

Danube Historical Society

Newsletter

Volume 12

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PO Box 463

Danube, Minnesota 56230

Mary Lee Black, Editor

FALL FESTIVAL Oct. 3, 2009

Cold, Wet Weather Hits, Community Spirit Prevails: Friday we knew we would have to activate our alternate plan and move Fall Festival to the Community Center! All available media was to announce the change, couldn't notify everyone, but were very happy to move to our Community Hall. (That facility was a great addition to our city!) A lot of Danubians and Out-of-Towners found us anyway and the Festival continued as planned! The Grilling Chef (& Mayor) Gene Alex still grilled brats "out back" of the Center and the German Heritage of Danube's beginnings was honored with Sauerkraut!

Buyers searched **Grandma's Attic** for treasures throughout the day and our new souvenirs went on sale. (See www.cityofdanube.com for pictures of the new items.) They all bear an old photo of the Depot in black & white, plus a current photo in color (taken by Jerry Jahnke). More DHS shirts were sold also and the retro Danube Hawks shirts are appearing all over the country now.

Best treat of the Festival - **The River Ridge Boys Quartet** from the Belview area, including our own Russell Manthei, (Owen & Vangie's son)! It was planned to be an Outdoor Concert as they had just acquired wonderful sound equipment, but they were great inside. What talent! Beautiful voices and beautiful close harmony and the ability to even take a few requests on the spur of the moment and sound rehearsed! They will be coming back, if they haven't become so popular that they aren't available! If they appear in your area, don't miss hearing them!

The Festival ended with the Raffle Drawing. Cash winners were: Joyce Lueck - \$500, Audre Kiecker - \$200, Homer Haug - \$200, Zach Kopel - \$100, Kari Fischer - \$50 & Carol Lippert - \$50. The Cash Raffle cleared \$1221 + some winners made donations from their winnings. Then we also took in Free Will Donations for the Feed.

*Good food, Good fellowship,
Great Entertainment!*

AMERICAN LEGION TURKEY BINGO PARTY NOV. 20. Thanks for asking DHS to **Serve Lunch:** Hot Beef Sandwiches, Bars, etc. It's a good community event for all ages, always fun, an important fundraiser for the Legion and DHS is glad for the \$283 we gained. Put next year's Party on your calendar and also the very meaningful morning Memorial Day Service that the Legion provides at the School each year. *Thank you, Jeanette Schneiderman & Crew for serving the delicious lunch.*

HOW DID OUR FINANCES END FOR THE YEAR? THE LOAN AT THE BANK IS PAID IN FULL! LAST PAYMENT W/ INTEREST WAS \$2228.40. Details at the Annual Meeting.

DANUBE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 28, 2010 10:00 AM

Welcome to all DHS members and you have a vote on agenda items. Interested persons are also welcome. Due to the possibility of a January Snow Storm, snow removal, etc. we will avoid cancellation and meet at the **Community Hall**. Ideas will be shared for planning Depot Activities & Exhibits for 2010, other suggestions for the good of the Depot/Museum will be considered. Yes, coffee & refreshments will be served.

Membership Dues of \$10 per individual are due in January, unless your name is listed as Dues Paid in this issue of the Newsletter. Dues paid at/after Fall Festival would cover 2010.

Dues Paid: New Members & Renewals Since Fall Festival

Harold & Fern Wiehr
Margaret Lemieux
Joe Braun
Harold & Doris Peterson
Annabelle DeBlauw
Marlene Jones
Roger Schoelkoph

DAVID SMEDSTAD RESPONDS TO DHS REQUEST FOR STORIES OF BUSINESSES OR FAMILIES

He has written a thorough history of the Danube Creamery which his family guided for many years. He is interested in more information from others who worked in the Creamery or for his Dad, Les Smedstad. He was also interested in available photos and so is DHS. DHS will be making this available for your reading at the Depot. You may submit additional information to the DHS address or email to rodblack@tds.net and it will be forwarded to David so he can get in touch with you! Thanks so much, David, for your time compiling this information. It was a wonderful phone call to receive and so interesting as we read it from your e-mails. We hope you will be hearing from others with more info & stories!

IT IS EXCITING TO FINALLY BE RECEIVING FIRST PERSON ACCOUNTS OF DANUBE THROUGH THE YEARS AND WE AWAIT & WELCOME YOUR STORIES OF ANY LENGTH

That's what a Museum is all about, history is just the recording of lives lived in various eras, in various places, touched by a variety of people and events. History may seem "boring" until we realize it is stories of individuals / groups living a LIFE as each of us is doing. Send us more, and recorded oral stories are very welcome!

AT THE CENTENNIAL MUSEUM IN 2001

Betty Vos Hemstad, Roseland, and a DHS Alumnae, Class of '53 was a great encourager to us to work toward a permanent Danube Museum and she has continued that support. Now we have had two exciting reports about Betty! Nov. 21 she had a book signing in Willmar for her recently published book Wildflowers of the Boundary Waters, subtitled "Hiking Through The Seasons".

The Hemstads are summer residents on the Gunflint Trail and the book trails her twenty years of hiking, with her camera in hand, and using photography to record the seasons through the wildflowers. It is a wonderfully beautiful and informative book; publisher is The Minnesota Historical Society Press. We are delighted to congratulate you, Betty. But, also she has been a longtime "pusher" to establish a Gunflint Trail Museum and that dream will be realized with the Grand Opening of the Museum July 4th. Thank you for encouraging our Depot Museum and DHS congratulates you.

Coincidentally, Cal & Suzie Lueck's youngest daughter, Chelsea, has completed college in Rhode Island and is employed at Voyageur Canoe Outfitters on the Gunflint Trail. One of her duties is working with their Online Gift Shop and Betty's book is being sold there! www.canoeit.com
Small world.

2010 DANUBE FUN DAYS begins Wed. July 7 and continues through July 11th. Are you planning a Class Reunion for this summer? Let DHS know, because we like to know! And we can be helpful in your plans. Fun Days is a great time to come home, there's a lot of activity, a lot of people, a good chance to see people you knew here "back then" and facilities to accommodate your class. **Did your class travel to DC by train? Do you have pictures of the inside or outside of the Depot?** We'd appreciate copies. We can locate the group pictures taken in DC, but if you have candid shots of your Washington visit they would also be appreciated.

Donors Since September Newsletter

Grace Lueck
Harold & Fern Wiehr
Ronald & Bernadette Carlson
Orville & Elaine Molenaar
Damian Smith
James & Lois Filzen
Manuel Youtsey (in memory of Fern)
Margaret Lemieux
Joe Braun
James & Carol Seehusen
Elsie Weigel
Harold & Doris Peterson
Russ & Phyllis Manthei
Robert & Sharyn Taylor
David & Joyce Lueck
Homer & Darlene Haug
Harold & Verdine Lindell
Audre Kiecker
AnnaBelle DeBlauw
Lee Nere
Marlene Jones
Roger Brandt
Tim & Kathy Carlson
Kathleen Carlson
David & Lois Smedstad
Emil & LaVonne Voelz

Errors? Questions? Corrections? concerning donations and dues? Please call 320-826-2274 _ Rod or Mary Lee Black or 320-826-2589 – Dorothy Kleinhuizen, Treas.

UPDATES

- **The Danube Lions plant a tree In Memory when a member is deceased.** Planting was held up a couple of years till the ground was leveled, prepared for landscaping and water hookup.
- The family indicates where it should be planted. Two pine trees have been planted near the Legion Memorial in memory of Anne Nere and Melvin Goldhammer. So appropriate, as Anne was so persistent in working for a Museum in Danube, and often spoke of a lighted Christmas tree event at the Depot. In just a few years the tree will be big enough. Melvin's tree is planted to the North _ as near as we could go to Goldhammer Trucking. *Thank You!*
- **The Depot property is now connected to outside water,** so we can water the new lawn, the trees and flower planters.
- **Some touch-up painting remains in the lower level,** but it is looking finished, the storage area is being installed and the stairs can finally be painted, as construction is done. *Thank You to volunteer painters: Jan Westby, Dorothy Kleinhuizen, Jeanette Schneiderman, Suzie Lueck, Rod & Mary Lee Black, Harriet & Maurice Schroeder.*
- **During that time Lee Nere, Maurice Schroeder and Jerry Jahnke designed,** and installed a paver entrance ramp to match the paver walkway encircling the Depot & handrail, so now handicapped accessible. (It took them to their knees! And some of us to help them up.) *Thanks!*
- **New (to us) display cases have been donated by Maurice & Karon Zimmer, and Jim Mason.** Now we will have cases for the lower level Ag and Organization areas. *Thank all of you for thinking of the Depot!*

A challenge has been issued by an Anonymous Donor to match \$500 in donations by the end of 2009. That would be great _ we do need some archival quality supplies for our displays and we need to repair some of the composite pictures during the winter when there is less humidity.

2009 Utilities through October – w/AC & Heat - \$727.53. Now our environment is archival quality to protect paper, wood, fabric and other artifacts!

DHS copies the Newsletter at the Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) in Danube. We take the copy & paper there and they cordially help us with the printer & I leave & tell them how many copies we ran to go on our "TAB". But they have informed in Sept. that the printing cost is a donation to DHS. *That is a big "Thank You, to REC & staff!"*

A Big Thank You to all of you for your visits & support!

Next Newsletter – Spring.

Merry Christmas!