

The New MANFRED NEWS

Volume 6, Issue 4

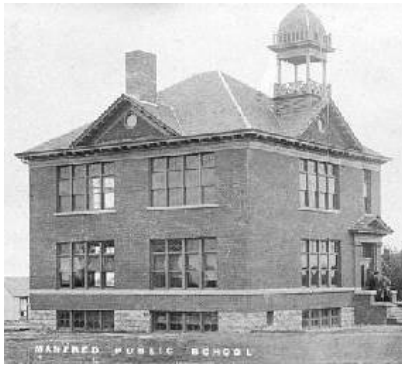
December 2006

GREAT NEWS FOR THE SCHOOL!

The dream we've all had, for so long, has become reality! Thanks to a small group of generous donors, the Manfred School is now the property of *Rural Vestige Alliance*, a local non-profit affiliate of *Preservation North Dakota*.

We are grateful to Harry Detling for maintaining the school building so that it has remained structurally sound and in good condition, and also for his donations of school-related property within the building. The aesthetics of the grounds have been enhanced by Harry's planting and caring for the beautiful west-side evergreen tree border that extends all the way to the river.

Think of the memories, and think of the future. The Manfred School celebrates its 100th Anniversary in 2010. See you at school!



Manfred School

← New building in 1910

↓ Now nearly a century later



Photo taken by Bill Ongstad

Some of the Students

← From left: Dale Opdahl, Myron Soiseth, Roger Rogelstad, Claudia Schepp, Betty Detling



Photo from Roger Rogelstad
4th Grade of Myrtle Rogness, 1945-1946

↓ Top: Kenneth Fandrich

From left: Norman Boese, Laveme Johnson (teacher), Kathy Sauter, Karen Sauter, Ardis Hick, Jeanne Melby



Photo taken by Leslie Johnson 7th & 8th Grades at school picnic in 1970

In time, it is planned that the school history will be featured in this newsletter. Join in the fun by penning your memories, and send to MHP, Inc or email Audrey or Wanda. (Emails listed on page 2) Photos are also most welcome.

Change of Mailing Address

Should your mailing address change, please notify:
MHP, Inc., P.O. Box 321, Harvey, ND, 58341,
Help MHP, Inc. save on return postage charges. Thank you kindly!
manfrednd.org

Enjoy visiting Manfred's web site: manfrednd.org
Tabs of special interest: Biography, Business, Newsletter

A few notes -

Remarkable is the progress for Manfred and its history, all in just a few short years! It's because of each one of you, in whatever way you are able to help. Together we are seizing this time and this opportunity to help Manfred and its history!

The Wells County Fair is celebrating its 100th year, June 21-24. For Manfred's fair booth this year, we would like to feature any remembrances and photos you might have about the fair. Send to MHP, Inc. or email Audrey or Wanda. (Listed on page 2)

Thank you so much for contributions as listed on page 2, and also for the 133 new or renewing subscriptions received since the last issue.

The Non-profit Organizations of Manfred, ND

Manfred continues to improve in remarkable ways thanks to the wonderful work by private property owners, as well as four non-profit organizations. These organizations include:

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

A 501(c3) organization, founded in 2000.

MHP, Inc. owns and staffs the Melby-Rogness House, headquarters of the *Manfred Heritage Museum*. MHP, Inc.'s scope encompasses many things such as: oversees and encourages restoration of Manfred's historic buildings, compiles Manfred's history, works with grants for the benefit of Manfred and its history, organizes clean-up days and cares for grounds of several of Manfred's properties. Mailing address for MHP, Inc.: P.O. Box 321, Harvey, ND 58341.

**Johnson-Ostrem Preservation Fund*

Founded in 2003 for the benefit of the Johnson-Jacobson-Ostrem House, Garage, and Privy.

Mailing address for the *Johnson-Ostrem Preservation Fund*:
130 S Lake Ave., #8, Manfred, ND 58341.

**Melby Heritage Society*

Founded in 2005 for the benefit of properties under the care of Wanda and Richard Melchert.

The *Melby Heritage Society* properties include: Olaf and Lena Anderson House, Hotel and privy, Bank-Post Office and Cash Store. Mailing address for the *Melby Heritage Society*:
130 S. Lake Ave., #8, Manfred, ND 58341.

**Rural Vestige Alliance (RVA)*

Founded in 2005 to facilitate historic properties in Manfred.

Properties presently under RVA's care include Manfred School, Rogne-Soderback-Solheim House, and the lot south of the hotel. Mailing address for the *Rural Vestige Alliance*:
1026 S 3rd #3, Bismarck, ND 58504.

*Affiliates of *Preservation North Dakota*,
a 501(c3) organization

The New Manfred News

Many thanks for contributions to General and Endowment Funds!

General Fund

Rogene Aadnes
Christy Anderson
John Anderson
Orren and Karen Anderson
Donald and Fran Anderson
Peter and Jackie Anderson
Peter and Rose Anderson
Rod Anderson
Karen and Gerry Beutler
in memory of Sandy Weinmann
Kevin and Tresa Boese
Norman and Diane Boese
Wesley and Esther Boese
Joe Bolyard
Verna Bowers
Lorraine Brye
Leo Detling in memory of Matt and Mary Detling,
Emmanuel and Nancy Detling, Betty and
Gerald Froeber, Edward Sauter, Curtis
Smestad, Francis Thueringer, Aloys Walz*
Manfred and Marjorie Deutsch
Orville and Rita Dove
Wayne and LoAnn Dybing
Arlene Ehni
Cindy Ehni
Len and Neil Eisenbraun
Alan Fehr
Jim and Marie Fragodt
Richard and Carolyn Golberg
Dorothy A. Harris
Hadley and Eileen Haugen
Myrna Hoekstra
Barbara Holwegner
in memory of Halvor and Martha Olsen
Norma Holwegner
Hertz Funeral Home
Charles and Ellanora Houtkooper
John and Mary Hovey
David and Jill Howie
in memory of Johnson family members
Tim and Deb Huber
Larry Johnson
Russell L. Johnson
Genevieve Keson
Joe and Joan Lake
Gary and Pamela Lucas
Josh and Jamie Maier and family
Leonard and Alice Martin
Grace Melby
Alice and Wesley Michelson
National Bank of Harvey
Nelson Funeral Home
Marian Nicholson
Joyce Olschlager
Donald and Jill Osborn
Debbi Peterson
Joan LeClaire Peterson
Wilbur and Mary Peterson
Doris and Donna Piercy
Klaus Raab

General Fund (Continued)

Joyce Ravnaas
Karen Ravnaas
Maurice Ravnaas
Arlene Rittmiller
Darlene Roble
Orville and Patricia Rodne
Willajean Rogelstad
Gordon Schimke
Rolene Schliesman
Dick and Barbara Schulz
Merlin and Laurie Schwartz
Loren M. Sailer
Joelyn Scriba
Violet Seidlinger
Myron Soiseth
Margaret Sprague
Maridel Sprenger
Willys and Violet Sprenger
Emmett Turner
DeVella Vik
Margaret Walz
Wells County Retired Teachers Association
Ronald and Elvira Widiger

Endowment Fund

Orren and Karen Anderson
Wally Beyer
Leo Detling *In memory noted in General Fund
Wayne and Chris Everett
Tim and Deb Huber
Laveme Johnson and Gwyn Herman
Josh and Jamie Maier
Gene and Betty Melby
Grace Melby
Alma and Audrey Nelson
Wilbur and Mary Peterson
Darlene Roble
Rolene Schliesman
Merlin and Laurie Schwartz
Irene Skogmo

In Memory

Anna Aasand

August 23, 1921 – October 28, 2006

Daughter of Anton and Emma (Opdahl) Aasand

Elmer G. Melby

October 17, 1902 – November 11, 2006

Son of Gilbert and Esther (LeGrand) Melby

Marvin Hovey

April 25, 1919 – December 20, 2006

Son of Syver and Ingrid (Nordtorp) Hovey

Anna Melby Beyer

September 6, 1911 – December 29, 2006

Daughter of Gina and Nels Melby (Nils Jorgenson)

Lil Sommer

January 25, 1919 – January 8, 2007

Longtime resident on a farm north of Manfred

Pius Krenzel

May 2, 1939 - January 18, 2007

Through his metal recycling business at Harvey,
Pius enabled MHP, Inc. to have a place to take truck
loads of metal debris in cleaning up Manfred.

The New Manfred News

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

Subscription rate is \$10 per year.

News and history items are most welcome!
Editor: Wanda Melchert, wmelchert@westriv.com
Historian: Audrey Solheim, asolheim@bismidco.net

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

'A Settler's Village Celebrating Rural America'
A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded July 25,
2000. Its mission is to compile and share the
history of Manfred, North Dakota and its traditional
trade area, and to encourage community pride and
restoration of 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 701-547-3123, 701-324-2091, 701-324-4344

The success of Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. is 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, Grant writing
*MUSEUM – Cataloging the collections, Staffing
*BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS – Care of Manfred
*EDUCATION – Developing exhibits and programs

2. Financial Contributions

Financial contributions are vital to the work of
MHP, Inc. Ideas for giving include -

*GENERAL FUND for current expenses
*DESIGNATED GIFT
*ENDOWMENT FUND for Manfred's future

Federal Tax ID# on record
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 – and other historic materials

Board of Directors

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

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

Gullik and Ragnhild Nordtorp Family History

Gullik's Parents



Rønjus Jonson Nordtorp 1813 - 1891
Marit Knutsdotter Rogne 1819 - 1895



Gullik was born and raised on the farm named Øvre Nordtørp (Upper Nordtorp)



Hegge Church, where Gullik and Ragnhild attended and were married



Gullik R. Nordtorp and Ragnhild Olsdotter Hegge
July 12, 1859 – Feb. 23, 1934 Oct. 13, 1861 – Oct. 27, 1929

Gullik and Ragnhild were born on nearby farms northwest of the village of Heggenes in Øystre Slidre, Valdres, Norway



Gullik and Ragnhild were born and raised not far from Hegge Church

Ragnhild's Parents



Ole Sveinson Hegge 1811 - 1896
Ingrid Halvorsdotter Sæle 1815 - 1888



Ragnhild was born and raised at Sveinshegge (Named for Svein, an ancestor)



Portions of Hegge Church date back to the early 1200s, with major renovations taking place in the 1800s. The altar was carved by Øystein Guttormsen Kjørn c1782.

Nordtorp

Gullik's father, Rønjus was a man not quite like the average, he was like a leader for the people of Øystre Slidre. He became a mayor in Slidre the very last period before the split in 1849 (Divided into Øystre Slidre and Vestre Slidre.)

Rønjus later became a sheriff. After the year 1859 when the crops failed, it was he who obtained grain for the community by using his own money and organizing transport and distribution. People with financial problems often came asking for his advice. A solution would most of the time be found, often by neglecting some formalities.

Rønjus was a keen and clever farmer, and besides farming he also ran an inn where travelers changed horses at the farm from 1855 for several years. He was also one of the pioneers involved in attracting tourists to visit the mountains of Valdres.

Rønjus and his wife Marit had ten children: Jon 1839-1840, Jon 1841-after 1899, Knut 1843-1925, Ingrid 1845-1917, Ingebjørg 1849-1938, Berit 1852-1897, Tollef 1854-1930, Ole 1857-c1940, Gullik 1859-1934, and Ole 1862-1937.

Hegge

As with Øvre Nordtørp and many farms, Sveinshegge has been in the same family for a long time. Ragnhild's father, Ole took over the farm in 1841 continuing until 1875. Ole and his wife Ingrid had eight children, several died young: Ragnhild 1841-1848, Svein 1844-1880, Halvor 1846-1846, Halvor 1848-1857, Ole 1851-1921, Halvor 1857-1920, Marit 1859-1859, and Ragnhild 1861-1929.

Hegge Church came to have its carved altar, through four men from Hegge. On their way to Gudbrandsdalen, they had come into very bad weather. They promised each other that if they survived this ordeal, they would donate an altar to Hegge Church. They met the woodcarver Kjørn and asked him to make an altar, which included carved figures of the Lord's Supper. Later, they returned for the altar and after a rugged journey home, discovered that Judas had fallen off the sled. When Judas was found some years later, the apostle's red tunic had greatly faded. The people inquired if it should be restored, but the priest insisted that it remain faded as it was.

Gullik and Ragnhild Nordtorp



Having fun making a snow queen in Norway
From left: Oscar, Bertha, Anne, Jennie,
Gullik and John



Jennie revisiting the Stone House where the Nordtorp family lived from 1893 to 1899.
The land is now owned by the Ehni Family.



The Nordtorp family in Manfred, ND ↑
From left back: Margaret, Ingrid, Emma, Jennie,
Oscar, Bertha Front: Gullik, Anne, John,
Ragnhild, Hilda. Not yet born: Gladys.



Gullik and Ragnhild at their farm in Canada named Skogly with their six youngest children
From left: John, Oscar, Gullik, Gladys, Ragnhild, Jennie, Anne, Hilda

The Nordtorp Family was among some of the earlier settlers to Manfred Township. Gullik and Ragnhild both grew up in Norway; and Gullik was planning on becoming a teacher. He started to study for this education, when his eyes became bad. After having treatment his eyesight did improve, but for a while they thought he would become blind. Since his father Rønjus was a sheriff, and had much business to attend to; Gullik joined to help him in his office. In 1882, Rønjus purchased a store which Gullik then managed. On April 16, 1884, Gullik married Ragnhild Hegge and they then managed the store together. Their first child Margit (Margaret) was born in 1885, Ingrid (Inga) in 1886, and Ingebjørg (Emma) in 1888. That same year, Rønjus sold the store. Gullik is listed as a farmer on the birth records of Bergit (Bertha), born in 1891.

The family left Norway for America on May 12, 1892. They arrived at Manitowac, WI, planning that Ragnhild and their young family would remain there while Gullik went westward to find their future home. He took on carpentry work in Minneapolis where he suffered a sunstroke while roofing a house. After recovering, he began building section houses for the Soo Line Railroad westward into North Dakota. Looking for available land, Gullik visited with P.B. Anderson who encouraged him to file on the quarter next to him. So in the summer of 1893, Gullik filed on a quarter of land just west of the land platted for the future village of Manfred.

Gullik constructed the frame for a house and built it up with sod. He then sent for his family to come. Later he replaced the sod with rocks, and the house became known as the Stone House. By 1894, Gullik set up a branch of Rogers Lumber Company on his land, and thereby began managing Manfred's first business. Years later, the building he had constructed for it was moved to the east side of Manfred where it served as a service station for many years. It has now been restored by Audrey Solheim and become a part of the Manfred Heritage Museum. Also in October 1894, Gullik and four other men chartered Vang Evangelical Lutheran Church of Manfred. Born to Gullik and Ragnhild at the Stone House were Jennie in 1895, Oscar in 1896 and a stillborn in 1898 at which time Mrs. Bendick Røgne, the midwife, saved Ragnhild's life.

Gullik never fully recovered from the sunstroke he suffered in 1892. He was advised to get away from the hot summers, so in 1899 the Nordtorps returned to Norway. They set sail on April 14, and after arriving back in Valdres their son John was born October 27th. They remained in Valdres one year. During 1900 to 1901 they owned a farm near Ringsaker, then 1902 to early 1904 Gullik had a store in Gjøvik where in 1902 their daughter Anne was born, and 1904-1906 Gullik was in the lumber business and served as depot agent at Dokka where in 1904 their daughter Hilda was born.

On May 4, 1906, the family left Norway and returned to Manfred where they lived for two years. But with Gullik needing to be in a cooler climate, in 1908 they moved to a farm named Skogly near Millet, Alberta, Canada where in 1909 their daughter Gladys was born. Gullik continued with his carpentry, and upon retiring moved to Camrose, Alberta, Canada. Gullik and Ragnhild are both buried at Camrose.

Gullik and Ragnhild retired to a home in Camrose, Alberta, Canada. From left: Hilda, Emma Ragnhild, Gullik, Anne, Gladys, Jennie. →



Children of Gullik and Ragnhild Nordtorp

Though Gullik and Ragnhild moved from Manfred early in its history because of Gullik's health, Manfred has continued to benefit through some of their children as well as generations to the present.

Settled in the USA

- 1 Margaret 1885-1948 (Rasmus Jacobson)
- 2 Ingrid 1886-1948 (Syver Hovey)
- 3 Emma 1888-1968
- 4 Bertha 1891-1985 (Oscar Melby)

Settled in Canada

- 5 Jennie 1895-1988 (Akse Isakson)
- 6 Oscar 1896-1972
- 7 John 1899-1982
- 8 Anne 1902-1985
- 9 Hilda 1904-1959 (William Roberts)
- 10 Gladys 1909-1981 (Sylvester Basarab)



Margaret, Bertha, Emma, Ingrid

John Hilda Emma Anne Jennie Gladys Bertha Oscar



Rasmus and Margaret Jacobson ← 1907 ↑ 1947

James & Norma Jacobson
← Early 1930s ↓ 1941



← Ingrid winning the 1909 Maxwell

↓ The Hovey Family
From left:

George, Syver, Ingrid, Marvin



← George and Frances Hovey

↑ Marvin and Anna Hovey, 1942

← Marvin with his children: Susan, Roger, Cecelia, Melodie, Brian



1. Margaret

Margaret (Margit) was born February 12, 1885 in Øystre Slidre, Norway. In 1892, her family came to the USA and in 1899 returned to Norway. Around 1901, Margaret attended Domestic Science School in Gjøvik and by 1903 she had secured a very good job in Oslo with 40 cooks under her supervision. In 1906, her parents returned to the USA and she came as well. She secured a job as cook for the Johnson Hotel in Manfred, where her fine cooking became well known.

In 1907, she married Rasmus Jacobson, being the first couple married in the new Vang Lutheran Church at Manfred. That year, they purchased the home that Nennie Johnson had built. Their son, James, was born in 1908. In March of 1909 their daughter Gladys was born, but sadly died in October. Rasmus was employed by John Nelson at his implement shop, and later managed the Farmers Elevator. In 1917, they moved to Fairview, MT where they owned and operated an elevator and also had a farm. Margaret died in 1948 and Rasmus in 1960.

Their son James attended school at Manfred and Fairview. He then attended Spokane Academy, graduated from St. Olaf College in 1929, and obtained a master's degree from Harvard's business school in 1931. He went to work for Chase National Bank. During WWII, he served with the War Production Board. Afterward, he returned to Chase National Bank attaining the position of senior vice president in charge of all banking operations outside the USA. James died in 1982.

2. Ingrid

Ingrid (Inga) was born Sept. 1, 1886 in Øystre Slidre, Norway. She came to the USA with her family in 1892, went back with them in 1899 where she obtained work as an interpreter and waitress at the tourist hotels, then returned to the USA in 1906. She entered a competition through the Wells County Free Press and won a 1909 Maxwell car for collecting the most subscriptions. In 1910, she married Syver Hovey. They settled on a farm near Parshall, ND, raising two sons George and Marvin. Ingrid died following surgery in 1948 and Syver died in 1966. They are buried at Lucky Mount Lutheran of rural Parshall.

Their son, George married Frances Johnson in 1942. George died in 1986 and Frances in 2000. Their son, Marvin married Anna Sjol in 1942 and farmed with his parents before taking over farming. Marvin and Anna were active in Lucky Mound Lutheran and First Lutheran Churches. Marvin served on the elevator board and school board, chaired the Democratic Party and took an active role in the development and construction of Rock View Good Samaritan Center. He and Anna also sang together. Anna died in 1994 and Marvin in 2006.

Marvin and Anna had five children: **1.** Susan married John Christopherson and they live in Minneapolis. **2.** Roger married Patricia Dietz, took over his parent's farm near Parshall and have two children: 1. David and 2. Kara married Brady Blaskowski. **3.** Cecelia married Daryl Dachtler and they live in Sioux Falls and have three children: 1. Jana married Gavin Bluehosh and they have a son Wil, 2. Tarina married Brian Stroh and they have three children: Riley, Wesley and Charley, and 3. Joshua. **4.** Melodie married Mel Adams and they live in Parshall. They have two children: 1. Carissa married Wyatt Klabunde, and 2. Ross. **5.** Brian married Kathy Bjorklund. They live in Urbandale, IA and have two children: 1. Jayce and 2. Jessica.



Emma
in about 1908



↑ Bertha revisiting Emma's
homestead shanty in Montana
on a winter's day



← Emma visiting at Bertha's home

→

Bertha
worked as
a waitress at
the Johnson
Hotel during
1906-1908



←
The wedding of
Aksel and
Jennie Isakson
in 1926.
Jennie's sister
Gladys served
as her attendant.



↑ Jennie in 1955

↓ Jennie with her three children:

From left:

Gordon, Jennie, Sylvia, James



↓ From left: In 1972, at Pigeon Lake in Alberta
Gordon and Marj Isakson, Bertha Melby, Anne Hovey,
Sylvia Isakson-Deare, Marvin Hovey, Anne Nordtorp,
Ruth Hovey, Jennie Isakson, Jim and Carole Isakson



3. Emma

Emma was born April 18, 1888 in Øystre Slidre, Norway. She came with her parents to the USA in 1892, returning to Norway in 1899. She attended high school at Gjøvik. In 1906, the family came back to the USA. In 1907, she attended Valley City Normal School for a year. She then taught school 1908-1914, after which she decided to enter business college at Fargo.

Upon returning home at Christmas in 1914, Emma was hired at the Wells County State Bank in Fessenden. Thus, in 1915, began her long career in the banking field: 1915-1941 at Fessenden, and 1942-1965 at the Citizens State Bank in Scobey, MT. She was very well-liked, and she knew everyone. In the fall of 1917, she filed on a homestead north of Malta, MT which she later proved up.

Sisters Bertha and Emma were together at every opportunity while Emma lived at Fessenden, and Bertha and Oscar's children felt that Emma was just like a mother to them. In her later years, Emma lived with Bertha at Manfred. She died in 1968 and is buried at Vang Church Cemetery.

4. Bertha

Bertha (Bergit) was born May 12, 1891 in Øystre Slidre, Norway and baptized at Hegge Church as were some of her siblings. She came to the USA in 1892 when she turned one year old, returned to Norway in 1899 and came back in 1906. Soon after, she began working at the Johnson Hotel as a waitress. In March of 1908, she became engaged to Oscar Melby. Because of her father's need to be in a cooler climate, her family moved to a farm near Millet, Alberta, Canada. Bertha's mother wasn't feeling well and needed Bertha to help with the family. Bertha had the honor to help bring her sister Jennie into the world in 1909. During the two year's separation, Bertha and Oscar wrote each other every week. Then after Oscar had completed spring's work in 1910, he went to Canada where Bertha and he were married on July 10th. Their story continues on page 8.

5. Jennie

Jennie was born February 19, 1895 in the Stone House at Manfred, ND. She and Carl Hovey were baptized in the same waters at the Stone House, the first baptisms for Vang congregation. In 1899, she moved with her family to Norway and returned with them to Manfred in May of 1906 in time to see the Vang Church building constructed that August. When Jennie's parents moved to Canada in 1908, she lived with her sister Margaret Jacobson at Manfred while she read for the minister. After her Confirmation in 1909 at Vang Lutheran Church, Jennie went by train to Canada and joined the rest of her family.

In Canada, Jennie took jobs as a housemaid for various families. Jennie and Aksel (Axel) Isakson met at a Sons of Norway function and married in 1926. Aksel was a contractor, so he and Jennie worked in a construction camp at Corbern their first three years with Jennie serving as cook. About 1929, Aksel became owner of Isakson Hardware and Furniture of Camrose. They took in boarders in the house they purchased, that earlier had served as the Maternity Ward. They also had a farm. Aksel died in 1972 and Jennie in 1988, and are buried at Camrose.

Jennie and Aksel had 3 children: 1. Sylvia married Steven Deare and they live at Richmond, B. C., Canada. 2. Gordon married Marjorie Ross, live at Thorsby, AB, Canada and have 3 children: 1. Kathryn married Harold Schmidt, live at Edmonton, AB, Canada and have 3 children Kirstyn, Hannah, and Emma, 2. Jane married Mark Radke and they live at Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada. 3. Scott married Juliet Dity, live at West Bank, B. C., Canada and have a son Garrett. 3. James (Jim) married Carole Colwell and they live at Westrose, AB, Canada.

Acknowledgements for Nordtorp History

What a great privilege it is for Wanda Melchert to feature her Nordtorp family in this issue! The history stems from interviews and data from friends and descendants of the Nordtorp family, as well as family and public manuscripts and records in Norway - Alberta, Canada - North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin, USA. The thanks are many to the countless people for their contributions. Of special mention is the manuscript compiled by Muriel Schwartz Boyum based on interviews with her mother, Bertha Melby. Translating by Solveig Sandberg. Historian, Audrey Solheim. Editor, Wanda Melchert.



Oscar Nordtorp



John Nordtorp

Anne upon completion
of her nursing degree

← Anne Nordtorp

Anne serving as a
district nurse

Three Sisters

Anne Gladys Hilda



Bill and Hilda Roberts

July 1941

Gladys and Aster Basarab
and children Margaret and John

6.-7. Oscar and John

Oscar was born November 14, 1896 in the Stone House at Manfred, ND. His parents decided to return to Norway in April of 1899. John was born soon after on October 27, 1899 in Øystre Slidre, Valdres, Norway. The family returned to Manfred in 1906 and after two years moved to Millet, Alberta, Canada. Oscar and John were the only two boys in a family of ten, so they did much together. When they were young, they skied a lot at Banff. John even participated in the Olympics. Oscar was an avid reader, reading everything. John golfed all the time. He also became interested in making violins after retiring, making two or three of them using his father Gullik's violin as a pattern.

Oscar and John worked with wood: Logging just north of Millet, building the tower and above-ground facilities for the coal mines in the Crow's Nest area, and built a couple of Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Churches containing five domes. Their brother-in-law, Aksel Isakson, worked on this as well. Later, they lived in Calgary and were contractors who built grain elevators together with Aksel. Many of the elevators in Alberta that say Wheat Pool on the side were built by them. In later years, John inspected elevators to make sure they were working properly. Oscar retired from Wheat Pool and went to work for McDugel, a general contractor who built business buildings. Oscar died in 1972, and John in 1982.

8. Anne

Anne was born January 4, 1902 at Gjøvik, Norway. In 1906, her family moved to Manfred, ND and in 1908 they moved to a farm near Millet, Alberta, Canada. Hilda, Gladys and Anne attended high school in Millet about six miles away. Following this, Hilda and Gladys attended Normal School in Camrose and Anne took nurses' training at Trinity Hospital in Minot, ND. In 1929, Anne graduated as a registered nurse from Trinity Hospital, Minot, ND. From 1929-1940, she nursed in Alberta at Camrose, Edmonton and Bassano.

In 1940, she began in district nurse work, a field she greatly enjoyed. She was the first district nurse of White Mud Creek near Falher. In 1943-44 she took a public health course at the University of Edmonton, as this was needed for district nursing. She served six years as district nurse in the Lea Park-Onion Lake District north of Lloydminster. She also served as a relief district nurse for a number of districts, devoting fourteen years to this special career.

She had a quick wit and was good at telling stories. She had many stories to tell about her adventures in district nursing. When health forced her to give up district nursing, she served on the nursing staff at Aberhart Memorial Hospital and Rosehaven Care Center. In 1979, Anne was recognized for fifty years of dedicated nursing. She was quite a frequent visitor to Manfred. In 1958, Anne and Bertha made a very enjoyable three-month trip to Norway together visiting many relatives. Anne died in 1985.

9. Hilda

Hilda was born December 6, 1904 at Dokka, Norway. She moved with her parents in 1906 to Manfred, ND and in 1908 to Millet Alberta. Here she spent her childhood, except for three years when she lived with her sister Margaret helping her at Fairview, MT and taking her confirmation there as well.

After attending Normal School at Camrose, Hilda taught school at Cadogan, Nartland, Derlaton, Grenthal, Styal and Evensburg. In 1941, she married William (Bill) Roberts of Styal and they made their home at Styal, located just west of Edmonton. Hilda died of a heart attack in 1959 and Bill died in 2001.

10. Gladys

Gladys was born April 9, 1909 at the Skogly Farm near Millet, Alberta, Canada. After attending Normal School for teacher training at Camrose, she taught at Weisental School not far from Millet. She then went back to school at the University of Alberta obtaining a degree in Home Economics. She began teaching at High Prairie where she taught for many years.

She also took a homestead there. She met Sylvester (Aster) Basarab who was a salesman for Singer Sewing Machines and they married in 1950. Aster joined Gladys on her farm and they had two children: 1. Margaret married Thomas Dodd and had a son Shaun.

2. John married Gwendolyn Farnsworth and they had two children Michael and Katie.

Gladys passed away in 1981, and Aster about 1983.

Oscar and Bertha Melby Family History

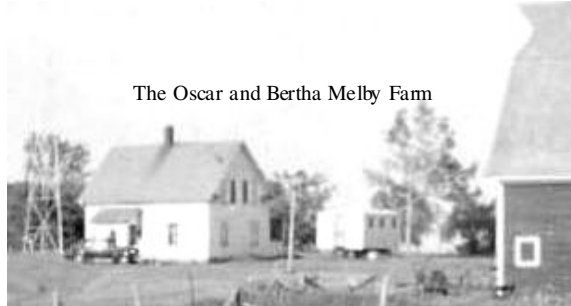


Bertha and Oscar Melby
July 19, 1910



Oscar seeding with a grain drill
that is being pulled by a span of four horses

1911



The Oscar and Bertha Melby Farm

The cook car used during harvest was stored by the house. A wind charger tower, used for a time, is shown at far left.



The Oscar and Bertha Melby Family
Left front row: Ethel, Gene, Kenneth, Orlie
From left back: Bertha, Oscar, Muriel, Roy,
Ruth, Cora

In 1893, Oscar's parents homesteaded on Section 8 in Manfred Township, where Oscar grew to manhood. ➔

7	8	9	10
18	17	16	15
19	20	21	22
30	29	28	27

In 1914, Oscar and Bertha purchased their own land on Section 30 where they settled and raised their family. ➔



Oscar at the reins of the horses, Queen with head turned and Charley at right. The grain box is shown converted to a sleigh for winter use. Standing next to Oscar is Bertha and beside her their daughter Muriel, ready to go to town.



Oscar managed a threshing rig operation that threshed for 12-14 farmers. (See Sept 2002, Pg 6) Helmer Solheim, the fire man for many years, is shown at left, feeding straw into the steam engine's fire box.



This Minneapolis G-4 Combine, purchased in 1943 from Charlie Richards' dealership in Fessenden, needed two persons to do the harvest - one to operate the combine controls and one to drive the tractor.

1943 was a significant year for the Melby family, as the first year to use a combine. From left is Bertha, Oscar, Ethel, and Gertie (Mrs. Roy Melby) on the D-John Deere tractor.

Following their wedding July 19, 1910, Oscar and Bertha soon returned to Manfred Township to live on the farm of his parents, Knud and Guri Melby. (See December 2004 Issue) A year later in 1911, his parents retired and moved to Manfred, after which time Oscar continued farming his parent's land. Oscar and Bertha's first child, Cora was born in 1912.

In 1914, Oscar and Bertha purchased land in Section 30 of Manfred Township, and a barn was built there in 1915 under the leadership of Gottlieb and Phillip Deede. Bertha said, "There was an old house on the farm we purchased, but not livable. We could eat our meals there and even slept there some nights. In 1916, Roy was born. We were still farming his folks' farm. So we farmed both places, which made a lot of work. We built our garage next and lived in it for awhile, having only a kerosene stove, a table and a bed. We lived there only while our house was being built in 1918." Oscar's brother Christen took over Knud and Guri's farm that same year.

Oscar and Bertha had only just moved into their house in 1918 when both became very ill with the influenza. Oscar's brother Martin came to help them out with the farming during this time. Ruth was born in 1919, and Muriel in 1921. In the early 1920s, Oscar obtained a threshing rig and threshed for 12-14 farmers each fall through 1942. Orlie was born in 1924, Kenneth in 1925, Gene in 1928 and Ethel in 1931.

Oscar and Bertha were active members of Vang Lutheran Church. Bertha held many offices in the ladies aid through the years, altar committee and is remembered dearly for her years teaching confirmation and Sunday school. Oscar served as a church trustee for many years, and a term as council president. Both sang in the choir.



From left: Gene and Betty, Ethel, and Bertha and Oscar
Oscar and his son, Gene, farmed together

The Oscar and Bertha Melby Family

Left back: Gene, Orlie, Oscar, Roy, Kenneth
Left front: Ethel, Muriel, Bertha, Ruth, Cora



Bertha is shown delighting everyone with a few tunes on Oscar's violin



Bertha in front of her home in Manfred



Bertha was thrilled to attend the taping of a Lawrence Welk Show. Pictured are Jimmy Roberts, Bertha and Lawrence.



Left back: Roy, Orlie, Kenneth, Gene
Left front: Cora, Ruth, Bertha, Muriel, Ethel

Bertha and Oscar both grew up surrounded by music; it was so natural for them. Music making was a joy for them, and they delighted in sharing together with others in music. When Bertha was growing up, her father had taught her a few tunes on the violin. And for Oscar, when Manfred organized a comet band around 1906, Oscar joined as the lone clarinet player. Oscar also played the violin and C melody saxophone and taught Bertha how to chord on the piano so they could make music together - he on one of his instruments and she on piano. The sounds of music were often in the air.

Oscar was the music teacher for their children. Every evening after supper Oscar would start playing one of his instruments. After the children finished any homework and chores, they would then join him. Bertha or one of the children would chord on the piano, and other children would play their instruments. Everyone also sang. The three oldest sisters began singing as a trio. For the Young People's Society that met on Sunday evenings, the members were encouraged to prepare musical numbers.

Oscar sang in a men's quartet, of which Cora said that Oscar had an unbelievably beautiful high tenor voice. Sons of Norway gatherings provided another opportunity for music making. To everyone's enjoyment, Oscar led waltzes or folk music tunes with his instruments. Someone from the family or Mary Rogelstad would chord at the piano, and any others who came with instruments joined in. Also, Oscar enjoyed being together with neighbors like Ray Flick, which gave them the opportunity to play their violin together.

The Melby family spent much time with friends and family, enjoying each others company. Oscar and Bertha were great supporters to their children and attended their school programs and sports events. Oscar served many years on the Manfred Township Board. He was among those who helped fix the electrical lines whenever the system went down because of storms.

Sadly, Oscar died February 16, 1954 at a Minneapolis hospital; the cause was thought to have stemmed from when he had hit his head hard on the combine in the fall of 1953. The family gave one of the new stained glass windows for Vang Church in his memory.

Their son, Gene and wife Betty, had been farming together with Oscar and Bertha, so Gene carried on with the farming after Oscar passed away. Bertha continued living on the farm until 1965, when she moved to Manfred. She greatly enjoyed her little home there. A number of ladies in the Manfred area, including Bertha, would gather together to celebrate each other's birthdays through the many years. She continued very active in the church and community, helping wherever she could. Bertha brought much encouragement to those around her and had a wonderful willing spirit.

Bertha knit baby booties for all the new babies in the community. She also did a lot of handwork or sewing, and every year would win many ribbons at the Wells County Fair. When she began staying some of the winter months at the homes of her daughters, she used her time by making quilts for members of her family or knit afghans for them.

Bertha was able to return to Norway two times. In 1958, Bertha and her sister Anne took a three-month trip, crossing the ocean by ship. Then again in 1972 together with her daughters Ruth and Muriel and their husbands Carl and Ray, she flew to Norway for a 15-day stay. Traveling with them were Annie and Audrey Solheim of Manfred. In 1978, she had the opportunity to attend a taping of the Lawrence Welk Show. Jimmy Roberts sang to her and also danced with her. She felt this was a big highlight!

Oscar lived to see ten of his grandchildren. He and Bertha were blessed with twenty-one grandchildren, two passing away while young. Bertha endured a number of surgeries and illnesses but always made a great recovery. She lived to be 94½, passing away November 11, 1986 at Harvey. Oscar and Bertha are buried at Vang Lutheran Cemetery at Manfred.

1. Cora

Cora was born April 23, 1912. Cora, as well as all of Oscar and Bertha's children were baptized and confirmed at Vang Lutheran Church and attended grade school at Manfred School. Cora also had 9th grade at Manfred. She graduated from Fessenden High, and then took teacher training at Valley City Normal School. She taught two years in a one-room school north of Fessenden, four years in 1st and 2nd Grades at Granville and one year at Bottineau, all in ND. She then taught 1st Grade at Plentywood, MT for two years.

In 1942, Cora went to San Diego to be the bridesmaid for her sister Ruth. She stayed out in San Diego and started working at Consolidated Aircraft where she met Emmett Turner. They were married September 30, 1944, and that same year Emmett was inducted into the Army. After he went overseas, Cora came to live with her parents where their daughter Janice was born Sept. 19, 1945. Following discharge, Emmett and Cora moved to California where he worked again at Consolidated Aircraft. Their daughter Marilyn was born in 1948. In 1950, Emmett went to work for General Dynamics, and in 1952 they moved to Ontario where he continued working for General Dynamics until retirement. Also, he and Cora enjoyed a wedding photography business together for about 20 years. Cora and Emmett were members of First Lutheran Church where Cora was active in the ladies aid. She also was the pianist for the Sunday school and led a group that sang for the nursing homes for many years. Cora died February 1, 1998.

Their family include: 1. Janice married Donald Graber and they had three children: 1. Aaron died at a young age. 2. Andrea lives in Phoenix, AZ. 3. Matthew is in his final year at USC. Janice later married Jeff Abbott and he passed away in 2005. 2. Marilyn married Timothy Banahan and they had two children: 1. Sean lives in Seattle, WA and 2. McKenzie lives in San Francisco, CA. Marilyn is presently doing volunteer work in Greece. Emmett assists Janice in her interior design business.



Emmett and Cora Turner with their daughter Janice

Cora



Cora, Marilyn, Janice, Emmett



Roy and Gertie Melby on their wedding in 1942

Roy



Roy and Gertie with their children Brenda and Orin



Often playing together were Lars Ostrem on accordion, Gene Melby on piano and Roy Melby on clarinet



Cora, Bertha holding Andrea, and Janice



Janice, Cora, Marilyn, Emmett



Orin Melby, Tony and Joy Grove, Keith Sr. and Brenda Skalet, Gavin Giffey, Keith Jr. and Kathy Skalet, Joel Skalet, Grady Giffey in front of Joel Skalet, Gail and Travis Giffey

2. Roy

Roy was born June 23, 1916. He attended Fessenden High School one year, graduating from Maddock Agricultural School in 1935. He graduated from Capital Commercial Business College in Bismarck, and worked for the state for two years before starting with Bismarck Grocery as a salesman of wholesale groceries. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1939, and was called to active duty in 1941 serving as a chaplain's assistant. He married Gertrude (Gertie) Helling on August 4, 1942 at Fort Lewis, WA. Following his discharge, Roy returned to work at Bismarck Grocery, which later became Jet Sales. Gertie served as a nurse at the Bismarck Hospital. Roy learned to play the clarinet from his father, Oscar. Not only did he play it as a youth, but enjoyed playing it throughout his life. His son Orin also learned to play the clarinet and daughter Brenda learned to play the flute. Roy was a tenor in the Gospel Quartet of Trinity Lutheran Church 1952-1956. Roy and Gertie were charter members of the Lutheran Church of the Cross where Roy served as church council treasurer, Sunday school teacher, on the Pastoral Call Committee and was a choir member all through the years. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign War, Eagles, American Legion and Moose Lodge.

Gertie died February 28, 1963. Roy then married Helen Hammeren in 1965. He retired in 1985 and died August 2, 1989. Roy and Gertie are buried at Sunnyside Cemetery, Bismarck, ND. Roy and Gertie had three children: 1. LeRoy died in infancy. 2. Brenda married Keith Skalet, lives at Mims, FL and they have four children: 1. Gail married Travis Giffey, lives in TN and they have two children Grady and Gavin. 2. Joy married Tony Grove, lives in Bloomington, IN – they have a daughter Abigail. 3. Keith married Kathy Johnson and they live at Mims, FL. 4. Joel is a student at NDSU, Fargo, ND. 3. Orin lives in Titusville, FL.

3. Ruth

Ruth was born March 28, 1919. She graduated from Fessenden High School, and then from Minot State Teachers College. While growing up, she had learned to play the clarinet and also loved to sing. She and her sisters Cora and Muriel sang as a trio. She was also in a college trio that sang on the radio. Ruth first taught at Des Lacs, ND, then 2nd Grade in the Bottineau, ND schools for two years. She met Carl Hovey while he worked on her father's threshing rig. Carl then worked for Consolidated Aircraft. Ruth and Carl married on June 21, 1942 in Glendale, CA. They moved to Watford City, ND where Carl managed a Gamble Store. Their son John was born at Williston in 1945. Carl's employment took them to Aneta, ND, then Fargo, ND where Carl managed a Firestone Store and their daughter Pamela was born in 1948 and son Ivan in 1951, Huron, SD where their son Mark was born in 1957, and then Moorhead, MN in 1959. Carl worked in Auto and Marine Financing for about 4 years and then for Ohio State Life Insurance Company. For about 15 years, Ruth was assistant librarian in Washington Elementary School. Ruth and Carl were active members of Good Shepherd Lutheran of Moorhead where Ruth sang in the adult choir and directed the children's choir and Carl was a deacon. For the Kringen Sons of Norway Lodge, Carl served two terms as president, helped lead a couple tours to Norway and assisted in acquiring the Buick Garage building for the lodge. Carl died January 1, 1978 and Ruth died November 11, 1993, and both are buried at Fargo.

Ruth and Carl had four children: **1.** John married Mary Tabbut, lives in Jamul, CA - they have two children: 1. Ruth married Scott Homes, lives in Glendale, CA - they have three children: Nathan, John David (JD), and Anna Grace. 2. Amy lives in Jamul, CA. **2.** Pamela (Pam) married Gary Lucas, lives in Chandler, AZ - they have two children: 1. Carl married Kelly Cool and they live in Aurora, CO. 2. Nicole lives in Chandler, AZ. **3.** Ivan married Kathy Kath, lives near Pelican Rapids - they have three children: 1. Sara married David Ness, lives in Moorhead, MN - they have three children: Daniel, Samuel and Rachel. 2. Jill married Ryan Schuman, lives in Moorhead, MN - they have three children: Ethan, Madison, and Cole. 3. Peter lives in Minneapolis. **4.** Mark married Susie Philips, lives in Poway, CA - they have two children: 1. David attends U of Pacific near Sacramento, CA. 2. Karen is a senior at Poway High School.

Ruth



Carl and Ruth Hovey
June 21, 1942



The Hovey Family
Ivan, Carl, Pamela, Ruth, John
Mark



Cora, Muriel, Ruth
Singing together while
living in San Diego



Ray and Muriel Schwartz
March 14, 1943



Merlin and Laurie
Schwartz and children
Jenny and Andy



Mark and Susie Hovey Gary and Pam Lucas Ivan and Kathy Hovey Mary and John Hovey



Cora, Muriel, Ruth
Singing together while
visiting their mother, Bertha,
in Manfred



Muriel and Lowell Boyum
December 30, 1986



Richard and Wanda
Melchert

4. Muriel

Muriel was born May 2, 1921. She graduated from Fessenden High School and, like her siblings, was very active in high school activities and also in helping their parents in many ways on the farm. Muriel attended the Capital Commercial College at Bismarck, and then worked for the Bismarck Tribune until the fall of 1942 when she cooked in the cook car with Christy Anderson for the threshing season. (See Sept 2002, Page 8). After the harvest season, she traveled out west with her parents to visit family. Muriel's sister Ruth and husband Carl and also her sister Cora, who worked for Consolidated Aircraft in San Diego, CA, talked her into applying. She worked there until March of 1943. Then she went to Gainesville, TX where, on March 14, 1943, she married Raymond Schwartz, whom she had met in 1941 through the Messiah cantata practices at Trinity Lutheran of Bismarck. When Ray was sent overseas in 1943, Muriel went to Mandan, ND to look after his mother's apartment and she also found work there.

Following Ray's discharge in early 1946, they settled in Mandan where Ray returned to work at the Mandan Post Office. After their children were of school age, Muriel started working part time in an insurance office. She then worked full time for Morton County until her retirement. Ray and Muriel participated in church choir, the Sons of Norway Folks Dancers and Singers, Square Dance Club, and Ray was a member of the Nordic Chorus. He worked for the Mandan Post Office until his death in 1974.

In 1986, Muriel married Lowell Boyum, who had retired from his medical practice after serving many years at Harvey, ND. Muriel and Lowell continue to enjoy their home in Mandan, attend First Lutheran Church and participate in Sons of Norway. Like her mother, Muriel enjoys sewing and knitting and helped organize a knitters group. She is also a member of PEO.

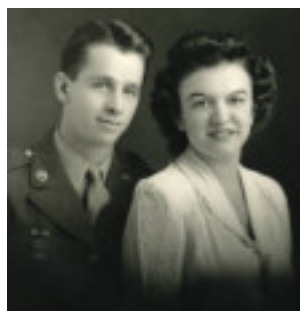
Muriel and Ray had two children: **1.** Wanda married Richard Melchert and they live in Golden Valley, ND. **2.** Merlin married Laurie Marchant, lives in Sioux Falls, SD and they have two children: 1. Jenny married Travis Dumke, lives in Sioux Falls, SD and they have two children: Caleb and Ethan. 2. Andrew (Andy) is studying graphic design in Sioux Falls, SD.

5. Orlieen

Orlien was born January 2, 1924. He graduated from Fessenden High and then attended Bismarck Capitol Commercial College. Because Orlieen scored one of the top five in typing from his class, he was able to obtain a job in Washington, D.C. He worked there for about six months, and then transferred to Detroit, MI. From there, he was inducted into the U.S. Army April 1, 1943. Orlieen and Zelda were married on April 23, 1944 at the home of Zelda's parents near Fessenden, ND. His sister, Cora, sang for their wedding. They then traveled by train to Alabama where Orlieen was stationed at Camp Rucker. They made their home there until Orlieen was shipped overseas. After his discharge, they lived first in Bismarck where Orlieen worked in a service station. Then for over a year, he was the Standard Oil bulk agent in Manfred. They then started farming, and their daughter Sandra was born in 1948. Orlieen's hay fever became quite bad so in 1962 he quit farming, rented the farm and went into the men's clothing business in Fessenden. Later, he worked for the ASCS Office in Fessenden and then in Carrington until retiring in 1983. He and Zelda then moved to Sun City, AZ where they owned two men's clothing stores for 4 years. In their retirement, they enjoy daily walks and Orlieen volunteers in a hospital gift shop.

Music has always been important for Orlieen and Zelda. When young, Orlieen played the coronet and soloed at community events. They have been active in the Baptist churches at Fessenden, Carrington and Sun City, singing in the choirs. Orlieen has sung baritone in men's quartets through the years. He and Zelda have sung duets together for many funerals. Their daughter Sandi played the saxophone in high school taking first place at the state completion, and also played the piano. Their family includes Sandra (Sandi) who married Doug Skroch and they made their home in Bismarck, ND. Doug passed away in 2004. They had two children:

1. Jay married Rebecca Peterson, lives in Sioux Falls and they have a daughter Elizabeth
2. Monty lives in Sioux Falls.



Orlieen and Zelda Melby
April 23, 1944

Orlieen



Orlieen, Sandi, Zelda
1960



Kenneth and Jeanne Melby
October 7, 1950

Kenneth



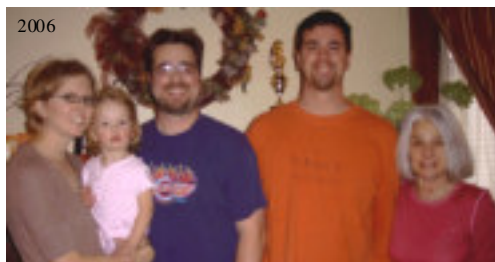
Kenneth at the wheel
of a Fammall M
International tractor



Kenneth, Teri, Jeanne
1960



Orlieen playing his coronet



Sandi and her family
Becky holding Elizabeth, Jay, Monty, Sandi
2006



Left back: Tom holding Michael, Tanner, Sarah, Troy, Missy, Taylor
Left front: Teri, Kenneth, Jeanne holding Ethan, Tom's father Bob
2006

6. Kenneth

Kenneth was born November 2, 1925. He attended Fessenden High School, and also the North Dakota State School of Science at Wahpeton where he studied mechanics. Until about 1948, Kenneth helped with the farming with his father during the summer, and then during the winter worked at the Pontiac dealership in Harvey. He then went to work at Farmers Union, hauling gas and doing shop work for them. On October 7, 1950, he married Jeanne Larson. His sister Ethel sang for their wedding, and his brother Gene and wife Betty served as attendants. Kenneth and Jeanne settled in Fessenden. Jeanne was a graduate of Fessenden High School and was employed at Dick's Food Market continuing to work there for quite a few years. She then worked for the Federal Land Bank and in 1973 began working for the First International Bank of Fessenden until she retired from there in 1996. Kenneth worked for John Lueth in his clothing store for about 2½ years. He then went over to the Chevrolet garage for 16 years, and has enjoyed working for the Fessenden School District as bus mechanic now for 34 years.

Kenneth played the saxophone when young. Their daughter Teri also played the saxophone. Kenneth and Jeanne have been active members of First Lutheran Church of Fessenden where Jeanne has been a member of the Tabitha Circle and Kenneth sang in the choir for awhile and also served as trustee. They greatly enjoy attending the ball games for the Fessenden-Bowdon teams.

Their family includes their daughter Teri who married Tom Seibel, lives at Minot and they have three children:

1. Troy married Melissa (Missy) Zaback and they live in Denver, Co.
2. Tanner married Sarah Mattson, lives in Minneapolis and they have two children: Michael and Ethan.
3. Taylor graduated recently from UND at Grand Forks.

7. Gene

Gene was born November 21, 1928. He graduated from Fessenden High School, as did his future bride Betty Rodacker. Gene joined his father Oscar in farming, and Betty graduated from the New York Hairdressing Academy of Fargo. They were married September 19, 1948, for which his sister Ethel sang. Betty and Gene farmed for 40 years. After retiring in 1982, Gene began driving the senior citizens bus for the Wells-Sheridan Transit Council. In 2003, he was named the North Dakota 'Driver of the Year' by the Dakota Transit Association. He continues to enjoy driving part time. Gene served on the elevator board for many years. Betty served many years as a homemaker and home health aid for Wells County. Gene and Betty have always been active in music. Gene learned to chord on the piano from his father. He played the guitar as part of a band called the Play Boys that performed for many events and also played on radio. Betty and Gene sang in the church choir, and Betty organized and directed the children's choir of which Gene accompanied. They sang as a quartet with Ervin Boese, and Mrs. Leslie (Olga) Johnson for many years. Also, Gene, his brother Roy and Lars Ostrem played for many Sons of Norway events and family gatherings.

Five generations have attended Vang Lutheran Church, from Gene's grandparents through his grandchildren. All of Gene and Betty's children were baptized at Vang Lutheran, as well as some of their grandchildren. Gene and Betty have held many offices at Vang through the years. Their children attended Manfred School until it closed in 1972, and then transferred to Fessenden school.

Their children include: **1.** Marsha who lives in Minot. **2.** Brian died in infancy. **3.** Bruce married Cindy Wahl and they had three children: Megan attends Jamestown College, Kay Dee and Derek. **4.** Michael married Kayme Heintz and they had two children: Mandy attends Moorhead State, and Ross. Michael married Tami Bittner Kost and they live near Cathay, ND. **5.** Arnie married Norma Robledo, lives in San Diego, CA - have two children Iliana and Alexis. **6.** Bergit married Michael Albrecht, lives in Apex, NC and they have three children: Emma, Allison and Ryan.



Gene and Betty Melby
September 19, 1948

Gene



Gene is harvesting using his Massey-Harrison Super 92 self-propelled combine, showing the grain pouring into the box of a 1949 International truck.



Joe and Ethel Bolyard
June 1, 1952

Ethel



Ethel and Joe's grandchildren:
Kali, Nathan, Rachel, Andrew

←Ethel and Joe with their
children Susan and David

1998



With Betty and Gene to help them celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary are their children from left:

Marsha, Michael, Bruce, Arnie and Bergit



A pickup load of some of the grandkids
having fun on the farm with grandma and grandpa.

From left: Betty holding Alexis, Megan, KaDee, Ross,
Mandy, Iliana, Derek, Gene



Bertha knit Ethel's sweaters shown above,
and sewed the dresses worn by Ruth on left
and Muriel. Above right is a quilt block
from one of the many quilts made by Ethel.



8. Ethel

Ethel was born October 18, 1931. She graduated from Fessenden High School and attended Minot State Teachers College. She taught school at a one-room school in South Fram for one year and Grades 4, 5, 6 in Heimdahl for one year. Ethel met Joe Bolyard while attending a teacher's convention. At the time, he was teaching music and math at Fessenden. In 1951, Joe became the music instructor at Herman, MN. Ethel and Joe were married June 1, 1952 at Vang Lutheran Church, Manfred, ND, for which her sister Ruth sang and her brother Gene and sister-in-law Betty served as attendants.

Ethel and Joe stayed in Herman, MN four years. They then moved to Farmington, MN where Joe taught instrumental music and Ethel worked for a trucking company and then served as legal secretary for a law firm. Joe then taught music in Kenosha, WI from where he retired, and Ethel worked at Carthage College in Kenosha for twenty-seven years. Upon Ethel's retirement, she and Joe took a twelve-week trip to Alaska. Through the years, they traveled to all the states but one and also enjoyed going on cruises. They went to Norway in 1987. Ethel sang in the church choirs, and was active in PEO and Eastern Star. Like her mother, Ethel enjoyed handwork and sewing. She also enjoyed making pottery. She participated in the Manfred projects by helping transcribe Old Manfred News. Joe enjoyed directing the choirs for Manfred celebrations in 2001 and 2006.

Their family includes: **1.** David married Bonnie Barr and they had two children: Nathan is a student at the University of Minnesota, and Kali. **2.** Susan married John Checki, lives in Racine, WI and they have two children: Andrew and Rachel. Ethel passed away December 21, 2004. Of special note is that Ethel and Joe shared the same birthday, October 18th.