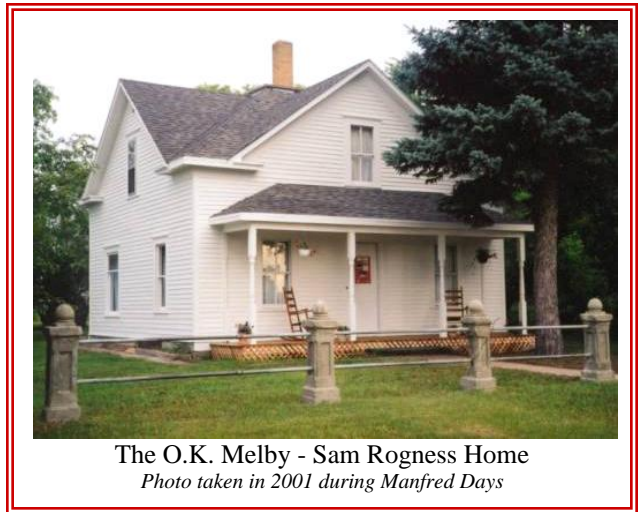


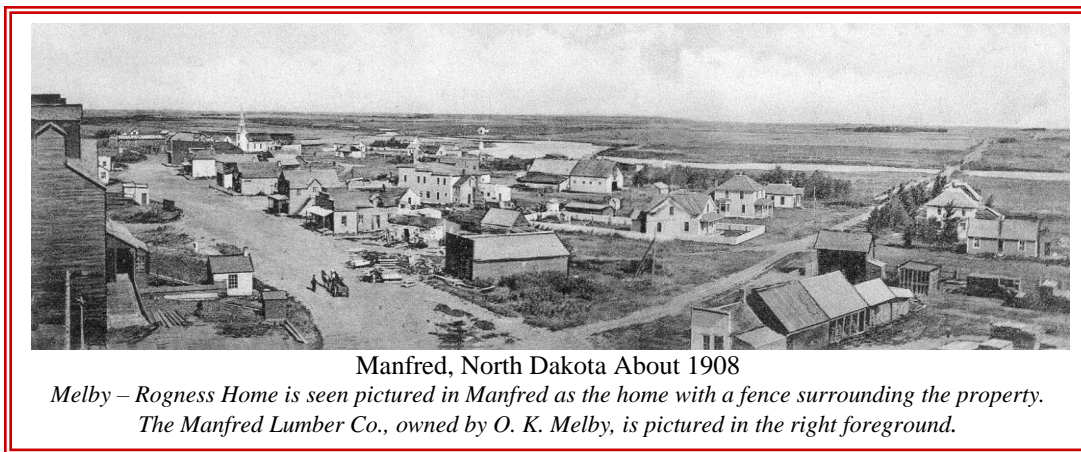
The Future Home of the

Manfred History Museum



It's history...

The future home of the Manfred History Museum was built in the year 1903 by Ole (O.K.) and Mary Melby. The bustling young town of Manfred, ND had been founded only nine years prior to that in 1894. The Melby – Rogness Home can be seen pictured in the 1908 photo below with a picket fence surrounding the property. The fence was later removed and replaced by cement columns as you see pictured above. Ole and Mary lived here the remainder of their lives. Mary died in 1936, and Ole in 1940. In 1942, Sam and Lilly Rogness purchased the home and moved there with their two sons, Richard and Allan. In 1944, Lilly died. Then in 1948, Sam married Myrtle Mortenson and together this continued as their home. Sam died in 1979. Myrtle then sold the home in 1981 and moved to Harvey, North Dakota where she now resides. From then, until the time when it became the property of Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. in 2000, there were a series of owners and in recent years it had been used as a storage building. It is currently under restoration.

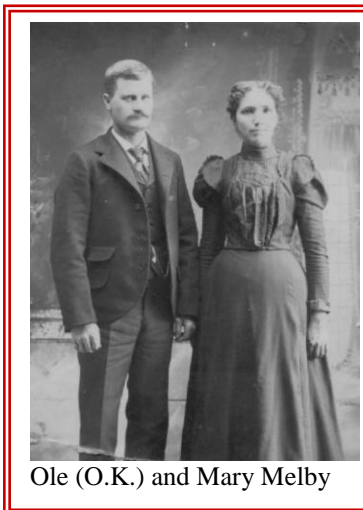


76 years, of the nearly 100-year history of this home, were in the care of these two owners.

Ole Knudson Melby
Dec. 13, 1864-Oct. 24, 1940

Marit (Mary) Skattebo Melby
Sept. 18, 1872-Nov. 12, 1936

Ole and Mary emigrated with their parents from Norway in the early 1880s. They met and married in Foster County, ND. Their only child, Gurina Olava Melby, died in infancy. They homesteaded in Manfred Township in 1894. In addition to farming, Ole originated the Manfred Lumber Company. He also operated a threshing rig, and helped others start in business with his financial backing.



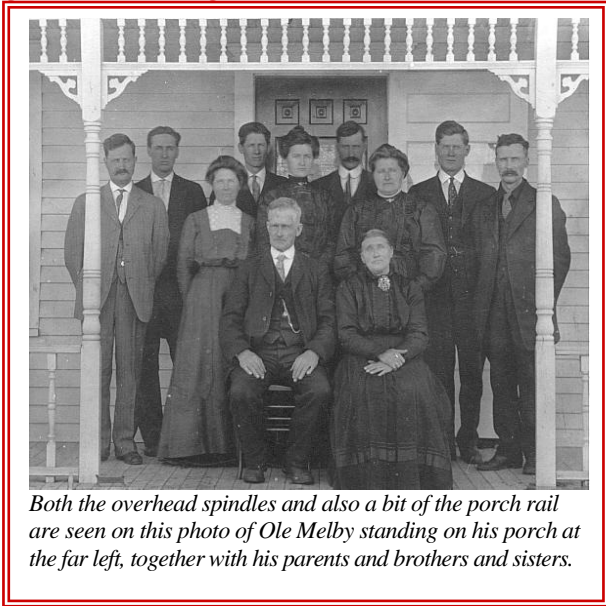
Sam Rogness
July 7, 1901-Nov. 30, 1971

1. Lilly Pepple Rogness
May 9, 1908 -July 5, 1944

2. Myrtle Mortenson Rogness
b. May 29, 1911

In the early years, Sam was the bulk gas dealer for Standard Oil in the Manfred area, after which he served as manager of the Manfred O & M Elevator for many years. Myrtle taught school for 40 years, 26 of which were with the Manfred School. Sam and Myrtle were both very active in the life of the Manfred community.

*The Future Home of the
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Both the overhead spindles and also a bit of the porch rail are seen on this photo of Ole Melby standing on his porch at the far left, together with his parents and brothers and sisters.



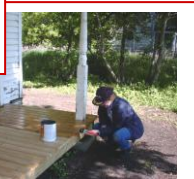
This photo of Sam and Myrtle Rogness shows the detail of the molded cement pillars stately framing the flower-bedecked yard.

The Rogness and Melby families each proudly called this house their home for many years. Soon now, it will be blessed to serve as a home once again... a place not just for one family, but instead for all of Manfred's history of people... a place where rural history can 'live' and have a voice... a place where future generations can learn from the settlers, where they can sense the determination of these hopeful and hard-working people who courageously planting their feet in a new land, sense the settler's exhilaration of embracing their new-found home, sense the excitement of a young bustling town rising almost overnight from the vast untamed prairies...

The restoration of this building is becoming a reality through the help of volunteer workers and through financial contributions. Without such help, this home is unable to stand tall once again with the new purpose to help tell the wonderful story about the hard-working, hopeful, and determined settlers who came in droves that resulted in the founding and success of small towns ever westward across America. One can almost smell the coffee brewing. The museum opening is planned for 2003!



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in the process of restoration.