

Danube Historical Society Newsletter

PO Box 463 danubehs@gmail.com Danube, Minnesota 56230
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Sharing the Past, Present and Future with You



Since the last newsletter

We held our Fall Festival on Saturday, Sept. 30, with a few drizzles, but a nice group came and ate and talked and listened to music (Thanks, Greg!) Volunteers were plentiful and made things go smoothly. Door prizes were given out to a lucky few, and everyone had a nice day.

Landscaping work was done by Redwood Nursery with arborvitae planted instead of lilacs along the fence line on the south border of the property by the bandstand, which will make everyone happy. Mulch was added, along with a border. It looks better, and won't require as much maintenance. Thanks to the Black family for designating memorials to this project.

The old banner, formerly identifying the DHS marching band in parades was donated to the Historical Society by Darlene Kurtz Engstrom. Thanks! We hosted about 80 RCW students and their teachers and chaperones from 3rd and 5th grades on October 17. It was a nice day to show them around the museum and the grounds outside. We enjoy sharing our local history with everyone who is interested! Thanks to everyone who helped with that visit.

With the old water tower removed from the grounds, the Legion is considering relocating the Veteran's Memorial closer to the road. Likewise, we also ponder the purchase of a storage building but need to figure out the best location for it. So we have things to discuss in the coming months.

Our museum has no regular open hours during the winter months, but you may find one or two of us doing some work on scrapbooks or displays when we can get there. Stop in if you like, we love distractions!

amazonsmile

Our  Org Central donation, from your purchases designated for Danube Historical Society, totaled \$28.77 from sales in the 3rd quarter of 2017. (July --Sept) Thanks! To participate, go to www.smile.amazon.com and find Danube Historical Society in the list of participants. Then just shop as usual, and .5% of your total dollars spent is donated to DHS. We receive it quarterly. Thanks!

AN EMPTY CHAIR

The Danube Historical Society lost a key member last fall. Mary Lee Black was a driving force for our society, and we will miss her enthusiasm for new projects, and her never-ending ideas to make our museum attractive and interesting to visitors. While not all of her ideas have been implemented fully at this time, we know some of her vision for the depot will carry on. She embraced learning about new connections to Danube, from the Yellowstone Trail, to the railroad, and she wanted to preserve the history of this town that she loved dearly. She did a wonderful job with the quarterly newsletters for so many years, and we hope to do as well with the articles and the dreams and vision. The desk in the corner will always be Mary Lee's desk, and sometimes one of us will sit in that empty chair to gain inspiration. Watch over us, Mary Lee.

DONORS and PAID MEMBERSHIPS

Rosemary and Dave Hannan
Wayne Tepfer
Richard Tesch
Teren Novotny
John and Georgia Smedstad
Elton Braun

PAID MEMBERSHIPS

Howard & Judy Bredesen
Mavis Orr
Doug & Ann Williams
Gary & Piroaska Lueck
Roger & Helen Manthei
Jerry & Ruth Jahnke
James Johnson
Diane Adamski
Chuck & Annette Sportel
Mary Ann Pfeiffer
Erna Rohs
Ken Houdek

RECENT DEATHS

Rose Brouwer Baker
Ruth Bratsch Jacobson, class of 1942
Mary Lee Black
Duane Standfuss
Lee Maurice
Russell Tepfer, class of 1954
Lois Seehusen
Fern Kaven Wiehr
Wayne Smida
Trudy Kaiser Dietz, class of 1965
Janet Caldwell Bickman, class of 1960
Joseph Zetah, class of 1951
Wayne Kleinhuizen
Hulda Weigel Gilbert, Class of 1939
Ellsworth "Shorty" Kaiser

MEMORIALS

Monetary Donations In Memory of:

Virginia Heck from Rod & Mary Lee Black, Jerry & Ruth Jahnke
Barbara (Schack) and Jerome Hlavka from Dale Hlavka
Edward & Selma Tesch from Richard Tesch
Elmer & Hazel Minkel from Teren Novotny
Smedstad family from Cara Fish
Mary Lee Black from Blake & Jane Schroeder, Roger & Helen Manthei, Jerry & Ruth Jahnke, Mel & Kathy Brouwer, Quinn Carty, Marilyn Hein, Diane Adamski, Gene & Sandy Frank, Dave & Connie Maurice, Mary Ann Pfeiffer, and many others through the Rod Black family
Al Grosklags from Jerry & Ruth Jahnke
Virginia Krogman from Jerry & Ruth Jahnke
Fern Wiehr from Dale & Joyce Neyhart, Edsel & Gay Bernstrom, Fern Wiehr family
Ruth Jacobson from the Ruth Jacobson family
Wayne Kleinhuizen from Roger and Dianne Beihoffer, Edsel and Gay Bernstrom

The Final Train Class Trip to Washington, DC

Submitted by Stan Malecek

The class of 1967 held their 50th year class reunion in early September. It was noted that we were the last class to use the train for transportation to Washington D.C. on our class trip. I was asked to write my memories of that trip.

We were to board the train early Sunday. Upon arriving at the Danube Depot we were told the train would be late because of a snowstorm in South Dakota. The train did arrive but the delay caused us to miss our connection in Minneapolis. Short delay in Minneapolis, I'm positive they pulled a coach out of storage that hadn't seen use for months maybe longer. We must have been hooked to a mail train, as it seemed to slow down for every town.

We arrived in Chicago, and had another delay. We boarded a bus for a 2 hour tour of downtown Chicago, McCormick place, Wrigley building and newspaper buildings. Our bus driver/ tour guide mentioned that some of the homeless walking the streets were WWII veterans that never got home. That statement has stuck with me, I can't imagine losing a son or brother that way. We resumed our train ride to D.C.

We saw as many sites and museums as possible including the Smithsonian, (not enough time there) White House, tomb of the unknown soldier and JFK's grave at Arlington cemetery, Lincoln and Jefferson memorials, just to mention a few.

The name of the old hotel escapes me, but it is my opinion that the St Matthews crew was at the center of most of the shenanigans (water balloons out the 4th or 5th floor windows, elevator full of rollaway beds showing up in the lobby in the middle of the night). The last night we had a riverboat ride on the Potomac River with a stop at an amusement park.

We headed home after a busy time in D.C. What I remember of the trip back, was going through Pennsylvania with all the steel mills and other industrial plants, and how rough the cities looked. We saw farm country through a lot of states.

We arrived back in Danube, tired, with great memories of the trip with classmates. I think everyone at the reunion agreed with Nancy Schendel Greene's comment that they wouldn't trade the trip experience for a prom.
--Stan Malecek, Class of 1967

Kevin Houdek, DHS class of 1985, was honored by WCCO TV this fall for being named "Minnesota's Best High School Football Radio Announcer". Kevin works in Long Prairie, MN, and has announced games for Long Prairie-Grey Eagle for the past 30 years. The Danube Historical Society congratulates Kevin for his fine work and his being honored by WCCO TV.

A big **THANK YOU** to all that made a memorial gift to DHS in honor of Mary Lee Black. The donations were used to pay for 18 aborvitae in the Depot Park. Mary Lee will really like that. Thanks again. - from the Rod Black famiy

Membership Dues - \$10.00 per individual. January 1st begins new year.
\$10 per person per year. Use the form below and mail
to PO Box 463, Danube, MN 56230

Your support is very important to us and we appreciate you very much!

Yes, I would like to support the Danube Historical Society

Total Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Dues For: Name(s) _____

Donation - \$ _____

Memorial - \$ _____ In Memory of: _____

From: _____

Address change: _____

E-mail: _____

Would you like to receive this newsletter by email? Yes ___ No ___



MUSEUM HOURS : May to October:

Tuesday and Friday afternoons from 1:30 – 4:00 or by request. Call:

Rod 320-826-2274
Dorothy K. 320-826-2589
Lowell J. 320-826-2740
Cal & Suzie 320-826-2236

2017 DATES TO SAVE Planning Meetings:

April to November 2nd & 4th
Thursdays @ 9:30
From November – April, 2nd
Thursday @ 9:30
All members welcome to attend.



An Old-Fashioned Christmas

I remember many years ago
When I was just a child
Christmas was truly fun for me
Compared today, so very mild.

We found a very special tree
Possibly from near-by
We put together our decorations
At a small age we would always try.

We would string popcorn one by one
Coloring paper in red and green strips
Gluing them together with
Flour and water to make them stick.

Presents were very few in our home
Most of them were home-made
But I wouldn't change a single day
Special memories that will never fade!

Marilyn Lott

