
MANFRED HISTORY AND PRESERVATION

P.O. Box 321 Harvey, North Dakota 58341

{ "http://www.manfrednd.org" }

Greetings from Manfred!

This biography was prepared by Manfred History and Preservation.
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Oscar and Christine Ongstad



Christine and Oscar Ongstad

Husband's Full Name: Alf Oscar Ongstad
Husband's Place of Birth: Pelican Rapids, MN
Husband's Father's Name: Hans Peder Ongstad
Husband's Mother's Name: Nicoline Olson Ongstad
Husband's Siblings' Names: Hilda, Clara, Alfred, Emil, Anna, Henry, Olaf, James, Lottie, Ida, Minnie and Edna
Wife's Full Name: Christine Thune Ongstad
Wife's Place of Birth: Binford, ND
Wife's Father's Name: OleThune
Wife's Mother's Name: Karrina Knutsdatter Skattebo Thune
Wife's Siblings' Names: Knute, Emma, Lena, Caroline, Mary
Children's Names: Orvin, Nora Casey, Walter, Duane

Oscar and Christine Ongstad

Oscar Ongstad was born to Hans H. Ongstad and Nicoline Ongstad, pioneer residents of the Pelican Rapids area. He was reared and educated in Pelican Rapids and came to the Manfred area in 1914 where he had since made his home with the exception of his tour of duty in the military service. He enlisted in the army July 6, 1917 and spent two years in France and Germany, receiving his honorable discharge September 2, 1919.

After his discharge from the service he entered the garage business and later was appointed postmaster at Manfred, a position he held for 20 years until his retirement in 1952.

On July 13, 1920 he was united in marriage to Christine Thune at Binford, ND. Four children were born to them: Orvin, Duane, Walter, Nora, (Mrs. Roger Casey)

He was a member of the Vang Lutheran Church and the Frank E. Curry American Legion Post at Harvey where he had been a member for the past 25 years.

Christine was born at Binford, and was reared at Manfred. She graduated from Oak Grove Lutheran High School, Fargo. She was also assistant postmaster at the Manfred Post Office for a number of years. She was a member of the Vang Church and taught Sunday School as well as serving as Superintendent for a number of years.

Following Oscar's death she moved to Fessenden where she lived until moving to Harvey in 1983. She was buried at the Vang Cemetery, north of Manfred next to her husband Oscar.

Christine Thune Ongstad
by Sennev Nertrøst Whipple

Christine Thune Ongstad came to us from Binford, North Dakota. While still a youngster, she arrived in Manfred in 1920 to live with her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. O.K. Melby. Here she attended the public schools for some time.

Her parents, Ole and Kari Thune were born in Valdres, Norway, and immigrated to the United States in 1882. They settled in the vicinity of Binford and it was here that Christine was born and spent her early childhood years.

She relates that she was too young to remember the rigors of early pioneering, but does recall that settlers from McHenry, North Dakota, on their two-day trek to Cooperstown, stayed at the Thune home overnight. True to the spirit of the early pioneer, Mr. and Mrs. Thune ever welcomed the tired travelers and shared with them the hospitality of their home. Food and warmth and lodging were freely tendered to the wayfarers. There was a certain feeling of comradeship when contacting old friends and sharing with them common experiences. They all enjoyed a heart warming and happy experience at these stopovers at Thune=s, The midway point between McHenry and Cooperstown.

Early the following morning the McHenry folk were on their way in horse drawn wagons, in quest of groceries, clothing and necessities which they purchased in large quantities from merchants in Cooperstown.

Christine relates one close call she had when a mere baby, and which might have proved a tragedy. Her mother had gone out to milk, leaving the child in the baby buggy, with a roaring fire in the stove. Some way or another, the brake on the buggy slipped and it rolled over very near to the heated stove. Her mother returned just in time to prevent the disaster and Christine felt that her guardian angel was ever present.

It was in Manfred, when she had grown to young womanhood, that Christine met and married Oscar Ongstad, a veteran of World War I. She has lived in her home here since her marriage.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Ongstad. Orvin, Nora, Walter and Duane. All are grown, married and live in homes of their own and hold fine positions of trust. Nora is Mrs. Roger Casey, of Minneapolis, Minnesota and the mother of two sturdy sons and a daughter. Orvin is with the Navy Reserves in Indian Head, Maryland; Duane and wife are on the faculty of the Sitka, Alaska Public Schools; and Walter is with a firm in Dickinson, North Dakota.

Mrs. Ongstad is and has been an ardent worker in Vang Church and Aid. She has held many offices and has always responded to all demands made of her. Able and gracious and willing she has been a faithful worker in church and community activities. She has been the superintendent of the Sunday School for nine years, and at present holds this position. For two years she took over the presidency of Vang Ladies Aid. She also served as Secretary of A Life Membership Program for four years and was a member of the Decorating Committee for several years.

In addition to these offices in church work she has served as Vice President and again as Secretary of Vang Aid, truly a fine record.

Mr. and Mrs. Ongstad continue to make their home in Manfred, where Mr. Ongstad is our genial and able Postmaster.



**Walter, Nora, Orvin and Duane
Christine and Oscar Ongstad**