

**Lowell and Muriel Boyum**  
**Tree Dedication May 21, 2006**  
Given by Audrey Solheim

Both Muriel and Lowell originated from Wells County, Muriel's parents and grandparents lived at Manfred. Lowell's father also called Manfred home for a time. Manfred is also my hometown. It is located between Harvey and Fessenden on Highway 52.



Though Lowell never lived in Manfred, his dad Per did. From 1908 to 1912, Per, still a single man, had his doctor's office in Manfred. Lowell did have connections with Manfred through the years; in fact it was the Manfred Sons of Norway Lodge, Fagerlund 203 that Lowell joined on February 6, 1974. Lowell was a medical doctor in Harvey, joining his father in his medical practice after he returned from the army in the late 1940s. Lowell is proud to report that he delivered nearly 4,000 babies into the world as well as serving the many medical needs of the community.

It was on a trip to the Melby farm when Per Boyum was called to assist in the delivery of one of Muriel's brothers that Muriel and Lowell first met. I think they were about 4 years old at the time. Muriel recalls the little knicker suit that Lowell was wearing that day. When it came time for the baby to be born the children were sent outdoors to play ball. Although they would have been in the same grade, they never attended the same school. Lowell attended school in Harvey, and Muriel attended elementary school in Manfred and high school in Fessenden.

Lowell married Becky Pond. Their home was in Harvey, near the hospital, which was convenient for a doctor who was often called to the hospital in the middle of the night. Four children were born to them: Bill, Pete, Tom and Thann.

As a young girl, Muriel attended Sons of Norway – Fagerlund 203 with her parents. The lodge was very active. She recalls chording on the piano for her dad for many of the events. Her dad played the violin, clarinet and saxophone. There were lots of programs and dances. She also remembers signing in a trio with two of her sisters for several of the lodge programs.

After high school Muriel came to Bismarck, attended Commercial College and got a job soon after. She married Ray Schwartz on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March, 1943 in Gainesville, Florida. Muriel and Ray lived in Mandan and raised two children, Wanda and Merlin. Muriel worked at the County Courthouse and Ray was a Rural Route Mail Carrier.

On September 1, 1970, Muriel and Ray joined our Sverdrup Lodge in Bismarck. They were very active in various lodge functions including singing and folk dancing. Ray died in April 1974; he was only 58 years old at the time.

Several years later, Lowell, now a single man, inquired of Muriel's brother Gene, if she was seeing anyone. Gene said he didn't think so. Lowell then called Muriel to inquire if she might like to attend the annual physician's banquet at Bismarck with him. She consented to do so. Soon they were seen together on a regular basis, and on December 30, 1986 they were married at 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church in Mandan. They had a large reception at the seen Seas for family and friends.

Both Muriel and Lowell are Golden Members in the Sons of Norway. The requirement for this is being at least 65 years old and belonging to the sons of Norway for at least 30 years. Muriel has been instrumental in bringing in quite a number of new members to the lodge over the many years. She is a big promoter for the lodge, always encouraging people to come and be a part of the organization. Not only in word does she promote, but also by her own example. Ever since she was a child, full-hearted participation in Sons of Norway and of all that is Norwegian was second nature to Muriel.

Muriel started the Knit'n Mitten's cultural group, and has been working with the knitting group for a number of years. One year she won first prize at the International Sons of Norway Convention for the sweater, cap and socks she knit for Lowell.

Both Muriel and Lowell are active in our folk dancing group, have participated in numerous bus tours, ski trips and camping trips. Muriel sings in the Sons of Norway chorus, and was a member of the women's quartet some years ago. They are willing workers in our various lodge activities, including our Annual Lutefisk Dinners.

Muriel and Lowell were Social Directors in our lodge in 1990 and 1991. Muriel served as Lodge Treasurer in 1980, 1981 and 1982. Lowell served as Financial Secretary at Fagerlund Lodge for a number of years. He often participated in programs of the lodge for special events such as the 17<sup>th</sup> of May and the Julefest.

Because of their involvement through the years, it is my pleasure to tell of their history and for the lodge to honor them with a tree in our Sons of Norway Park.