

Danube Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 1

PO Box 463 Danube, Minnesota 56230

September 2006

WE'RE MOVING INTO THE DEPOT!
GRAND OPENING RIBBON CUTTING, OPEN HOUSE, FIRST EXHIBIT and FALL FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER to be October 7, 2006 from 10:00am - 3pm. Brats and Kraut will be served to reflect our German Heritage.

Freewill donations welcomed.

HOW DID WE GET THE DEPOT TO THIS MOMENT?

Lots of volunteers and lot of hours and lots of changes and now it has been well restored to its previous appearance. It looks wonderful!

Our leader is Jerry Jahnke who loves to restore old buildings and knew what to do. And there was a lot of "mending" to do. Here's what's done:

- A full, well built basement (with sump pump & dehumidifier). [No heat, no plumbing and no restroom facilities.] **HIRED**
- Replacement of the structure on 2/3 of the east end. Also reinforcement of beams supporting the floor. **VOLUNTEER**
- Restored support beams and skirting around the perimeter of the Depot. **VOLUNTEER**
- Removal & replacement of the wood shingles and repair of sections of the roof and a new chimney. **HIRED**
- Restoration of the freight door, so it is usable. **VOLUNTEER**
- Replacement of about ¾ of the siding all around the exterior. **VOLUNTEER**
- Priming of the interior and exterior. **VOLUNTEERS + A PROFESSIONAL PAINTER**
- Interior and exterior final painting, in the original colors. **HIRED**
- Old tile and subfloor removed and the original floor sanded and refinished. **VOLUNTEER**
- Bringing in the furniture, including the original waiting bench! **FIREMEN**
- New light fixtures and wiring. **DONATED:** Fixtures by REA and labor by Community Electric of Renville.

WHERE DID WE GET FURNISHINGS?

Most of you know that our school was closed by the RCW School District. An Auction was held August 17th of the furnishings, etc. in the school

(not the building itself.) Before the auction we requested items from the school as they would be of historic value to the City. The District granted such rights to the City of Danube and through the City we could request what we needed. Now many school items are in the Depot.

Wait till you see our grand potbelly stove! Found by Anne & LeRoy Nere and refurbished by LeRoy!

Jim Mason, local businessman, donated two very nice tall, wood & glass showcases and one long glass showcase. Two counters were purchased for a very reasonable sum from the Renville Bakery, which closed. (Maybe even the ones that were in The Golden Rule at one time!) These items and many more will be tagged for your information when you visit.

STATION AGENT WILLARD BECK'S FAMILY MEMBERS PAY UNEXPECTED VISITS. One of the days that several of us were working hard & dirty we looked out the window & saw Willard's daughters, Carmen Caldwell & Doris Purdy with their husbands, Harvey & Jack, getting out of the car. We were very excited as we'd been wondering if their family, being very familiar with the Depot, would like what we had done. We had a great time discussing how it looked then & now and sharing their memories. When Carmen said "My Dad would have loved this," we were very pleased. Several days later the same situation occurred, this time they brought Jim & Sharon Beck & cousins, Bob & Marie Walls from Hector. Great time, keep dropping in!

DANUBE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS ALWAYS OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS

The annual membership fee is \$10 per individual. Your fee will help pay for newsletters, mailings, utilities plus photos for our website.

www.cityofdanube.com

Member Benefits:

- Welcome at all meetings (presently 10:00 am the 2nd & 4th Fridays at the City Offices)
- Receive newsletters & minutes quarterly.
- Vote at our Annual Meeting (March)
- Share ideas to help promote the Danube Depot Museum, help with exhibits & workdays.
- Host & Hostess on open days (if you live away we need help Fun Days, too)

Enjoy the camaraderie of others who think saving Danube History is a great idea!

Far or Near Your Input Would Be Appreciated.
Join Us.

DONORS

DHS is so thankful for all of you who have made donations to our effort thus far. We could not have done all that we have without your financial help. You're great! And we are officially non-profit now for tax purposes.

A very handsome donor board is being prepared for exhibit in the museum. Our Mayor, Chad Kohls, who is a CAD instructor at Ridgewater College, Willmar, designed and cut a metal engine, car & caboose. Its mounted on a beautiful wood background, designed & made by Maurice Schroeder, and will contain metal plates with the name of each donor, in bronze, silver & gold to indicate the level of their donation. **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

If your donation was intended to be a Memorial in someone's name, please notify us right away, even if you did before. Engraving will start early in January and we do not want to have errors. We would like to be caught up with the Donor Board by **Fun Days, July 11-14, 2007.**

All of your donations to the end of 2006 will be added together to determine the color of your metal plate. Up to \$299 is bronze; \$300 to \$999 is silver and \$1000 up is gold. A special recognition will be noted for donors who give \$5000 or more. We are still waiting for our first corporate donor!

OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION

Restoration has cost us over \$40,000 so far and we have a few bills to pay, electricity, etc. But your support this far has been terrific because we have paid for all of that except approx. \$15,000 which we owe the bank on our credit line. Interest eats away funds too, so we are really hoping to retire that debt very soon! Grants have been complicated because if you have already started the project it is not eligible. For instance, the new roof might have been a possible grant, the next application date was a year away & if we were turned down we would have had to let the building just sit, couldn't finish the interior while the roof leaked! Since the average age of us working on this is probably 72-75 yrs waiting a year isn't our game, _ we want to be around to see it finished!

WHAT PROJECTS ARE NEXT?

Archival materials for storing & cataloging items donated to the Museum; such as, newspapers, clothing, linens, magazines, books, etc. Acid free & archival safe. TARGET turned down our request for this grant, we can try again. A PC, the Past/Present software for

museum management, a scanner, printer & camera. Grant? Maybe.

Enclosed wood & glass trophy cases to preserve all of the school trophies. Anyone out there a carpenter with time on your hands?

The biggest project in our future is a brick walkway & landscaping around all (or part) of the perimeter of the Depot. We will try to find a grant. **We've used your donations very carefully and backed them up with lots of volunteer hours, but we need more!**

DANUBE FAMILY HISTORIES

If you were part of the Danube community in any way, including school or church, we are interested in your family; past & present. Where have you been? Where are you? Where are your siblings? Would we recognize you? Family Trees would be great! We hope to have a library of Family Histories; loose leaf notebooks so we can add to them or rearrange the contents. Start wherever you can in your history.

When did the first of your family come to Danube. We aren't talking about time-consuming scrapbooking here (your choice), but we'll be very happy with simple facts, clippings, postcards or letters, funeral pamphlets, wedding bulletins & photos (please identify persons in the photos as much as possible).

If there are originals that you would like to keep, we've found that print shops can make terrific copies. Ask the printer to copy **IN COLOR** (even if its black & white or sepia) because it will look **just** like the original.

OUR PLANNED EXHIBITS

Fall - Early History, Early Businesses; Spring will be a military theme; Summer (Fun Days) will be a school theme (please let us know about your reunions) and next Fall - agriculture with emphasis on Harvest. If you have items to donate (preferably) or loan for these exhibits, contact us.

HOURS: Names & Phone #'s are posted on the door. Call us. We'd love giving you a tour, till it gets too cold!!

OUR WEBSITE & NEWSLETTERS

www.cityofdanube.com

Our Danube website is being updated with photos and progress reports, so check it a few times a month. You can also email us there. This newsletter is being sent to 100's of you and we hope to continue newsletters, with updates and anecdotes to interest you, but at some point we will have to review the list. To save postage we are considering printing the newsletter on the website. **If you are interested in this project let us know in some way; and let us know if you don't have access to the web, and we will keep you on the list.**

NEEDED

- Pictures of the interior of the Depot, and your memories of being at the Depot.
- "Growing up in Danube" stories.