

"Never Doubt That a Small Group of Thoughtful, Committed Citizens Can Change the World \_  
Indeed It's the Only Thing That Ever Has." Margaret Mead

## THE DEPOT IS BACK IN DANUBE !

After 30 years positioned beside the Sheep Shedde near Olivia it was rolled back into Danube on a beautiful sunny Tuesday morning, May 24<sup>th</sup> and settled on a brand new basement in the shadow of the Water Tower, \_ within view of its original site and quite near the railroad!

When the word spread about town that the Depot would go on the Sheep Shedde auction March 18, the former Centennial Committee assembled to decide what to do. We had seed money left from the Centennial Museum, which we kept, hoping a suitable, affordable building would become available for a permanent Museum. We went for it!

March 18 wasn't a very nice day (snowy, icy) and perhaps worked for us as we had heard there would be a lot of interest in an old depot. When the bidding opened at \$5000 no one bid and as the auctioneer continued coming down, no one bid! Then he asked for an offer and we bid \$1.00! "Oh no," he said, "that's what it sold for over 30 years ago, so I can't accept that!" We bid \$100 and we got it !!! Plus a 10% Buyer's Fee! Then the handsome, original Waiting Bench came up and we had competition, but we won the bid at \$850 making a total of \$1045.

So much has happened since then ! We needed to become official and so we are incorporated as the Danube Historical Society. DHS! It has been a heartwarming experience as jobs needed done and people have stepped up and helped out. The Danube City Council offered the city owned land that we used to call the Water Tower Park! The DHS decided we would need storage room and so a basement was included. Who would dig the hole? Jerry Pauling, a Montevideo businessman and former Danube grocer, donated his machine and labor and he worked long hours in intermittent rain! Local volunteers hauled away the dirt. A DHS member made a call to Duinicks and rock arrived for the basement! Without these donations our seed money would have been gone before the Depot arrived!

The BIG decisions came when we had to start spending BIG money beyond our small cache. Two DHS members signed a line of credit of \$25,000 as we needed to move the depot by May 19<sup>th</sup> (rain kept moving the date ahead) and be able to pay Thein Moving and Pennings Construction for the basement. Looking ahead will be new wood shingles, electricity, power washing, painting and then restoring the inside and purchasing display fixtures, etc. Projected costs could reach \$50,000, but we are planning carefully hoping that amount will give us operating expenses for the future and we won't have to have continuous fundraising.

At the Centennial in 2001 a lot of appreciation was expressed for the Museum and many of you encouraged us to pursue a permanent Museum. And many said "if that happens, let us know, we'll contribute." We had to move ahead quickly when the Depot became available and it has been exciting and so this letter is going out to all the names we kept from the Centennial because we want you to have a chance to participate in every way! (Already the addresses need updated, so please pass the word along to relatives and classmates that may have moved since 2001.) **Right now financial contributions would be so welcome;** we here are busy with the details and will always be working for the Museum, but we do need your backing to carry the project through.

Here's how you can keep up with the project: Right now you can go on the Danube website and see pictures! Jammie Schneider has volunteered to update the Depot progress on the website. [www.cityofdanube.com](http://www.cityofdanube.com) Look often because that is where you will find requests for volunteers and upcoming work dates. (Such as, removing the wood shingles and pulling out all of the little nails, shingling, painting!) If you have skills you are willing to share let us know as we are forming a list of volunteers. Any Fundraising experts out there!?! Do any of you have

experience writing grants? Laurie from the Renville County Historical Museum will help us, but we need to provide others to work with her.

You are all invited to attend our Danube Historical Society meetings at the Danube Community Center. Meetings will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday mornings at 10:00 am until all major work is complete which will be several months. We are having a great time, so come join us and share your expertise.

We hope to have made enough headway by Fun Days to allow "sneak peeks", but it will be several months before we have exhibits set up. In the meantime keep your eyes open for Danube Memorabilia and if you have stories, memories, etc. of the Danube Depot please jot them down and send them to us. *Now that the Danube school building has been officially closed by the district we feel more urgent about preserving all that we can of Danube history and protecting school memorabilia such as, composites, extracurricular records & awards, etc. We hope someone needs our school building for new purposes! Know anyone!*

Historical contributions will be welcome later, when we have organized the interior. Labor and financial contributions are welcome now! Correspondence to: Danube Historical Society, PO Box 463 Danube, Mn 56230.

Estimated expenses so far:

Basement-Mike Pennings Construction	\$11,700
Moving - Thein Moving	6,500
XCel - Overhead wire supervision during move	500
Mediacom - " " " " " "	500
REA " " " " " "	?
Building upgrades	?
Roof - materials	4000
Roof - labor	?
Paint - exterior & interior	?

PS. Since compiling the above Jerry & Al have completed the center wall in the basement and Ardell has moved the dirt back around the Depot and skirting is being applied. Painting and cleaning and lots more are coming next!

DANUBE HISTORICAL SOCIETY (as of June 9<sup>th</sup>)

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Vice President/Secretary: Ardell Tepfer

Treasurer: John Nyquist

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*Darlene Haug*  
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*Donna Dieckler*  
*Harriet Scholler*  
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