

# Danube Historical Society

## Newsletter

Volume 7  
PO Box 463

September 2008  
Danube, Minnesota 56230

### DANUBE FUN DAYS WAS FUN!

Class Reunions have become a great part of the fun at Fun Days. The Reunions also bring visitors to the Depot and that's the best part of hosting at the Museum. It also means they bring along artifacts, photos and memories to share with us. Then we display their Class Composite picture and that is a conversation starter: "Look how we all wore our hair! Why did we do that?" The classes of '53, '73, and '78 have gathered in Danube this summer. DHS is a good source to contact for Reunion planning, we are the "Information Booth", so to speak!

DHS served Dad's Belgian Waffles Saturday morning and we are grateful to Cal and Suzie Lueck for helping us make this a successful annual fundraising event. We are proud to have their business based in Danube; they have guided Dad's Belgian Waffles to a very successful business and are now familiar faces to most of Minnesota! They have expanded to another Belgian Waffle Van operated by Maurice & Karon Zimmer of Danube who also assisted us during Fun Days. Our exhibit this year is: "In Business, In Danube" and Dad's Belgian Waffles is an example of the best.

Danube Fun Days offered volleyball, music, dancing, old friends, former classmates, former business owners, a parade, DHS waffles, Legion burgers, Lions brats, homemade ice cream and fun for the kids. Join us next year\_ we'll be glad to see you!

**DESCENDANTS OF F.A. SCHROEDER, THE "FATHER OF DANUBE", HELD REUNION TO CELEBRATE 150 YEARS IN AMERICA**  
Labor Day weekend increased Danube's numbers by at least 120 persons as the Schroeders arrived from 14 states to celebrate their first Reunion in 72 years! Schroeder descendants were present from North Dakota to Texas and California to New York. F.A.'s original family of 16 was represented by his sole living child, his daughter Jeannette Voelz (Mrs. Karl) of Winthrop, MN. She was recognized and celebrated as Matriarch of the family now. A Gathering Banquet was held on Friday evening at Max's (Olivia) and the buffet of excellent food was followed by Introductions and Sharing Memories by a member of each branch of the family.

Markus Thomas Schuette, grandson of Jeanette, has studied and recorded the genealogy of this family since he was 16 and DHS is pleased to have a copy that can be used for family research as it includes Kruegers, Blacks, Sommers, Pages and more familiar names of early citizens. Markus was the creator of this Reunion and it was the realization of his dream to gather his living relatives and form new bonds. Great event, Markus, and thank you for sharing your history with the Depot.

During the gatherings a large picture of the original family, in 1936, was on display at Max's

and at the close it was presented to the Danube Depot Museum! We were delighted to accept this meaningful contribution to the history of Danube. Also, delighted that they included the Depot in their weekend events as it was abuzz with Schroeders from Friday to Sunday evening!

### THIRD ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2008

The food pays tribute to the German heritage of Danube with Brats & Sauerkraut, plus chips, bars and beverages. A freewill donation pays for your meal and we appreciate your generous giving each year as this is both a fun social event and also a fundraiser to conclude our exhibit for the winter.

There is a **RAFFLE** this year, for **CASH!!!** Tickets are available from DHS members, at Fall Festival, businesses around town, the Museum during visiting hours and by mail. Note the coupon at the end of the newsletter, submit with payment and we will make out your official tickets and put them in the drawing for you.

**The drawing is at Fall Festival at 4:00 PM.**

Last year the Veterans Memorial, erected by the American Legion on the Depot Museum site, was dedicated at Fall Festival. This year they gave a generous donation to be used for landscaping. So be sure to see the addition of a circular retaining wall and other landscaping. Shrubs will outline the wall and seasonally there will be colorful flowers displayed at each side of the marble monument. The area will be seeded with grass, when the lawn is seeded at the Museum.

Thank you again, Legionnaires, for a handsome tribute to our area veterans, past and present, who put themselves on the line for us and our country, the USA. They also served that citizens of other countries could know more freedoms!

### DHS APPROVED CONSTRUCTION OF PLATFORM \_ TO BE STARTED NOW

It has been discussed for sometime and we need to do something around the foundation before we can seed lawn, landscape, etc. We were able to "get a really good deal" on pavers, because they were Closeout Priced. We spoke bravely of being able to lay the pavers (as a platform around the Depot) ourselves! No volunteers came forward when we asked in the last newsletter and that was our clue that there was probably a reason no one offered, so we got cold feet! We asked for bids and last week accepted the one from Wittman Landscaping of Olivia. Weather allowing the 12' platform should be completed by Fall Festival and should be both an attractive and practical addition to the site. The DHS Board and members can tell you it is very difficult to "step out on a limb" and make such decisions. Since we already have the pavers, we know the labor won't cost less if we wait, the site needs to be seeded and improved, so we did approve the expenditure of approximately \$12,000 for pavers and labor with our line of credit.

The brick platform at the Depot's original site was on the north side along the tracks and was about 12' wide. Hopefully we'll receive help preparing and seeding the lot when the platform is complete!

**UPDATE: INTERIOR ENVIRONMENT GRANT  
AS ANNOUNCED IN MAY NEWSLETTER**

The \$8000 check toward the total \$25,000 project has been gratefully received from the Minnesota Historical Society. We have received over \$4000 in donations toward our \$8000 obligation to match the Grant, so we are over halfway there and hope the Fall Festival will get us near the total!

If you recall this project was to add heat, AC, insulation and Lower Level finish work to protect the documents and artifacts in our building. The cold of a Minnesota Winter and humidity of a Minnesota Summer are not ideal preservation qualities. The furnace has been delivered and installation should begin soon. The temperature will be at a minimum level, but it will be nice to be able to turn it up for workdays and use it some during October to April. There will be carpenter opportunities in the basement during Fall & Winter, so if you want to join the crew call Jerry Jahnke or Lee Nere. We're stretching the \$16,000 Grant & Matching Fund as far as possible to do the \$25,000 project.

**RECENT DEATHS OF LONG TIME RESIDENTS**

Ruth Heineman  
Robert Westby  
"Coach" Al Handahl  
Rollie Gehrt

**SENIOR EXPO 2008 TO BE HELD  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 11:30 - 4:00  
IN BOB BRUGGERS AUDITORIUM,  
(AT FORMER DANUBE SCHOOL)**

The theme is "Mooooove Over For Healthcare,  
We Have What Yooooon Need"  
Come for Fun - Education - Entertainment and a  
Dairy Treat at 2:30 p.m.

**COMING TO DANUBE SEPTEMBER 16**  
DHS will host the Renville County Historical Society & Musuem's Traveling Display:  
*Minnesota River: Gateway to Renville County*  
from September 16<sup>th</sup> to October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Bob Bruggers Auditorium. Come, check out this display and learn about the importance the Minnesota River had to Renville County.

Hours: Tuesdays & Fridays 1:30-4:00 PM &  
during the Senior Expo the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**RECENT DONORS**

Lathoriel Kraft Badenhausen  
Class of 1953 - 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion  
Diane Wallert & Duane Grund Families in  
Memory of Rita Grund

**MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS**

The Danube Historical Society & Museum would like to thank the following for contributing to the Museum's Collections:

Barbara Sommers Nelson  
Duane Grund & Diane Wallert  
F.A. Schroeder Descendants  
Renville Star-Farmer - assorted photos and  
article from their archives  
St. Matthews Lutheran Church - wooden  
church pew from their Fellowship Hall

**COMPUTER, COPIER AND SOFTWARE  
WERE IMMEDIATELY PUT TO WORK**

Your names and addresses have been entered and The address labels for this mailing have been printed using our new PAST PERFECT software, computer and printer! It will do much more than that and with Suzie Lueck's computer abilities a few of us are learning to use it and we are entering data regularly. We were so fortunate to receive this grant from MHS and our \$8000 obligation will soon be met.



**Danube Historical Society & Museum**  
**Officers & Board Members**

Rod Black, President  
Ardell Tepfer, Vice President  
Jeanette Schneiderman, Secretary  
Dorothy Kleinhuizen, Treasurer

**Three Year Term - 2010**

Donna Treichler  
Suzie Lueck  
Lowell Jakel

**Two Year Term - 2009**

Al Strunc  
Jerry Jahnke  
Rod Black

**One Year Term - 2008**

Leroy Nere  
Jeanette Schneiderman  
Ardell Tepfer

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES**  
(Due January of each year)

Individual: \$10

If you join now (after 9/1/2008) that will pay your membership to the end of 2009. Your membership fees are a great aid as they help pay for printer ink, paper, postage, utilities, and exhibit expenses. Join us and Thanks!

**FALL FESTIVAL RAFFLE TICKET ORDER**

Cash Prizes: \$500 - \$200 - \$100 - \$50 - \$50

Drawing @ 4 PM - October 4, 2008

At the Depot Museum - Danube, MN

Ticket Price: \$5.00 each

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enter (qty) \_\_\_\_\_ tickets in my name.  
Payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.

Checks payable to: Danube Historical Society.  
Mail to: DHS PO Box 463 Danube, MN 56230