

# Danube Historical Society

## Newsletter

Volume 5  
PO Box 463

January 2008  
Danube, Minnesota 56230  
www.cityofdanube.com

### **2007 Heralded as a Great Year for the Danube Depot Museum!**

#### **From Building Restoration to a Museum!**

There is a lot to learn! A change from hammers, electric saws, shovels, paint brushes, etc. to paper, photos, legal forms, scissors, glue, furniture arranging and merchandising! We're so thankful that Anne Nere and her dedicated and talented crew gave us a great beginning in 2001 for the Centennial! They all learned and worked together and their work is present in the Depot now! We're still learning.

A great help has been the quarterly meetings of Area Museums. We rather timidly attended our first meeting in 2005 and found a group of very friendly, welcoming museum volunteers (mostly) from our whole area, willing to answer a lot of questions. As various members continue to attend we glean many tried and true ideas to share with DHS. Simple things, like, applying for grants, how to label, where to get museum supplies, which workshops to attend, etc. There are many museums in this area \_ Renville, Sacred Heart, Hanley Falls, Montevideo, Redwood, Morton, Willmar, and more.

#### **The Minnesota Historical Society**

is very helpful to "us little guys". Your tax dollars at work! The visit of David Grabitzke from the MHS was very beneficial to our plans for the future. Mary Lee, Suzie and Donna have attended MHS Workshops on planning/setting up Exhibits, even how to build them! Suzie and Mary Lee attended the workshop on PAST PERFECT software, the program that handles every aspect of Museum Management, but its expensive and we needed a computer to use it! So we applied for a grant.

#### **And We Did It! We Got a Grant!**

With Suzie Lueck's leadership we applied for grants and in December learned that we got the grant to purchase the PAST PERFECT Software, and a laptop, which we must match with about \$200 and at least 70 volunteer hours for entering data! Our check will arrive this month. This is going to be a great advantage and should ensure that in years to come all we've done to create a Museum will be on record.

#### **Are You a Keeper of Recent History?**

Our goal is to be a storytelling museum, not just a mausoleum of dead news. So we also welcome current news clippings, photos, birth, wedding and funeral announcements, news pertaining to Danube and those who's roots were here! These will be placed in "annuals", (loose leaf notebooks with plastic pages for the retention of articles) and these will be available when your memory fails and you want to look it up! You'll help us stay current.

#### **Generous Donor's Challenge Stimulates Donations in December!**

A donor, who will remain anonymous for the present, notified a DHS member that they would give \$1000 by the end of December if we could match it with \$900, which was the amount we owed to pay off our current debt on our revolving loan to

the Danube Minnwest Bank. It was amazing, it happened!

#### **The Original Debt for Restoration of the Depot was Paid in Full by the End of 2007!**

Our December meeting enjoyed a celebratory moment when this goal was announced! We know there are more things to undertake to be fully functioning, but we all (DHS) just sat back and smiled, because we only started in 2005 (!) and we actually can say the major building restoration is done and now we improve the environment of the interior. **Thank You Again to our Generous, Inspiring Donor and the Challenge and those who met it!** Thank you to all of our previous donors, also. We could never have made it this far without you.

#### **The Original Debt is Paid in Full, What Still Needs to be Done?**

- Maintenance of the interior environment of the building, temperature and humidity is important.. Lack of heat is limiting the use of the building much of the year and a cooler atmosphere in summer would extend the willingness of people to visit and of people to be there to welcome visitors. Humidity control is for the preservation of our artifacts. Therefore we have been gathering figures to complete the walls in the lowest level, so we can also use it for exhibitions and then can insulate and install heat. Totally it looks like about \$19,000.  
We are applying for grants.
- The original Depot had a brick platform on the railroad side. We want to install that this summer, at least on the North Side. Then landscaping can be finished and the exterior will be accessible for outdoor activities and the muddy, slippery clay will be covered! We will need volunteers and donations for this project.

#### **Would any of you be up to a Challenge?**

Could you issue a challenge to a group, maybe family members, team members or classmates to raise a designated amount of money, i.e. \$500 or more? Think about it, could be fun and could be designated "in honor of" or "in memory of" some one special for our Donors board.

**Designations for our Donors List are Bronze, Silver & Gold.** Your donation \$\$ are accumulated (possible now with our new software); when you reach a higher level your name is moved to the new level. We hope to need another level \_ **Platinum!**

#### **Fall Festival**

A beautiful Autumn Saturday was the setting for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fall Festival held Oct. 6; many great conversations with welcome visitors, new artifacts to show, 300 were fed Sauerkraut and Brats by our volunteers, a successful Raffle, a generous flow of donations, a fascinating model railroad display featuring Milwaukee Road (thanks, Lowell Jakel) and the first viewing of the completed Donor List Display. It was exciting that one of our unique

Danube businesses, Creative Details, engraved the name plates, our Mayor Chad Kohls, executed the metal train silhouette and our member, Maurice Schroeder created the beautiful wood mounting for the display. Danube is a great place to live, with good and giving people!

Another memory of this year's Festival may be the anxiety workers had during the week, because the piles of clay had been spread around for future landscaping and seemed fine in a dry summer, but it RAINED, a lot, even that morning. Well, clay gets very slippery! No calamities, we persevered and with the sun shining bright, it was a great day anyway!

#### **American Legion Veterans' Memorial**

The truly outstanding feature of this year's Fall Festival was the dedication of the new Veterans' Memorial by the American Legion, conducted by Legion Commander James Lippert. The handsome black granite stone is engraved with a memorial statement for all veterans, of any era, from the Danube area. A large American Flag waves from a very high pole behind the stone and the background is Mueller Grove. (Lighting for the flag and plantings will be added to this area in the Spring.) Thank you to all who made this Memorial become a reality and an important reminder that we are "The Land of the Free, because of The Brave". The conclusion of the Dedication was a very meaningful ceremony. World War II Veterans were seated in a row in front of the Memorial, facing a crowd of family, friends and other veterans. WW II Commemorative Medallions hanging from red, white and blue ribbons were presented to the following Veterans as their names were read: Ray Ferguson, Jerry Hein, Ordell Jakel, Fred Nyquist, Floyd Rand, Henry (Hank) Schneiderman, Roger Schoelkoph, Gust Standfuss, Dorothy Johnson Wallert and Gordon Wallert.

(See pictures on [www.cityofdanube.com](http://www.cityofdanube.com))

[As previously reported the Danube Ful-O-Pep 4-H club and several able adults cleaned debris from the Mueller Grove and it is "parklike" now, a nice background for the Memorial.]

#### **Membership Dues**

Its time to become a new member or renew your DHS membership. Dues are requested in January. (If you first joined during/after Fun Days those dues are good until January, 2009) Every member is valued and you choose how active you will be. You are welcome at our meetings, whenever you can attend, but the more input we have the more likely we are to come up with good ideas!!! We meet 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays at 9:30 at the City Office Building. Join us! Your dues help us with expenses for newsletters, electric bills, minor supplies, etc. Watch for the Annual Meeting date in the April newsletter.

Election was held January 10<sup>th</sup>

Remaining in office are:

President: Rod Black 320-826-2274

Vice President: Ardell Tepfer

Secretary: Sandy Frank

Treasurer: Dorothy Kleinhuizen

New members of the Board of Directors:

Class of 2009: Al Strunc, Jerry Jahnke,  
Rod Black

Class of 2010: Lee Nere, Jeanette Schneidermann,  
Ardell Tepfer

Class of 2011: Dorothy Kleinhuizen, Suzie Lueck,  
Lowell Jakel

New Exhibit for 2008 \_ Our all year focus will be on our present Danube area businesses with displays at the Depot and other activities during the year in various locales around town. Hopefully all of us in Danube will get better acquainted with those who chose to have businesses in Danube and show our appreciation. We are beginning the year by inviting our businesses to attend a luncheon, sponsored by DHS, to discuss plans for the year. More info in the next edition.

#### **Planning a Reunion of Former Businesses**

Jerry Pauling, a former Danube businessman, suggested that we have a time when we invite back any business owners, employees and families from the past to a Reunion to renew old relationships. Sounds like a great idea! So that will happen during Fun Days, on Sat. morning at the Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast. An area will be reserved for them to gather and they should get to see many old friends/customers then and all day. We have to depend on word-of-mouth to spread the news as no such LIST exists! Some that have been mentioned are Schendels, Lamars, Nesburgs, Orv Kohls, Knights, Kings, Kurtz, Lingenfelters, Sauseles, Jahnkes, Schroeders, Knudsens, and all that worked with them. Invite them. Help us remember more and spread the word!

#### **Fun Days July 9-11**

DHS will serve the Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast on Saturday morning, the Depot Museum will be open (hopefully Friday night, Saturday & Sunday afternoon, greeters needed) and other activities begin with the Ice Cream Social on Wed. the 9<sup>th</sup>. (Watch the April Issue & website for more Fun Days Plans)

**Is your Class having a Reunion? Let us know!**

As the City of Danube now owns the Danube School Building we have new accommodations. The Bob Bruggers Auditorium and Gymnasium is used as a common property now with Tri-State and so is available for rental. Local catering available.

**Congratulations, Flora Mutual Insurance Co.!**  
115 years of continual service to our community.

**You are older than Danube!**

The State Sesquicentennial came up in discussion this week, wondering what it looked like here 150 years ago. Thanks, Judy Schroeder, now we know there was already an insurance company in 1893!

When you have items to donate to the Depot Museum, call an officer (see left) of DHS to make time arrangements. No room for furniture, but smaller artifacts, photos, some items of clothing and linens, railroad memorabilia, utensils, tools, etc. are sought. (If we have duplicates, we will usually decline.) Family trees & histories are really appreciated. They are great research sources.

**Waiting to hear from you.**

**Know anyone who would like to receive the newsletter? Send us their names. Thanks.**