead:
SW qtr. of Sec 32, T.149, R.71
Manfred Township



Gustav Boese owned land in sections 32 and 33. Pictured is his farmstead on Sec. 32 where he lived 1893-1914, and then Louis and family lived on this farmstead 1915-1938.

In 1893, Gustav and his children moved to Manfred Township by ox team. Sadly in 1899, his wife Augusta and sixteen other women perished in a fire at the Yankton State Hospital. On January 17, 1900, Gustav became an American citizen witnessed by Karl Radke and Rudolph Fiebich. He married Wilhelminia (Minnie) Rappuhn widow of Gustave Rappuhn, but this marriage did not last. Tragically, his oldest son Arthur died in 1907 when dragged by a team of horses. In time, Gustav went to California where he became a carpenter. On November 12, 1914 at Lodi, California, he married for a third time to Maria (Mary) Broschat born March 17, 1881 at Labiau, East Prussia Germany. Their child Erich was born August 30, 1915, then Arno on June 10, 1918, and Aimee on February 21, 1923. Sadly, two of their children died young: Baby Aimee on July 10, 1923 and 5½ year old Arno on January 23, 1924. Their last child Elmer was born November 27, 1924. Maria died at San Joaquin, California on February 16, 1938 and Gustav died at Modesto, California on September 30, 1942.



Gustav Boese
with his third wife Maria and
their son Erich in c.1915

Gustav Boese's Children

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1) Arthur 1883-1907 | 4) Leo 1889-1960 | 6) Erich 1915-2003 | 8) Aimee 1923-1923 |
| 2) Louis 1884-1953 | 5) Baby Boy 1891-1891 | 7) Arno 1918-1924 | 9) Elmer 1924-1993 |
| 3) Hugo 1887-1956 | | | |

Louis and Ella Boese

The Boese family is blessed with a continuous series of diaries dating from 1911 to the present. This remarkable collection of dairies is a very rich source of history for the Boese descendents, as well as for the history of Manfred. Louis began keeping a diary in 1911 that continued until his death in 1953, after which time his son Wesley has carried on with this tradition thus marking the 92nd year in 2003 of these remarkable dairies.



Samples of the Boese Diary Collection
1914, 1912, 1917

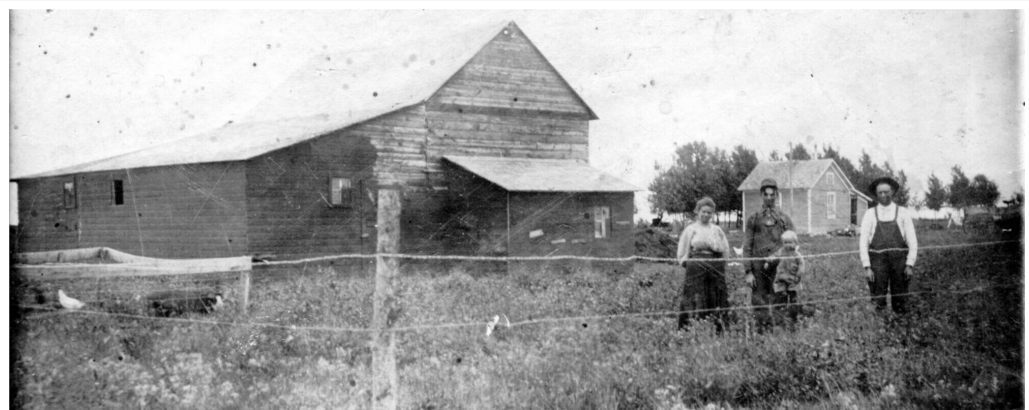
Louis Boese was born to Gustav and Augusta Boese at Odessa, Russia on December 22, 1884. When Louis was only 1½ years old, he and his parents and three-year old brother fled from Russia. They then immigrated to America, arriving at New York June 21, 1886 on the ship Polaria from Hamburg. His family settled at Madison in Dakota Territory, now South Dakota. In 1891, his mother was admitted to the State Hospital in Yankton, and in 1893 the rest of the family moved by ox team to Manfred consisting of the father Gustav, Arthur 10, Louis 9, Hugo 5, and Leo 4. When Louis reached 14 years of age, his mother died tragically in a fire at the State Hospital in Yankton. Louis grew to manhood on his father's farmstead on Section 32. He married on August 10, 1906 at Startup, Washington to Ella Mennegar born in 1889 at Humphrey, Nebraska. Their first child Richard was born at Startup in 1907.



Louis and Ella Boese

11	12	15	14	13
20	21	22	23	24
29	28	27	26	25
32	33	34	35	36
6	5	4	3	

Location of Louis Boese's
farmstead on the W 80 of the SW
quarter of Sec. 33 of Manfred Twp



Louis and Ella Boese's farmstead where they lived from about 1908-1915 before moving to Gustav's
From left: Ella, Louis, their son Richard, and Louis' brother Hugo

About 1908, Louis and Ella together with their son Richard moved back to North Dakota from Washington to help his dad and brothers, Hugo and Leo, with the farming. They moved onto the Section 33 farmstead where Hugo, his bachelor brother, was also living. *See farmstead photo and map above.* Their son Raymond was born there in 1909, Harley in 1911, and Mildred in October 1913. In November, Louis, Ella and family went back to Washington, at which time his brother Leo and wife Elizabeth moved onto the Section 33 farmstead Louis and family had just left. During their stay in Washington, Louis and Ella purchased 15 acres of land from her parents on which they made improvements, and Louis also worked at a saw mill.

In March of 1915, Louis and Ella boxed up their belongings and the family moved back to North Dakota settling down on the Section 32 farmstead, the one where his father, Gustav, had lived from 1893 until he moved to California in 1914. *See farmstead photo and map, page 5.* Born at this farmstead were Ervin, Louella, Violet, and Wesley. The years were very busy for Louis and his brothers Leo and Hugo in farming the land together. Everything was going well, but then in September 1917 their house on Section 32 burned down. To serve as temporary housing, cook cars were moved onto the place. By October, Leo and family had moved to Montana, Hugo also moved to Montana, and Louis began building a new home with lumber he hauled from the Manfred Roger's Lumber Co. By November, the cook cars were hauled away and the family moved into the basement of the house that was still under construction. During that winter, Ella and the kids stayed with her folks in Washington while the workmen completed the construction; and then Louis did the plastering and other inside finishing work. After a few months, Ella returned from Washington with the children to help with the finishing touches.

Louis and Ella Boese, Page 2 The Louis Boese threshing operation including the unique bundle bucker



Above left: Louis bought a Fordson tractor and a Woods separator, and threshed for neighbors and exchanged work with them.

Above center and right: Around 1941, Ervin Boese and Harley Kittelson created this bundle bucker from the body of a Model A car, fixing the gears so it went in reverse with the bundle bucker mounted on the rear frame. Harley was instrumental in making it work, as he was very good with anything mechanical. The bundle bucker picked up the shocks from the field, which were then brought to the separator. Next, men using 3-tine forks pitched these bundles from the ground into the separator feeder. This method eliminated the need for hayracks and horses. The bundle bucker had two 'steering' wheels as seen in middle photo: one for steering and the other to lift the bucker off the ground. Ervin is shown in the photo at right operating the bundle bucker. A playful note - At the same time this photo was being taken, Wesley recalls, as a young lad, trying to wrestle his dad down by the leg. In this photo, you can see Louis standing by the side of the truck, and his son Wesley is crouched below in the process of pulling on Louis' leg.

Though Louis' brothers had moved in Montana, they would come back to help with the farming. Hugo helped with springs work and harvest, and sometimes also worked for other farmers in the area. Leo also came sometimes to help during the busy seasons. The farming was good some years, and others not so good. Some years there were lots of grasshoppers eating the crops, and in 1936 they didn't have a crop at all due to the drought. The only things 'harvested' that year were thistles from the fences. In 1938, their farm was sold due to foreclosure.

Louis and Ella, however, didn't give up, but started again in 1938 on a farmstead on Section 27 just north of Manfred where they lived the remainder of their lives. Their son Wesley continued on with the farming operation. *See farmstead map and photo, page 11.* Reier Reistad, a neighbor and skilled craftsman, helped Louis build an entryway onto the north side of the house on this place, and they also moved the barn 300 feet to the southeast. Louis put up a 32-volt wind generator on the barn, with batteries located in the basement of the house. This provided enough power to run the radio and a few lights. On July 28, 1950, the Rural Electric Association (REA) turned on the electricity to their farm, as well as farms in the area.

Family and Activities



Manfred Cornet Band c. 1918

Far left front: Louis and Hugo with baritones, and next to them is Leo on the trombone



Birthday party for granddaughter Marlys, c. 1940
From left back: Grandma Boese, Christy Anderson, Millie Boese, Jereet Biever, Nora Peterson, Violet Boese
Front: Wesley, Myron, Marlys, and Darlene Anderson



Some of Louis and Ella's children in 1965
From left standing: Ervin, Wesley, Richard, Harley.
Seated: Louella and Mildred.

Louis and his brothers loved music. Louis played the baritone and was a member of the Manfred Cornet Band, as well as member of a brass quartet. The diaries tell that the band played for Norwegian doings, grain dealer's association, Farmer's Union meetings, farewell parties, church services, and every opportunity that afforded them. Louis gladly taught music to any of his children who wanted to learn to play an instrument.



Louis and Ella

Louis and Ella took part in the community affairs such as PTA, telephone company meetings, helping with the band organization in Manfred, political gatherings, serving as jurors, ladies aid and other church activities. The diaries tell of skiing to Manfred for the mail. Louis did a lot of walking, and nearly always walked to wherever he needed to go. Louis died January 8, 1953 and Ella on December 26, 1958.

Children of Louis and Ella Boese

Found on pages 8-11



Richard Boese, 1943



Raymond and Alfilda Boese family, 1996
From left: Polly, Raymond, Alfilda, Dolores



Seated are Mildred and Johnny Soiseth, 1965
Their children standing from left: Judy, Dorothy, James, Roger, Robert, George, Myron.

Richard (Rich) was born on April 30, 1907 at Startup, Washington. Most of his formal education was in the Manfred area schools. He worked on the farm all his life, first with his father Louis and then with Wesley. He was always kind to animals, and the children sought him out when they thought they would be disciplined by their parents. He helped care for his mother, and also helped haul trash, yard work, and shovel coal for especially the elderly of Manfred. He worked with John Smith doing odd jobs, and together with his brother Wesley, and later also Wesley's sons, dug the graves at the Vang Lutheran Cemetery. After Rich experienced several mini strokes, he entered St. Aloisius Nursing Home in 1979, and died in 1984.

Raymond (Ray) was born March 28, 1909 near Manfred and attended school there. He graduated from Harvey High School in 1928 where he had played on the football team. In 1931, he married Alfilda Jacobson and had two daughters: Dolores and Florence (Polly). The family moved to Williston in 1933 where Raymond worked on a dairy farm. In 1938, they moved to Miles City, MT where Ray had a trucking line, living there for about 50 years. In their retirement years, they ran the St. Paul Hotel in Miles City, and Ray also drove a van for the Montana State Boys Reformatory. Ray was a member of the Masons, Elks, and the Miles City Town and Country Golf Club. Alfilda died in 1997 and Ray in 2000. Their children include: Dolores and her husband Richard Price of Morris, Illinois, and Florence (Polly) and her husband Robert Culp of Laguna Beach, CA.

Mildred (Millie) was born October 29, 1913 on her parent's farm near Manfred, and attended school in the Manfred School District. In 1937, she married John Soiseth who worked on the section crew for the railroad in Manfred. Mildred helped out in the Central Office. Johnny later worked at Cathay for a time, and in about 1945 the family moved to Flaxton where they lived much of their life. Their final move was to Kenmare. Millie died May 3, 1986, and John died December 29 of that same year. They had seven children: James died in 1998-his wife Della of Tioga, ND, George of West St. Paul, MN, Myron and his wife Virginia of Inver Grove Heights, MN, Robert and his wife Judy of Coalstrip, MT, Dorothy Lunstad of Savage, MT (her husband Harvey is deceased), Roger and his wife Della of Williston, ND, and Judy and her husband Clifford Emmel of Kenmare, ND.

Louella (Lu) was born in rural Manfred and attended school in the Manfred-Fessenden area. She was a lover of music and often sang together with either her sister Violet or brother Ervin for many functions. In 1942, she married Victor Harrison. Victor was a railroad agent and they were located at Manfred for many years before moving to Wimbledon, North Dakota. Their children include: Glenda Lea and her husband Donald Sherman of Valley City, North Dakota, Victor, Jr. (Vic) of Orlando, Florida, Debora and her husband James Lochow of Valley City, North Dakota, and James of Orlando, Florida. Victor died in 1973. In 1975, Louella married Douglas Oglesby. They now live at Enderlin, North Dakota.

Violet was born July 16, 1925 near Manfred and attended school there. She loved to sing, and often sang duets with her brother Ervin. She was a cook in the Harvey Café for several years, and then in 1952 she took over as operator at the Manfred telephone Central Office when Marie Hovey retired. Violet also helped care for her mother. In 1941, she married Harley Kittelson who worked in construction 45 years. He worked for Rudolph Hieb, Ben Hager, missile sites in North Dakota, and Haggard Construction of Fargo. While living in Fargo, Violet worked as a cook for the Kappa Alpha Pheta Sorority House at NDSU. They had two children: Clifford and his wife Nadine of Deerwood, Minnesota, and Bonnie of Rush City, Minnesota. Violet died in 1965.



Louella and Victor Harrison, 1942



Louella Harrison and her children in 1991
From left: Vic Jr., Glenda Lea, Louella, Debora, James



Louella and Douglas Oglesby



Violet and Harley Kittelson
and their children Bonnie and Clifford

Harley and Lydia Boese

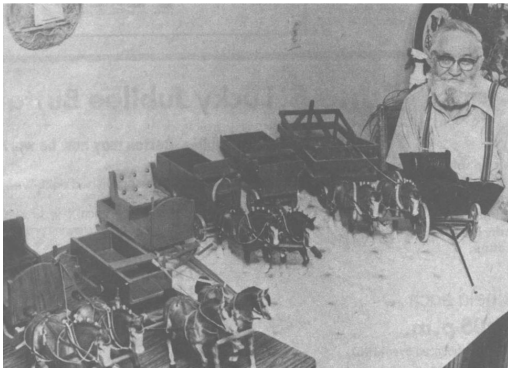


Harley, Lydia, and daughter Marlys at Medora, ND during a trip to state of Washington in 1939

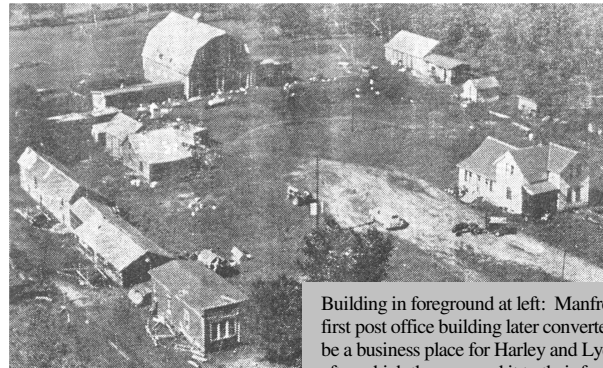


Old post office converted by Lydia and Harley for their shoe repair business and lunch counter. Lydia behind counter. Seated from left: Merlyn (Butch), Donna, and Marlys Boese, Ken and Fred Schindler. Photo c.1947 during harvest season..

Photo provided by Ken and Anita Schindler



After retirement, Harley enjoyed making items from wood such as miniature horse-drawn vehicles and small dressing tables.



Harley and Lydia Boese Farm-Buildings on left side housed their turkey operation.

Building in foreground at left: Manfred's first post office building later converted to be a business place for Harley and Lydia, after which they moved it to their farm to serve as a turkey brooder house.



Harley and Lydia Boese Farm one mile north of Manfred on Sec. 21, T.149, R.71

Harley and Lydia then worked for the old Cooke Hotel in Harvey for five years before moving to Miles City, MT in 1965. There, they served as house parents to boys in Pine Hills School, a corrective institution of the State of Montana where they received a letter of praise from the superintendent for their exceptional work. The experiences of those eleven years could have filled a book. There was one time when nineteen of the young inmates managed to lock Harley and Lydia into cells while the group made their escape. Within an hour and a half, all but one had been apprehended once again. After retirement, they moved back to Harvey. Harley died in 1988. Lydia continues to live in Harvey at the Senior Housing. On April 1, 2003, she celebrated her 90th birthday.

Visitors always felt warmly welcome in the jolly atmosphere of Harley and Lydia's home. Five children were born to them. Marlys and her husband Ed Piatz of Harvey, ND. They had six children: Douglas, Dean, Joanne, Dale, James, and Nancy. Donna and her husband Bob Foster of Woodbury, MN. Donna has two children: Norman and Jason. Merlyn (Butch) and his wife Darlene Boese of Roseville, MN. They have two children: Michele and Christopher. David lives at South St. Paul, Minnesota and has two children Nick and Jena.



The Harley and Lydia Boese Family upon the occasion of Harley and Lydia's 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1986. From left: David, Harley, Lydia, Merlyn, Donna, Marlys



Ervin and Evelina, 1946

Anniversary SALE

March 12 – 13 – 14

DIXIE CUPS FOR KIDDIES SAT. AFTERNOON
FREE COFFEE AND COOKIES SATURDAY
11:00 to 4:00 p.m.

VISIT OUR STORE FOR WEEK END SPECIALS

Boese Cash Store

MANFRED, N. D.

A portion of a 1953 newspaper ad for
Ervin and Evelina's 'Boese Cash Store'



Ervin and Evelina Boese farmstead as it appeared
when they purchased it in 1956.

The barn burned in 1958, after which time they built a Quonset building.



Mary Rogelstad accompanying
Ervin and his sister Violet
at a farewell party given for
Louella and Vic Harrison, 1958



The Manfred Quartet
From left: Gene Melby-tenor,
Betty Melby-soprano, Olga Johnson-alto,
Ervin Boese-bass



Ervin & Evelina Boese



The Boese String Ensemble, August 2003



Photo at left
The Ervin and Evelina Boese
Family, Thanksgiving 2001

From left back: Ervin, Tim, Sarah,
Lyn, Paul, Erin, Evelina, Jane.
Foreground from left: David, Amy,
Mark, Susan, Peter

Ervin and Evelina Boese

Ervin was born August 16, 1920 on his parents farm. He received his education in the Manfred School, and then started farming with his father at an early age. In 1946, he married Evelina Haluska of Chaseley. They began on a small farm, at which time Evelina taught school for 8 years south of Harvey and Ervin drove the school bus for a number of years. In 1952, they purchased the Cash Store from Rudolph Peterson, selling it in 1956 to Ed Sorenson and purchased the Reier O. Reistad farm. In 2002, they sold the farmstead to Brian and Laura Muscha and moved to Grand Forks, ND, where Evelina continues to reside. Ervin died August 26, 2003.

Ervin always loved music, and participated in both vocal and instrumental groups. He played the tuba with various bands such as The Harvey City Band for over 40 years, The Obed Larson Band, & The Harvey Playboys which played for many events and also on Minot's TV station members being: Ervin on tuba, Lloyd Berdine on accordion, Ivan Mattheis on banjo, and Gene Melby on guitar. Ervin played for president-elect Nixon when he was in Fargo, as well as for the dedication of Garrison Dam, & many other community events.

During the first few years of their marriage, Sunday afternoons were spent at the Louis Boese farm visiting and singing. Whenever he could, Ervin would sing. Folks were blessed to hear his rich baritone voice. He sang duets with either his sisters Violet and Louella, or his mother Ella. He also sang in quartets: The Manfred Quartet included Ervin, Betty & Gene Melby, and Olga Johnson; The Boese Quartet comprised of Ervin, his sons Tim and Paul, and nephew Norman. Ervin also participated in the Harvey Community Choir.

Ervin was a great imitator and would entertain at family gatherings to the delight of everyone. He was active in community affairs such as serving on the Manfred and Harvey school boards, the Manfred elevator, served as Manfred Township clerk for 45 years, the Nazarene church board and Sunday school for many years, and the Wells County ASCS...

*(Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service
now known as the FSA = Farm Service Agency.)*

Evelina was a member of the Manfred Homemaker's Club and in 2002 received her 50-year pin from this organization. She was also a member of the state and county teacher's associations, the Harvey Band and Chorus mothers, served on the Christian Women's committee, and taught Sunday School for over 20 years.

Ervin and Evelina participated in Manfred History and Preservation, Inc., and provided a leaded glass window to MHP, Inc. which now graces the dining room window of the Melby-Rogness Home. They also gave several artifacts to the Manfred Heritage Museum.

The Children of Ervin and Evelina

Loren died at the age of six months. Paul and Jane Boese live at Grand Forks, ND where Paul teaches music. Their children Sarah, Susan, Amy, and David together with Paul perform as The Boese String Ensemble. Timothy and Lynette live at Grand Forks, ND where Tim is a pilot for Northwest Airlines. They have three children: Peter, Erin, and Mark.

Wesley and Esther Boese



Esther and Wesley Boese
July 26, 1953



Wesley and Esther Boese Farm
Sec. 27, T.149, R.71

Wesley Boese was born on his parents farm on Sec.32 of Manfred Township, their last child. On that day, his oldest brother Richard went with the horses to bring Doc Matthaei out to the farm but the Doc couldn't come; so his nurse Mrs. D.W. Matthaei came to attend to his birth. In 1938, Wesley's family bought a farm on Sec. 27 of Manfred Township just north of the village of Manfred. In 1939, he started school in Manfred, graduating from the 8th grade in 1947. Wesley helped with the farming, and continued the farming operation after his dad died January 8, 1953.

On January 23, 1953, Wesley took the train to Wichita, Kansas to spend some time becoming better acquainted with a pen pal, Esther Bailey, with whom he had corresponded from the time he was in the 7th grade as a result of an English assignment in letter writing. After a month's stay, Wesley returned home to plan for the coming farm year. During the following weeks, Wesley and Esther continued with their communication by letter and by phone, and began planning for their future together.

In April of 1953, it was decided that Esther would come by bus to North Dakota and stay at the home of Wesley's brother, Ervin and Evelina Boese, who were living in the village of Manfred at the time. Esther began working for the First State Bank of Harvey. In addition, Wesley and Esther worked together to do the springs work on the farm, Esther got the garden planted and chickens started, while Wesley got his crop in the ground. At that time, also living on the farm were Wesley's mother Ella who was in a wheelchair having suffered from a stroke, his sister Violet and brother Richard, together with his nephew Myron and niece Bonnie also staying there. During that time, the bridge between Manfred and Wesley's farm could not be used by vehicles, so everyone went back and forth from Manfred to the farm on foot. Wesley and Esther were married July 26, 1953 in Wichita, Kansas. Upon returning to the farm they found the crops to be soon ready, at which time Myron, Richard, and Esther helped Wesley with the harvest. After the fall work was completed that year, they went to Esther's folks in Wichita where Wesley worked in the catalog department at Sears Roebuck.

Until their children became school age, Wesley and Esther returned to Wichita in the winter, where Wesley worked for a Christmas tree stand a few years, and another year helped on house construction. With a growing family and cows to milk, chickens, farming the land, and always a large garden to tend, Wesley and Esther had a busy life. In 1967, they began doing the janitor work at the Manfred School until the school closed in May 1973. In 1979, Esther began working for the Manfred P.O. as leave-replacement and continued in this capacity until it closed in 1992.

Wesley served on the Manfred Elevator Board, and currently serves on the Manfred Township Board. Esther served as secretary for the Farmers Union local, and has been a member of the Manfred Homemakers since 1953. They are active members of the Church of the Nazarene of Fessenden, where Wesley has attended since birth. They are active participants of MHP, Inc. and the restoration projects benefiting Manfred. 2002 was the last year they farmed their land, and in 2003 began cash renting it.

Children of Wesley and Esther Boese:

June and Jeff Farias of Wichita, KA where June is a music teacher. Children: Jenae and Jay.

Norman and Diane Boese of Winter Springs, FL. Norman works for Wescam of Toronto Canada. Children: Nathan, Caralyn.

Mark and Sharla Boese of Richfield, MN where Mark is a consultant for a pacemaker firm. Children: Jennifer, Matthew, and Lucas. Jennifer is married to Ben Bohnsack.

Kevin and Tresa Boese of Lakeville, MN. Kevin is senior software engineer for General Dynamics. Children: Tyler, Tanya.



The Wesley and Esther Boese Farm in 1990



Boese family gathered for Wesley and Esther's 50th Wedding Anniversary
Photo taken at Park Rapids, Minnesota on July 11, 2003

Back row from left: Jenae, Jay, June, Mark, Lucas, Wesley, Esther, Matthew, Ben, Diane, Nathan. Middle row from left: Jeff, Sharla, Tyler, Kevin, Jennifer, Norman, Caralyn. Seated on ground: Tanya and Tresa.