

The New MANFRED NEWS

Volume 10, Issue 2

December 2012

A Warm Welcome to Manfred!

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Tabs of special interest: Biography, Business, Newsletter

In this Issue Thank you to everyone who has shared remarkable memories of their schooldays during the years 9/1955-5/1962!

Manfred School History Part 8 - September 1955-May 1962



↑ The Hoover children ready for skating fun on the James River at Manfred
L/R: David, Derald, and Maridel Hoover in front of their farm home



→ Maridel Hoover Sprenger shown holding her skates. She decided to have the Manfred School painted on the side of her skates in honor of the fun times she enjoyed on the James River, located just a short distance north of the school.

← Detail of school painted on Maridel's skate



Winter Fun
Ice Skating
In Manfred

1955-1956 School Year

Lower - Grades 1-4

Teacher: Myrtle Rogness

Neddy Detling	Jon Fehr	George Nelson	June Sommer
Willy Detling	David Hoover	Robert Nelson	Frances Thomas
Mary Sue Edinger	Orville "Jim" Johnson	Janice Schlenker	Peggy Thomas
Jimmy Fehr	Curtis Melby	Dale Sommer	Roger Weinmann

Upper - Grades 5-8

Teacher: Betty Ellingson

Bonnie Bender	Victor Harrison	Vernon Nelson	Audrey Solheim
Merlyn Boese	Derald Hoover	Warren Nelson	Jane Ellen Sommer
Garry Detling	Maridel Hoover	Janet Olson	Duane Thomas
Harry Detling	Marcella Lithun	Dennis Opdahl	Janet Thomas
Matt Detling, Jr.	Rosella Lithun	Gary Opdahl	Sandra Vorland
Julia Ann Fehr	Vernon Lithun	Gerald Schlenker	John Weinmann
Glenda Harrison	Audrey Nelson	Patricia Schlenker	

School Memories

Janet Olson Wright

We played Cops and Robbers with both the boys and the girls, who each took turns being the cops or the robbers. The cops would try to catch the robbers. In order to ice skate, we needed to obtain a signed note from our parents allowing us to skate. Sometimes there was so much snow that even the plows couldn't get through. One time a big snow storm came up while we were at school. Because the roads were not passable for Jane Ellen and me to go home to our farms, we were invited to stay in town with Myrtle Rogness for a few days. While staying there, we were able to continue attending classes at Manfred School with the town kids. Jane Ellen and I were so impressed that Myrtle had brand new toothbrushes for each of us to use.

Orren Anderson

It was fun to go to school. I remember that for my first day of Grade 1, dad had given me two round lead pencils. Printed on the pencils was advertising for the creamery. When he gave them to me, he said "Go to school and do a good job." The first thing we were to do on that first day of school was to sharpen our pencils. I hadn't used a pencil sharpener before, but I managed to do a very "good job", as by the time I was finished sharpening my pencils there was not even enough stub of the pencils left to write with. My siblings and I walked to school most of the time, but when the winter weather was really bad, dad took us to school using the Ford tractor. He had secured a board across the back of the tractor between the tires, so my sister, LoAnn, and I would have a place to sit. Beginning with Grade 6, I attended school in Harvey when our family moved there.

Bonnie Bender Morris

There were quite a few students when I attended Manfred School, being a part of the generation born after the war. I remember there weren't enough small chairs to sit on when our class would meet with the teacher for reading. For lunch, along with whatever we brought from home in our lunch pails, the teachers would serve one hot item. Too often, green peas were served which I did not like. Sometimes peaches were the hot item. We often played baseball, and also Horse basketball where each point scored gave the player another letter in spelling the word horse. We played on the swing set, teeter totter, and also jumped rope. In the winter, with permission slips, we could go ice skating, which sometimes resulted in getting wet and cold.

Vernon Nelson

I attended Grade 1 at St. Anna School to the south, and then beginning in Grade 2 attended Manfred School. Manfred was a great place to go to school. All of the kids in our small school were close, and we had fun playing together. The class I liked best was math. When we were in the upper grades, I remember some of us played hooky by not coming back to classes after lunch and instead went walking along the river. After completing my schooling in Manfred, it was quite a culture shock to begin high school at Harvey and I had trouble adjusting at first.

1955-1956 School Year

All Grades



L/R:

1955-1956 School Year – All Grades

- Row 4:* Myrtle Rogness-Lower Grades Teacher, Gerald Schlenker, Vernon Lithun, Janet Thomas, Julia Ann Fehr, Dennis Opdahl, Gary Opdahl, Bonnie Bender, Jane Ellen Sommer, Audrey Solheim, Warren Nelson, Betty Ellingson-Upper Grades Teacher
- Row 3:* Duane Thomas, Matt Detling, Jr., Merlyn Boese, Vernon Nelson, John Weinmann, Sandra Vorland, Rosella Lithun, Janet Olson, Marcella Lithun, Maridel Hoover, Patty Schlenker
- Row 2:* Dale Sommer, Jon Fehr, Orville Johnson, Robert Nelson, Audrey Nelson, Peggy Thomas, Janice Schlenker, Derald Hoover, Garry Detling, Harry Detling
- Row 1:* June Sommer, Frances Thomas, George Nelson, Neddy Detling, Roger Weinmann, David Hoover, James Fehr, Willy Detling, Curtis Melby

1956-1957 School Year

Lower - Grades 1-4

Teacher: Alice Goosen

Duane Bender	Dianne Johnson	Owen Nelson	Diane Tebelius
Clara Detling	Orville Johnson	Paulette Rodacker	Frances Thomas
Willy Detling	Shirley Koenig	Tommy Rodacker	Peggy Thomas
Frances Fehr	Curtis Melby	Dale Sommer	Richard Wolf
James Fehr	Virgil Melby	June Sommer	Rita Wolf
David Hoover	George Nelson	Dean Tebelius	

Upper - Grades 5-8

Teacher: Edna Tebelius

Bonnie Bender	Glenda Harrison	Robert Nelson	Audrey Solheim
Merlyn Boese	Victor Harrison	Vernon Nelson	Jane Sommer
Garry Detling	Derald Hoover	Warren Nelson	Duane Thomas
Harry Detling	Maridel Hoover	Gary Opdahl	Janet Thomas
Neddy Detling	Marcella Lithun	Gerald Schlenker	Sandra Vorland
Jon Fehr	Rosella Lithun	Janice Schlenker	John Weinmann
Julia Ann Fehr	Vernon Lithun	Patricia Schlenker	Roger Weinmann



Edna Tebelius

School Memories

Merlyn Boese

Growing up in Manfred was awesome. Attending school at MGS - two rooms, two teachers - was a great experience. Kids today can't even relate. We had wonderful teachers. The playground and equipment was a lot of fun. Yes Donna, we did try and keep the girls out of our snow forts. Back when winter was winter, we were able to build some pretty elaborate forts. It's amazing over the years that someone didn't get caught beneath a tunnel of snow that had fallen down. I guess we were pretty good snow engineers for our time. After a rather large snowfall, the snow would blow in around our house all the way to the top of the roof. We lived across the street from the school. We'd take our sleds on the roof of the house and take off sledding and end up on the James River. That was a fun ride. The swings were the part of the playground equipment I had the most fun on. I'd pump as high as I could, sometimes reaching the level of the top crossbar and then bail out and see how far I could go before landing on the ground, hoping I wouldn't get hurt too badly. No broken bones, so I guess it all worked out ok. In the summer, Jerry Schepp, Bobby Breyer, and I would go to the Wells County Free Fair and watch the daredevils perform at the grandstand. After that, we learned all we could about driving. We'd build ramps and practice jumping over them with our bikes. After we thought we were good enough, we'd put on a show on Main Street in front of the Boese Bar and Café. We even charged admission for friends and family to watch the show. To this day, whenever our kids and grandkids go home to Manfred/Harvey, they want to take the "big tour" of Manfred. *Email transcript from Merlyn Boese*

Jane Ellen Sommer Faul

I remember activities like Drop the Hanky, Hop Scotch, potato sack races, ball games, ice skating, and Anti-I-Over. When the bell rang indicating that our noon break time was over, we sometimes wouldn't get back from playing when we were supposed to. We didn't go upstairs in the school, as we were told it was not safe. I remember Spelling Bees in Festival Hall, the Christmas programs where each grade would sing, and the state exams. I remember going on the bus with Harley Boese and Ervin Boese - we were at the end of the bus line. When it was time for our birthdays, we would bring cake and there would be a party at the end of the school day in celebration. We were all close knit. When I was in first grade, the winter was bad and also I had tonsillitis, so there was about one month I didn't attend school that year. To this day I don't like cherry-flavored medicine.

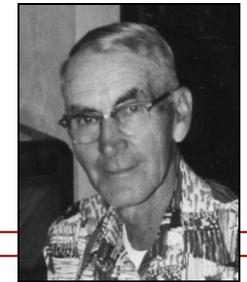
Victor Harrison

My dad was the station agent, so we lived in the depot located along the south side of the tracks. Starting first grade was quite frightening. In walking to school, I would make it about half way between the depot and school, and then would hide behind the Sons of Norway Hall. My mother would have to come and take my hand and walk with me to the school building. Manfred was a great place to grow up, teaching me values of what is important and not important in life. I remember playing croquet in Audrey Solheim's yard, and also baseball in the ball field. My mother was Louella Boese who grew up at Manfred, so it has been interesting to follow the Manfred newsletter for her school years and now these years when I attended Manfred School. Greetings to all my school mates!

1957-1958 School Year



**Veronica Froeber,
School Cook**



**Lars Ostrem,
School Janitor**

Lower Grades 1-4

Clara Detling	David Hoover	Virgil Melby	Tom Rodacker
Willy Detling	David Johnson	Curtis Nelson	June Sommer
Frances Fehr	Dianne Johnson	Owen Nelson	Richard Wolf
James Fehr	Shirley Koenig	Billy Ongstad	Rita Wolf
Ralph Hager	Curtis Melby	Paulette Rodacker	

Teacher: Alice Goosen

Upper Grades 5-8

Garry Detling	Derald Hoover	Warren Nelson	Duane Thomas
Harry Detling	Maridel Hoover	Gary Opdahl	Frances Thomas
Neddy Detling	Orville Johnson	Gerald Schlenker	Janet Thomas
Jon Fehr	Vernon Lithun	Janice Schlenker	Peggy Thomas
Julia Ann Fehr	George Nelson	Audrey Solheim	Roger Weinmann
Victor Harrison	Robert Nelson	Dale Sommer	

Teacher: Edna Tebelius

School Memories

Julia Ann (Julie) Fehr Rodacker

For music, our teacher, Edna Tebelius, had us sing and my cousin Maridel played the piano. About 1956, the basement was set up for a kitchen and dining room with tables and benches. Mrs. Froeber became the cook and was a great cook in everything she made. I remember her glorified rice. When it was nice, we rode our bikes to school, or we'd get a ride from dad when he took cream to the station. The cream check kept most of the families going. I began playing the accordion about Grade 5 and also played the piano. Lars Ostrem was the janitor, and he also helped a little with chores at our farm when dad went to Wisconsin to work in a logging camp.

Maridel Hoover Sprenger

We lived on a farm-to-market road which our parents didn't feel was safe for us to walk to school on, so our dad took us. 1950-1951 was a bad winter, so our dad took us by horse and wagon, but even with this it was hard to get through. Julia Ann Fehr's father and my mother were brother and sister. She and I feel that we had the best childhood being related to each other and also being classmates. We vowed we would never pick on others, we knew not to talk in class unless we raised our hands, and we gave a lot of respect to our teachers. I remember that Gary Opdahl wanted to sell me some of his warts for a penny, so I gave him a penny and sure enough I got a wart.

Gerald Schlenker

For the state exams, it seems we were tested in two subjects during Grade 7 and three subjects during Grade 8. I enjoyed math. Because my parents had the bar and café in town, I went home for the noon meal. Lars Ostrem and my dad were janitors, and had duties such as waxing the school floors and stoking the furnace. All the water was carried from the well, and the toilets were outdoors. A tooth being broken was not an uncommon happening while playing baseball or ice skating when someone fell when playing hockey. We made snow forts, had snowball fights, and played Kick the Can. There probably aren't too many towns where you can say you were able to kick the can in the middle of Main Street. This sometimes took place when a Sons of Norway event was being held in the hotel, when the children would come out and play with us while the adults met inside.

Sandra Vorland Weisenberger

I remember how the teachers cooked the meal in one pot in the hallway. When Mrs. Froeber began as cook, I remember when she made sweet rice and feeling bad that I wouldn't be having some since we lived nearby in the parsonage where I went home for lunch. During the winter, there could be so much snow that the snow went up to the top of the roof at the Froebers. At recess, the students went up that roof and slid down. I remember the pointer stick was used a lot by the teacher to point to things on the blackboard. The Christmas programs were a highlight. My mother drove bus for a period of time and some of the students recall all the singing on the bus, one song being "Up on the Housetop" even when it wasn't winter. When Myrtle Rogness was sick, my mother substituted for her. The day when Ladies Aid was held at the church, many of the students went there after school where a big lunch was being served; this then became our supper that day. Our family moved to Manfred in 1948, and left the spring of my seventh grade. I stayed with Martha Olson to finish out Grade 7, before going to Fessenden for Grade 8.

1958-1959 School Year

Lower Grades 1-4

Clara Detling
Loretta Detling
Willy Detling
Frances Fehr
Jeffrey Hager

Ralph Hager
David Johnson
Dianne Johnson
Frances Koenig
Shirley Koenig

Virgil Melby
Curtis Melby
Curtis Nelson
Owen Nelson
Storm Nies

Teacher: Myrtle Rogness

Wanda Lee Olson
Billy Ongstad
Paulette Rodacker
Tom Rodacker

Upper Grades 5-8

Garry Detling
Harry Detling
Neddy Detling
Willy Detling
James Fehr
Jon Fehr

David Hoover
Derald Hoover
Orville Johnson
Vernon Lithun
George Nelson

Robert Nelson
Warren Nelson
Janice Schlenker
Audrey Solheim
Dale Sommer

Teacher: Marlys Piatz

June Sommer
Frances Thomas
Roger Weinmann
Richard Wolf
Rita Wolf



Marlys Piatz

School Memories

Marlys Boese Piatz

I had attended Manfred School as a student and after having taught school one year elsewhere, had the opportunity to teach at Manfred which I found was a good place to teach. When it came time to attend the teacher's in-service workshop, the discussion among the teachers was on discipline problems and how to handle them. I was listening to the conversations, and finally one of the teachers asked me why I wasn't joining in this conversation. I said that I didn't have discipline problems. The other teachers had a hard time comprehending this. At Manfred, we were like a family. The maps in the classroom were nice to use for map study, but they also came in handy for another use. The walls of the classroom were filled with blackboards, so I sometimes wrote test questions on the blackboard under where a map was located. After I finished writing out the questions, I would pull the map down to cover over the questions until later when it was time in the day's schedule for the test. I then raised the map up for students to answer the test questions. I remember that once in awhile, I was asked to play softball with the students when the two sides were uneven.

Audrey Nelson

I felt the teachers at Manfred were overworked to keep an organized classroom with four grades, and still they had time to help students who needed extra help. We lived eight miles out, right on the township line. I remember one time when Mrs. Vorland was driving the school bus on a prairie road; something broke in the steering mechanism. We had been singing "Up on the Housetop" at the time, when we suddenly ended up going into the plowed field. We all felt that God's angels were looking over us to be on a prairie road that day, instead of the road with steep ditches we would have otherwise taken. Mrs. Vorland had forgotten that the student living the way of the prairie road was not in the car that day. So we all had a safe landing into the plowed field. I was squeezed between others in the car, so I was well protected. Don't ask us why we were singing "Up on the Housetop" when it was springtime, but I remember it was this song because of the chorus "Ho, ho, ho!" When I was in Grade 6, our family moved to Tacoma, Washington. I enjoyed my new school, but noticed big differences from the small rural school to the city school. For one thing, in the two-room school house at Manfred, the older children looked out for the younger ones and everyone played together. We were like an extended family. In the city school, we were not permitted to play in the same area where the younger children were. Another noticeable difference from the small school to the big school was that I had already learned at the rural school what was being taught in the city school. I have never regretted having begun my schooling in a two-room school house in rural America with the sense of community, where the central focus was the school and the church. For starters in the day, we had to have a handkerchief with us and to be sure that our fingernails were clean and trimmed. We always began the school day by reciting the "Pledge of Allegiance" and also sang a patriotic song like "America the Beautiful" or "My Country Tis of Thee." I remember the Christmas programs and the practices. In Manfred we appreciated the little things in life, like when a merry-go-round was added to the playground equipment. Reading the MHP, Inc. newsletter these 12 years has been a thoroughly educational experience for me, learning about the people in the place where I had begun my education.

1958-1959 School Year

Upper Grades

School Memories

Derald Hoover

Our first grade class was the biggest class at that time. It was amazing to see our teacher instruct four classes all in one room. I enjoyed math and English. We received a good quality of education with students helping students. It was fun. By the time we reached Grade 4 in the lower grades room, and Grade 8 in the upper grades room, we had heard the information four times so we knew the material. Also, with four grades going on all at once in one room, we had to learn how to concentrate. We had 1 hour 15 minutes for the noon lunch break. In the winter, we played Fox and Goose, hockey and Crack the Whip on the frozen river, and we made snow forts. It was fascinating that there were some areas of the river that stayed open in the winter, where we would see lots of minnows swimming. The playground seemed so big when we were small. We played marbles and various games with knives which all the boys had, Anti-I-Over over the outdoor toilet, and we were not permitted to go beyond the ditch between the church and the school while playing outdoors.

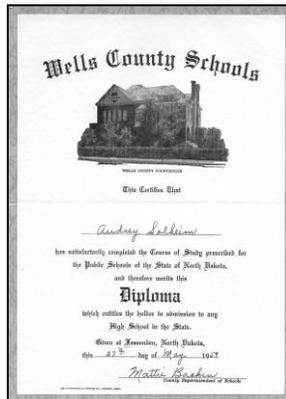
Warren Nelson

We had chores to do before and after school, but on Saturdays and Sundays we had time to go ice skating. During the warmer months, we played ball on the field in Manfred. A lunch room was set up in the basement when I was in Grade 5. The school lunch was a full meal with Mrs. Froeber as cook. We lived north of Manfred and would walk to school. In the summer, we walked across the bridge and then along the river to the school. In the winter, we'd go to school by way of walking across the river on the ice.

Audrey Solheim

I remember hula hooping, and putting on plays and musicals. I accompanied the students on the piano, participated in readings, monologues, and all the fun things of putting on a program for our parents and the community. These events were held at the old Hotel Johnson, what we called the Sons of Norway Hall. What an excellent basis for participating in life! I also remember when as eighth graders, we compiled our own school annual that contained special information about each student and also a cookbook with our mother's favorite recipes. The school annual and the recipe book were hand-written by students, and then reproduced using a hectograph – the jelly consistency in a container about the size of a cookie sheet. The hectograph was also used by the teachers to make copies of tests and worksheets. I still have my hula hoop, as well as the Eighth Grade Class Annual for the year 1959 and the cookbook we prepared.

Email transcript from Audrey Solheim



1959 8th Grade Diploma
Shared by Audrey Solheim

Diploma reads:
This certifies that Audrey Solheim has satisfactorily completed the Course of Study prescribed for the Public Schools of the State of North Dakota and therefore merits this Diploma which entitles the holder to admission to any High School in the State.



Grade 5

Back: Frances Thomas, June Sommer, Rita Wolf
Front: Richard Wolf, David Hoover, James Fehr



Grade 6

George Nelson, Janice Schlenker, Orville Johnson



Grade 7

Jon Fehr, Roger Weinmann, Robert Nelson, Neddy Detling



Grade 8

Back: Garry Detling, Warren Nelson, Vernon Lithun
Front: Harry Detling, Derald Hoover, Audrey Solheim

1959-1960 School Year

Lower Grades 1-4

Linda Aipperspach
Clara Detling
Lorretta Detling
Lamont Fandrich
Frances Fehr

Jean Fehr
Jeffery Hager
Ralph Hager
Dianne Johnson

Teacher: Myrtle Rogness

Frances Koenig
Shirley Koenig
Virgil Melby
Curtis Nelson
Owen Nelson
Billy Ongstad
Tom Rodacker
John Wolf

Upper Grades 5-8

Connie Aipperspach
Neddy Detling
Willy Detling
James Fehr
Jon Fehr

David Hoover
Orville Johnson
Curtis Melby
George Nelson
Robert Nelson

Warren Nelson
Paulette Rodacker
Janice Schlenker
Nancy Sommerfeld

Teacher: Louise Cummins

Frances Thomas
Roger Weinmann
Richard Wolf
Rita Wolf



Louise Cummins

School Memories

Jon Fehr

It was September of 1952 when I started the first grade at Manfred. I believe there were seven in our class, and by the time we got to eighth grade in 1960 there were four left – all boys. Three of us went on to Fessenden High School where we all graduated. One went on to Harvey High School where he graduated. I was inspired by the four teachers I had in Manfred. Mrs. Rogness was my teacher for Grades 1-4. Miss Ellingson was my teacher in 5th. Mrs. Piatz was my teacher in 6th. Mrs. Cummins was my teacher in 7th and 8th. They were different in their personalities, but all shared common values they then shared with me of patriotism, faith, family, and love of learning. I owe much gratitude to them all for their encouragement and support in those grade school years, as I know I was not always the best-behaved kid. I do not know how these teachers managed to handle four classes.

I especially liked the libraries in both classrooms, and don't remember how many of those books I read, but it was a lot of them. I liked to read as a kid, and discovered the world was so much bigger than our farm and our community. These books allowed me to dream of seeing the world and being more than a farm kid growing up on the plains. I started wearing glasses in the third grade and I think that helped my reading a lot. I liked playing sports with the other kids. We played baseball by choosing sides and then played with whatever equipment we could each muster. We also played some games on the basketball field, including a little basketball. In the winter some of us would clear off space on the ice down on the James River and play hockey. Another good memory I have is of our Christmas plays in the Sons of Norway Hall. It was so good to be able to enjoy Christmas at home, in my church, and in my school. And of course, I enjoyed the cafeteria, or lunchroom, as all the food was home made and it was like having a picnic every day. I was always intrigued by what it must have been like at Manfred School when the upper rooms were used. I remember they were completely unused, almost ghost-like, when I was going to school in Manfred. It is so interesting to read of the history when the whole school was needed. What a bustling place it must have been. It's so encouraging to see that some of this history is being restored and retained for posterity. *Email transcript by Jon Fehr*

Robert Nelson

My siblings and I would get up at 6:00 a.m. to milk the cows, and when we came home from school we rounded the cows up to milk them again. We also fed the pigs a mix of grain and milk, and picked the eggs laid by the chickens. I began driving tractor at 9 years old and drove on the roads at about 12 years old. When school was called off because of bad weather, we didn't know this until we made it to school. On the way home, we would stop to visit our grandmother Clara Gladheim. I remember playing on the streets, swinging on the swings, and playing baseball.

Peggy Thomas Hillen

Mrs. Goosen taught me piano lessons. We didn't have a piano at home, so I was permitted to come to school early to practice before classes began. We lived in the house next door to the John Wolf family. I enjoyed math and history and found the big maps at school to be fascinating. I remember having baked potatoes and tomato soup at school.

1960-1961 School Year

Lower Grades 1-4

Linda Aipperspach
Joleen Albrecht
Ronald Albrecht
June Boese

Paul Boese
Lorretta Detling
Cindy Ehni
Lamont Fandrich

Teresa Fandrich
Jean Fehr
Frances Koenig
Marsha Melby

Teacher: Myrtle Rogness

Virgil Melby
Curtis Nelson
Billy Ongstad
John Wolf

Upper Grades 5-8

Connie Aipperspach
Clara Detling
Willy Detling
Frances Fehr
James Fehr

Dianne Johnson
Orville Johnson
Shirley Koenig
David Hoover

Curtis Melby
George Nelson
Owen Nelson
Janice Schlenker

Teacher: Louise Cummins

Nancy Sommerfeld
Frances Thomas
Richard Wolf
Rita Wolf

School Memories

Orville "Jim" Johnson

Before students were allowed to start skating at the beginning of winter, Sam Rogness would walk out on the ice to check to see if the ice was safely thick enough for skating. We would skate on the ice east from the school as far as the dam that is past the bridge, and west from the school to the point where the big water of the Manfred pond ended. Because of the problem of students not returning to the schoolhouse in time after playing outside during the noon hour, Mrs. Rogness would ring the bell 15 minutes before the scheduled time for class to resume so those skating at the far ends would be able to start back in time before classes resumed. When skating at night, we built fires in tires on the ice. In the winter, we walked to and from school by way of the ice on the James River.

I remember the Christmas programs where we sang and presented plays. One year, we put on a minstrel show. The teachers were very good. One of the teachers, Alice Goosen, was very musical. As we went through the grades, we had the opportunity to listen to what the upper grades were studying. I liked reading and to this day continue reading a great deal. I enjoyed doing speed reading. I could read so much faster than the other students, so I would not record my real score but rather a score just a little over the others otherwise my score would have seemed quite unbelievable. We enjoyed running a lot, playing softball, Anti-I-Over, and Red Rover, Red Rover which was a game where two lines of students formed with linked arms. A player from one line would try to break through the other line. I remember how the older students didn't try so hard to get the younger students out, in whatever games we played. Manfred School was a good environment for students of all ages, both in the classroom and at play.

George Nelson

I enjoyed going to school at Manfred. We started with more students, but lost quite a few students by the time we were in eighth grade. In the wintertime, we'd take off our overshoes in the entry of the school and leave them there while we were in class. Our coats went in the cloak room. Though we weren't supposed to, the kids used to climb the fire escape, and also Jim Johnson and I snuck upstairs in the schoolhouse. We used to put on Christmas plays and programs in the hotel. I remember a moose head mounted on a wall in the hotel and the grown-ups hanging their coats on it. On nice days before the hot lunch program was introduced, we would sit outside and eat our sandwiches.

We played baseball, and there were basketball hoops set up in the back of the school. We brought our skates to school so we could skate at noon. We sometimes played hockey with sticks made of two pieces of board nailed together and the puck was a flattened can. I remember a blizzard one time when our dad broke the trail for us in walking to school. We younger ones became separated from the older ones, so our dad had to go back and forth between the two groups helping us. When we finally arrived at the school, we found out that school had been called off. The rural area has changed so much since I was young, when there was a farmstead about every ½ mile. It is sad to see. I enjoyed growing up on the farm even though there were a lot of chores to do. When I was a teenager, I would hear the town kids say how they partied on the weekends. At the time, I was envious of them because I had to stay home and do chores, but now I'm kind of glad with how I was brought up.

School Memories

Janice Schlenker Muscha

We used to play with jack knives, ice skate, softball, marbles, Fox and Goose, Kick the Can, Pump, Pump Pullaway, and Anti-I-Over. I remember going downstairs for lunch in the cafeteria. The janitor was my dad, so we got to help him clean sometimes. He would fill the coal furnace in the early morning and again in the evening. There weren't very many students in each class. I remember Myrtle Rogness. I was related to her. She lived right behind us. I remember going over and washing and fixing her hair. Manfred was a neat little town. The kids would get together in the evening to play ball. If the Nelsons couldn't play, then we didn't play because the Nelson kids were a majority of the team. My mom and I would play the card game Blitz (also called 31), and Stella Sorenson at the store and Edgar Flick the postmaster would come over to play with us at the café during times when they didn't have customers. We moved to town when I was about six years old. I remember the dress rehearsals and the Christmas programs and plays we put on in the Sons of Norway Hall. We were one big happy family at Manfred where everyone knew everyone and nobody had to worry about their safety.

David Hoover

My dad and Ervin Boese were the bus drivers. Someone had backed into the school flag pole and broken it off. Commenting on this happening, Ervin Boese said, "They had the whole world to drive in, but they had to back into the flag pole." One of the teachers came to school with a Volkswagen Bug. I can remember this because it was the first time I had seen a car like this. The James River is where I learned to skate. Skating was such a big thrill. I played hockey in the upper grades, and our dad bought us hockey sticks to use. We played a series of games using our jack knives. Some knives would stick into the ground better than others, and my knife was one that would stick. One of the knife games had a series of twelve steps. For example, for the first step one would lay the knife on the palm of the hand and do one flip of the knife. The player would go through the series of steps, one right after the other. When you made a miss on one of the steps before finishing the series, then it was someone else's turn to see if they could do all twelve steps without a miss.

Richard Wolf

Our family moved to Manfred after Christmas of my third grade. Everyone was so friendly. Attending the two-room Manfred School was interesting with its multiple grades in the same room. I remember the school bell. When thinking of the teachers, I can remember them all. Mrs. Goosen, for grades 3 and 4, had everyone playing flutophones. I tried to play it, but found out I didn't have a talent in this nor for singing. Mrs. Piatz, my teacher for grade 5, was my first crush, and Mrs. Cummins was my teacher for grades 6, 7, and 8. We had excellent teachers. I loved to read and got a big charge out of receiving ribbons for how many books we read during the year. I liked math and later majored in math. I remember spelling class with the words to be memorized on the board. We had to stand up and try spelling out the words correctly. We learned the Gettysburg Address, one paragraph at a time. We would challenge each other to see who could memorize it first. We had a pretty sharp class and we had to work hard to keep up with each other. Practicing for the school programs, with all the different grades taking part, was fun. Large crowds would attend the performance at the Sons of Norway Hall. The hall looked so big when we were small.

We had school lunch with Mrs. Froeber as cook. We had to take turns doing dishes, even though this cut into our noon hour playtime. A dishpan was set up on the counter and a stool was provided for us to stand on. I always wanted to wash rather than dry, because you would be done faster in order to go out and play. Our teacher, Marlys Piatz played ball with us a few times. When batting, she teased the pitcher to put the ball right where her bat was. She made some good hits. The basketball court was put up about the first or second year after we moved to Manfred. It was located between the swing set and the grove of trees to the west. We took water out and poured it on the snow banks to make them extra slippery. Then, we'd take off with our slides down the snow banks and onto the ice-covered river. Our speedy ride took us nearly to the bridge. We used to get in a lot of miles over noontime. Coming back in for classes, we'd be soaking wet.

We were a mischievous group of boys: David Hoover, Jim Fehr, Curtis Melby and me. We used to make pea shooters that were made with a clothes pin and ½ of another one plus the spring. In putting them to use, we would open our desks and shoot our victims from behind our desktops. The janitor had his workbench in the basement of the school where we made some of our mischievous things, when people weren't looking. We tried to tip over the Froeber outhouse, but Mr. Froeber got wind of this and was waiting for us. When we started to rock the outhouse, he suddenly jumped out of it scaring the living daylights out of us. Even though we undertook antics like this, we did a lot of learning at Manfred School just the same.

I really enjoyed Manfred – the community, the small town atmosphere, and the people and businesses. There was pride of this little town. I've always thought of "Mighty Manfred, the wonder dog" in thinking of Manfred as "mighty little Manfred." I've enjoyed the articles in the heritage newsletter from Manfred. It is remarkable how things are being restored. The school reunion was a fun time.

1961-1962 School Year

Lower - Grades 1-4

Teacher: Myrtle Rogness

Linda Aipperspach
 Joleen Albrecht
 Ronald Albrecht
 June Boese
 Paul Boese
 Lorretta Detling

Cindy Ehni
 Jeffrey Ehni
 Patty Fandrich
 Teresa Fandrich
 Alan Fehr
 Jean Fehr

Randy Flick
 Marilyn Johnson
 Connie Koenig
 Frances Koenig
 Garlet Melby
 Marsha Melby

Pamela Nelson
 Darcie Strauss
 Randy Strauss
 John Wolf
 Mary Wolf

Upper - Grades 5-8

Teacher: Louise Cummins

Connie Aipperspach
 Clara Detling
 Willy Detling
 Lamont Fandrich
 Frances Fehr

James Fehr
 David Hoover
 Dianne Johnson
 Shirley Koenig
 Curtis Melby

Virgil Melby
 Curtis Nelson
 Owen Nelson
 Billy Ongstad

Nancy Sommerfeld
 Frances Thomas
 Richard Wolf
 Rita Wolf



1961-1962 Lower Grades

L/R:
 Row 3: Lorretta Detling, June Boese, Frances Koenig, Darcie Strauss, Jean Fehr, John Wolf, Cindy Ehni, Myrtle Rogness-Lower Grades Teacher
 Row 2: Marsha Melby, Teresa Fandrich, Marilyn Johnson, Joleen Albrecht, Mary Wolf, Pam Nelson, Patty Fandrich, Ronnie Albrecht
 Row 1: Randy Strauss, Connie Koenig, Randy Flick, Paul Boese, Jeffrey Ehni, Garlet Melby, Allan Fehr



1961-1962 Upper Grades

L/R:
 Clara Detling
 Owen Nelson
 LaMont Fandrich
 Curtis Melby
 Curtis Nelson
 James Fehr
 Dianne Johnson
 Frances Thomas
 Frances Fehr
 David Hoover
 Billy Ongstad
 Virgil Melby
 Willy Detling
 Shirley Koenig
 Louise Cummins,
 Upper Grades Teacher