

# Danube Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 2

PO Box 463 Danube, Minnesota 56230

February 2007

It is just about two years since we bought the Depot and began work on the refurbishing. When we look back at the building and how it looked when it was moved, we certainly appreciate all of the work that has been done. Last Summer was just unbelievable how we (many volunteers) completed so much work! Dedicated workers can really get things done when you are on a mission.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS.

**A busy season is coming up fast.** Now we have a real Museum! And Museums are open to the public! (In our case only when no heat is required. These hours will be discussed at coming DHS meetings, so please attend and give us input. It will partly depend on how many days we will have workers. It was so enjoyable when people stopped last summer while we were working and shared stories.

**We need PEOPLE, who like to visit with other PEOPLE!**

**We need Volunteers to:**

- Arrange time with donors to accept artifacts for the Museum and properly catalog them. Organization skills!
- Be "welcomers" during Museum Hours. We think there should be at least two (2) people there as we have 3 floors to show, and someone should be in the Main Room at all times. Sign up to help with a friend(s) and you will have many satisfying times.
- Volunteers for the work that needs completed in the Lower Floor. That's carpentry, painting, cleaning up, etc. to be ready for the coming School Exhibit.

**Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup>: D.H.S. Bingo Party** It will be a Ham Bingo Party - and we are very happy to tell you that the Danube American Legion will be helping us that night. Of course we'll be working, too! We will also have a **Silent Auction**, during the meal till Bingo, and we are accepting what you have or make to bring to the auction.

**Military Exhibit is coming April into June.**

There will be work to do in March to be ready to setup exhibits right after Easter. This means we will need any items related to any of our Military forces in any U.S. Military Actions. These can either be on loan or permanent donation. Both the Legion and National Guard are making artifacts available. We so appreciate their support.

**We need stories & photos of Veterans.** We have a few World War II stories that we used for the Fun Days program honoring the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of that war. Who do you know that is a veteran of any war from the Danube area? Do an interview with them; what they would like the public to know and remember, write it in their words, try to get their military picture and submit it to the Exhibit committee to prepare for the Exhibit. Remember we need to properly document **all** items coming into the Museum.

**Looking further ahead on Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>,** during **Danube Fun Days** we will be having Dad's Belgian Waffles in the morning. **We'll need helpers!**

**School Days (Sharing Memories)** will be our Exhibit from late June into Fall until its too cold to stay open! Several classes are holding Reunions July, August & September, so we want to make this a great exhibit.

What would you like to see in this Exhibit? School is studies, of course, but also classmates, teachers, the Class Trips, extracurricular activities. Please help us with ideas!!! There are lots of stories told about school days whenever alumni get together \_ share them with us!

What class information have you collected - what your classmates did, where they live, where are they now, who's deceased; there should be lots of that information available. One of the most asked questions at alumni visits last summer was, "Do you know if \_\_\_\_\_ is still living?"

**MONEY—MONEY—MONEY**

Since March 2005 the Depot project has cost over \$40,000! What is amazing is that our loan balance is just about \$12,000 and a checking account balance of about \$850.00. In just two years! That is because of **your** support and generosity! Thank You! We will be so glad when we're no longer paying interest! So we always appreciate any donations that we receive.

**What remains to be done to finish the building?**

- The basement. Insulation, sheetrock, drywall, paint. This lower level will have a small storage area under the stairs for hanging clothes & storing supplies/tools, and a school area for the composite pictures, trophies, annuals, and other memorabilia, REA display, farm artifacts, & military.
- Trophy cases for the school trophies. We have applied for a grant to help pay for the trophy cases. **Any woodworkers out there who would help build them? Help us get a grant for the trophy cases, by going to [www. myhometownhelper.com](http://www.myhometownhelper.com) and follow the directions and tell what this project would contribute to our community.** You have to do it in 400 characters including spaces, but it counts them for you. **It is easy and to have a chance we need lots of entries!!!** They want to know that many people would appreciate the project. So the more the better. If you don't have a computer come to our house (Blacks) & we'll help you enter it. Thank you.
- Someday, a source of heat and air conditioning. Humidity control is very important for museums.
- Landscaping.
- Supplies for displaying and protecting artifacts.

When these things are finished and paid for, the big expenditures will be also! Then it will be maintenance, utilities and supplies. There are no salaries to pay.

## COMPUTER GRANT

Minnesota Historical Society provides a lot of helps to our small town museums, as well as larger ones. Anne & Mary Lee attended last Fall's regional meeting and welcomed all that we could learn from the other museums. A very helpful group of people, it was great! Their first advise, "get a computer, scanner and museum software as soon as you can!" There's a lot of paperwork and trust necessary to handle other people's memories, so every piece needs to be catalogued and then for insurance it needs to be inventoried often! A computer with a barcode system would simplify all of this volunteer work, as it would be entered right now from the start of the museum. We already have quite a bit to catalog. We are applying for a grant from one place, but if any of you know of a company that might be willing to help with this acquisition we would really appreciate it. Grants take a long time and are awarded periodically and we really need to start this project SOON!

## American Legion Plans a Veterans' Memorial

near the Depot Museum. We were invited to the Legion's "Over the Top" annual meeting and these plans were revealed. We were very excited, the lives of Veterans are such an important part of Danube History and this is so appropriate! They still contribute so much as civilians!

They plan a black granite memorial stone, 30" X 36" with an engraved tribute, and a flag/flagpole also. If it goes as planned it will be begun before Memorial Day and so will be visible for summer visitors.

That was very exciting, but then they also voted to donate two flags w/ poles, United States & Minnesota, for the interior of the Museum! What a great addition this will be.

Our Legion presents a very fine Memorial Day Program, I assume it will be in the school again. It begins with the Color Guard bringing the flags down Main Street about 9 AM. If you have never attended or not for awhile, join us — you will be glad. Followed with donuts & coffee at the Community Hall and a great time of casual fellowship. A significant small town event and we treasure such gatherings.

## HELP US

Minnesota Digital Library, [www.mndigital.org/](http://www.mndigital.org/) has invited us to contribute photos and documents to be digitized by them and returned to us with a DVD which we can use on computer to securely store them and duplicate for exhibits. (No cost to us!) The Coordinator has already met with us and demonstrated the project. Photos and documents must be before 1950 and must be the actual original as they will have the most detail. We need permission from you to use them.

MNDigital Library coalition is working to digitize our state's unique resources and make them available to anyone by computer. This will be a great resource for students and of interest to you. Right now you can go on that website and view Minnesota history. Renville County Museum has done theirs already and has some Danube pictures. So check it out. This project includes Minnesota's cultural heritage communities and is titled "Minnesota Reflections".

This would allow us to enlarge an image and possibly identify persons and objects in photos! We have a few

things, but we need 50 or more minimum to start. A lot of our items are copies of things you loaned us for the 2001 museum, and if we could use originals again for this project it would be great! Documents include: official papers, but also diaries, letters and such. (Newspapers may not be used.) The goal of this project is things that reveal life before 1950, so not just individual photos, but ones that show another time, community events, happenings (i.e. the Danube Bank Robbery, Saturday night in Danube, funeral customs, etc.) They must pertain to Danube and our rural area, settled by immigrants and developing into towns. Country schools would be another idea.

We were excited about this and plan to participate if we can find enough. If you find something, we want to meet with you!

## Danube Historical Society Membership

If you joined before September 1, 2006 your Dues are due! Dues are \$10 per person and are actually due January 1<sup>st</sup>. Most of us locally just remembered to pay at our February meeting, so you aren't in trouble!

### How do members help?

- Your dues help with expenses of printing & mailing the newsletter to members & donors.
- Newsletters help keep us informed of "what's next?" and "how can I help?"
- Dues help with our maintenance expenditures.
- If you can attend meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays at the City Office @ 10:00 AM, for about an hour) that really helps, because as we 'brainstorm' projects we need the expertise from many backgrounds. With enough people planning, someone will have that really good idea. Come meet with the rest of us whenever you can!
- As we increase membership, resident & non-resident, we will develop a base of support through their dues for maintenance expenses after we complete our expensive projects.

## SUMMARY OF HELP WE NEED NOW

Members, Donors, Grants  
Volunteers for Spring & Summer Visiting Hours  
Volunteers to accept & catalog donated artifacts  
Items for Silent Auction March 10<sup>th</sup>.  
Veterans photos & stories  
Volunteers to complete basement & trophy cases & also dust & polish trophies for exhibit  
Helpers for Fun Days for Dad's Belgian Waffle Feed  
Alumni information for School Exhibit during Fun Days  
Comments on [www.myhometownhelper.com](http://www.myhometownhelper.com)  
Landscaping — physical work  
Photos & documents for MNDigital library project  
Computer, scanner, software, digital camera

Pick the projects that interest you and let a member know. You need not be a member to help!

**Officers:** Rod Black, Sandy Frank, Dorothy Kleinhuizen, & Ardell Tepfer. **Board Members:** Officers + Suzie Lueck, Betty (G) Tepfer, Anne Nere, Jeannette Schneiderman, Al Strunc & Jerry Jahnke