

The New MANFRED NEWS

Volume 5, Issue 1

May 2005

Celebrating the start of the 2005 season with...

- * The establishment of the MHP, Inc. Divisions
- * Highway signs for the Manfred Heritage Museum

Warm Greetings from
Manfred, North Dakota!



Spring meeting, May 1st, establishing the Divisions of MHP, Inc.
Back: Perry Anderson, Pam Norstedt, Wesley and Esther Boese, Laverne Johnson, Gwyn Herman, Herbert Ongstad, Jacob Anderson.
Front: Reiner and Ruth Widiger, Ruth Anderson, Verna Bowers, Audrey Solheim, Pete Anderson, Wanda Melchert.

MHP, Inc. Divisions

The work of MHP, Inc. has now been divided among four divisions. Some of the division responsibilities include: Corporate Division in compiling and promoting Manfred history; Museum Division in staffing the museum and cataloging the collection; Bldgs and Grounds Division in caring for the grounds, restoration work, and overseeing plans for a rest area and park; and the Education Division in developing exhibits and programs.



Installed by 3D Specialties of Minot on April 17th just in time for the start of the season, two signs are now in place from east and west ready to alert travelers to stop at the Manfred Heritage Museum where a warm country welcome is ever waiting.

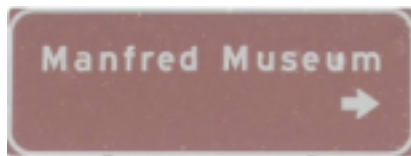
Members of the Divisions

Corporate: Laverne Johnson and Audrey Solheim-Co-Chair, Dianne Aull, Wanda Melchert, Maridel Sprenger
Museum: Rose Anderson and Pam Norstedt-Co-chair, Esther Boese, Verna Bowers, Judy Weigelt, Ruth Widiger
Bldgs and Grounds: Pete Anderson-Chair, Perry Anderson, Wesley Boese, Verna Bowers, Herbert Ongstad, Reiner Widiger
Education: In process of forming so far with Gwyn Herman, Laverne Johnson, Wanda Melchert, Audrey Solheim

Museum Hours

May through September
Wed-Sat 10-4 and Sun 12-6

Signs lead to the Manfred Heritage Museum...



A Warm Welcome...

Welcome to this issue of The New Manfred News, celebrating the beginning of its fifth year of publication! Thank you to the Opdahl and Aasand families for their help in gathering the history of Peder and Kristine Opdahl which also has provided an opportunity to present the history of Manfred merchant Anton Aasand who married into the Opdahl family.

What a great start already to the 2005 season with the Divisions of MHP, Inc. taking on their duties, and with the installation of the North Dakota Department of Transportation brown highway signs. This summer, you'll find folks busy as bees working on projects to improve Manfred and the museum. All is going very well. Come and see!



Upon crossing the railroad tracks the visitors might stop first at the (1) 1903 Melby-Rogness House for a warm welcome. Also, one wouldn't want to miss stopping at the Historic Photo Gallery in the (2) 1905 Bank/P.O. and the (3) 1906 Vang Church to experience this lovely sanctuary with its original furnishings.

Announcing for your 2006 calendar

An opportunity to gather and share at Manfred
July 2, 2006

- The Manfred Heritage Museum will celebrate
- * 100th Anniversary of 1906 Vang Church building
 - * Dedication of 1894 Roger's Lumber Co./Solheim Service Station
 - * Dedication of 1905 Nennie Johnson/Lars Ostrem House

This gathering coincides with the City of Harvey Centennial - June 30 thru July 2, 2006
Watch for more information in future issues. Plan your lodging arrangements early.

The opening day of the Manfred Heritage Museum was May 18th. It will be open through September. A copy machine and phone are available. Welcome to all!

MHP, Inc. is participating for the 2nd year in the Literature Distribution Prog. through the ND Dept of Transportation and ND Tourism. Presort Plus of Bismarck is handling the distribution of literature to 16 rest stops throughout ND. Our museum brochure is also available at the Bismarck Heritage Center, Harvey area Ch. of Com., Bowdon Museum, and soon other sites too.

On April 20th, Verna Bowers and Rose Anderson attended a visioning meeting led by the ND Nature and Rural Tourism Assoc. at Bowdon to share about ways to increase tourism interest in our region.

Mike and Tamra Melby's miniature horse, BTU Sheza Dandy (Angel) was named World Champion Amateur Senior Mare Sept 29, 2004 at the American Miniature World Show in Fort Worth, TX.

Mark Schmitz was elected Wells County Commissioner in Nov. 2004. Mark resigned as chairman of the Manfred Twp Bd and Wesley Boese is the new chairman. New members of the Manfred Township Board are Dale Schmitz and Chuck Roller. Congratulations to everyone!

The IRS has determined that MHP, Inc. has passed the support test of the advance ruling period from its founding in 2000 to the end of 2004, and so MHP, Inc. has received final determination that it is indeed a publicly held non-profit org.

On April 29th, Wanda Melchert was one of four presenters in a workshop entitled "ABC's Of Getting Your Preservation Project Off to a Good Start" at the Historic Preservation Conference held in Fargo. Wanda's topic was 'Cultivating Support.' She was very pleased for the opportunity to represent Manfred.

On May 11th, Audrey Solheim gave a power point presentation to the Bis. Sverdrup Sons of Norway Study Club on the topic of Manfred. It was enjoyed by everyone, and received with much interest.

53 newsletter subscriptions were received since the last issue. Thank you!!

Mark you calendars for the summer MHP, Inc. meeting Sunday, July 24 at 2 p.m. For the 2005 Wells County Fair, don't miss Manfred's booth and come join in the fun for Manfred's parade entry.

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

General Contributions

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

Ward Alvshere
John Anderson
Peter and Rose Anderson
Darlene and Merlyn Boese
In memory of Lydia Boese
Harley and Norma Kittelson
Richard and Wanda Melchert
Marlys Piatz
Audrey Solheim
Muriel and Lowell Boyum
Len and Neal Eisenbraun
Fessenden Thrift Shop
Derald and Ruth Hoover
Chas and Ellanora Houtkooper
Kermit and Beverly Larson
in memory of Larry Lindbo
Robert and Nancy Leonard
in memory of Lillian Satterburg Leeman
Floyd A. Lindbo
Elsie Martinson
William Ray Owen, M.D.
Jean LeClaire-Peterson
Wm and Darlene Quenette
in memory of Ethel Bolyard
Myrtle Rogness
Merlin and Laurie Schwartz
Leif and Katherine Thorson
Dean and Alicia Vorland
Lucille Wiese in memory of Sadie Wiese
Wm and Carol Weymouth

Designated Gifts

A current idea for designated gifts could be for the new Highway Signs installed recently

Endowment Fund

An everlasting fund providing for the future
Verna Bowers in memory of Lydia Boese
Richard and Wanda Melchert in memory of Jeff Abbott

In Memory

Everett Johnson
August 17, 1917 – January 26, 2005

Melvin Alvshere
June 4, 1908 - February 12, 2005

Arvin Ravnaas
January 9, 1919 – February 17, 2005

Lydia Boese
April 1, 1913 – March 9, 2005

Ella Alvshere
August 17, 1915 - March 18, 2005

Jeff Abbott
December 12, 1944 - April 30, 2005
Husband of Janice Abbott whose parents are Cora Melby Turner (dec) and Emmett Turner

The New Manfred News

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

Subscription rate is \$10 per year.

News and history items are most welcome!

Editor: Wanda Melchert, wrmelchert@westriv.com

Historian: Audrey Solheim, administrator@manfrednd.org

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

'Celebrating Rural America'

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded July 25, 2000. Its purpose is to compile and share the history of Manfred, North Dakota and its traditional trade area, to encourage community pride, and to restore and preserve its historic structures.

Website: www.manfrednd.org

Manfred Heritage Museum

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

Museum Hours

May through September: Wed-Sat 10-4, Sun 12-6

Summer 701-547-2564

Winter 701-983-4626, 701-324-2091

The accomplishments of Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. are made possible through:

1. Volunteers

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

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

2. Financial Contributions

If you would like to make financial contributions to MHP, Inc., you can designate them as you like. See description in contribution listing at left.

- *GENERAL FUND
- *DESIGNATED GIFT
- *ENDOWMENT FUND
- *ESTATE PLANS A gift for the future by way of including MHP, Inc. in your estate/insurance plans.
Federal Tax ID#45-0458460
State of ND Solicitation #4111

3. Historical Contributions

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

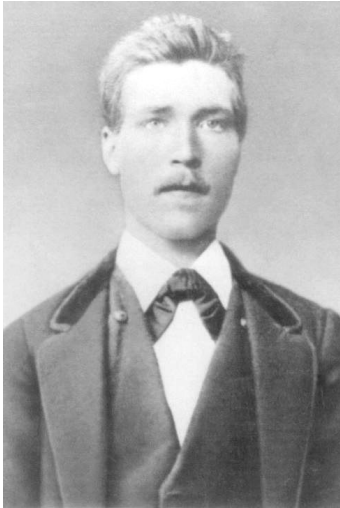
- *ARTIFACTS – Historical items
- *ARCHIVAL MATERIALS – Histories, Documents
- *GENEALOGIES

Board of Directors

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

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

Peder and Kristine Opdahl Family History



Peder Opdahl

Peder Eric Opdahl

Kristine Maria Opdahl

In Norway

Peder was born August 2, 1859 in the Vang district of Valdres, Norway. He was born Per Eirikson, son of Eirik Ivarsson Strandaeiga of Øye (1820-1890) and Torø Persdatter of Vestre Slidre (1822-1909) who married in 1850. Eirik and Torø had six children, five of whom moved to America: Ivar b.1850 to America in 1874, Marit b.1854 to America in 1874, Thomas b.1856, Per (Peder) b.1859 to America in 1883, Ingebjørg b.1862 to America in 1886, Guro b.1867 to America. Peder grew up on a tenant farm (*husmannsplass*) on Opdal called Turen, and later on another tenant farm on Opdal called Hølten. The records of Vang Church (*kirke*) show that Peder emigrated from Norway as a bachelor (*ungkar.*) His last name was listed as Opdalseiet, indicating that he was a worker on an Opdal farm, carrying the farm name, but not related.

Kristine Maria Andreasdatter Rustad was born February 9 and baptized March 2, 1856 in Hurdal, Norway to Andreas Christiansen and Kristine Larsdatter married in 1855, tenant farmers at Rustadbrug Saugbygning. Parents of Andreas were Christian Pedersen and Dorthe Maria Pedersdatter.



Kristine Opdahl



At upper left, Vang region in Norway where Peder was born



Hurdal area in Norway where Kristine was born

Spelling variations:

Per Eirikson – Peder Eric, Peder E., Peter, or Pet

Kristine M. – Christine

Eirik Ivarsson Strandaeiga – Eirik Iversen Strande or Strand

Opdalseiet – Opdal or Opdahl

Vang Church in Norway where the Opdahl family attended

By 1838 the stave church of Vang, built in 1175, was declared too small for the growing community, and a new larger structure was constructed in 1840. The 1175 structure was dismantled and transported to Prussia/now Poland and reassembled in 1843. The church was named Kirche Wang and is located at Bierutowice, Karpacz, Poland.

This original Vang Church is an artistic treasure. Perhaps no Norwegian stave church was more elaborately decorated with paintings and carvings. It is regarded as one of the most notable stave churches ever built.

The Vang Church was held in high esteem by Norwegian immigrants as is shown by the large number of churches formed in America which bear the name Vang. Included are churches in Goodhue and Renville Counties, Minnesota and Fergus Falls, Minnesota; Manfred, Werner, and Valhalla, North Dakota; Volga, South Dakota; Listonia, Georgia; and Wetaskiwin, Canada.

The word 'vang' means meadow or grassy spot. The Norwegian pronunciation of the word 'vang' rhymes with the English word 'long.' English speakers have also pronounced 'vang' to rhyme with the English word 'sang.'



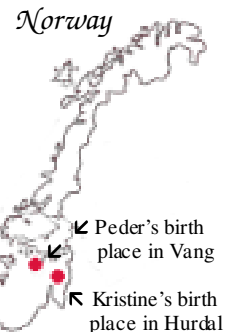
The region of Vang

Photos taken in 2000

The original Vang Church structure built in 1175



Side view of the present Vang Church structure built in 1840



Peder's birth place in Vang

Kristine's birth place in Hurdal

View from front

Peder and Kristine In America

Historical research is ongoing, and little is known as yet of the early years for Peder and Kristine in America. We can envision what life might have been like for them, and what adventures they encountered in their new homeland. For Peder, it is believed that he had worked on the John Opdal farm in Norway, perhaps traveling to America together. Peder's name is listed next to their names in the Exit Records (*Udflytnings-attest*) of Vang Church in Norway. Though the Opdal family went back to Norway after a few years, Peder stayed. How might he and Kristine have met in America? This is not known. However, it is interesting to note that after immigrating, Kristine attended cooking school in Iowa and then became the cook for the governor of Iowa.

Based on family records, we are able to join their story at the point when Peder and Kristine settled in Grand Forks County at Northwood, North Dakota where their first two children were born, Mathilda on September 20, 1889 and Emma on March 20, 1891. In 1896, they moved with their young family to Forward Township in Wells County where their third child Albert Edwin was born October 3, 1896 and then their fourth child Marie was born on December 4, 1899.

Here then is where Peder and Kristine lived the remainder of their lives, a little over three miles west of Manfred. They started farming, and built a house remembered by family members as "containing four rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs all heated by the cook stove in the kitchen and a big iron stove, with mica windows in the living room." Peder had also filed on land in Canada. The wonderful resource of the old Manfred News from the Wells Country Free Press reports the following entries relating to their land in Canada:

July 07, 1905

Pete Opdahl and G. Rortvedt returned from across the line Thursday morning. The latter came from Stavely, Alberta and the former from Wetaskiwin. He filed on a chunk of King Edward's land about 130 miles east from that point.

May 6, 1915

Peter Opdahl returned from Canada, where he was looking after his farming interests.

Peder and Kristine's active life took a turn when Peder fell seriously ill with spinal meningitis and became an invalid. Their son Edwin, who was enrolled in business college in Fargo, ND, had to quit school and come home to farm for his dad. A news entry tells about Edwin attending school at Fargo:

January 6, 1916

Olaf Roble, Conrad Hedahl, Edwin Opdahl, and Conrad Sheveland left for Fargo Sunday to attend the winter term of the A. B. College (Akers Business College.)

Kristine died May 31, 1928 and Peder died March 6, 1930 in Manfred Township. Both are buried in Vang Lutheran Cemetery, Manfred, ND.

Opdahl History Acknowledgements

Historical research was led by Dawn and Kelly Opdahl with assistance from Phyllis Pantsari, Jean LeClaire-Peterson, Dale and Shirley Opdahl, Marilyn Saint, Teresa Dovre Bergh and her daughter Judy, Verneil Eisenbraun, Dennis Opdahl, Elaine Wittmaier, Zach Prowell, Pastor Robert Lee, Pete Anderson, Herbert Ongstad. Valdres Samband researchers Garth Ulrich and Elaine Keeling located information in the *Vang i Valdres Bygdebok* and *Hurdal Bygdebok* respectively. Aasand information from family histories, documents, genealogy and *Sigdal og Eggedal Bind III Gard og Slekt* ved Andreas Mørch. Vang Church-Norway attitudes from the May and December 1979 issues of the *Valdres Samband Budstikken*. Information from the 75th Anniversary Book of Vang Lutheran Church-Manfred. Additional information from the LDS Family History Center in Bismarck, Wells County Court House at Fessenden, and *Wells County Free Press - Manfred News* data entered by Maridel Sprenger and Pam Norstedt. Assisted also by historian Audrey Solheim and editor Wanda Melchert.

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

Peder and Kristine's farm was located at
S1/2, SE1/4, Sec 24, T-149-N R-72-W
in Forward Township



The house Peder and Kristine built. Their son Edwin and family are pictured in 1944 just prior to moving to their new farm. From left to right:

Back: Edwin, Sophie holding Gary, Jean holding Dennis. Front: Phyllis, Verneil, Dale.

The Children of Peder and Kristine



From left: Marie, Edwin, Emma, Matilda (standing)

1. *Mathilda*
1889-1963, m. Knute Dovre
2. *Emma*
1891-1985, m. Anton Aasand
3. *Edwin*
1896-1989, m. Sophie Rogness
4. *Marie*
1899-1983, m. Clyde Stickney

The Children of Peder and Kristine Opdahl

Mathilda and Knute Dovre

Spelling variations for Mathilda include Matilda, Tilda, and Tillie

Mathilda was born September 20, 1889 at Northwood, North Dakota. Her family moved to the Manfred area when she was six years old. Entries in the Wells County Free Press-Manfred News report the following about Tillie when she was fifteen years old:

June 11, 1905

Miss Ragna Hetland who has been engaged at the hotel for some time, left during the week and Miss Gena Shefveld has charge of the dining room. Miss Opdahl is assisting in the kitchen.

June 30, 1905

Tillie Opdahl, who had been helping Mrs. Elsaas in the kitchen during the rush, left last Friday.

On December 23, 1911 at Harvey, Mathilda married Knute Olson Dovre who was born in Valdres, Norway about 1870. Their marriage certificate is on record at the Wells County Court House. Knut came to America when he was 12 years old, and then went to stay with relatives in Kansas. Knute is related to the Haugens and the Neuenschwanders, and also to Paul Dovre, former president of Concordia College, Moorhead, MN.

Mathilda and Knute first settled at Drake, ND where Knute worked in banking for his uncle, Henry Thorson. Their first child Erling was born at Drake in 1913. Afterward, they lived for a time in Manfred Township where two children were born, Conrad in 1915 and Clifford in 1917. Knute, Mathilda, and family then moved to Minnesota, where they built a farmstead at Little Floyd Lake and began farming. Their fourth child, Theresa, was born there in 1921.

Their sons Erling, Conrad, and Clifford all moved to the state of Washington, and later Conrad returned to take over the family farm. 1. Erling married Vivian Scott and they had two children, Earl and Lois, no grandchildren. 2. Conrad married Alice Erickson and they had four children: Sharon of Arizona-two children, Dennis who is on the family farmstead-two children, Donald a carpenter near Little Floyd Lake-two children and two step-children, and Douglas. 3. Clifford married Fran Ziegler, and they had no children. 4. Theresa married Melvin Bergh and they had two children, Judy-one child, and Jon. Theresa taught school and Melvin was an engineer. Knute died on September 2, 1948. Mathilda died September 25, 1963 at Detroit Lakes, MN.

4th Child

Marie and Clyde Stickney

Marie, the youngest of Peder and Kristine Opdahl's children, was born December 4, 1899 at Manfred, North Dakota. She was raised and educated in rural Manfred, although the family spent a short time in Canada.

She graduated from Valley City State Normal School and taught at Grassy Butte rural school until she moved to Hazen. She taught at Hazen Public School until her marriage to Clyde Stickney on June 13, 1922. During World War II, she taught for a time in the Antelope School District near Beulah.

Clyde was born October, 23, 1899 at Husler, Wisconsin and was raised there. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1917-1919. After his discharge from the Navy he came to North Dakota where he was employed at coal mines in Beulah and Zap. In 1925, he became a Beulah rural mail carrier and served 40 years. He died in March of 1964.

Marie was an active member of Zion Lutheran Church, American Legion Auxiliary, and Women Homemakers Club in Beulah. She moved to Bismarck in 1965 following the death of her husband. In Bismarck, she was member of Good Shepherd Lutheran and National Association of Retired Employees.

During the years Marie raised her family, her creativity showed itself in her sewing ability and other homemaking skills. While in Bismarck she began sketching and painting. Family and friends have many of her paintings in their homes. Marie passed away August, 23, 1983 at the home of her daughter, Elaine, where she had been living.

Clyde and Marie raised four children: 1. Cleo 1923-2000 married Donald Nordquist, six children, sixteen grandchildren; 2. Carol 1927-2003 married Lawrence Schmidt, four children, twelve grandchildren; 3. Elaine b.1930 married Alvin Wittmaier, three children, nine great grandchildren, one great grandchild; 4. Duane 1934-1999 married Marion Reichenberg, three children, six grandchildren, two great grandchildren.



From left: Mathilda, sister Emma, and cousin Minnie



Mathilda Dovre with one of her children at their home in Manfred



Mathilda and Knute Dovre with daughter Theresa on front porch of their farm in Minnesota



Clyde and Marie Stickney 1922



Marie Stickney

Emma and Anton Aasand

The story of Emma Opdahl provides an opportunity to also tell the story of her husband, Anton Aasand, as one of Manfred's early merchants and of the Aasand family history. Emma was born March 20, 1891 at Northwood, ND and married on June 22, 1919 at Manfred to Anton S. Aasand born August 20, 1888 in Norway where our story about the Aasand family begins.

The Aasand Family History

Aasand spelling variations: Åsand, Aasen

The Aasand family comes from the Eggedal parish in Sigdal, Norway. The Eggedal parish is located in the northwestern half of Sigdal Commune. The Eggedal Church is located near the center of the parish at the northwest tip of a rich farm valley. Farming is also done on the slopes rising sharply from the valley floor where the Aasand farm is perched high above.



Anton and Emma Aasand 1919



Anton's parents

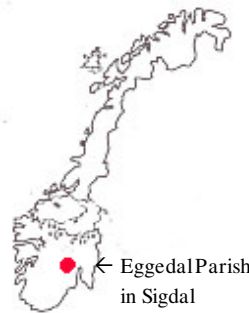
Stener Stenersen Aasand 1847-1935 married in 1872 to Anne Pedersdatter Frøvdal 1848-1911. Stener held high office in the community-serving on the District Council for a number of years.



Sigdal located northwest of Oslo,

shown at center of map

In Norway



← Eggedal Parish in Sigdal

Anton's parents and siblings



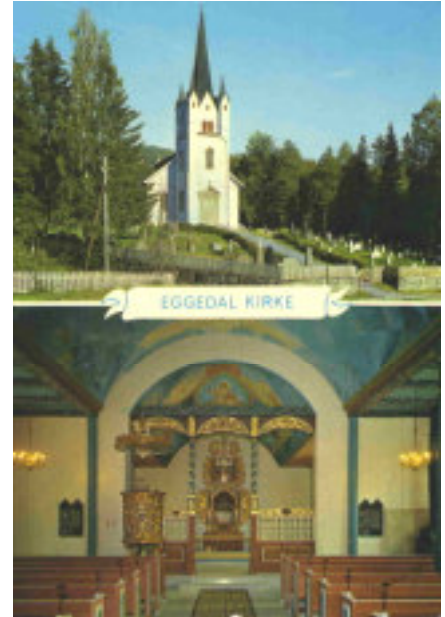
Anton's siblings and parents c.1903

Back from left: Gunbjørn, Lars, Peder (Per), Sigrid, Berit
Front from left: Anton, Ole, Stener, Anne, Helga
Not pictured: Stener and Anne who had immigrated to America

The Children

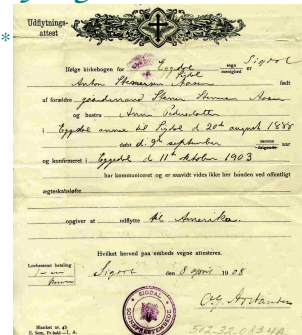
1. Stener b.1872 *
2. Peder (Per) b.1874
3. Anne b.1875 *
4. Sigrid b.1876
5. Lars b.1878
6. Helga 1879-1889
7. Knut 1882-1902
8. Gunbjørn b.1883
9. Ole b.1885
10. Berit (Bere) b.1886 *
11. Anton b.1888 *
12. John 1890-1890
13. Helga b.1892

*Immigrated to USA



Eggedal Church built in 1878

Going to America



Document of transfer out of Eggedal Church in Norway (Udflytnings-attest)

Document translates as follows:

"In the church book for Eggedal Parish in Sigdal, Anton Stenersen Aasen, who was born to landowner Stener Stenersen Aasen and wife Anne Pedersdatter in Eggedal Parish in Sigdal on August 20, 1888 and baptized September 9th of that same year and confirmed in Eggedal on October 11, 1903, gives up his membership to move to America. Which hereby official's authority attests. Sigdal, April 8, 1908."

(Signed) A.G. Arvtanders

The Aasand Farm

Far above the valley, the Aasand Farm hovers on a small plateau on the side of a mountain in Eggedal Parish of Sigdal, Norway. The current farmer is Steinar L. Aasand.



Aasand Farm in the Eggedal Parish of Sigdal



A memorable visit by Marilyn Saint to the house built in 1695 where her father



Interior of the house where Anton was born

Settling in Manfred

When Anton arrived in America in 1908, his first destination was to Grafton, ND where he had relatives. During those early years, he worked for the Concrete Cement Mine at Concrete, ND, attended the ag school in Crookston, MN and the Bruflat Academy at Portland, ND, and also proved up a quarter of land by Arnegard, ND in McKenzie County.

In 1912, Anton moved to Manfred, staying at the home of his older brother Steiner and wife. The old Manfred News indicates that Anton worked in Jacob Klev's store those first years, one which Anton would purchase in 1916.

Local residents Clarence Alvshere, Herbert Ongstad, and Adolph Shirley recall that Anton was quite the business-man, a hard worker, enjoyed his work and made people of all nationalities always feel very welcome at his store.



Inscription on trade token:
A.S. AASAND GENL. MDSE. MANFRED, N.D.
GOOD FOR 25¢ IN MERCHANDISE

Token given to the Manfred Heritage Museum
by Anton's daughter, Marilyn Saint.
See April 2001 Issue Page 6 of the Manfred
Newsletter for an article on trade tokens

The Manfred Businesses of Anton and Emma Aasand

1. Aasand Hardware Store

In 1916, Anton purchased his first business from Jacob Klev. It had been a hardware store and millinery shop, and continued as a hardware store under Anton's ownership. An interesting story relates that when Anton installed a 32-volt Delco electric plant in his store, he strung a wire across the road so the church could benefit from the electric plant. It was then that the kerosene lamps in the sanctuary were converted to electric bulbs. Later, Anton rented this place to Rudolph Peterson whom people recall used it for a garage business until it was destroyed by fire. In 1944, Anton and Emma sold this property. People recall that Mike and Anna Jenny had a home in this location for many years. The present owner is Cherry Grossman Smith.

2. A.S. Aasand Store

In 1917, Anton purchased the business of L.O. Burkum, who had built this building in 1905 this having been his second store building in Manfred. Anton purchased it together with Nick Halvorson, who sold out to Anton in 1919. Anton carried dry goods, groceries, and other items. In January 1925, Anton sold this business to H.R. Jenner who sold it to Nennie Johnson in October of that year. On May 19, 1926, Nennie sold the building to the Sons of Norway Fagerlund Lodge #203 who enjoyed it until it burned the fall of 1952. The Fagerlund Lodge sold the land to the Fessenden Coop Elevator in 1983, which remains the present owner.

3. Aasand Hardware Store

In 1920, Anton purchased his third business. John Benson and S.N. Willborg had built the store in 1900, Benson sold out in 1903. Willborg sold in 1917 to Olaf Roble and Fremont Hanson who sold it to John Weber in 1918 and Weber sold it to Anton. A 1924 Manfred News item reads: "A.S. Aasand erected a new cream station along the west side of the hardware store. E.L. Soderback will be the manager." Anton sold the business in Jan. 1925 to Jacob Klev who sold it to Eric Soderback in April. Eric died in 1941 and his son Henry carried on until 1947 when the business went to John and Katie Smith. What became of the buildings is unknown. Present owner of the land is Fessenden Coop Elevator.

From Audrey Solheim



Sorenson/Klev/Aasand Hardware Store
Located in the triangle just south of Vang Church
Anton at left and his brother Steiner next right

From Marilyn Saint



Burkum/Aasand Stores/Sons of Norway Hall
Building was located north of the Coop Elevator on
Railroad Street. Anton pictured at right. His first store
as described above (1.) is pictured here at far left.

From Wesley and Esther Boese



Willborg/Aasand/Soderback Store
Located on Railroad Street west of the C.C. Melby
Store. Photo taken when the Soderbacks were owners.



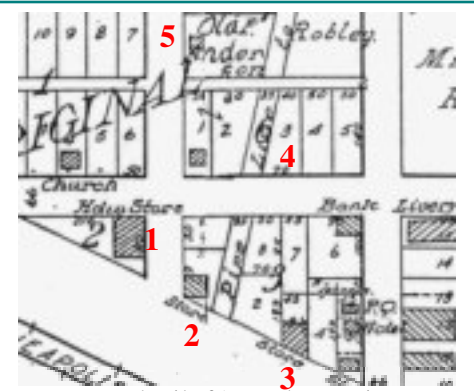
Anton and Emma Aasand
at one of their store locations in Manfred.



A check written by A.S. Aasand on February 10, 1924
to the supplier Farwell, Ozmun, Kirk & Co.

Anton's brother Steiner

Anton's brother, Steiner, also spelled Stener, known as S.S. Aasand, immigrated 1892 and homesteaded at Manfred. In 1908 upon the death of his friend, Ben Sorenson, Steiner suddenly found himself in the hardware business, as executor of Ben's estate. Ben's wife, Maggie, had also died in 1907. Meanwhile, Steiner's bride, Bertha, who was Ben's sister, arrived from Norway in 1908. Steiner and Bertha, among others, took care of Ben's eight year-old son, Edwin. The business property sold in 1911 to Jacob Klev. Then in 1916, Anton became the owner, at which time Steiner again found himself in the hardware business helping to run this store.



Map detail of Aasand properties

1. Aasand Hardware Store purchased in 1916
2. A.S. Aasand Store purchased in 1917
3. Aasand Hardware Store purchased in 1920
4. Anton and Emma Aasand house location
5. Steiner and Bertha Aasand house location

Note: Church moved from Lot 4 to Lot 6 in 1918

Life for Emma and Anton Aasand

During the early part of the 1900s, the pioneer communities were filled with energy fueled by the farming operations. Stepping onto American soil in 1908, twenty year old Anton fearlessly explored endless opportunities, as noted on page 7. He took to the world of business as seen by his store purchases in 1916, 1917, and 1920, with Emma joining him in 1919.

Emma's Younger Years

Emma's daughter Marilyn said that when her mother was five years old in 1896, the family left Northwood for Manfred by covered wagon. Around 1911 or 1912, they went to Alberta, Canada to prove up a quarter of land. To reach that place, they traveled by train using a box car for their belongings and cattle. They lived in a sod hut while there. The family moved back to Manfred after proving up the land. Before Emma married, she worked in a drug store in Fessenden and the telephone office in Manfred. She was a beautiful seamstress, and sewed all her clothes. Anton and she were married at the farm of her parents.

In Manfred

Anton joined Vang Lutheran Church in 1917, serving as Trustee 1917-1921 and 1923-1928. Local resident Adolph Shirley recalls that the Aasands were faithful in attending church and that Anton always rang the church bell. Emma served as Vang Ladies Aid Treasurer 1919-1920, and President 1926-1927. When they purchased the Willborg Store in 1920, they also purchased the Willborg home. Four of six of their children were born there: Arnold, Anna, Palmer, and Charles.

To Harvey

In January of 1925, they sold the Burkum and Willborg Stores. Anton started working at Harvey and in 1928 moved their Manfred house to Harvey. Area resident Herbert Ongstad said that two steam engine tractors were used for the move. He recalls that the Mover directed many people with cables and equipment to maneuver the house through a soft spot in front of the church.

Their fifth child, Marilyn was born in Harvey where her parents operated a general store that offered merchandise as diverse as Advance-Rumely Threshing Machines and pianos. She relates that her father also sold seed through the Feed, Seed, and Grain Co. and helped in the elevator.

To Minnesota

Times were tough during the 1930s and it wasn't easy to be in business. Emma, with her farm background, encouraged Anton to try farming, so in 1934 the family moved from Harvey to a farm they bought one mile west of Detroit Lakes, MN. Their son Richard was born there.

To McHenry, ND

After ten years of farming, the family moved to McHenry, ND in 1944 where Anton purchased a mercantile store and also two quarters of land. He and Emma lived at McHenry for the remainder of their lives. Anton enjoyed being at his store every day until the day he died July 15, 1975 at McHenry. Emma died June 2, 1985 at New Rockford. They are buried in Bethlehem Cemetery at McHenry, ND. The community is still enjoying this building in its capacity of actively serving as the McHenry Senior Citizen's Center.

Interests and Family

Anton and Emma were members of Sigdalslaget, an organization of people who stem from Sigdal. Anton visited Norway three times, and Emma twice. Their daughter, Marilyn, has visited twice, and says the region is beautiful.

Anton and Emma had six children: 1. Arnold married Helen Reiwer. He was a salesman in CA. 6 children-Beth, Nancy (de), Patricia, Jennifer, Michael, Becky, 13 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren. 2. Anna worked for the FBI in Washington D.C. 3. Palmer married Eune Burnett: He worked for Pacific Car & Foundry in Renton, WA, 5 children-Darlene, Charles, Mark, Sheila, Paul, 11 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren. 4. Charles married Myrra Leir: He was an insurance rep and farmer at McHenry, ND, 6 children-Lynell, Ronald, Gerald, Kimberly, Todd, Dawn, 8 grandchildren. 5. Marilyn married Marcel Saint. He was a mail carrier at McHenry. 6 children-Rhea, Randy, Angea, Jon, Annette, Jennifer, 7 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild. 6. Richard married Yvonne Kofoid: He was in TV repair and farmer at McHenry, ND, 2 children, Steven and Dean, 2 grandchildren.



Emma
Emma in
Canada
holding flag
in one hand
and grain
sheaf in the
other



Emma at the left, and unknown



Original caption under these photos say in Norwegian 1928
Antons hus flytter fra Manfred til Harvey
Translated to English says

Anton's house is moving from Manfred to Harvey
Hidden by the house in photo at left, the presence of a second steamer
is noted by the smoke billowing from its smoke stack.



In front of McHenry store
after a blizzard in 1966



Sigdalslaget gathering



The Anton and Emma Aasand Family 1975
Back from left: Richard, Charles, Arnold, Marilyn, Anna
Front from left Palmer, Emma, Anton

Edwin and Sophie Opdahl

Written by Edwin and Sophie's daughters Jean, Verneil, and Phyllis

Our family, the Edwin and Sophie (Rogness) Opdahls, lived on the original homestead of Peder and Kristine (Rustad) Opdahl. This farm is located west of Manfred, ND.

As a young man, Edwin had gone on to Business College in Fargo, ND. While there, his father Peder fell seriously ill with spinal meningitis and became an invalid. Edwin had to quit school and come home to farm for his dad.

On this farm he raised grain, chickens, turkeys, and he milked cows. He had a threshing machine with a steam engine and a cook car. Later, he got a 1530 McCormick tractor with lug wheels.

One year he hired Sophie Rogness as a cook in the cook car. This was hard work, many early morning and late night hours with few amenities, but Sophie was a hard worker and an excellent cook. Edwin married Sophie on July 24, 1927 at the home of her parents, Nikolai and Everina Rogness. They made their home on the homestead together with Peder and Kristine. (Valborg) Sophie was born January 26, 1903 near Manfred.

Six children were born to them while living there: Jean, Verneil (Neil), Dale, Phyllis, Dennis and Gary. The oldest three went to school in a little one room country school that was located two and a half miles from the farm. It was heated by a big old round stove in the back of the room. The teacher would bank the fire for the night and rebuild the fire in the morning. We would huddle around the stove until the room was warm enough to go to our desks. Jean went through all eight grades there. Neil went through the fifth grade and Dale the third grade before our move to the Manfred School District.

Before REA came through, Edwin installed a wind charger on the roof of the house and batteries in the basement. This supplied us with one electric light and one electric outlet in the kitchen. We still relied heavily on kerosene lamps and gas lamps.

One of our memories was of the fall season where the threshing rig and cook car were taken from farm to farm threshing for the neighbors. As children, we loved this season as it was very exciting with all the horses being harnessed and hitched to the hayracks, and the magic of shocks of grain being loaded on racks and hauled to the separator to be threshed. The cook car was a very busy place. They served breakfast, dinner and supper in it on a very long table with benches on both sides. At 9 a.m. and again at 4 p.m., lunch was taken out for the men in the fields.

In 1944, we moved to the present Dale and Shirley Opdahl farm, previously owned by T.O. Roble. We were thrilled with the size of the house and barn, the change of school, and the cattle pasture across the railroad with the James River running through, providing water for the cattle. Moving was quite a process. A wooden grain wagon was loaded with our family belongings and pulled by the 1530 McCormick tractor.

In the years to follow, more land was purchased and the farm became a little larger. The 1530 McCormick tractor was used to power the threshing machine. That lug wheel tractor was soon replaced by tractors with rubber wheels and the thresher by a combine. Electricity and running water became part of our lives along with the things that accompany it, such as a refrigerator and lights that lit up the edges of a room and didn't singe your hair when you got too close or need to be filled with kerosene. Dennis, Gary and Phyllis circled the electric toaster as soon as the electricity was officially turned on, and as if by magic it made bread turn into toast. Many years later the outhouse became history, and a bathroom was installed! Even milking cows by hand was replaced by electric milkers.

Edwin and Sophie were very cordial people, and guests always welcome. There was never a problem to make a big dinner. We had home canned meat, fruit, jam, potatoes, etc. in the root cellar, and a well stocked pantry. Salesmen knew where to stop at mealtime!

We often had the extended family out for holiday gatherings and enjoyed playing with our cousins, aunts and uncles who also joined in on the fun. We remember climbing into the old V8 (all 8 of us in layers) and traveling to McHenry, ND to see Dad's sister Emma and Anton Aasand and family. And the excitement of having our aunts and other relatives visit us is a cherished memory. We can still feel the warmth of the love we received even from our extended family.

After having grown up and gone our own ways, we all remember how welcome we were when we came back for visits. Also in our memories will be our brother Gary, who died in an automobile accident at the age of 29. We have missed his fun loving ways and the twinkle in his eyes.

Edwin died on November 4, 1989, and Sophie died February 14, 2000 and both are buried at Vang Cemetery.



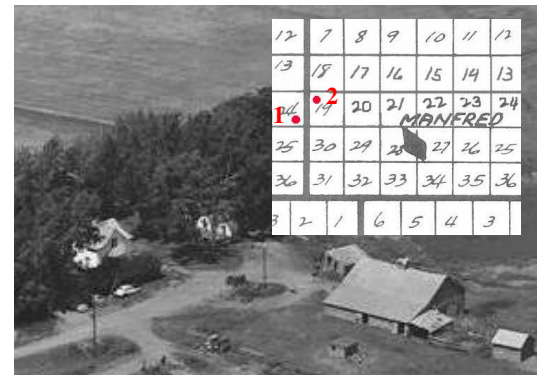
Sophie and Ed



Edwin on his 1530 McCormick Tractor with lug wheels



Ed and Sophie Opdahl on their wedding day, July 24, 1927, together with their attendants Lars Rogness and Anna Rogness

The Ed and Sophie Opdahl Farm 1956
NW ¼, Sec 19, T-149-N, R-71-W

Ed and Sophie famed the farm his parent's homestead (1) until 1944, when they purchased the former T.O. Roble farm pictured above (2) which continues today with his son Dale.



Left to right: Gary, Ed, Sophie, Dennis 1954

This photo appeared in a farm magazine with the following caption:
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Opdahl and sons select a Thanksgiving Turkey

The Children of Edwin and Sophie Opdahl

Edwin and Sophie had six children: 1. Jean, 2. Verneil, 3. Dale, 4. Phyllis, 5. Dennis, and 6. Gary. Their home was in Forward Township less than four miles from Manfred on the original homestead of Peder and Kristine Opdahl. They lived there until 1944, when they moved to the former T.O. Roble farm where the children grew to adulthood.

1. At the time of the move, Jean had just finished eighth grade, so went to high school in Harvey graduating in 1947. She then went to Minot State Teachers College (now MSU) for 2 quarters. The state was so short of teachers that they issued emergency teaching certificates, after which she taught in a country school for two years. In 1950, she moved to Minneapolis, MN, took a 9-month course in commercial art at the Von Hundredmark School of Art and then worked three years at the Treasure Masters Greeting Card Company as a card designer.

In 1953, Jean married Allen Rex LeClaire, and they had four children; Ross, Renee, Michael and Jay, and six grandchildren. Allen and Jean were divorced in 1969. Jean married Richard Peterson in 1984, and in 1991 he passed away. In 1994, she retired from North Memorial Medical Center in Robbinsdale, MN where she worked as a ward secretary for 33 years. Jean now lives in Anoka, MN most of the year and meets her sisters in Edinburg, TX for the winter.

2. Verneil (Neil) graduated from Harvey High School in 1951, then lived and worked in Minneapolis, MN. She married Len Eisenbraun in 1953 at Vang Lutheran Church in Manfred with Pastor A.B. Solberg performing the ceremony. They were blessed with four children: Scott, ZoAnn, Todd and Daryl; 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. They've lived in Coon Rapids, MN; Fargo, ND; Devils Lake, ND; Grand Forks, ND; Durand, WI and Eau Claire, WI where they presently reside.

In 1997, Len retired as Credit Manager from the Bauer Built Tire and Rubber Co. and Neil from 30 years of being a day care provider for children in our own home. They now winter at Edinburg, TX in the Rio Grande Valley.

3. Dale has carried on with the family farm, which is shared on page 11. 4. By the time Phyllis was ready to start school, she and her family had moved into the Manfred School District where she graduated from eighth grade in 1954. She graduated from Harvey High School in 1958 and went to college at Minot State Teachers College (presently MSU). There, she received a two year certificate called a "Standard," which qualified her to teach in any ND elementary school.

In 1961, she married Harold Albert Pantsari at Manfred, ND, with Pastor A.B. Solberg officiating at the ceremony. They had three children; Shawn (deceased), Kemis and Stacy, and now also two grandchildren, Sean and Austin. Phyllis and Harold lived first in Devils Lake, ND where Phyllis taught two years in Special Education. In 1964, they moved to Rock Lake, ND and she taught school there for many years. Her Bachelor of Arts Degree was earned in 1971 by attending summer school and night school for many years. In 1994, she retired from teaching after 33 rewarding years.

5. Dennis is a retired teacher living in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. 6. Gary went into farming. Edwin and Sophie retired from farming in 1968 and sold the farm to their two sons, Dale and Gary. They farmed together until Gary's death in 1973. Dale and his wife, Shirley (Lautt) then bought Gary's share in the farm.



Edwin and Sophie Opdahl Family
Back: Dennis, Jean, Dale, Phyllis
Front: Gary, Sophie, Edwin, Verneil



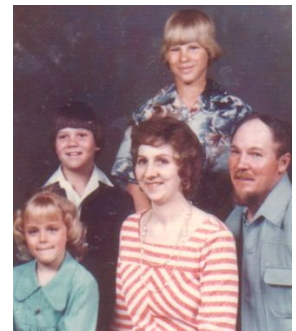
Jean LeClaire-Peterson
with Theresa Bergh
(See Dove page 5)



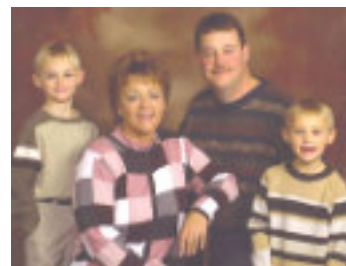
Verneil and Len Eisenbraun
with their grandchildren



Verneil and Len with their children
Back: Todd, Scott, ZoAnn
Front: Verneil, Daryl, Len



Clockwise from left:
Stacy, Kemis, Shawn,
Harold and Phyllis Pantsari



From left:
Sean, Stacy, Phil, Austin Soukup

←
Phyllis and
Harold's
daughter
Stacy and
family



Gary



Standing: Dale, Verneil, Phyllis, Jean, Dennis Seated: Sophie

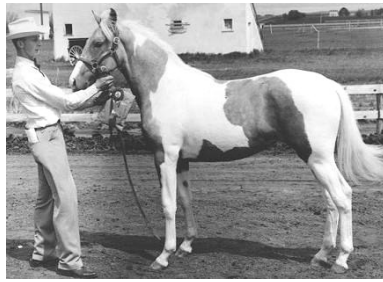
Dale and Shirley Opdahl Family

Written by
Kelly and Dawn Opdahl

*Following in tradition,
Dale and Shirley
exemplify the spirit of love of
land and family, with caring
hearts and kind and genuine
warmth toward all.*



Dale and Shirley Opdahl 1956



Dale with a prize-winning horse



The Dale and Shirley Opdahl Farm in 1990 (See map page 9)

The Dale and Shirley Opdahl Family

Pictured at right

Seated:

Ilona, Dale, Shirley, Aaron

Standing:

Rodney, Kelly, Kent



Seated: Art and Ilona Thomas,
Alana Patzer in front,
Michael and Sheena Patzer. I



Seated: Kristi, Rodney, Lori
Standing: Alicia, Eric, Nicholas



From left:
Veronica, Kelly, Ethan, Dawn, Ashley



From left: Levi, Carrie, Natalie
Schumacher, Garin, Aaron

Dale Edwin Opdahl was born on the original Opdahl homestead. He attended country school through the third grade until he moved with his family to the Roble homestead in 1944. He then attended Manfred School through the eighth grade. Upon completing the eighth grade, he went to work on the family farm helping raise turkeys, milking cows and raising grain crops.

In 1956, Dale married Shirley Mae Lutt at Bethel Baptist Church in Harvey. They then moved onto the family farm. In the late 1960's, his brother Gary and he purchased the farm from their parents. They continued to milk cows and raise turkeys, as well as grain. After Gary's death in 1974, Dale and Shirley bought out Gary's share of the farm and stopped raising turkeys. Dale and Shirley continue to milk cows and raise grain along with beef cows, horses and a variety of other animals. Dale owns the Peder and Kristine Opdahl homestead land, and also his maternal grandparent's homestead land that of Nikolai and Everina (Hauge) Rogness.

Over the years, Dale and Shirley and their children have been active participants in various organizations: Sheyenne River Saddle Club, various turkey and dairy federations, Harvey Rural Fire Department, Fagerlund Sons of Norway, Manfred Homemaker's Club for Shirley, and Vang Lutheran Church.

Dale and Shirley have five children: 1. Ilona, 2. Rodney, 3. Kelly, 4. Kent and 5. Aaron; eleven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. 1. Ilona (Opdahl) Thomas resides on the family farm. She helps milk cows and tend to the many animals. She also works part-time at Jerry's Jack & Jill in Fessenden. Her husband Art Thomas farms near Selz, ND and works at BJ Auto in Harvey. Her son, Michael Patzer lives and works in Phoenix, Arizona together with his wife Sheena and daughter Alana.

2. Rodney Opdahl resides across the road from the family farm. He also helps with the milk and beef cows. Rodney works at Lutt's Feed and Supply in Harvey, ND. His wife Lori works at the Harvey High School. Their son Eric teaches in Omaha, Nebraska. Alicia is in the National Guard. Kristi graduated from high school in 2005, and Nicholas attends school in Harvey.

3. Kelly Opdahl lives in Rugby, ND and is working as the on-farm tire repair man for Farmers Union Oil Company. His wife, Dawn home-schools their three children: Ashley, Veronica and Ethan. Earlier, Kelly had served on the Manfred Township Board.

4. Kent Opdahl resides on the family farm. He works as a Veterinary Technician at Mid-Dakota Veterinary Service in Harvey, ND. He also raises quarter horses and long horn cattle.

5. Aaron Opdahl resides in Fessenden, ND. He is an auto body technician at Steve's Auto Body in Fessenden. His wife, Carrie works for The Herald-Press in Harvey, ND and is a photographer, as well as cares for their children Natalie, Levi and Garin.

The Opdahl family has continually participated in the life of Vang Lutheran Church from when Dale's grandparents Peder and Kristine joined in 1919. Fifteen of the family have been baptized and confirmed there. Edwin served terms each as president, trustee and deacon. Dale served three terms as trustee, five as deacon and also usher, brother Gary served terms each as treasurer and usher, and sons Rodney with two terms as president, two as trustee, and for many years to present as deacon, and Kelly a term as trustee. Shirley has served for many years on the cemetery board to present; also president of the Vang Ladies Aid one term, vice president one term and treasurer for many years to present. Rodney's wife Lori served as vice president for a number of years and continues as member.