

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

Summer Concerts 2016

The Danube Historical is happy to announce that we will be hosting 6 concerts again this summer in beautiful Mueller Park, adjacent to the Depot Museum, in our bandstand. We also are VERY happy to announce that we have received a grant from the Southwest Minnesota Arts Council to help us defray the expenses of the concerts. The free will donation collected at the concerts does not usually cover the expense of the artist, who we often ask to perform at a reduced rate. This will help us pay the artists what they deserve, and will also help with advertising. Concerts scheduled are:

Tuesday, June 14 – Jeff Johnson – Jeff is a 1997 graduate of BDRSH high school who went on to college to pursue a music education degree. Jeff is a classically trained lyric baritone who's love of all genres of music can be heard in his vocal style. In August of 2015, Jeff was chosen by Kelly Clarkson herself to perform during her Piece By Piece Stadium Tour at the Xcel Energy Center for a once in a lifetime chance to be seen by thousands of fans. We are excited to have Jeff come "home" for us!

Tuesday, June 28 – Dam Jammers – This local 6 piece bluegrass/rock/? Band has become well known in the area for their great instrumentals and vocals. They are a fun band and we are happy to have them back – come on out!

Thursday, July 7 – Heart of a Tinman – This is a "little rock band" from the Twin Cities who will bring a fun evening for families with or without kids! This is our Fun Days concert, and we hope to see a lot of you there!

Tuesday, July 26 – Chad Elliott – Chad returns to Danube from Iowa to share his songs and stories that are so down-to-earth and eclectic. Come hear this man who loves what he does and it shows!

Tuesday, August 2 – Mike Kingery family -- This favorite family has been sharing their musical talents in the West Central MN area for a long time, and they never disappoint. Come here this talented family with a message for young and old. (This is the first Tuesday of the month, because there is a primary election on the second Tuesday – Make note!)

Tuesday, August 23 – * Tentative – MN Over 60 Band --**

These activities are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the SW MN Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



Fun Days Survives as Danube Area Action Club Undergoes Change

Members withdrew from DAAC as life changes required they turn their abilities to family, weddings, careers, etc. The time, years and talents they gave to DAAC and the Fun they produced for all of us "Danubites" are greatly appreciated! Best Wishes in your pursuits!

The rumor and panic got around town that Fun Days would not happen because there was no longer a committee, except one! Ben Ryan was still available. He received enough encouragement to call a meeting and asked for new volunteers.

(As one of the founders of Fun Days almost 40 years ago, I hopefully attended the meeting.). Entering the meeting room was fantastic! Twenty-one persons were present! From every corner of the Danube Area and all ages, 21 people had answered the call! (We've mentioned before that the last several years has brought several young couples to Danube.) And they were there! Their enthusiasm was vital. So thankful for all the persons who turned out, I practically floated home with a big grin on my face. There will be a 2016 Fun Days, there will be meetings and committees and hard work, new bonds of friendship, and there will be lots of fun and new memories for children and families!

Come join us for Fun Days July 6-11 (see the enclosed schedule and keep it for your fridge). The classes of '56, '66 and '76 will be here and a rumor that '51 might gather also. Are there others?

Danube Area people, I love your spirit, your willingness to "step up" and make this a thriving Community. So happy we live here! See you? MLB

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Bob and Jeanette Gens
Lowell and Darla Jakel

DONORS

John and Georgia Smedstad
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MEMORIALS

Monetary Donations In Memory of:

Emil Voelz, Jr. by Jeanette Schneiderman, Betty Tepfer, Cal and Suzie Lueck, Lavonne Voelz
Steve Schmoll by Mary Ann Schmoll
Brant Doerr by Helmut and Rikka Doerr
Diane Fischer Benson by Shirley Zaska Sweeney, Myrna Kroening
Pat and Bob Justin by Rod and Mary Lee Black, Gene and Colleen Allex
Bob Williams by Rod and Mary Lee Black
Verlin Maurice by David Reck

"One-room school house memories" - Betty Vos Hemstad

If asked what was the worst thing about attending a one-room school house in the country, I believe most girls would say that it wasn't the school house, but the "Four-Holer" out by the back fence. It was simply a small room (no partitions) with a long wooden slab with four holes (of different sizes) cut into it. In the 40s no one considered privacy as something important. Many times the girls would ask to go to the outhouse a mere fifteen minutes after a recess. I believe the teacher was quite aware why, but they never said a word and, of course, granted the girl her wish to leave the room.

**Thanks for responding to the request for memories, Betty! We will include as space permits.*

An Hour with Ellsworth "Shorty" Kaiser May 14, 2016

Just one month from today, Flag Day, Shorty will celebrate his 100th birthday! Do you know of anyone who lived to 100 and spent all of those years in the Danube community? He was born on a farm 1.5 miles north of our village to George and Bertha (Tepfer) Kaiser on June 14, 1916!

Asked how he got his nickname he explained that his 3 Uncles, Albert, Herbert and Martin looked at him in his crib and said "hi, Shorty" and that name stuck all his life.

His first 3 years of school were in Winfield Twp. School, then in town. When he was 14 or 15 they moved to town to the house on the corner of (present-day) Oak & 3rd and by now his brother, LeRoy, was born. His parents built a tennis court on the lot where Shorty's home is today and they played a lot of tennis. When he was in 10th grade he left school to work. He related that people were poor in those days and they all tried to help support their family. So he left school and drove his Father's blade, and his Father found other work.

(At this point we realized we were going to want to tell you a lot more about Shorty as his stories really show us what life was like in Danube for the last 100 years! And he has a great sense of humor, clear memories and is a good storyteller! So we will continue that history in the next newsletter.)

He related that money was not a major goal of his life, but he enjoyed the opportunity to share what he did have with his family, church and community. He's concerned that our society has become greedy and not as willing to work for and wait for things, as people had to do in the 'old days'.

Shorty and his wife, Alice, had four children, Barb (& Dick Gunderson) of Spicer & Arizona, Gary (& Diane & sons Gary & Lance) of Detroit Lakes, Nancy (& James Klecker & daughters Stacy & Shelly) of Excelsior and Alan of Danube and 4 great grandchildren. He is very thankful for his wonderful family who grew up without getting in trouble and have brought love and joy to his life.

Shorty's family has planned an Open House at the Danube Community Center on Sunday, June 19 to celebrate his 100 years. All are welcome.

Happy Birthday, Shorty! And thanks for sharing this hour today.

TIDBITS OF NEWS FROM DANUBE

*On April 26, the Danube City Council voted to build the new water tower in the northwest part of town near the pump house on Oak St. between 6th St. and Freedom Lane, so Mueller Park will not be altered or disturbed this summer. Thanks for finding a great solution that benefits all of us!

***The Communications class from University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point will be coming through Danube as they travel the Yellowstone Trail west and will camp at Mueller Park on Wednesday, June 1. We will feed them a meal and visit with them that event..**

*New officers were selected at the DHS Annual Meeting April 14th. Secretary Jeanette Schneiderman & Treasurer Dorothy Kleinhuizen both expressed their desire to retire and their resignations were accepted with gratitude and thanks for the fine way they carried out their responsibilities. Kathy Tepfer and Sandy Frank agreed to share the Secretary position and were elected. Suzie Lueck accepted the Treasurer's position. The 2 three year terms as Board Members were accepted by Allen Schochenmaier and Al Strunc. Chairman Rod Black & Vice Chairman Lowell Jakel retain their offices.

*Jeanette Schroeder Voelz (Karl) was honored May 12 in celebration of her 100th Birthday. She is the last surviving child of the F. A. Schroeder family. (F.A. is remembered as the Father of Danube.) We at DHS fondly remember Jeanette from the beginning of our museum as she visited several times and shared many memories. Relatives and friends from Danube enjoyed participating in her festivities. Best Wishes, Jeanette.

***Did your graduating class year end with a 2 or 7? Then 2017 is your year for a Reunion and you & your classmates can begin your planning now. We'll look forward to seeing you at 2017 Fun Days. Feel free to contact DHS for assistance with your plans.**

Anne Nere by Brad and Darlene Nere
Les Jakel by Yvonne Jakel
Cornie Yock by Henrietta Helgeson
Ed and Marcella Folkerts by Russ Folkerts
Norman Braun by Elton Braun
Jose Garcia, Jr. by Rod and Mary Lee Black

In Honor of:

Suzie Lueck by David and Joyce Lueck

RECENT DEATHS

Bob Williams
Jose Garcia, Jr.
Donna Bratsch Greene, DHS grad 1948

MUSEUM HOURS :
May to October
Tuesday and Friday
1:30 -4:30 p.m.

Or By Request. Call:
Rod & MaryLee 320-826-2274
Dorothy K. 320-826-2589
Lowell J. 320-826-2740
Cal & Suzie 320-826-2236

2016 DATES TO SAVE
Planning Meetings: 2nd & 4th Thursdays @ 9:30
All members welcome to attend.

DUES \$10 ANNUALLY
DONATIONS WELCOME!
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

NAME _____

Dues for: _____

Donation: _____

Memorial for: _____

Total amt. enclosed: _____

Address change?: _____

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

Email address: _____

Corrections or comments: _____
