

The New MANFRED NEWS

Volume 13, Issue 1

March 2018

A Warm Welcome to Manfred!

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Tabs of special interest: Biography, Business, Newsletter

DESIGNATED DONATIONS

Manfred School/Solheim House Fund

These donations have been directed for the current school restoration project

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of Jacque's mother Adele Hanson
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Fund for the care of these historic buildings

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Ostrem House Fund

Fund for the care of the Ostrem House

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in memory of Bill Quenette

Comfort Station

Toward a future restroom facility for the museum
Keith and Brenda Skalet

Come join us in Manfred on
Sunday, July 22, 2018

for a pioneer festival!

Program: 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Recognition of Manfred upon being listed in the National Register
of Historic Places, and an old-time music concert

Activities: 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Demonstrations, exhibits, "standing still" parade, old-fashioned games,
wiener roast, ice cream social

Touring: 2:00 p.m. to sunset

Enjoy outdoor interpretive panels and touring of Manfred Heritage Museum

You are welcome to come dressed in pioneer clothing, if you like
Vintage vehicles and historic items are invited to be a part of the "standing still" parade
For more information on this fun event, call or text 701-399-6782

Manfred Heritage Museum Welcomes Interns

The board of directors of Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. and staff of Manfred Heritage Museum are delighted to welcome three interns for the 2018 season. Torie Jones will oversee the Collections, a graduate of Fessenden-Bowdon High School and now a senior in Public History and Horticulture at NDSU. Lindsey English and Casey Selzler, graduating seniors of Harvey High School, will serve as Program and Outreach Assistants.

The Amazing Progress Because of Your Support

Restoration and Exhibits completed:
Melby-Rogness House & Exhibit
Melby-Rogness Garage Exhibit
Vang Lutheran Church Exhibit
Outdoor Interpretive Panels
Exteriors of other buildings

The current restoration project is Manfred School with installation of exhibits planned in 2018 and 2019. Future plans: install a comfort station, restoration and exhibits for Ostrem House and Bank/Post Office, also historic implement display.

The New Manfred News

A periodical published by Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. (MHP, Inc.) P.O. Box 321, Harvey, ND 58341
Suggested Subscription rate: \$10 per year. Editor: Wanda Melchert, wrmelchert@gmail.com, Historian: Audrey Solheim, administrator@manfrednd.org

Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. Board of Directors

Audrey Solheim-Chair, Pam Norstedt-Vice Chair, Judy Weigelt-Secretary, Richard Melchert-Treasurer,
Rose Anderson, Pete Anderson, Verna Bowers, Lewis Weigelt.

Manfred Heritage Museum

Museum open May through September – Website: www.manfrednd.org
Wanda Melchert, Museum Director – 701-399-6782 Museum Phone

Thank you for your support of MHP, Inc. enabling the story of Manfred to come to life for the enjoyment of all!!

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An invested fund providing for the future

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 Audrey Nelson
 Betty Pepple and Michael Pepple
 Floyd and Barbara Simmons in memory
 of Rev. John Langseth and family

In Memory

Diane L. Koenig

December 14, 1942 – July 14, 2016
 Wife of Ervin Koenig, son of Walter
 and Irene (Frovig) Koenig, grandson
 of Jacob and Fredericka Koenig

Marvin J. Biever

November 22, 1922 – October 2, 2017
 Raised at Manfred and attended school there,
 son of Frank and Bessie (Sommars) Biever,
 grandson of Mattias Jr. and Elizabeth
 (Schneider) Biever, great grandson
 of Matt Biever, Sr.

David Carlton Lawter

July 11, 1949 – October 27, 2017
 Husband of Kathleen Mortenson,
 a niece of Myrtle Rogness

Joseph P. Holzer

January 2, 1933 – November 13, 2017
 Joe enjoyed stopping in Manfred to visit;
 when young he lived north of Manfred
 and attended school in Manfred, son
 of Joseph and Gertrude (Weber) Holzer

Charles M. Houtkooper

October 19, 1920 – November 27, 2017
 Husband of Ellanora Melby Houtkooper,
 daughter of Martin and Alma (Haugen)
 Melby, granddaughter of Knud and Guri
 Melby and Tollef and Bertha Haugen

Garnet Free

November 30, 1942 – January 22, 2018
 The daughter of Bernard and Ruth (Rodne)
 Skiftun, granddaughter of Haldor
 and Delia (Ring) Rodne

In Memory (cont.)

Deborah "Debbi" Huber

March 7, 1950 – January 31, 2018
 The daughter of Ludwig and Myrtle
 (Melby) Sailer, granddaughter of Martin
 and Alma (Haugen) Melby, great
 granddaughter of Knud and Guri Melby
 and Tollef and Bertha Haugen

Edward Ravnaas

December 18, 19334 – January 30, 2018
 Raised in the Manfred area,
 son of Ingvald and Olida (Berve) Ravnaas,
 grandson of Ole and Anna Berve

Donna Hager

June 18, 1939 – February 8, 2018
 Daughter of Benjamin and Evelyn
 (Shirley) Fuhrman, granddaughter of
 Emil and Anna Shirley

Helen Frovig Kegerreis

May 10, 1926 – February 9, 2018
 Wife of Oliver Frovig,
 the son of Ole and Ida Frovig
 who farmed in the Manfred area

Judith Hofrenning

December 12, 1923 – February 9, 2018
 Wife of Rev. Ralph Hofrenning
 who served as pastor of Vang Lutheran
 Church from 1976 to 1983

Florence Melby

December 11, 1920 – February 14, 2018
 Florence and her husband Art had an interest
 in the Manfred projects and were active
 in Fagerlund Sons of Norway Lodge

Esther G. Boese

December 11, 1933 – February 15, 2018
 Esther and her husband Wesley Boese
 farmed north of Manfred. Wesley was
 raised near Manfred, the son of Louis and
 Ella Boese. After retiring, they were very
 active with the Manfred projects

Hadley R. Haugen

October 28, 1914 – February 22, 2018
 Raised northeast of Manfred and farmed
 there, the son of Alfred and Mary (Roble)
 Haugen. Hadley and his wife Eileen helped
 staff at the Manfred Heritage Museum

Agnes Wagner

November 1, 1932 – February 26, 2018
 Agnes and her husband Lawrence farmed
 south of Manfred. Agnes served as
 substitute clerk at the Manfred Post Office.
 She, her husband, and two sons are buried
 in Vang Cemetery

Paul Delbert McBain

February 18, 1945 – March 12, 2018
 Son of Henry and Margaret (Janssen)
 McBain who lived in Manfred

Eilert and Bielda Fehr Family History

IN GERMANY

Eilert Peter Fehr

was born July 8, 1860 at Oldersum, Ostfriesland, Germany, the only child of Peter and Elizabeth (Beenken) Fehr. As was the custom, Eilert was named after his paternal grandfather **Eilert** Fehr, and given his father's name as his middle name **Peter**.



Eilert and Bielda Fehr

Bielda Talea Wallenstein

was born August 6, 1858 at Oldersum, Ostfriesland, Germany the daughter of Brechter and Talea (Grothus) Wallenstein. Bielda was named after her paternal grandmother **Bielda** Goke Lamhuis, and given her mother's name as her middle name **Talea**.

Eilert and Bielda Fehr's origin in Germany



1
Above: The Federal Republic of Germany located in Europe
Maps at right, show where Eilert and Bielda came from in Germany



2
Red dot indicates Eilert and Bielda's place of origin in Germany



3
This close-up map shows the locations of the villages of Oldersum where Eilert and Bielda were born, and Simonswolde where they settled

Acknowledgements for the Fehr Family History

"Some Day I'll Tell My Children" written by Bielda Fehr Beyersdorff in 1977 and published by her daughter Margaret R. Harwell in 2002; "The Patchwork Quilt of My Life" written by Marie Francis Pitkin Fehr during November 1977 to November 1979 and published by Morning Light Publications of Bowdon, North Dakota in June 2006; Maridel Sprenger; Walter Ronald Fehr; photos provided by grandchildren of Bert and Mary Fehr; Wells County Free Press news entries; family genealogies; Manfred School records; census records; review of history by Fehr family descendants; 1911 and 1960 editions of "Atlas of Wells County, North Dakota;" internet maps of Germany; "Growing with Pride-Harvey Centennial Book;" "Fessenden – A Centennial History 1893-1993." Wanda Melchert-Editor, Audrey Solheim-Historian.

Eilert and Biela Fehr and Family

IN GERMANY

Eilert and Biela were married in 1881, living mainly at Simonswolde, Germany. Born to Eilert and Biela were twelve children, half of whom did not survive beyond infancy: son Peter in 1882, son Brechter in 1883, daughter Talea in 1884, son Brechter in 1886, son Bauwo in 1887, son Brechter in 1889, son Jan in 1890, daughter Elizabeth in 1892, son Johann in 1895, daughter Eberhardine in 1897, son Eberhard in 1898, and daughter Biela in 1906.

The children of Eilert and Biela Fehr who lived to adulthood:

Name	Born	Died	Married
1 Peter	1882	1979	1) Martje "Martha" Jakobs Kruse 2) Laura Steinberg
2 Talea	1884	1953	Emil Beyersdorff
3 Brechter "Bert"	1889	1976	1) Mary Elmira Egger 2) Margaret Staffeld Blair
4 Elizabeth "Lizzie"	1892	1942	Otto Mietz
5 Eberhard "Ebe"	1898	1942	
6 Biela	1906	1987	Theodore "Ted" F. E. Beyersdorff



Early 1908

Four of Eilert and Biela Fehr's children

L/R: Eberhard, Biela, Elizabeth, Talea

Peter and Bert are not pictured because they had already immigrated to the USA

Excerpts taken from "Some Day I'll Tell My Children" written by Biela Fehr Beyersdorff Biela, the youngest daughter of Eilert and Biela Fehr

Biela Fehr Beyersdorff wrote, "In Germany my parents had a store – general merchandise, groceries, and a bakery. The house and stable for the cows were both in one building. It was a nice large brick building. Mother informed me that the stable was kept very clean, even mopped. There were canals or ditches around each piece of land. This part of Germany was a low land and needed to be drained so that is how the canals and ditches came to be. They were full of water most of the time, much like the lowlands of Holland (*Netherlands*). Father hired a baker to run the bakery. Every day except Sunday, this man would bake 100 loaves of rye bread. This was a dark heavy rye bread and each loaf weighted eight pounds. One hundred loaves times eight pounds would be eight hundred pounds - enough for the whole village. It was called black bread.



Two views of Eilert and Biela's home in Germany taken in 1990 by Richard Fehr



Father would be the first one up in the morning. He made a fire in the range, set the kettle on and made tea. He would drink a cup and then bring a cup to mother in bed. After this, she would get up. Tea was served for breakfast, afternoon, and supper. Coffee was only served at noon. When the men were in the fields, tea was put in a tin pail and in another pail would go sandwiches, cookies and cake, and brought out to them.

School was kept by a schoolmaster - very strict. Hours were from eight a.m. to four p.m., with a dinner break at noon. Students went to school ten months of the year, and at age 14 were finished with the village school. For most children, this was the end of their formal education; but some went to higher education in a city and others became apprentices to learn a trade. Most apprenticeships lasted three years. This would have them ready for a real job, but first they had to serve three years in the army."

Eilert and Bielda Fehr and Family

IN AMERICA

Eilert and Bielda wanted to immigrate to the USA where their two eldest children had gone: Peter in 1905 and Bert in 1906. There were many things to do in preparation for the move: the property had to be sold, physical examinations, shots, and visas and other paperwork. A big wooden box was filled with clothing. Eilert and Bielda, together with their four younger children Talea, Elizabeth, Eberhard, and Bielda made the trip in the spring of 1908. Everyone except their youngest child became seasick. During the trip, Bielda kept their German money hidden under her clothing by means of a fabric bag with strings attached like an apron, which she tied around her waist.

Their daughter Bielda wrote, "When we got to Ellis Island, which was the immigrant station in New York, father made sure everyone was safe and comfortable. He then took all our German money to a bank and had it changed into American money. Mother and the two older girls were apprehensive while he was gone for fear he might be robbed or even killed in this big strange city. Soon he was back - to the great relief of all. When everything was in order with the immigration authorities, we boarded a train heading for points west. Finally, we got to George, Iowa – a German settlement where many of our friends lived whom our family had known in Germany."

Settling in Wells County

The Fehr family stayed at George, Iowa for six months. During that time, Eilert traveled to Wells County, North Dakota because of the good reports they had heard of that area, and was able to buy available farmland located four miles northeast of Manfred. This purchase was a dream-come-true for Eilert and Bielda, made possible through the proceeds from the sale of their property and business in Germany. Eilert and Bielda leased the farmland to their sons, Peter and Bert, enabling the brothers to build funds toward their dreams of owning their own farms. Eilert and Bielda, with the rest of their children Talea, Elizabeth, Eberhard, and Bielda, settled at Fessenden in a small yellow house on the outskirts of town only about a block from the Soo Line Railway track. Their next-door-neighbors were the O. S. (Ole) Hedahl family, which resulted in the Fehr and Hedahl children became friends. Mr. Hedahl had been elected to serve as Wells County Register of Deeds. After completing his elected terms, Ole Hedahl and his family moved back to their farm north of Manfred.

On the farm

Peter and Bert farmed their parent's farm for three years from 1909 through 1911. In November 1911, Bert married and began farming near Toronto, South Dakota. Also that fall, Peter and his family moved to a farm of their own just a half a mile away. Then Eilert and Bielda, together with son Eberhard and daughter Bielda, moved onto their farm. Their daughter Talea also stayed with them the first year. Their daughter Elizabeth had married and she and her husband, Otto Mietz, were living on a farm southwest of Manfred.

Eilert and Bielda's farm consisted of 320 acres in Section 13 of Manfred Township, which had a practically new house with its woodwork yet unfinished, a barn, a granary, the original one-room homestead house, and a couple of sheds. Eilert had also purchased 160 acres in Section 24, which his son Peter was able to purchase from his parents. Their daughter Bielda Beyersdorff wrote a description for the photo at right: "The house I was raised in. Either fall of 1923, or spring of 1924. Ebe and I standing with guns by the Model T Ford. He would go rabbit hunting, but I never fired a gun in my life except once at a tin can on a fence post."

Section number map of
Manfred Township

Eilert and Bielda Fehr's
farmland located
in Section 13

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



The Eilert and Bielda Fehr Farmhouse

Eilert and Bielda Fehr and Family

Attending the German Baptist Church

The family attended the German Baptist Church of Fessenden. Their daughter Bielda Fehr Beyersdorff wrote, "About half of the congregation were farmers and some came in as far as ten miles. We lived nine miles from Fessenden after we moved to the farm. For farmers, going to church in those days required real effort especially in the winter. Cows had to be milked, the milk taken care of, and all the other chores done. Bert and Mary and Lizzie and Otto each lived nine miles from town, too, and were very faithful to go to church during harvest or anytime because Sunday was the Lord's Day, unless the weather was absolutely too bad. When roads and weather were nice enough to consider going to church with the car, Ebe would check over everything on Saturday, get it started and let it run a while to make sure he would have no trouble on Sunday morning. Most of the time it would start, but sometimes it simply would not. A big teakettle of water would be set on the stove to boil and that would be poured over the icy carburetor. Often this would do it - and hot water would be poured into the radiator, too. Later, when anti-freeze came along, it was much better." Eilert is said to have had a bad temper, and as a result Bielda and the children endured much regarding this. At some point after moving to the USA, Eilert had a conversion experience and was literally a "new" person after that.

As reported in the Wells County Free Press, September 6, 1923 issue

"Eilert P. Fehr Dies Accidentally

Eilert P. Fehr, well-known farmer of the Manfred vicinity, was accidentally killed by a load of grain passing over him while trying to move same. Mr. Fehr was trying to regulate the wagon with the pole while his daughter and wife were pushing it when somehow the front wheels must have hit a rock which jarred the pole. Mr. Fehr lost control of it, falling, and the full load of grain passing directly over his chest. Death was almost instantaneous. Dr. Matthaei was immediately summoned but to no avail. Upon the arrival of the doctor following a flying trip, the body was found lifeless. Children are Peter E. Fehr, of Manvel, this state, Mrs. Emil Beyersdorff, of Merrill, Wisconsin, B. E. Fehr, of Manfred, Mrs. Otto Mietz, Manfred, and Eberhard and Bielda Fehr at home. Funeral services were conducted at the German Baptist church, of this city. Pallbearers were: J. V. Zuber, F. Albus, Otto Rappuhn, Henry Matt, Mike Pepple and Gottlieb Pepple." (*Son Eberhard was working at another location at the time of the accident, as shared by Bielda Fehr Beyersdorff in her memoirs.*)

After Eilert's death at age 63, Bielda remained on the farm for a time. In 1927, Bielda and her two adult children, Eberhard and Bielda, moved to Merrill, Wisconsin. After suffering for some time from a kidney ailment, Bielda Fehr died February 5, 1936 in Merrill, Wisconsin. Eilert and Bielda are buried in the German Baptist Church Cemetery, one mile north of Hillside Cemetery near Fessenden, North Dakota.

In 1930, Eilert and Bielda's daughter Bielda married Ted Beyersdorff.
The newly weds are pictured below with the bride's mother and other family members.

Three of BIELDA FEHR's children are pictured with her in the photo at right and are noted below in bold print. BIELDA FEHR is capitalized to differentiate her from her daughter Bielda, as well as granddaughter Bielda

L/R:

Back:

Ted and **Bielda** Beyersdorff
Bielda and Herman Beyersdorff –
children of Emil and Talea Beyersdorff
Eberhard Fehr

Front:

Eilert, Elizabeth, and Frieda Beyersdorff –
children of Emil and Talea Beyersdorff
Talea with son Wilfred on her lap and her
husband Emil Beyersdorff sitting beside her
BIELDA FEHR
BIELDA's nephew Albrecht (Al) Janssen



BIELDA FEHR, at right front, with some of her family

The Children of Eilert and Bielda Fehr

1 PETER

Peter Eilert Fehr was born on February 27, 1882 in Oldersum, Germany. He immigrated to the USA in 1905, earning his passage on the ship by taking care of horses. He went first to George, Iowa where many others from his home village in Germany had settled. He found work there as a hired hand.

In 1906, Peter's brother Bert immigrated and joined him at George, Iowa, as did **Martje "Martha" Jakobs Kruse**, whom Peter had met in Germany. On March 15, 1907, Peter and Martha were married at George, Iowa. She was born July 22, 1877 in Simonswolde, Ostfriesland, Germany, the daughter of Jakob Martens Kruse and Aagte Klaaben Bauer. In 1908, Peter's parents Eilert and Bielda Fehr and his four other siblings Talea, Elizabeth, Eberhard, and Bielda also immigrated and came to George, Iowa.

In June of 1908, Peter's father Eilert purchased farmland in Manfred Township, Wells County, North Dakota. Peter and Martha and his brother Bert leasing the farmland from their parents for three years. During this time, Peter's parents and siblings lived in a house in Fessenden. Peter and Martha had their first child Eilert in 1909 and their second child Agnes in 1911.

In 1911, Peter and Martha purchased the NW Qtr of Section 24 in Manfred Township from his father. In 1913, Peter and Martha's third child Jacob was born. In 1914, Peter had a barn constructed, and in 1915 he was elected to Manfred School Board. Peter and Martha's children attended the one-room school #2, known as the Solberg School. Following the 1922-1923 school year, Peter and his family moved to Manvel, North Dakota where they continued farming. That September, Peter's father Eilert died suddenly. Also at this time, Martha, was quite ill with pernicious anemia (Vitamin B-12 deficiency). She died June 19, 1927. On March 18, 1941 in Grand Forks, North Dakota, Peter married Laura Steinberg who was born October 17, 1889. Peter died December 28, 1979 at East Grand Forks, Minnesota and Laura died there on December 28, 1982.

Born to Peter and Martha were three children: **1**Eilert married Clara Luithle and they had seven children: **1**Peter, **2**Marjorie, **3**Jean, **4**Walter, **5**Eric, **6**Carol, and **7**Robert; **2**Agnes married Andrew Klaas Bauer and they had five children: **1**Marjorie, **2**Clarence, **3**Carolyn, **4**Grace, and **5**Lawrence; **3**Jacob married Vera Evangeline Almquist and they had three children: **1**Alton, **2**Andrea, and **3**Gerald. Jacob later married Agnes Carpenter and then Marjorie Nelson.



The Peter and Martha Fehr Family

L/R: Peter holding Agnes, Eilert, Martha
Their third child, Jacob, was born in 1913

2 TALEA

Talea and her family are pictured in the group photo on page 6

Talea Elizabeth Fehr was born on September 14, 1884 in Oldersum, Germany. Her younger sister Bielda Fehr wrote the following about Talea when she lived in Germany, "Talea would go with her mother each Saturday to help care for a helpless and bedridden lady in the village, giving her a bath and changing her bed. Each day she would take lunch to this lady and enough for her supper." Talea also took on most of the care of her frail younger brother Eberhard, because their mother was not well either. In 1908, Talea immigrated with her parents and siblings to the USA with a short stay in Iowa and then moved to Fessenden, North Dakota. There, Talea took on doing housework and did a lot of sewing for people. When her parents moved out to their farm in 1912, Talea was with them the first year which was a help for her mother.

Talea met **Emil Beyersdorff** when he came to work for her father during the farming season. Emil was born on June 21, 1891 in Wisconsin the son of Herman Beyersdorff and Albertina Schultz. Talea and Emil married on October 19, 1913 at Fessenden, after which they were planning to move to the Merrill, Wisconsin area. Before they made that trip, Talea's father gave them a horse, a cow, and a wagon full of various things to take with them to help at the start of their married life together. They moved near the Merrill, Wisconsin area where they owned a dairy farm according to the 1930 census. By the 1940 census, they were living at Iron River, Michigan where Emil was a logging contractor. Emil and Talea both died at Wausau, Wisconsin: Emil in 1952 and Talea also in 1952 on July 5th.

Born to Emil and Talea Beyersdorff were six children: **1**Herman married Martha Gruenwald; **2**Bielda married William Brozoznowski and they had two children: **1**Kenneth and **2**Yvonne. Bielda later married Tony Genetski; **3**Eilert married Dorothy Lodholz and they had two children: **1**Lyle and **2**Bruce; **4**Elizabeth married Arvid Johnson and they had two children: **1**Shirley and **2**Sandra. Elizabeth later married Donald Ponozzo; **5**Frieda and her husband Mr. Davis had a daughter Linda; and **6**Wilfred married Elaine Klinner and they had a daughter Debra.

The Children of Eilert and Bielda Fehr

3 BRECHTER See Page 10

4 ELIZABETH

Elizabeth “Lizzie” Eilert Fehr was born on June 20, 1892 in Simonswolde, Germany. In 1908, Elizabeth immigrated with her parents and siblings to the USA with a short stay in Iowa and then moved to Fessenden, North Dakota. She was sixteen years old, going on seventeen, when they arrived. Elizabeth began keeping house for the local lawyer, Adam Zuber. He practiced law and also served as an auctioneer.

Elizabeth met **Otto Mietz**, and in 1910 they were married. Otto was born on September 7, 1886 in Russia to August Mietz and Maria Mary Hassenbush. Otto and Elizabeth settled on a farm about four miles southwest of Manfred which later became the Art Fisher farm. They farmed there until about 1937, when they had an auction sale and moved to Lodi, California. Elizabeth died at Lodi, California on November 29, 1942, and Otto died there on September 22, 1946.

Otto and Elizabeth had six children: **1**August married Emma Engbrecht and they had two children: **1**Ruth and **2**Carolyn; **2**Arnold married Bertha Marshall and they had two children: **1**Lois and **2**Garry; **3**Bernard married Alvera Krominga and they had four children: **1**Roger, **2**Thomas, **3**Keith, and **4**Maria; **4**Frieda married Edwin Erman and they had four children: **1**Ann, **2**James, **3**Robert, and **4**Sharon; **5**Wallis married Elizabeth Melcher and they had two children: **1**Diane and **2**Donna; **6**Annelise married George Nugent and they had three children: **1**Rodney, **2**Kathleen, and **3**Steven. Of special note: Fessenden School ran a contest to choose a name for their school. Otto and Elizabeth's eldest son August won the contest for the school name to be the Orioles. On May 3, 2016, Elizabeth and Otto's daughter Annelise Mietz Nugent from California visited the Manfred Heritage Museum, together with her niece Sharon Erman and nephew Bob Erman and his wife Sherann.



The Otto and Elizabeth Mietz family
L/R: Arnold, Wallis, Annelise, Otto, Frieda, Elizabeth, Bernard, and August

5 EBERHARD

Eberhard “Ebe” Eilert Fehr was born on July 15, 1898 in Simonswolde, Germany. Eberhard was so frail during his first years of life that he wasn't expected to live, enduring pneumonia four times before he was two years old. He finally came out of it, but was never very strong. He was known as Ebe, pronounced as Abe. In 1908, Ebe immigrated with his parents and siblings to the USA with a short stay in Iowa and then moved to Fessenden, North Dakota when he was ten years old. Ebe attended school in Fessenden during the four years they lived there. When his parents moved to their farm in Manfred Township, he took one more year of school at School #2, known as the Solberg School, with Cora Anderson as his 5th grade teacher. Ebe and his younger sister Bielda helped with a lot of the farming, especially after their father died. In 1927, he with his mother and sister Bielda moved to Merrill, Wisconsin. After his mother died in 1936, Ebe moved to California where he died on November 19, 1942 from pneumonia.



Eberhard Fehr
1930

Manfred News Entry in the December 3, 1942 issue of the Wells County Free Press: “Eberhard Eilert Fehr, former Wells County resident, passed away November 19th in Los Angeles, California where he has made his home the past years. He suffered only a brief illness, and funeral services took place the following Sunday at the Baptist Church. Mr. Fehr was born July 15, 1898 in Simonswolde, Ostfriesland, Germany, and when 10 years of age came to this country with his parents, to settle near George, Iowa. In 1908, the family moved to Fessenden and then to a farm northeast of Manfred. His father passed away in 1923, and in 1927 he went to Wisconsin with his mother, where she died in 1936. He then went to southern California, where he resided until his death. Surviving are two brothers: Peter E. of Grand Forks and Bert E. of Manfred, two sisters: Mrs. Talea Beyersdorff of Iron River, Michigan and Mrs. Bielda Beyersdorff of Wausau, Wisconsin.” Ebe's other sister Elizabeth, Mrs. Otto Mietz, died on November 29th in Lodi, California just ten days after he had passed away.

The Children of Eilert and Bielda Fehr

6 BIELDA

Bielda Eilert Fehr was born on May 25, 1906 in Simonswolde, Germany. In 1908 when Bielda was two years old, she immigrated with her parents and siblings to the USA, with a short stay in Iowa and then moved to Fessenden, North Dakota. While in Fessenden, Bielda recalled living next to the Ed Hedahl family, becoming good friends with their daughter Edith being the same age as Bielda. Their friendship continued until Edith died in 1927.

Bielda recalled that there were many dialects of German. Bielda said that her family spoke a low German called “Ostfriesich platt,” named for the area where they had come from. At home, they spoke the low German of their ancestry. Bielda said her mother taught her to read and write German. In church and with company, they spoke high German. In school, the children learned English.

Bielda recalled an unexpected happening while living in Fessenden, “The county fair was always in our town because Fessenden was the county seat. I was allowed to go with Ebe and was all dressed up including a brand new straw hat with a pink ribbon. Everybody seemed to ‘dress up’ to go to the fair. We went to look at all the exhibits and I was very interested in a beautiful big drake in a cage about my eye level. He hissed at me as I stood looking at him, and suddenly he stuck his long neck through the bars and bit a chunk out of the brim of my new straw hat. I didn’t like him after that.”

In the spring of 1912, Bielda moved with her parents to their farm northeast of Manfred. She met Martha Reule who became her best friend. Martha lived with her family on a farm 1½ miles due north of the Fehr farm. Bielda enjoyed helping with chores and the life on the farm. She wrote in her memoirs, “As soon as it got warm, the gophers would be coming out. We (*Bielda and Ebe*) would go into the fields and pasturelands to trap and kill as many as possible before ‘bounty day’ usually near the end of May. On bounty day, we would go to Fessenden to the courthouse where we took the tails of all the gophers we had caught. There, we got 2 cents each bounty for them. Later, it was raised to 3 cents. Each day in school, the children would compare notes. The goal of each one was to have 100 tails by bounty day. Many of the children saved their (*bounty*) money until the fair came in August to have spending money. One year, Ebe and I saved ours for a really nice sled for winter. It was one of the very few toys we ever had.”

While Bielda and her parents were in Manfred in August of 1914 doing business and shopping, it was there they heard that Germany was at war with Russia. Bielda, who was 8½ years old at the time, remembered so well the seriousness with which her parents discussed this news while she was sitting between them during the ride home in a one-seated buggy. They expressed how thankful they were that our family was all in America. Had they stayed in Germany, their sons Peter and Bert would surely have had to go to war.

September 3, 1923 was a horrific day for her mother and her, when her father died instantly when the wagon wheels went over him while they were all trying to work with that wagon loaded with grain. After her father’s death, Bielda, her brother Ebe, and their mother remained on the farm for a time, but in 1927 they moved to Merrill, Wisconsin where her sister Talea and family were living. At Merrill, Wisconsin, Bielda met **Theodore Frank Ernest Beyersdorff** and in 1930 they were married. Theodore was born on January 6, 1908 in Wisconsin, the son of Ernest Julius Otto Beyersdorff and Emma Hanke. Ted and Bielda lived at Merrill, Wisconsin, later moved to Wausau, Wisconsin, and eventually moving to California. Ted died on October 14, 1987 in Van Nuys, California. Bielda died five days later on October 19, 1987 in Los Angeles, California.

Ted and Bielda had three children: **1**Dennis married Betty Comer and they had three children: **1**Steven, **2**Karen, and **3**Kurt; **2** Margaret married David Harwell and they had four children: **1**Robbin, **2**Pamela, **3**Lynn, and **4**Glen; and **3**Timothy (died in 1962 of muscular dystrophy.).



Ted and Bielda Beyersdorff



The Bert and Mary Fehr Family

Brecht Eilert Fehr, known as “Bert” or “B. E.,” was born May 31, 1889 in Simonswolde, Germany. While attending school there, Bert also helped in his parent’s store, and later served as an apprentice to the baker. When Bert reached the age of seventeen years old, he decided to go to the USA. Biella Fehr Beyersdorff wrote about Bert’s immigration, “He, with two other boys, was able to contact a ship owner who needed three men to take care of a shipload of horses that were being sent to America. This is how he earned his way. Three months before his eighteenth birthday, he was in America.”

After arriving in the USA in 1906, Bert joined his brother Peter in George, Iowa where he found work. In the spring of 1908, his parents, Eilert and Biella Fehr, and his four other siblings immigrated to the USA, also coming to George, Iowa. After situating the family there, his father made a trip to North Dakota in June where he purchased farmland northeast of Manfred. The whole family then left George, Iowa and came to Wells County. To assist their eldest sons, Peter and Bert, in having a start, Eilert and Biella leased the farmland to them for three farming seasons, 1909-1911. During this time, Eilert and Biella together with their other children, lived in Fessenden.

Bert met **Mary Elmira Egger** at the German Baptist Church of Fessenden. Mary happened to be in the area teaching a two-month term at a school west of Fessenden. She was born June 15, 1887 in Parry Sound, Ontario, Canada, the daughter of John Johannes F. Egger I and Marie Bertha Vuilleme. She taught in various schools in Wisconsin, in Bowdon, and then the position west of Fessenden. Bert and Mary were married November 2, 1911 at Toronto, South Dakota where they began farming on a farm they rented. Ten children were born to Bert and Mary, five of whom grew to adulthood. Born to Bert and Mary in South Dakota were Biella in 1912, Eilert in 1914, William in 1915 who died in infancy, and Julia in 1917. In 1917, they purchased a farm in Rusland Township southwest of Manfred. At first, they lived in a sod house until their frame house was built in 1918. Born to Bert and Mary there: a baby boy in 1918 who died at birth, Ruth in 1919, twin boys in 1921 who died in infancy, Walter in 1922, and John in 1927 who died at five months old.

Bert and Mary were members of First Baptist Church of Fessenden. Their spiritual legacy as shared by one of their descendants, “Bert and Mary were deeply religious and their faith in Jesus Christ and his teachings were taught in their home.” Bert was active in both livestock and crop management, serving as a board member of the Manfred Livestock Shipping Association and also a proponent of having cattle tested for tuberculosis.

Bert and Mary continued farming until 1953 when they moved to Fessenden. Mary died unexpectedly June 12, 1963 from a heart condition that had troubled her for many years. On February 26, 1966 in El Monte, California, Bert married Margaret Staffeld Blair, daughter of Henry C. Staffeld and Lillie A. Fuller. She was born April 20, 1904 in Stratford, Wisconsin. Margaret died April 23, 1975 and is buried at Wausau, Wisconsin. Bert died March 15, 1976 in Harvey, North Dakota. Bert and Mary are buried in Hillside Cemetery near Fessenden.

Of special note: of their seventeen grandchildren, sixteen graduated from Fessenden High School—one being from Detroit, Michigan. Their granddaughter Maridel Hoover Sprenger related of their grandparents, “The Bert Fehr family got together often because we celebrated everyone’s birthdays on a Sunday at the home of the birthday person. When we arrived, the kids got together with a cousin their age and the parents visited. The adults never checked on the kids, but when it was time for ice cream and cake, the kids came without being called. As I grew older, I saw the great love the Bert Fehr family had for each other, which I saw lived out.”



Mary and Bert holding Biella, born September 3, 1912



The Bert and Mary Fehr Farm in 1953



L/R: Children: Walter, Julia, Biella, Ruth, Eilert



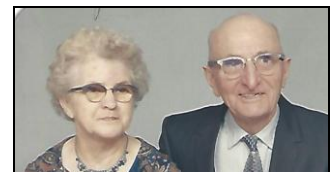
L/R: The Bert and Mary Fehr Family

Back: Ruth, Julia, Biella

Front: Eilert, Bert, Mary, Walter



Bert and Mary Fehr in 1961 50th Wedding Anniversary



Margaret and Bert Fehr 1970

The Children of Bert and Mary Fehr

	Name	Born	Died	Married
1	Bielda	1912	1985	Warren D. Hoover
2	Eilert	1914	2004	Marie Francis Pitkin
3	Julia	1917	2015	Walter Jake Albus
4	Ruth	1919	2014	Otto G. Krueger
5	Walter	1922	2008	Leona Mae Richards

1 Bielda Fehr Hoover

Bielda Talea Fehr was born September 3, 1912 in Toronto, South Dakota. In 1917, she moved with her parents, Bert and Mary Fehr, together with her brother Eilert and sister Julia to North Dakota settling on a farm southwest of Manfred. She and her siblings attended the rural Eigenheim School in Rusland Township. A startling memory for Bielda was when her grandfather, Eilert Fehr, died on her eleventh birthday. After graduating from Fessenden High School, she attended Valley City Teacher's College where she became friends with Grace Hoover who was the sister of Bielda's future husband Warren. Bielda taught school in the Wells County area for one year before moving to Minneapolis. Like so many young women during the depression, she lived with a family in Minneapolis doing their housekeeping and cooking.

Bielda married on Thanksgiving Day, November 21, 1940 in Minneapolis, Minnesota to **Warren D. Hoover**, also known as W. D. Hoover. Warren was born March 14, 1920 near Rock Lake, North Dakota where his parents Daniel Hoover and Maude Moore homesteaded in 1898. Bielda and Warren lived in Minneapolis where Warren worked in the grocery business. In 1944, they moved to the former Matt Biever farm near Manfred. They were members of First Baptist Church of Fessenden where Bielda served as pianist and organist and Bielda and Warren sang together. Bielda was also a member of Manfred Homemakers Club and a wonderful cook. Pan-fried steak and garden-grown asparagus with cheese sauce served to her children on her best china is fondly recalled.

Bielda and Warren were parents of three children: **1**Maridel married James Sprenger and they had a daughter **1**Janette married Chad Smithling and they had a daughter Angel who married Jake Britton and they had a daughter Brooklyn. Janette and Raul Serraro had two children: Simone, and Antonio; **2**Derald Hoover married Ruth Jacobs and they had three children: **1**Daryn married Keri Hellmuth, **2**Jason married Melissa Harmon and they had two children: Madison and Kimberly, and **3**Kelly married Channin Primmer and they had two children: Avery and Ella; **3**David Hoover married Lois Hegseth and they had two children: **1**Kari (dec.) had two children: Jayden and Emma, and **2**Jay and Amanda Zeien have a daughter Rachel.

Bielda died August 30, 1985 at her home. Warren married Marjorie Rangen on October 24, 1987. Warren died March 13, 1993 at Bismarck, North Dakota, and Marjorie died December 31, 2000. Warren and Bielda are buried in Hillside Cemetery near Fessenden, North Dakota.



← Bielda and Warren Hoover on their wedding day Nov. 21, 1940



Bielda and Warren Hoover farm in 1984



On the 25th Anniversary of Bielda and Warren Hoover

L/R: Back: David, Maridel, Derald

Front: Warren, Bielda



L/R: Grandpa Warren with his grandchildren

Back: Kari, Jay on Warren's lap, Janette, Jason

Front: Kelly, Daryn



L/R: The Hoover kids and their spouses

James and Maridel (Hoover) Sprenger
Derald and Ruth Hoover
David and Lois Hoover in c.1971



In 2016: David and Lois Hoover,
Maridel Sprenger, Ruth and Derald Hoover

2 Eilert Fehr

Eilert Brechter Fehr was born March 26, 1914 in Toronto, South Dakota. In 1917, he moved with his parents and siblings to a farm they had purchased south of Manfred. Eilert attended school through the eighth grade. He then helped on his parent's farm and also worked on a threshing crew. Eilert first met **Marie Francis Pitkin** in 1934 when he and a group of young men from the Fessenden area attended a Camp Meeting at Sawyer, North Dakota. Marie was helping at this church camp for the summer. Marie was born November 20, 1912 to Francis Nelson Pitkin and Maria Hulda Bloch on her mother's homestead in Williams County. She graduated from Miles City High School then found work in Hammond, Indiana where an aunt lived. Having saved enough money, Marie attended Minot State Teacher's College and later taught school for six years.

Marie and Eilert dated for seven years mainly through letter writing. Due to dry conditions in North Dakota during the drought years, Eilert found work in Wisconsin and later in Michigan at lumber camps. Eilert and Marie were married on June 10, 1941 at the First Congregational Church in Sawyer, North Dakota. They farmed east of Manfred where they raised dairy cows and grew wheat and other small grains. Eilert taught himself welding, enjoyed motorcycles, and had a beautiful voice. Marie was a 4-H Leader and served at the Congregational Church of Fessenden as organist and pianist where Eilert and Marie were members. For their 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration, Eilert and Marie wore the same suit and dress they had worn for their wedding and were also buried in this clothing.

Marie passed away on December 7, 1993, after which time Eilert continued to live on the family farm. When the Congregational Church closed, he attended Vang Lutheran Church in Manfred. In February of 1999, Eilert moved to the Sheridan Home in McClusky, living there until April 2004 when he moved to the St. Aloisius Medical Center in Harvey. Eilert passed away on June 2, 2004 at the age of 90. Funeral services were held at Vang Church in Manfred. He was buried beside Marie in Hillside Cemetery near Fessenden.

Eilert and Marie were parents of seven children: **1**Karen died when she was nearly thirteen months old; **2**Julia Ann married Marvin Rodacker; **3**Jon married Roxanne Miller and they had three children: **1**Erika, **2**Craig, and **3**Corey (dec.). Jon later married Gloria Ruiz; **4**James and Sharon Bell had a daughter **1**Tina and she had four children: Bradley, Brennon, Timmy, and Shawn "S. J."; **5**Frances "Frankie"; **6**Jean married Narit "Nat" Narksompong and they had a daughter **1**Joanne; and **7**Alan married Kristin Smith and they had three children: **1**Karla married Phil Dewey and they have a son Smith, **2**Laura, and **3**David.



←
L/R:
Jon with his children:
Erika, Craig, Corey
1987



Alan upon retirement
from the National Guard in 2015
L/R: Laura, David, Kris, Alan, Karla



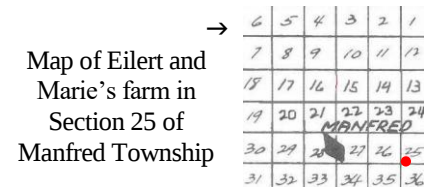
L/R: James and his family
Shawn on Brennen's shoulders, Tina,
Timmy, and James, not pictured: Bradley



→
L/R:
Jean with her
daughter Joanne
in 2012



Eilert and
Marie Fehr's
wedding day,
June 10, 1941



Map of Eilert and
Marie's farm in
Section 25 of
Manfred Township



The Eilert and Marie Fehr Farm



L/R: The Eilert and Marie Fehr Family

Back: Frances, James, Julia Ann
and Marvin Rodacker, Jon
Front: Alan, Marie, Eilert, Jean



L/R: Alan, Frances, Jon,
Julia Ann, Jean, James



The 50th
Wedding
Anniversary
of Eilert and
Marie Fehr
1991

3 Julia Fehr Albus

Julia Bertha Fehr was born January 20, 1917 in Toronto, South Dakota. That same year her family moved to North Dakota and settled on a farm southwest of Manfred in Rusland Township. She graduated from Fessenden High School as Salutatorian, attended Valley City Teachers College, and then taught school in several one-room schools. Julia married on June 8, 1944 in Fessenden to **Walter Jake Albus**, son of Frank Adolph Albus and Mary Webber. Walter was born December 9, 1905 on his parent's farm five miles north of Fessenden in West Norway Township where he was reared and later assumed operation of the family farm. Walter and Julia settled on this farm where they raised their three children. Julia later resumed her teaching career, teaching third grade in the Fessenden School District for twenty years. Julia and Walter were members of the First Baptist Church in Fessenden where she was active as Director of the Scripture Memory Program, Church Extension Program, and taught preschoolers for 30 years. Julia was a committed Christian who, at one time, considered dedicating her life to missionary service. Walter died November 25, 1971. Following Walter's death, Julia moved to Oakes, North Dakota. There, Julia volunteered at the local food pantry and nursing home, receiving the "Volunteer of the Year" award. She died on June 7, 2015 in Oakes. Walter and Julia are buried in Hillside Cemetery near Fessenden.

Julia and Walter were parents to three children: **1**Frank (dec.) married Marion Harlowe and they had two children: **1**Frank married Orna Hellerman and they had two children: Madeleine and Amelia, and **2**Adrian; **2**Mary married Bruce Lucius and they had two children: **1**David married Elizabeth Callahan and they had a daughter Abigail "Abby," and **2**Ruth married Nick Luther and they have a son Eric; and **3**Walter Jr. married Laurel "Lori" Borth and they had two children: **1**Alyssa married Andrew "Andy" Nefstead, and **2**John.



Walter and Julia Albus
June 8, 1944

L/R: →
Adrian Albus
Julia Albus
1Frank, Sr.
Frank, Jr.
1992



Julia and Walter's 25th Anniversary 1969

←
1Frank
2Mary
3Walter, Jr.
Julia and
Walter, Sr.
1969



←
The Albus Farm

L/R: → Back: Ruth Lucius,
Bruce Lucius, **2**Mary Lucius,
3Walter Albus, Jr, Lori Albus,
Front: David Lucius, Julia Albus,
Alyssa Albus, John Albus
2002



4 Ruth Fehr Krueger

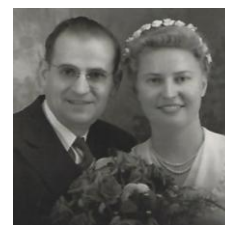
Ruth Esther Fehr was born on August 29, 1919 at the farm of her parents, Bert and Mary Fehr, southwest of Manfred, North Dakota in Rusland Township. She graduated from Fessenden High School in 1938, where she excelled in her studies. Ruth and her sister Julia raised turkeys during the depression to provide money to attend Valley City Teacher's College for their education to gain teaching degrees. Ruth taught in rural schools for several years with her older sister Julia: Ruth taught grades 1-4 and Julia taught grades 5-7. They lived in the "teacherage" house next to the school.

Ruth married **Otto G. Krueger** September 6, 1944. He was born September 10, 1910 in Zhitomir, Russia to Leopold and Louise Krueger. In 1922 when Otto was about twelve years old, the family arrived to the Cathay, North Dakota area. Later, Otto found work as a machinist and tool worker in Detroit, Michigan with General Motors. Otto built their home in Harper Woods in the Detroit area. Otto and Ruth had one son **1**Arnold and he married Susan Richlen and they had four children: **1**Daniel, **2**Joseph, **3**Sarah, and **4**Nathan (dec.).

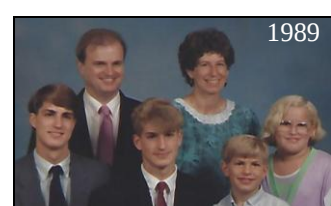
Ruth was very active in the Sunday school program at Grosse Pointe Baptist Church where she served as the Primary Department Superintendent. Ruth was known for her hospitality, frequently invited parishioners to impromptu Sunday dinners and also provided short-term housing for missionaries and special speakers at the church. She kept her home, yard, and garden meticulous. For her North Dakota nieces and nephews, it was always a great time when their Aunt Ruth Krueger came from Detroit. Otto suffered with Parkinson's disease for over a decade remaining at home under Ruth's care, passing away May 4, 1987. Ruth died June 7, 2014. Otto and Ruth are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Detroit, Michigan.



Otto and Ruth's home in Michigan



←
Otto and Ruth
Sept. 6, 1944
↓ L/R Arnold,
Nathan, Joseph,
Daniel, Sarah,
Susan, Ruth, Otto



L/R:
Daniel
Arnold
Joseph
Susan
Nathan
Sarah

5 Walter Fehr

Walter John Fehr was born on January 9, 1922 to Bert and Mary Fehr on their farm in Rusland Township southwest of Manfred, North Dakota. He attended Eigenheim School #1 located one mile from the farm, graduating from Fessenden High School in 1939 as an honor student. After this, he farmed with his father using horses until Walter purchased his first tractor, an IHC "M" in 1943.

On October 31, 1953 in Fessenden, North Dakota, Walter married **Leona Mae Richards**, the daughter of Charles R. Richards and Olive Caroline Baker. Leona was born on October 12, 1930 in Fessenden, North Dakota. She graduated from Fessenden High School in 1948 as an honor student, going on to receive a two-year standard certificate from Jamestown College. She taught in McClusky for two years and at Turtle Lake for one year. Walter and Leona made their home on the family farm southwest of Manfred. In the 1950's, Walter started a herd of horned Hereford cattle, selling registered bulls for many years. Leona enjoyed all aspects of the farm life and kept the farm books. When they retired from grain farming in 1984, Walter immediately started raising horses - first paints, then thoroughbreds. Although he was more interested in bloodlines than racing, Walter's progeny won many races in Manitoba and North Dakota. Walter was named the North Dakota Thoroughbred Association's "Breeder of the Year" in 2000. Walter and Leona were members of the First Baptist Church of Fessenden. Walter died on January 24, 2008 in the same family farm house where he was born. Walter and Leona had been married 54 years at the time of Walter's passing. Leona died on May 17, 2012 at her home. Her funeral was at First Lutheran Church in Fessenden. Walter and Leona are buried in Hillside Cemetery near Fessenden.

Walter and Leona had four children: **1** Richard married Jan Larsen and they had two children: **1** Katherine married Kevin Pfitzinger, and **2** Tristin; **2** Robert married Kimberli "Kim" Koistinen and they had four children: **1** Kellie married Mike Gavle and they had four children: Hannah, Tailor, Jhett, and Remmie. Kellie and Brad Myers had one child: Hudson, **2** Amber married Rick Thompson and they had two children: Tori and Bentley, **3** Jacob "Jake" married Elizabeth "Liz" Carlson, and **4** Nicholas "Nick"; **3** Jane married Bryan Uggerud and they had two children: **1** Travis married Jenny Crow and they had two children: Grant and Hailey, and **2** Casey married Paige Bendson and they have a son Jerrick with a baby girl expected April 30th; **4** Marne married Eric Grinolds. She later married Shane Wilson. Marne wrote a book of poetry entitled "The Bovine Daycare Center."



Leona and Walter Fehr
October 31, 1953



↑The Walter and Leona
Fehr Farming operation
in Sections 10 and 11
of Rusland Township



Walter and Leona Fehr's Children
L/R: Richard, Marne, Jane, Robert



L/R: The Walter and Leona Fehr Family
Back: Richard, Bryan, Robert, Walter
Middle: Jan, Christina, Jane, Casey, Kim, Kellie, Leona, Marne
Front: Katherine, Travis, Jacob, Nicholas in front of Amber



Brothers Eilert, left, and Walter,
right, enjoying a visit together



Walter and Leona Fehr
at home on their farm
in the early 2000s