

Manfred History and Preservation, Inc.

2004 in Review

Highlights of 2004

❖ Formal structuring of MHP, Inc. organization

Bylaws were drafted May 12, 2004 at the Anderson farm with the help of Preservation North Dakota (PND). The first annual meeting for Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. was held July 25, 2004 at which time the first elected board of directors took office. They organized themselves August 8 and the Divisions of Corporate, Museum, and Buildings and Grounds were named, with the Education Division subsequently added.



Drafting the bylaws May 12, 2004
 Attending the session were Herbert Ongstad, Dale Bentley PND, Daryl Van Hall PND, Rose Anderson, Veronica Miller PND, Ruth Widiger, Verna Bowers, and Guest JoEllen Killoran, Wanda Melchert.

2004 MHP, Inc. Officers
 Wanda Melchert, President
 Laverne Johnson, Vice President
 Esther Boese, Secretary
 Ruth Widiger, Treasurer



1st MHP, Inc. Annual Meeting July 25, 2004



Organizational meeting August 8, 2004 of the first elected board of MHP, Inc
 From left back: Herbert Ongstad, Laverne Johnson, Esther Boese
 Middle: Ruth Widiger, Pete Anderson
 Front: Audrey Solheim, Rose Anderson, Verna Bowers, Wanda Melchert

❖ Museum cataloging system set up

Through the help of a grant of \$3,740 distributed by the State Historical Society of North Dakota from the North Dakota Legislature, Danielle Stuckle, a graduate student in public history set up the Manfred Heritage Museum cataloging system. With her help a computer was also purchased with a grant of \$400 from Verendrye Electric and designated gift of \$500 from Barbara Simmons.

Danielle enters data into the museum computer during her three-month term at the Manfred Heritage Museum.



Pete Anderson, Perry Anderson, Tom Alveshere, Herbert Ongstad, Edgar Flick, and Wanda Melchert moved heavy artifact items to the museum.



Summer intern Danielle Stuckle together with MHP, Inc. members Verna Bowers and Audrey Solheim helping with the opening of the Burkum trunk.



The grant project received excellent review by Claudia Berg, Dir of Museum and Ed. when she met with Esther Boese, Pam Norstedt, Ruth Widiger, Verna Bowers, and Wanda Melchert.



Betty Melby, Rose Anderson, Verna Bowers, and Wanda Melchert sorted through and organized items in the Vang Sunday School room.



Esther Boese stitching labels on textiles.



Recording detailed descriptions of artifacts.

❖ Restoration projects by property owners began

Following the lead of MHP, Inc.'s restoration work, Manfred property owners began restoration work on their properties.

Roofing work on:

1894 Roger's Lumber Company-Solheim Service Station owned by Audrey Solheim

1905 Nennie Johnson-Lars Ostrem House owned by Rod Anderson

1908 Johnson's Place-Cash Store owned by Wanda and Richard Melchert



Mark Faul removing tree stumps from the north side of the station.

The chimney on the Manfred School was repaired

Mark Faul assisted in installing a new culvert at the intersection of Lake and LeGrand, filled in the basement space of the former Bertha Melby house, among other projects. Several of the members brought their equipment to help with projects: Wesley Boese, Pete Anderson, Perry Anderson, Bruce Melby, Herbert Ongstad, and Bill Ongstad.



David and Charles Bolin and owner Audrey Solheim during roofing project in April.

New steel roof on the service station and facial repaired.



New steel roof on the cash store and corner facial piece reattached by the Bolin Brothers during April for owners Wanda and Richard Melchert.



New roof nearing completion on the Johnson-Ostrem House by Greg Seidel and crew during May for owner Rod Anderson.

Other activities in 2004

2004 Manfred Newsletter history pieces

- May P.B. and Anna Anderson Family History
- August Review of MHP, Inc. 2000-2004
- October Torstein and Guro Roble Family History
- December Knud and Guri Melby Family History

Members from the Bowdon community, having been inspired by the Manfred projects, met in October with members of MHP, Inc. as they consider ways to utilize their school building.

Prairie Churches of North Dakota Exhibit was on display Oct 2003-Oct 2004 at the Heritage Center in Bismarck ND.

The exhibit consisted of nearly 300 images detailing the history, architecture and traditions of prairie churches. Vang Church was featured on a panel about grants.

Appearing in the Herald Press Oct 2004

Manfred quilts recorded as history

By Carrie Opdahl



Representatives of the North Dakota Quilt Council visited the Manfred Heritage Museum to document four unique quilts into the quilt registry October 22. Debra Forsberg and Agnes Faul arrived in Manfred around 10 a.m. They were greeted by two Manfred Heritage Museum board members, Wanda Melchert and Ruth Widiger.

Appearing in the August 8, 2004 issue of The Bismarck Tribune

Preservation efforts keeping tiny Manfred alive

North Dakota's living history

By Lauren Donovan

Also...

Manfred making history

Editorial by Dave Bundy for the Tribune



Lauren Donovan

2004 Annual Narrative by Wanda Melchert