

The New MANFRED NEWS

A quarterly newsletter written and distributed to friends of Manfred for the benefit of Manfred, North Dakota.

Published by Manfred History and Preservation, Inc.

A non-profit corporation founded July 25, 2000.

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December 2000

GREETINGS FROM MANFRED, NORTH DAKOTA!



*Photo taken November 2000 by Bill Ongstad
A Winter Day at Manfred*

Greetings and a hearty welcome to everyone in this first issue of the new Manfred News! Many of you fondly remember reading the Manfred News, which appeared in the Wells County Free Press and the Harvey Herald in bygone years.

What a celebration this is! Now we can once again enjoy reading the Manfred News. That column is found on page 2. In this debut issue, you will learn about the Manfred history and preservation projects, and how you might be able to help.

Wow! This newsletter, printed thanks to The Herald-Press, is being sent to 200 plus names by postal mail and 50 plus by E-Mail all around the USA. Additional copies will be distributed to The Wells County Historical Society, the Harvey Chamber of Commerce, area churches, and other meeting places.

Please check the address label on the back of the newsletter to verify if your address is listed correctly. Send address changes to: MHP, Inc., P.O. Box 321, Harvey ND 58341 or by E-Mail to asolheim@btigate.com. If you know someone who would enjoy receiving this newsletter, please send us their name and postal address, and E-Mail address if available. The next issue is planned for late spring of 2001.

The New MANFRED NEWS

Manfred shares a common history with many towns in the central plains that were founded by the railroad as its tracks were laid westward across America.

The Manfred history projects were introduced to the Manfred Township Board at their March and April 2000 meetings by Wanda Melchert. The board affirmed their interest and support with a check to help with postage costs. In attendance were Mark Schmitz, Kelly Opdahl, Wesley Boese and Pete Anderson.

Preservation Day was celebrated at Manfred on May 19. This event was reported by two Minot television stations, and also appeared as a front-page article in the Herald Press. A video, documenting this event including the two television news segments, is available.

The Manfred Township Board gave their vote of confidence to the Manfred history and preservation projects, at their spring 2000 board meeting.

Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. was founded on July 25, 2000. Friends of Manfred in attendance signed the Founder's Document, and also five people signing the Articles of Incorporation that evening. The primary purpose of this organization is to collect and preserve the history of the Manfred area for the benefit, education, and inspiration of future generations.

On August 10, the Articles of Incorporation were filed with the State of North Dakota, at which time Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. came into existence as a non-profit corporation.

The first corporation board meeting was held on September 23, and a second on October 29 at which time officers were named.

In November, the federal application form 1023 for exempt status was submitted for the corporation.

The application process takes 6-9 months, so approval is anticipated by the summer of 2001.

In June, the O.K. Melby-Sam Rogness Home was acquired for the corporation. The yard looks great after clean up work conducted by a team of people this fall. Exterior renovation is planned for 2001.

Some of the Manfred area buildings qualify for the National Registry of Historic Places. Applications which have been started are the Leslie Johnson 1915 Sears Home and Vang Lutheran Church. Manfred Seventh Day Adventist Church and Vang Lutheran Church were each repainted this past summer.

In June, the village of Manfred had an entry in the Wells County Fair Parade at Fessenden.

Manfred now has a web site at <http://www.manfrednd.org>, and a postal address at P.O. Box 321, Harvey ND 58341.

As friends of Manfred, there are a number of ways we can help with the Manfred history and preservation projects.

Dreams Can Come True

Can dreams come true? For tiny Manfred, they are coming true. How exciting it is to see the Manfred history and preservation projects now launched on behalf of Manfred through the help of many people. My deep gratitude of thanks . . . To the many people you will find named throughout this newsletter. To the Manfred Township Board for your vote of confidence. To the Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. Board for your dedicated service. To Susan Nelson as Webmaster of Manfred's brand new internet site. To Audrey Solheim for your work in organizing Manfred history and designing this newsletter. To Perry Anderson for designing the 'I Love Manfred' button, the video about Manfred. To Ethel Bolyard for organizing the early census records. To Orvin Ongstad for developing a map showing the buildings in Manfred. To, Pete Peterson, Orvin, Herbert, and Bill Ongstad for listening to my heart through E-Mail when the projects were yet but a dream. To family and friends for their loving support. To God, for this wonderful work to coordinate the Manfred history and preservation projects. What a fabulous experience it is meeting and working together with the many friends of Manfred! I'm looking forward to our sharing together through this newsletter. In future issues, we will feature early settlers and Manfred businesses, your remembrances and photos, your poetry, pioneer recipes, songs, and also keep you posted on what is happening in Manfred today. Let's celebrate Manfred!

In gratitude from a friend of Manfred, Wanda Melchert, Project Coordinator



*The Founding of Manfred History and Preservation, Inc.,
July 25, 2000 Photo by Rose Anderson*

Founder's Day, July 25, 2000

A very special event for the benefit of Manfred occurred the evening of July 25, 2000 at Vang Lutheran Church. A number of friends of Manfred from the local area gathered together to establish Manfred History and Preservation, Inc., a non-profit corporation. What a significant event it was! They gave their vote of support to form this Manfred organization and to name it.

Then each one took their turn in signing the Founder's Document. Dianne Lageson of the Harvey Herald Press created this beautiful 11"x15" Founder's

It is the dream that one day this document will grace the walls of the O.K. Melby-Sam Rogness home once this home has been restored.

Those in attendance pictured from left to right are: Reiner Widiger, Donald Anderson, Ruth Anderson Widiger, Jeanne Melby, Kenneth Melby, Pam Nelson Norstedt, Lorraine Rau, Laverne Johnson, Shirley Opdahl, Leslie Johnson, Olga Johnson, Betty Melby, Gene Melby, Verna Anderson Bowers, Jeanne McBain Flick, Herbert Ongstad, Edgar Allen Flick, Wanda Melchert, Eileen Haugen, Rose Anderson, Richard Melchert, Hadley Haugen. Not pictured are Peg Bell, Perry Anderson, Jacob Anderson. Special also was the signing of the Article of Incorporation.

After everyone had signed the Founder's Document, the video created on May 19, 2000 about Manfred was then viewed.

Coffee and fellowship followed the meeting.

Manfred Day Planned for 2001

A day to celebrate Manfred and its history is planned for July of 2001. This event will bring together folks from near and far for an old-fashioned fun filled day.

Featured activities for this family event could include an auction, ice cream social, hayrides, food booths, games such as potato race, tour of Manfred, historical skits and re-enactments, historical photo display, musical program, banquet, and more. Events such as this are made possible with the help of people. Whether you live far or near, give thought to how you might like to help in making this special day possible.

Send in your ideas for activities for such a day. Maybe you have a booth idea, can play a musical instrument, would like to participate in a musical program or in a skit regarding Manfred history, or play on Mighty Manfred Dream Ball Team.

Come and join the fun! The more the merrier in celebrating this special place called Manfred.

From the Wells Co. Free Press

March 3, 1914 - Olaf Anderson returned from his Norway trip Monday. He had visited many places in his native country and enjoyed the trip fine, although it had been very stormy on the ocean coming back. His parents are still living in Norway.

Manfred now has a doctor. Dr. Owen arrived yesterday. He will have his office where drug store used to be. He comes here highly recommended.

Manfred, ND WebSite

In an effort to allow you access to as much information about Manfred as possible, we have developed a Manfred WebSite. Although it is still too early for you to find everything you ever wanted to know about Manfred on this site, I suspect you will find many things that you didn't know until visiting the site. It is growing daily.

First of all, its easy to get there - you don't need a password or user name, you just need to sign on at <http://www.manfrednd.org>

Once you have signed-on to the site you will be brought to a user friendly screen indicating Manfred History & Preservation, Inc. page. There are sections named 1) Home; 2 Community; 3) Album; 4) Newsletter; 5) MAHP Events; 6) Contact.

With these categories you'll find the history of Manfred, biographies of people who lived there, photos of people, groups, businesses, and churches, early pictures of Manfred and current pictures of Manfred - just explore, there is a huge amount of information there. If you have something you'd like to contribute just e-mail it to our address or send it to the PO Box number.

Thanks goes to Susan Sommerfeld Nelson for developing this site for Manfred!

Manfred Men On Tour

The Farmers Union Elevator tour was scheduled for May when most of the spring seeding had been completed. On the appointed day, the farmers arrived at the Manfred Elevator either by walking to town or having their wives bring them to town by car. They came dressed in a suit and hat and most had no grip of any sort. They all met on time and the Farmers Union bus arrived in Manfred right at 9 a.m. on that warm sunny morning. By that evening this bus, with 24 passengers arrived at a hotel in St. Paul.

During the following two days they enjoyed touring the Armor and Company Packing Plant, the Farmer's Union Central Exchange, the Grain Terminal Association, as well as other sites. They were also treated to a nice banquet.

The fourth day brought them back to Manfred. They were all in agreement that the tour was nice, but they were glad to be back home again.

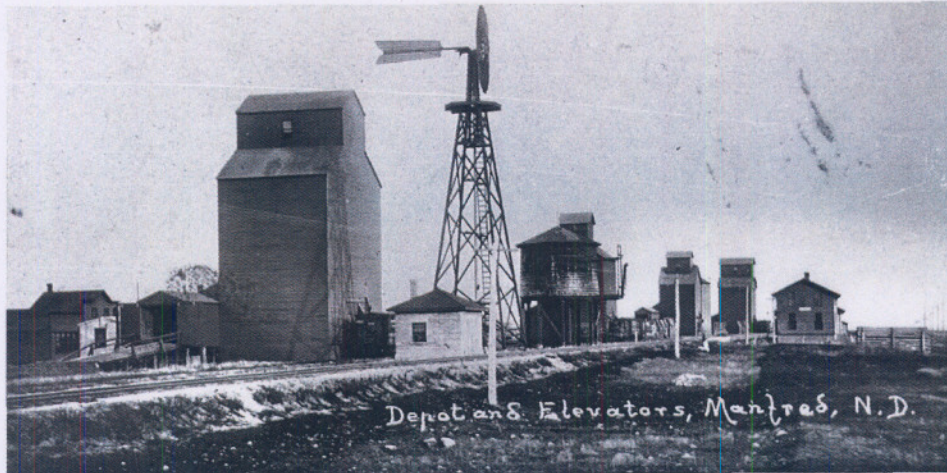
By Adolph Shirley as told to Wanda Melchert November 2000

Those pictured are:

Back Row: 1. Nels Nertrost, 2. ____, 3. Walter Nelson, 4. Oliver Rodne, 5. Gotlieb Anhorn, 6. ____.
Next Row: 7. Vern Nelson, 8. ____, 9. Martin Olschlager, 10. Dan Hirsch Korn, 11. ____.
Next Row: 12. Roy Hirsch Korn, 13. Ole Hovey, 14. Joe Strauss, 15. Ole Opsal, 16. Louie W. Boese, 17. Adolph Shirley
Next Row: 18. ____, 19. Ed Koenig, 20. ____, 21. Herman Weinmann, 22. Melvin Solberg, 23. Emil Onstad, 24. John C. Wagner



*Date Taken: May 1949, Place Taken: St. Paul, MN
Owner of Photo: Pam Nelson Norstedt*



A Brief Historical Review of Manfred

Manfred, an unorganized village, lies along the James River, on present day Highway 52. This location in pre-Manfred times, was known as the James River Crossing of the Mouse River Trail. In 1893, the rails for the Soo Line Railroad were laid. After the railroad company decided this location would be ideal as a water stop for the train, the site received its name of Manfred. Not only did the James River supply water to the steam engines, but also ice for the refrigerated cars during the winter. A depot, water tower and windmill were erected for the needs of the train. The village was platted, and soon a bustling young town emerged.

Manfred's life revolved around the farm community throughout its years, and at one time, there were five elevator companies in operation. Manfred was a thriving primary market for grain, and also livestock. It served as a trade center for the surrounding farm community,

and was equal to any center at its peak during the 1920s.

The first business of Smith & Rogers Lumber Co. was established in 1893, and one of its buildings is still in existence. The first store of Rogne and Burkum was established in 1894, and on May 3, 1894 a post office was established at Manfred. As the village quickly grew to nearly 500 people, Manfred businesses included a doctor, blacksmith, two churches, a dray service, two lumberyards, several grocery stores, general stores, and drug stores, a cash store, two hardware stores, hotel, a bank, two or three car and implement dealerships, school, and a telephone central office.

Today at Manfred, there are five active residential homes, together with Vang Lutheran Church in Manfred, the Seventh Day Adventist Church of rural Manfred, the Manfred branch of the Fessenden Coop Elevators, and local farming businesses.

February 27, 1914 Friday evening a basket social was held at Melby's Hall. Baskets were sold to the amount of \$36 which is to by books for the school library. The school children had a fine program of singing and speaking. After supper those who wanted to, had a dance.

Last Thursday it was rumored that we should have another wedding soon. On Friday morning at Harvey Joe Biever and Katte Earle were married. They returned here on Train 107 the same day. Joe "set up" the cigars to everyone. Mr. Biever is proprietor of the Manfred's only hotel, and his bride is also well known here. They have the best wishes of all for a happy life.

Prairie Churches

There are two congregations active in the Manfred area, the Seventh Day Adventist Church of rural Manfred and Vang Lutheran Church in Manfred. Each congregation was founded in the 1890s by the early settlers, and each continues to minister and serve. Their white wooden churches stand tall on the prairie, and are lovingly cared for. Both churches were painted this summer by Steve Frey.

Dear are the memories of the church of one's youth. If you would like to be in touch with them you can contact: Mildred Reiswig 1234 34th Ave NE Harvey ND 58341 for the Seventh Day Adventist Church, and Pete Anderson 3731 20th St NE, Manfred ND 58341 for Vang Lutheran Church.



*State and National Preservationists
Photo Taken by Perry Anderson*

The Manfred history and preservation projects were introduced by the coordinator, Wanda Melchert. Rolene Schliesman, Architectural Historian with the State Historical Society of North Dakota gave a talk about nominating sites to the National Registry and also the historical potential in the Manfred area.

Preservation Day Celebrated at Manfred

Preservation Week was celebrated in Manfred on May 19, 2000 for a gathering of regional, state, and local preservationists together with area residents. Many thanks to Vang Lutheran Church for hosting this event. The Vang congregation had invited the members of Preservation ND to take a look at the repair needs at their church. The event began with a cup of coffee at 10:10 a.m., followed by talks.

Dale Bentley, Vice President of Preservation ND, spoke on the Prairie Churches project, preservation efforts of historic structures, and about seeking non-profit status for Manfred.

At 11:30 a.m., an architectural needs assessment was made of Vang Lutheran by Historic Architect, Steve Martens of NDSU, followed by a historical review and tour of Vang Lutheran by Wanda Melchert. These talks were video taped thanks to the generous help of Perry Anderson. Following a potluck dinner, Preservation ND held their quarterly meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m.

At 3:00 p.m., the Preservationists were given a walking tour of Manfred, and a special side tour of the Johnson Sears Home.

The events of this day were reported by two Minot television stations, and also

appeared as a front-page article of the June 3, 2000 Harvey Herald Press. Many thanks to Perry Anderson for assembling the talks and the two television news segments onto a video together with historic photos of Manfred. The video of this special event is available by postal mail for \$8.00.

An "I Love Manfred" button created by Perry will also be sent with the video. To place an order, you may return the form located in this newsletter by postal mail, or send your request by E-Mail.

National Registry Applications

The National Register of Historic Places is the official Federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history. These contribute to an understanding of the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation. Wells County has at present, four sites on the National Registry: The Wells County Fair Grounds, the Wells County Court House, and the Beiseker Mansion - all in Fessenden, and the Hurd House near Hurdsville. National Registry applications will be submitted for some of the Manfred area buildings during 2001: Vang Lutheran Church, the Johnson Sear's Home and the T.L. Beiseker bank building which served in more recent years as the Manfred Post Office.

February 20, 1914 - S. H. Ongstad went to the county seat on Monday to pay taxes and transact other business



*Interviews Conducted by Television Station
Photo Taken by Perry Anderson*



Fair Parade Entry

Fond memories come to mind for those who have enjoyed going to the Wells County Fair each summer in days past. The fun of the fair still continues each June.

For the June 2000 Fair Parade, Manfred had a three-part entry. Richard and Wanda Melchert's Ford Explorer lead the way with signs on its sides saying "Manfred History and Preservation" and on the back a sign reading "Manfred or Bust"! The vehicle was bedecked with balloons and streamers, and inside were riding Richard Melchert, Herbert Ongstad, and Wesley and Esther Boese.

Next came walking a group of seven people dressed as clowns, each wearing a letter of the name Manfred on their backs: M-Wanda Melchert, A-Jacob Anderson, N-Rose Anderson, F-Muriel Melby Boyum, R-Ross Melby, E-Danielle Krahler, D-Mandy Melby.

During the parade, they passed out candy to the people along the way, and also joined hands forming a snake to spell Manfred. The leader of the clowns was Lowell Boyum riding up and down the parade route on his clown bike.

Following them, came the third part of the entry: a 1951 Pontiac Chieftain owned by Kenneth and Jeanne Melby. Thanks to all who participated in this fun event.

We look forward to participating in the Wells County fair parade again in 2001, and welcome all who would like to be a part of the entry.

Envision now, several parts to the 2001 Manfred entry each sporting a slogan similar to the Burma Shave road signs.

You can help! Give some thought to slogan ideas and then send them in. If your idea is used, you will receive an "I Love Manfred" button as a thank you!

Spreading the Word

Manfred was blessed to receive quite a bit of publicity in 2000. It was featured on the front page of the June 3, 2000 Harvey Herald Press, and also received television coverage by two Minot stations on May 19, 2000. Manfred was featured in the fall Preservation ND newsletter, the October 2000 Wells County Historical Society Newsletter, and Tom Isern, Historian with North Dakota State University whose column appears in several North Dakota newspapers, wrote about Manfred in his column this summer. Periodically, we submit news articles about Manfred to the Herald Press and the corporation board meetings are listed under the Events Calendar. You can help to spread the word about the Manfred history and preservation projects by sharing this newsletter with others, and by telling people about the <http://www.manfred.org> web site.

March 6, 1914 - Harold Skogmo came home from Fargo, so as to be present at his sister's wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. John Nelson left on Train 106 Sunday for Carrington and Fargo for a visit and business.

February 6, 1914 - Minnie Goedecke, who has been clerking for C. C. Melby for about 19 months has taken a well earned vacation for a month. We hope that she will come back and decorate the counter again at the big store.

January 23, 1914 - Many of the farmers left Monday for Fargo to take in all the agricultural conventions that are being held in that city this week.



*The Melby Rogness Home in Manfred
Photo taken November 2000 by Bill Ongstad*

O.K. Melby-Sam Rogness Home Acquired

On June 28, 2000 the Sam Rogness home was acquired on behalf of the Manfred corporation, with the thought that perhaps one day it might serve as a gallery museum to help tell the story about Manfred.

You may remember this home as the one with the decorative cement posts in front. It was built around 1902 by early settlers, Ole (O.K.) and Mary Melby and they owned it until O.K.'s death in 1940.

In 1942, Sam Rogness purchased the home. After his death, his wife Myrtle continued to lived there until 1981, when she moved to Harvey.

Many people have fond memories of visits to this home over the years. During the past 20 years there have been a number of

owners, the most recent being Paul and Kathy Hoornaert who now live in Rochester MN. Our thanks to the Hoornaerts for their help in this acquisition.

A team of people met several times during the summer and fall of 2000 working on cleaning up the grounds. The team undaunted by rain one day, began cleaning the interior of the home. Many thanks to Pete Anderson, Perry Anderson, Verna Bowers, Herbert Ongstad, Bill Ongstad, Pam and Lloyd Norstedt, and Wanda and Richard Melchert for volunteering themselves and their equipment in 2000 to this labor of love.

The plan for 2001 is to renovate the exterior of this home. Sensitive to the needs of historical buildings, local contractor Greg Seidel, will do roofing and other needed repairs in the spring of 2001.

A team of volunteers plan to paint the home during the spring and early summer. Planting flowers would be a nice, too. If you are interested to help at Manfred in any way, contact one of the people named above. You are most welcome to join in the fun.



*Verna Anderson Bowers, Herbert Ongstad, Wanda Melchert, and Pete Anderson ready with a load going to Pete's dump
Photo taken October 31, 2000 by Perry Anderson*

How Friends of Manfred Can Help

This place called Manfred ND which remains dear in the hearts of many, is on the move. The Manfred history and preservation 'train' started moving forward early in 2000, and friends of Manfred have been busy hopping on ever since to experience a very special ride. Friends of Manfred are all those who have an interest in Manfred or who care about her welfare. It is the friends of Manfred who are making the Manfred history and preservation projects possible. In whatever ways we might be able to help, are most welcome. Here are some possibilities. We can contribute our family and Manfred history, the memories, the stories, the photos, the genealogy, and other things such as pioneer recipes, or poetry and music written by Manfred folks. We can volunteer our time and energies to help with Manfred events. We can help with restoration and yard care activities in Manfred. Come join the fun. You can use the form below and send to the Post Office Box.

How to Make Contact Regarding Manfred

To submit photos and information by regular mail, send to: MHP, Inc. Box 321, Harvey, ND 58341.

To submit historical information and photos by e-mail, send to: Audrey Solheim at asolheim@btigate.com

For corporation or preservation matters contact: Wanda Melchert at wrmelchert@westriv.com or send to Box 321, Harvey, ND 58341.

For matters regarding the website <http://www.manfrednd.org> contact information is available at the site.



Return the Form Below to PO Box 321, Harvey, ND 58341

Manfred Video and I Love Manfred Button - \$8.00 (includes postage and handling)

Preservation Day, May 19, 2000 video about Manfred. This video contains two television news segments plus the talks given on Preservation Day, also pictures of Manfred. Request through PO Box 321, Checks should be made out to Manfred History and Preservation, Inc.

Slogan ideas for 2001 Manfred Entry in the Wells County Fair Parade:

Ideas for Manfred Day July 2001:

Ways I would like to help with the Manfred Project:

Your Name, Postal Address and E-Mail Address:
