

# Danube Historical Society

## Newsletter

PO Box 463 Danube, Minnesota 56230  
Volume 17 March, 2011  
[www.cityofdanube.com](http://www.cityofdanube.com)

### ANOTHER SNOWY, SNOWY WINTER SHUTS DHS OUT OF THE DEPOT

Your President was finally able in February to attack the drifts from the north by foot and circumvent the usual paths to make three investigative visits to the building interior to check all systems. All systems were working! We do appreciate the warmth of the Council Room at the City Building when we can't use the Depot! We'll be there this Thursday to fold & stuff this Newsletter for mailing!

### Danube Historical Society & Depot Museum's Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 14, 2011  
10:00 AM

Danube Community Center

#### AGENDA INCLUDES:

- 2010 Annual Review
- Exhibit Themes for 2011-12
- Possibility of purchasing some Adjoining Land
- Improvements of Mueller Grove by American Legion
- Approaching Reunions (Let us know)
- Possibility of Removing Dead Trees on South Side of Depot
- \$ Value for Platinum Donor Level

#### A Reminder of Things We Like to Get

One of our goals is to gather MANY stories of Danube Memories from those who are still out there and can give us first hand accounts. We have received a few and they are all interesting and all presented in contrasting forms, so your own style will be so appreciated \_ pictorial, essay, research or story, "just go for it". Here are a few excerpts for you to enjoy, then come to The Depot and read the rest of the stories; and bring your story!

#### A Partial History of the Creamery and Its Owners by David Smedstad:

"Nicholas I. Hugger"

Nov. 11, 1912 N.I. Hugger opened the Danube Creamery for business. It was built and operations started in 1908, but at the time Hugger opened it, it had for sometime been standing idle. There are now some 200 patrons owning some 1,000 cows. The Danube "Review" of March 11, 1915, says in part: "...and since then has handled 805,951 pounds of cream out of which it manufactured 274,796 pounds of butter. The farmers patronizing this institution received

nearly \$70,000 for butter-fat. The creamery is equipped with the most modern machinery that money can buy."

Nicholas Hugger was born in Denmark on May 2, 1879....."

The account goes on to Max W. Siegel: "I bought the creamery from Nick Hugger. In 1923 we built a new creamery uptown because my business outgrew the old creamery down by Highway 212. But used to be 25 or 30 cents a pound in those days. It varied you know..."

And then Lester O.A. Smedstad: "... .. In 1946 Lester Smedstad and Otto Ahlstrand bought the Danube Creamery. (Coincidentally, they passed away a day apart in February of 1987.) ---Elmer Minkel and Dick Wolfjer were two of the longtime route drivers."

It is both informational and interesting. Come read it! Dave would appreciate contact with any of you who can relate more stories to him about the Creamery or his family.

And Then...

#### The Danube Depot as Remembered by Dave Ferguson

"When I was 8 we moved, from 3<sup>rd</sup> ST to the top of the hill on #1. I was not allowed to cross the busy road, so I would walk down to the park just north of our house (where the depot is now). Under the water tower was a concrete ring I would sit on and watch the world go by. There were always farmers hauling grain..."

"When I was about 10, I made my first trip into the depot to meet stationmaster Beck. I did not know him, but I guess I was not very shy back then either....." And the rest is interesting and personal, too. On file at The Depot

If your name isn't Dave we will still accept your stories! The next issue will contain writings from Harris Bredesen & Harriet Manthei Borst, but your initials don't have to be H.B. either!!!

#### Worth Mentioning - - -

- **Dues are payable as of January**
- *Suzie Lueck & Dorothy Kleinhuizen have updated our Newsletter Address List and it now is mailed to 422!!!*
- One item so many wish was in our Depot is the original Switchboard from the Danube Telephone Office. It is safely housed in the Renville County Museum. Shirley (Zaske) Sweeney gave us a very clear photo of it and it is now framed to 20" X 30" and will hang above our phone display.
- *Per above, we've heard that we may be able to have the original Switchboard On Display for Fun Days. Were you an Operator? We could use some stories to go with it!!!*
- Update of our Donor Board is in progress. Your contributions are cumulative in our computer program, so when you qualify for a higher category your name is actually moved on the Board. Categories are:
  - **Bronze** - \$100 & up
  - **Silver** - \$300 & up
  - **Gold** - \$1000 & up
  - **Platinum** - What do you think the \$ amount should be for this level? Let us know before the Annual Meeting the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Category Updates will be provided in a Newsletter in the near future.**

**Please Help the  
Renville County Historical Society  
Celebrate the  
American Civil War Sesquicentennial**

**Meet & Greet Tea w/ Abe & Mary Lincoln**

Noon – June 17, 2011 in the  
Renville County Courthouse Rotunda - Olivia

**Civil War Essay Reception – June 17, 6PM**

Lincoln Delivers the Gettysburg Address,  
Silent Auction & Civil War Book Signings  
School Essay Awards Presented  
Max's Banquet Room – Olivia

**Bus Trip to Minnesota Civil War Days in  
Wasioja, MN – June 25, 2011**

**Birch Coulee Battlefield Encampment**

**July 22, 23, 24**

3<sup>rd</sup> Minnesota Regiment Volunteers

5<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regiment Volunteers

2<sup>nd</sup> Artillery Battery

**Election**

President – Don Haubrich

V. President – Mary Lee Black

Secretary – Bea Brown

Treasurer – Ann Duck

Gary Abraham - New Board Member

*We are fortunate to have these activities  
provided by our County Historical Society &  
Museum. Your participation & support will  
show your appreciation. Sponsors are  
needed to support the Student Drawing &  
Essay Awards.*

**FYI:** DHS is in the process of finding out if it is possible to purchase some more land or the whole property south of The Depot, which contains what you may remember as the "Fuller House". It would seem this might be a time when it would be available and we're looking ahead as we can see a need for storage room and more lawn for Gatherings and activities. DHS would like to hear your ideas before or at our Annual Meeting April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**DHS WELCOMES THESE NEW &  
RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS**

- Kenneth Houdek
- Dave & Sue Lindquist
- Joseph & Elizabeth Zetah
- Karen Spencer-Barnes
- David Reck
- Russell & Phyllis Manthei
- Harriet Borst
- Carol D. Peterson
- Cara Smedstad Fish
- Curt & Myrna Kroening
- Ardus Tepfer Cleveland
- Bernice Kopel
- Mary Ann Pfeiffer
- Janice Westby
- Cal & Suzie Lueck
- Joan Wood
- Richard & Mary Ann Filzen
- Donna Treichler
- Jim & Carol Lippert
- Hilda Oitzman
- Stan & Sue Malecek
- Rod & Mary Lee Black
- Lester & Yvonne Jakel
- Lee Nere

*Thanks for your support!*

**RECENT DONORS**

- Janet Bratsch
- Gerrit & Dena Link
- Kenneth Houdek
- Doris Mattson
- Joseph & Elizabeth Zetah
- Karen Spencer-Barnes
- David Reck
- Jim Kopel
- Cara Smedstad Fish
- Al Schochemaier
- Dick & Barb Gunderson
- Curt & Myrna Kroening
- Joan Wood
- Bernice Kopel
- Jerry & Ruth Jahnke
- Hilda Oitzman
- Rod & Mary Lee Black

*Thank You*

**CONTRIBUTIONS IN MEMORY OF:**

- Bill & Grace Kraft  
by LaThoriel Badenhausen
- Gloraine Wallert  
by Gordon & Dorothy Wallert  
& Mel & Barb Knudsen
- Eldon Rohs by Erna Rohs
- Orville Tepfer by Betty, Bruce, Beth  
& Grandchildren  
& Great Grandchildren
- Orville Tepfer by Dorothy Kleinhuizen
- Orville Tepfer by Janice Westby

*Thank You*

**RECENT DEATHS**

- Helen Kopel - wife of James Kopel ('53)
- Gerald Holwerda ("50)
- Orville Tepfer ('47)
- Greg Morgan
- Bessie (Yock) Gort ('49)
- Curt Kroening - husband of Myrna  
Manthei ('56)

*PS: In 2011 Fun Days will be July 6-10 and we hope to see alumni from '36, '41, '46, '51, '56, '61, '66, '71, '76, '81 and '86! Class of '80, we missed you last year, maybe 2011!*

**(Tear Out Form for Contributions and Membership.)**

Dues are \$10 per individual. Please list all.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Apply the enclosed payments as follows:

Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Corrections? Errors? Omissions? Address  
Changes? Please inform us below.**

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