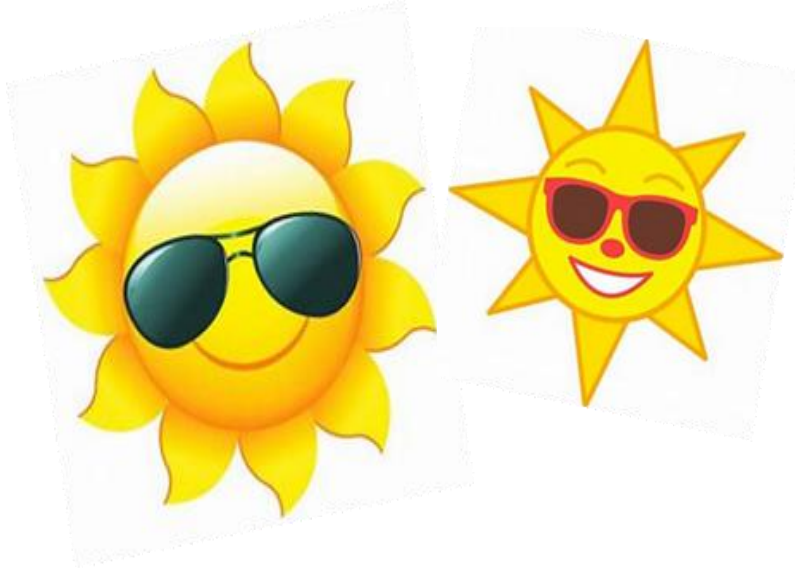


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June 2023

Issue #202



“Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy
days of summer
Those days of soda and pretzels
and beer
Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy
days of summer
Dust off the sun and moon and
sing a song of cheer.... ~ Nat
King Cole, 1963

Library Happenings

Library Happenings is written by the Director of the Donnellson Public Library, unless otherwise noted.

Preschool Story Hour

Summer has begun! We have been holding our Preschool story hour at the same time as the Summer Reading story hour. This seems to work out great for parents. The preschool kids heard stories with such theses as:

Gardening, vacation, Wild Animals, and Music with our very own Brenda Knox coming to play and sing with the kids. The school-aged kids are reading older picture books and a chapter of *Toys Go Out* by Emily Jenkins. It is a cute story from the toys perspective.



Summer Activities

Art Club, Touch-A-Truck, Cooking with Toni, Puppet shows, Legos, visit from Clay at Lee County Conservation, visit from a children's author, Foam cannon, Sheltered Reality, and Mikayla Oz Magician have been some of the activities we have had this month. Lots of kids and lots of fun!

The Donnellson Book Core

The book club met on Monday, June 19th, to discuss *The Butterfly Effect* by Rachel McKenny.

They have agreed on an anniversary book titled *The Girl in Disguise* by Greer Macallister. They will pick this book up at their next meeting, July 17th at 7:00 pm.

Senior Crafternoon

Big thanks to Victoria Matlock and the Montrose Health Center for the flower arranging session! The ladies had a great time.

The next Senior Crafternoon will be held on May 14th at 3:30. Call the library to reserve your spot.

July Library Activities

The Donnellson Library will be closed on Tuesday July 4th.

Kids programs:

Story Hour	Tuesdays at 10 am
Toddler Time	Thursdays at 10am
Art	Mondays at 2:00
Touch-A-Truck	Tuesdays at 2:00
Cooking with Toni	Wednesdays at 2:00
Find Your Voice	Thursdays at 2:00
Legos	Fridays at 2:00 with Super Mario movie on the 28th

Special Family Programs:

Reptile Show	Thursday, July 13th @ 2:00
Insect Zoo	Monday, July 24th @ 1:00
Music Jam	Thursday, July 20th @2:00 w/ Dave Roth
Talent Show	Thursday, July 27th @ 2:00

Teen Program:

Movie and Pizza Tuesday, July 11th at 6pm
Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves

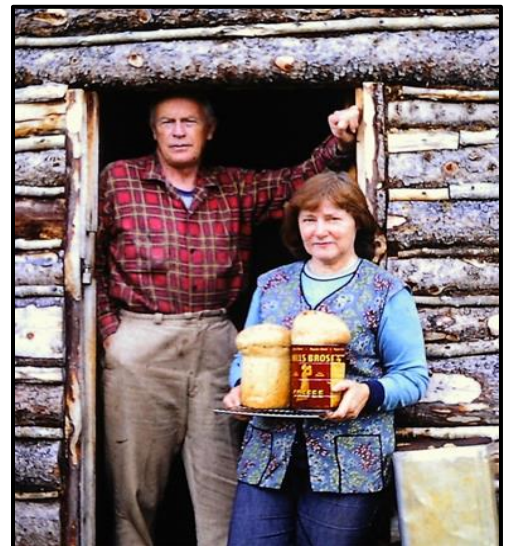
Adult Programs:

Crafternoon Wednesday, July 12th @ 3:30 (Registration required)
Book Club Monday, July 17th @ 7:00 pm - discussing "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" by Taylor Reid
Friends of the library Tuesday, July 18th @ 5:00 pm
Writers Bloc Wednesday, July 19th @ 1:00 pm
CARDS ~~Thursday, July 20th~~ Canceled. Next: Aug 17th at 1:00pm
Library Board Mtg Thursday, July 20th @ 7:00pm

Richard L Proenneke Museum



Babe and his T-Craft - Richard named it "The Little Blackbird"



Terry & Vic Gill at their Bonanza Hills Camp
Vic holding sourdough baked in coffee cans

Richard stayed at Twin Lakes from May 21, 1968 to September 25, 1969 and after building his cabin he set out to test himself to see if he could make it through a winter there, and passed with flying colors. Richard flew to Kodiak and spent a month there before heading back to the homestead in Primrose, IA. Richard would return to Twin Lakes on June 19, 1970.

Excerpt from Richard's letter to brother "Jake"

Twin Lakes

June 19, 1970

Dear Jake:

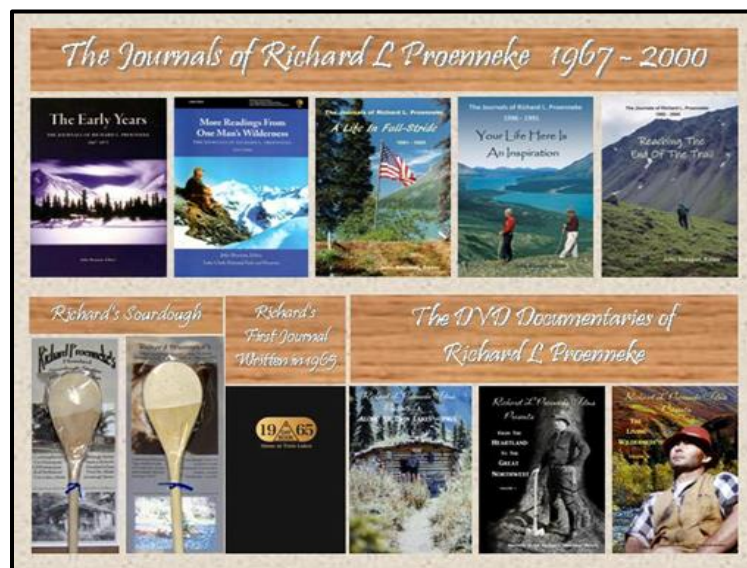
Finally made it - came in June 14 and you was right, the T craft was loaded right down. I wasn't hauling much but Babe kept adding until it was full to the top. A case of Mary's canned salmon in glass slid down and was resting against his back. I had stuff on the floor between my feet. The old bird wouldn't get on the step. Out the channel and going by the island and still not doing much. Then I wish you could have seen what the old rat did. Rocked her fore & aft like Edo says to do. Every time the nose came down she was a little higher and then she broke water. Climbed right on out direct for the Kijik River and the high country. 3000 ft. by the time we slipped through the notch 2/3 rds. of the way down the lower lake.

Found my diggings looking not too bad. Cluttered up a bit and the door latch broken (rotating disk) from pressure on the handle with the lock shaft holding the disk. The face of the fireplace smoked up. My painted tin pans looking as if they had used them in the fire place. A batch of wood burned but none of my standing supply sawed. A couple boxes of garbage in the cabin but they left some groceries too. Pretty lucky I would say. I looked for something with a name on it but didn't find anything except an airline passenger coupon. Kenai to Anch. Nov. 15 '69. Some guy by the name of Moore and charged to a Chem. Co. in Tulsa Okla. so doubt if he stayed here. Some guy from Kenai broke my snow shovel shoveling a run way to get his snowed in airplane out April 1st (must have been on wheels) but he left a nice note and offered to make it right if I needed anything. He was camped across the lake. Haven't done anything picture wise since I got here. Been busy getting things in order. Weather turned foul the day after I came. Down the lake wind and rain farther up country. A gust flopped the canoe over and broke the rotten line I had it tied to a bush with. It rolled in to the lake right side up and took off (at night) I noticed it about ten next morning and guess you know I took off looking. Had just about given up hope when I found it right side up full of water not more than 60 yds. from the stream going into the lower lake. It had beached on a good beach and the surf slopped it full. I'll go down and bring it up when the wind dies. Man if it had hit the stream it might have hit the river at the lower lake - good by canoe as it is, no damage.

Bee has a nice Stinson but Voight says to stay legal with a passenger he has to leave one tank empty. He has a 150 engine - controllable pitch prop. - rotating beacon (top & bottom) radio etc. Into a little breeze it really gets off and climbs. Bee says he figures he could come out on it if he sold it for \$8,500. The rig was free (Lony's) to begin with. Voight says he thinks Bee is not completely happy with it and will peddle it to some fisherman after this season's big year for about 12,500.

Babe is coming in July 2. I am going out with him. Then July 4 we are going to Terry & Vic's (gold claim) in the Bonanza hills with the super cruiser on wheels. I plan to stay a few days and then make my way on foot back to Twin Lakes. Maybe about 35 or 40 miles. Babe still wants to build that log chicken house too so I'll have to go out to do that I guess. Don't know just when.

Are you a Richard Proenneke fan? Would you like to learn more about this incredible man who grew up in our backyard? Consider joining us and lending a helping hand. Drop me a line at: Brie Anderson, Richard Proenneke Museum Curator: brie@richardproenneke.com or contact the Library Director Sunny Robbins: director@donnellson.lib.ia.us





Shelter House at May's Park is finished! Just in time for summer!

Author at Work



The Writers' Bloc meeting was held June 21 in the Donnellson Library Local & Family History Department. Attending were Jan Blankenburg, Tom Moeller, Marty Miller and Diane Kruse.

Jan read several poems from the past to include her winner of the Lyrical Iowa Poetry Contest to share with the group. Jan stated she took first place in the Humor Category with her poem entitled "No Pain, No Gain". Since the Writers' Group selected the winner of last year's competition it was a "no brainer" for Jan to allow the group to again pick the winner. We are now 2-0!

Jan also read several other poems entitled, "A World Divided", "Go Figure" and "Easy Livin'". Since white squirrels were a topic of last month's meeting, Jan wrote the poem "Easy Livin'" to go along with the photographs which Tom Moeller promised to share. Below are several photos of a "rare" white squirrel who moved into the Franklin area several years ago and they certainly show the "easy livin'" the squirrel is proud of.



Below is Jan's description of the "proud" white squirrel's life in Franklin:

"Easy Livin"

I'm a friendly white squirrel – Franklin star There's a statue of me In the local bar	People fill their feeders Hoping to draw me near Put cameras on tripods Trusting I'll appear	I make morning rounds To favorite feeding stations In the Franklin Park I find my daily rations
--	---	--

**Kind towns' people have created
A playground just for me
Using white wooden replicas
Nailed to each tree**

**Living here is easy
In this sleepy little town
I've made new friends
So I plan to stick around.**

At last month's meeting, Marty mentioned one idea for some speakers at the Donnellson Methodist Church during the month of June since none were scheduled. She suggested it would be interesting if the parishioners told their own stories about some interesting events called Nostalgia Sunday Memories written in a story format. Her idea was a success and there were several interesting topics presented:

Nostalgia during WW II: The Heros of the war and the women who stayed behind

Another topic was about the family collection of photographs and how the photographs were presented for viewers to recall memories. No samples were shown but Diane pulled the wonderful collection of family photographs from the Mennonite Church to show how photographs from the earliest family to the present were laid out

Diane reported her book is with the printer for a final review before going to print. At this point the printer will set up the manuscript with headers, page numbers, the copyright and ISBN, and the cover selection.

Our Writers' Bloc group meets every 3rd Wednesday from 1-3 pm in the Local and Family History room. We invite you to share or just come listen to others as they present what they have written. Our next meeting will be July 19.~ **Written and submitted by Diane Kruse**

Suggested June Reading *Mind Prey*

This month's suggested reading is a thriller by John Sandford titled *Mind Prey*.

John Sandford is a pseudonym for author John Camp, who has written a long series of excellent thrillers and mysteries in the 'Prey' series, including such best sellers as Rules of Prey, Winter Prey and Night Prey. The protagonist in Mind Prey is another well-developed character named Lucas Davenport and the thriller is set in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Set around the kidnapping of psychiatrist Andi Mannette and her two daughters, the story explores the mind of a criminal afflicted with a mental condition psychologists refer to as anti-social

personality disorder in the overall category of psychotic disorders. Non-medical readers refer to this particular problem as 'Psycho', a child or adult with extreme disregard for the rights, freedoms and lives of other people and very commonly prone to aggressive and violent behavior.

The protagonist Davenport is the Deputy Chief of the Minneapolis Police Department, a self-made millionaire in the field of computer games; a police detective of long experience; and a politically savvy investigator and administrator who is not above breaking the law in order to achieve victory over particular criminals. In *Mind Prey* the police are up against a very short time allowance due to this particular criminal's probable termination of his victims within days.

Mind Prey delves into the mind of a particularly clever criminal who has become sexually obsessed with the psychiatrist who treated him while he was in prison. Excellent reading for anyone who enjoys a good thriller. ~ **Written and Submitted by Aaron Kruse**

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Summer Book Sale



What a perfect day for the Friends of the Donnellson Library to host their first outstanding sale of 2023. The book sale was organized by the co-chairs, Diane Kruse and Sharon Meierotto, and because of the overwhelming donations of books from our library shelves and our many patrons.

There were many reasons for this success as not only was it a beautiful summer day but we also had customers strolling through the tables of books all day long. There wasn't one time we didn't have patrons asking questions or weren't watching customers going from table to table -- and back around again to find more to add to their pile. In fact, books were selling so fast we ran out of bags/boxes. Also, many brought their own containers because customers stated they watch for our sales every year and continued to say, "you have the best book sale in the area".

Another reason was we had the support of many volunteers from the community, the library staff, and members of the Friends Group. A big 'thank you' goes out to the set-up crew/clean-up crew who donated their time to make this sale such a success. Our big 'thank you' goes out to our Director Sunny Robbins, her three children and husband, plus two members of their church; and our Friends members Deb Bailey, Sam Strange, and Aaron Kruse. As usual the helping hands of

Chris Strunk, Sharon Meierotto, Deb Bailey and the co-chairs helped patrons with packages to their car and collected the funds for the sale. And we can't forget our many patrons who support our sales every year.



Because of the overwhelming donation of books again this year, the Friends are proud to report the sale brought in \$1,154.50. Due to the success we had at our sale we topped the total of \$1,027 in the 2022 June sale. Thank you to the Lee County Extension for the lovely flower garden which added lots of color for our sale.

The Friends will continue hosting two book sales annually in June and in the autumn. ~ **Written and submitted by Diane P. Kruse**

Donnellson, Iowa 1891-1981 Centennial Book was forwarded along with many photos of their activities in school and church as well as favorite teachers and friends. The team will be anxiously waiting to hear about their gifts of memories. More information has been gathered and will be reported on in the July newsletter.

Diane is working with Sunny and Sarah on a special project regarding the history of the Donnellson Library. Photos have been acquired for each of the buildings which housed the library over the years and a small pamphlet will be compiled to describe each location. It is a work in progress and the plan is to have it completed in the near future.

Diane is working with Rebecca Schau at the Donnellson City Council on a project which concerns the histories of Donnellson, the County Fair, the Donnellson Depot, and the schools in town as well as those rural school districts in the outlying areas. Both Diane and Sharon have been researching for input into these histories. Sharon and Diane had a meeting with Mr. Lewiston, who is connected with the depot and its restoration. It is hoped that down the road the Depot will be placed on the National Historical Registry because of future planned renovations.

Diane and Sharon are working with Diane Sanders to find information on members of the Wallingford Family. Research is still ongoing.

Diane continues to be in touch with Mr. Donald Helsel who currently lives in Michigan. Don's mother was Florence Lowenberg (daughter of August and Lottie Krebill Lowenberg) born in 1916. He has photographs and other information of interest and would like to share it with the Local & Family History. Mr. Helsel still plans to make a trip to Donnellson sometime this summer. The Local & Family History Department looks forward to his visit.

Display for June

Because of overwhelming genealogy projects, no subject for a June display had been chosen and the Lee County rural schools remained on display. Since there was such interest in the history of railroads from Mr. Kitchen and the Donnellson City Council, the remainder of July and into August will cover the history of Minerville.

