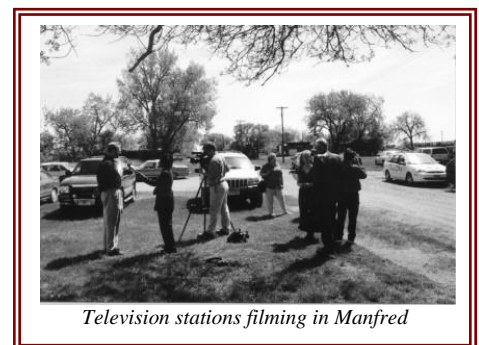


The Annual Report Of Manfred History And Preservation, Inc. For The Years 2000 And 2001

The Beginnings of Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. (MHP, Inc.)

The Manfred history projects were first introduced to the Manfred Township Board by Wanda Melchert at their March and April meetings in 2000, at which time, the board presented a check to her in a vote of confidence to help with postage costs in order to introduce the projects to the wider community. The Manfred Township Board and many friends of Manfred, together with the Preservation ND organization and the State Historical Society of North Dakota were instrumental in encouraging the efforts to found a non-profit organization for the benefit of Manfred.

On May 19, 2000, the Manfred history projects were brought to public attention during Preservation Day held at Manfred and attended by the Preservation ND board together with a good number of people from the community. Vang Lutheran Church hosted this daylong event, at which time, two television stations from Minot produced news reports of this event, and also a front-page article appeared in the Herald Press. The morning was given to talks by Dale Bentley of Preservation ND regarding the process of founding a non-profit organization, by Rolene Schliesman Architectural Historian with the State Historical Society of North Dakota regarding nominating sites to the National Register of Historic Places, and by Wanda Melchert, Manfred history coordinator who introduced the Manfred history and preservation projects to the community. A potluck dinner was provided by the Vang Lutheran Church Ladies Aid, after which time Preservation ND conducted their quarterly meeting. Historic Architect Steve Martens of NDSU also conducted an architectural needs assessment of Vang Lutheran Church. The day concluded with a walking tour of Manfred, and also a tour of the 1915 Sears Catalog home of Leslie and Olga Johnson. Perry Anderson and Wanda Melchert produced a video of this Preservation Day event that was made available to the public.



Television stations filming in Manfred



Preservationists from around the state take a close look at historic sites in Manfred

The Founding of Manfred History and Preservation, Inc., a non-profit organization

On July 25, 2000, a very special event occurred when Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. was founded with a number of friends of Manfred gathered together to help establish this organization. Everyone in attendance signed the Founder's Document that will one day hang in the future Manfred History Museum. The Articles of Incorporation were signed by Rose Anderson, Verna Bowers, Wanda Melchert, Pam Norstedt, and Herbert Ongstad. On August 10, these articles were filed with the State of North Dakota, at which time MHP, Inc. officially came into existence as a non-profit corporation. Legal advice provided by Ted Seibel and tax advice by Clay Houchin.



Pictured are from left: 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: Peg Bell, Perry Anderson, and Jacob Anderson.

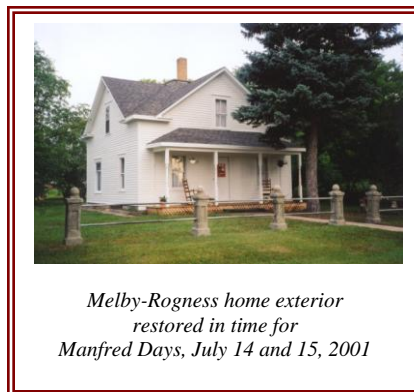
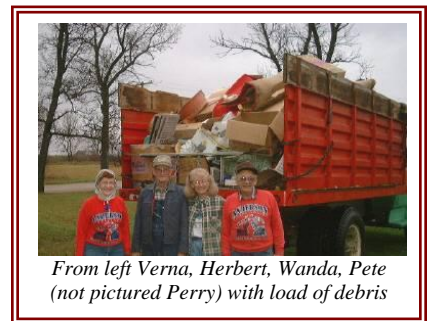
Continuing Beginnings of MHP, Inc...

The first corporation meeting was held on September 23, 2000 and a second on October 29 at which time officers were named: Wanda Melchert, President; Verna Bowers, Vice President; Pam Norstedt, Secretary-Treasurer; Pete Anderson, Rose Anderson, and Herbert Ongstad, Directors. Added later also as Director was Perry Anderson. Ruth Widiger took over as Treasurer in September 2001. Monthly meetings are held to help steer the Manfred history and preservation projects. MHP, Inc. was granted tax-exempt status by the Internal Review Service on January 23, 2001 and was issued its charitable solicitation license by the state of North Dakota on February 27, 2001 enabling MHP, Inc. to accept tax-deductible contributions.

History and Preservation Activities of MHP, Inc.

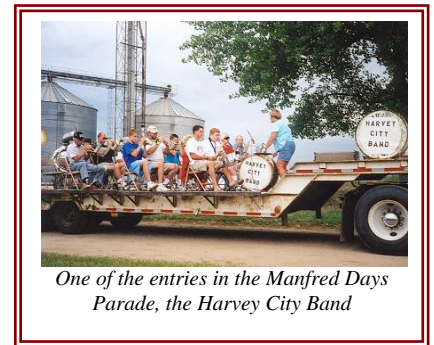
**Preservation Work*

The purpose of MHP, Inc. is to help gather the history of Manfred and its trade area, and to help the site of Manfred tell this history story through the preservation of some of its buildings. On April 18, 2001, MHP, Inc. became owner of the O.K.Melby/Sam Rogness home located in Manfred. With the help of volunteer labor and contribution of funds by friends of Manfred, restoration work began on this home the spring of 2001. During 2001 in Phase 1 work, the exterior of this home was restored with the help of Greg Seidel as contractor for the roof and front porch, and with many volunteer and equipment hours by: Perry Anderson, Pete Anderson, Verna Bowers, Wanda Melchert, Herbert Ongstad. Also coming to help: Rose Anderson, Jacob Anderson, Edgar Allen Flick, Richard Melchert, Pam and Lloyd Norstedt, and Joyce Ravnaas. In addition, several people joined to help in the fall of 2001 for the important work of Phase 2 with the interior: Wesley Boese, Ivy Brye, Kerry Ebel, Dan Fiesel, Paul Gunderson, Lewis Hove, and Bill Ongstad. Structural items contributed to the house were from: Pete and Rose Anderson of the front porch columns, and Ervin and Evelina Boese of a leaded glass window. The Melby-Rogness Home has a bright future ahead to serve as a place where rural America can be celebrated and given voice, a place where the present and future generations can come learn what life was once like in a rural North Dakota community. The present goal is to complete the restoration by the fall of 2002, and a history display installed for the opening of this building as the Manfred History Museum in 2003. MHP, Inc. also cares for the yard.



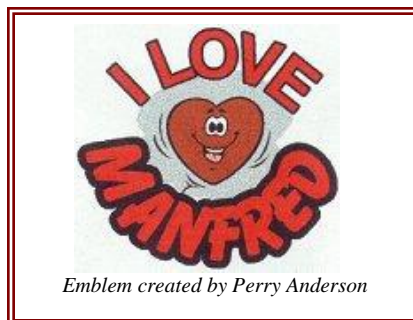
***Manfred Days**

A very memorable and successful gathering called, Manfred Days, took place July 14 and 15, 2001. 120 individuals and organizations helping in some way to make Manfred Days such a success, nearly 140 attended the Celebrate Manfred banquet and program, and it is estimated that around 400 attended the parade and festivities on Sunday afternoon in Manfred. People came from far and near to honor Manfred. The history of Manfred was featured throughout Manfred days, including a history tour, history talks, old time dress, games, booths, and music. A banquet Saturday evening celebrated the various family lines stemming from Manfred, as well as, honoring former Manfred students and teachers. Community worship services were held Saturday morning at the Manfred Seventh Day Adventist Church and on Sunday morning by Vang Lutheran Church with a service under the big tent in sight of the Vang church building. Sunday afternoon was filled with other fun activities beginning with the Manfred Days Parade featuring 29 entries representing different aspects of history, topped off with a program featuring a concert by the Harvey City Band, the Sverdrup Sons of Norway Chorus and Folk Dancers of Bismarck, and old time music by David Roerick on accordion and Emanuel Volk on guitar. A music program was presented on Saturday by the Manfred Trio consisting of Nellie Deede, and Eileen Kreiter, and Darlene Miller. A video was produced by Scott Loerch together with Wanda Melchert, and made available to the public.



***Community Involvement**

In June 2000, Manfred was represented in the Wells County Fair Parade with a group of seven clowns each wearing a letter that spelled out the name Manfred. Clowns were: Jacob Anderson, Rose Anderson, Muriel Melby Boyum, Danielle Kraher, Mandy Melby, Ross Melby, and Wanda Melchert. The leader of the clowns was Lowell Boyum riding up and down the parade route on his clown bike. Also a part of the Manfred unit was a 1951 Pontiac Chieftain driven by Kenneth and Jeanne Melby, and another vehicle driven by Richard Melchert with riders Herbert Ongstad, and Wesley and Esther Boese. It was for this occasion that Perry Anderson designed and produced the 'I Love Manfred' pin, which has remained an emblem for the Manfred efforts. In June 2001, Manfred was again represented in the Wells County Fair Parade with a unit consisting of Kenneth and Jeanne Melby driving their vehicle with guests Willys and Vi Springer, Herbert Ongstad driving his vehicle with riders Berger and Olive Rodne and Jacob Anderson, walking were Laurie Anderson and Wanda Melchert in old-time dress, and Ruth Schuh dressed as a clown. MHP, Inc. also had a booth display at the 2001 fair filled with photos and information about the Manfred projects. Manfred has also been represented in other parades in the area with the help of Manfred friends. A number of talks regarding the work of MHP, Inc. were presented in 2001 to: Wells County Historical Society, First Lutheran Church of Fessenden-WELCA, Eagles Club, Lions Club, and Kiwanis Club.



***Communication**


MHP, Inc. is able to share about the Manfred history and preservation projects by way of a quarterly newsletter called 'The New Manfred News', following in the tradition as established in the early newspapers of reporting the Manfred News. The first issue of The New Manfred News, Volume 1, Issue 1, was published in December 2000 and sent to a mailing list of 200 plus addresses. Subsequent mailings included Volume 1, Issue 2 April 2001, Volume 1, Issue 3 September 2001, and Volume 1, Issue 4 December 2001 at which time the mailing list had grown to over 350. Wanda Melchert is the editor and Audrey Solheim is in charge of the mailing list. A complete volume of the newsletter is available for public view in the magazine department of the Harvey City Library and also at the Manfred website www.manfrednd.org. This website was established during the summer of 2000 by Susan Sommerfeld Nelson who developed the site and served as its first web master from July through December of 2000. Jarrod Schroeder then took over the position in January 2001. This site is currently under construction, but it is anticipated to be up and going in time for the opening of the Manfred History Museum in 2003.

The New
MANFRED NEWS
The first issue of the New Manfred News was published in December 2000

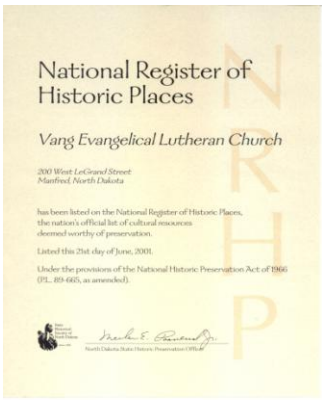
Manfred Website
Located at
www.manfrednd.org
A Manfred website was started in July of 2000

***National Register of Historic Places**

Complementing the history and preservation work conducted by MHP, Inc., are the National Register nominations. The National Register application for Vang Lutheran Church was presented to the North Dakota Historic Preservation Review Board on April 27, 2001 by Wanda Melchert, at which time the board voted unanimously to approve this nomination. Following revisions and submission of the document to the Keeper of the National Register at Washington, D.C., Vang Lutheran Church was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 21, 2001 in recognition of Vang Lutheran's contribution to the tradition of ethnic heritage in America. The award was presented at a ceremony in the Heritage Center at Bismarck on November 17, 2001. Those accepting the award on behalf of the Manfred community were: Rose Anderson, Dianne Aull, Verna Bowers, Lowell and Muriel Boyum, Jim and Shirley Johnson, Laverne Johnson, Leslie Johnson, Gene and Betty Melby, Richard and Wanda Melchert, Audrey Solheim, and Maridel Sprenger. Vang Lutheran Church holds the distinction of becoming the 400th property from North Dakota to be listed on the National Register. The John and Malena Johnson Home was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places on October 26, 2001 by their granddaughter Laverne Johnson. The North Dakota Historic Preservation Review Board voted unanimously to approve this nomination, and following revisions, the application will be sent to the Keeper of the National Register.



Vang Lutheran Church is the first property from Manfred Township to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The award certificate now hangs in the church sanctuary.



National Register of Historic Places
Vang Evangelical Lutheran Church
200 West LeGrand Street
Manfred, North Dakota
has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places,
the nation's official list of cultural resources
deemed worthy of preservation.
Listed this 21st day of June, 2001.
Under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
(16 U.S.C. 490-495, as amended).



The National Register application for the 1915 Johnson Sears Catalog Home has been approved by the state review board, and the application is currently in the process of revision.