

DONNELLSON PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER
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Issue #182



Pumpkin Time

Pumpkin time is here again,
Time to play Trick or Treat.
Pumpkin time is here again,
Our spooky friends we'll meet.

See the costumes we have on,
Monsters, ghosts, goblins too.
See the costumes we have on,
Hear us all shout "Boo!"

LIBRARY Happenings

"Books permit us to voyage through time, to tap the wisdom of our ancestors. The library connects us with the insight and knowledge, painfully extracted from Nature, of the greatest minds that ever were, with the best teachers, drawn from the entire planet and from all our history, to instruct us without tiring, and to inspire us to make our own contribution to the collective knowledge of the human species. I think the health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support our libraries." ~ Carl Sagan, Cosmos

Library happenings are written and submitted by Brenda Knox, Director of the Donnellson Library, unless otherwise posted.

News from the Library

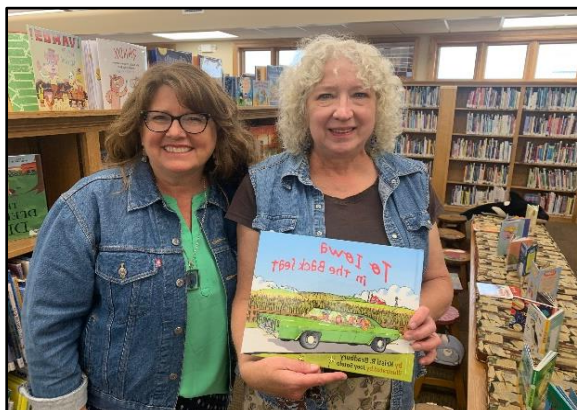
We are working with the local daycare and any parents who are interested to create an active preschool Story Hour group. Maybe Tuesday morning at 10:00 isn't the best time? Please call and tell us if you and your child would like a Story Hour Program. After lunch, and before naptime? 4:00, after naptime and before supper? We are flexible. We want to re-start Story Hour.

We are re-starting Senior Crafternoons! Each second Wednesday, a craft will be presented, and it is free for anyone over sixty. The classes are taught by Victoria Matlock, or other volunteers, and sponsored by Sunnybrook. Refreshments will be provided! Call the library at 319/835-5545 to reserve your place in the class. The first one will be a fall floral arrangement on November 10 at 3:30. Class size is limited to ten, so do not wait! (Pictured below: Participants from a Senior Crafternoon in 2020.)



The Activity Room is now open to sixteen persons at a time. We already are reserving times for non-profit community groups to come in to use the room. Call the Library at 319/835-5545 to reserve a space in the Activity Room for a meeting.

Author with Donnellson Ties Visits Library



We had a great visit from author Kristi Bradbury, who also visited Central Lee Schools to promote her picture book, *To Iowa in the Back Seat*. Kristi has several family members here in Donnellson, and the pictures in the book make it easy to identify our hometown. She currently lives in Colorado, but fondly remembers visiting her grandparents here while growing up, and the all-day car trip to get here. You may check out the book from our library!

Author Kristi Bradbury with Librarian, Brenda Knox

A Local Talented Author Donates her Book!



Emmeline Robbins, daughter of Sunny and John Robbins, wrote an interesting book and donated a copy to our library. Entitled *Cova*, the book is about a young orphan girl who encounters magical creatures and gets help from them during her life and travels. Here is a photo of Emmeline donating her hand-bound book to the library! Thanks so much, Emmeline. We cannot wait to see if you keep making books!

The Donnellson Book Core



The Book Core really enjoyed the subject matter and the story of *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson. It was our book discussion in October. The book will soon be made into a motion picture! It followed the career of a brave horseback librarian in the Appalachian Mountains in the time of the Great Depression.

Our next book will be a classic mystery by Agatha Christie: *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*. We will be discussing this book on November 15 at 7:00. **Here is what Goodreads has to say about the book.**

Considered to be one of Agatha Christie's most controversial mysteries, *The Murder Of Roger Ackroyd* breaks the rules of traditional mystery.

The peaceful English village of King's Abbot is stunned. The widow Ferrars dies from an overdose of veronal. Not twenty-four hours later, Roger Ackroyd—the man she had planned to marry—is murdered. It is a baffling case involving blackmail and death, that taxes Hercule Poirot's "grey cells" before he reaches one of the most startling conclusions of his career.

Anyone can join the Donnellson Book Core, which meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00. Just call the library, and let us get your name, phone number and e-mail so the volunteer coordinator can add you to our list! Book club members choose the books they want to read by consensus, and the library orders enough copies for all, free of charge. In return, each year the

members buy a book at library discount, to make a discussion set we can share with other Iowa libraries. It is a win-win!

Trick or Treat at the Library

The City of Donnellson held Beggar's Night on Saturday, October 30 this year, from 5:30-8:00 p.m. Intrepid Librarians Victoria Matlock, Shannon Schneider, and Toni Peterson decided to dress up, hand out candy, and had our library available for patron use during that time. Below are photos from Trick or Treat Night: First photo is Broom Hilda (Victoria Matlock,) brushing up on her spells.

Second photo is: Daisy Buchanan from F. Scott Fitzgerald's book, *The Great Gatsby*, portrayed by Toni Peterson. Next to her is Broom Hilda, portrayed by Victoria Matlock. And, on the right is Madame Claire Voyant, as portrayed by Shannon Schneider.



Thanks to the librarians for making lots of Halloween fun at the Donnellson Library.

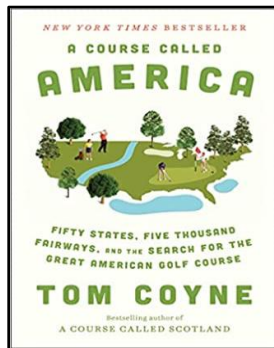


A few of the trick or treaters who stopped by the library.

Christmas Décor Contest

The Friends of Donnellson Public Library are sponsoring a Christmas Décor contest for outdoor displays in Donnellson. You may pick-up an entry blank at the library. A group of judges will look at your display, and the winners will be recognized by a yard sign and publicity in the newspapers. The rules are: Have your display ready by December 1 and keep it in place until the New Year. Pick up a form at the library and enter by November 24. There are various categories to enter, including Holiday Theme, Religious, or Business entries. Let us light up the holiday this year and bring some Christmas cheer to everyone in our local community.

Friends of Donnellson Public Library News



The Friends will welcome a guest at our next meeting, Tuesday November 12. Tom Gendron will speak on behalf of Green Acres about having a golf tournament to benefit the library and welcome a renowned author, Tom Coyne, for a banquet and meet & greet some time next summer. The book *A Course Called AMERICA* is one of many books Tom has written on the sport.

We can always have more Friends! If you are interested in supporting the library, by helping to volunteer, raise funds to pay for things outside of our budget, and help our library, please join Friends of Donnellson Public Library. A membership for an individual is only \$10.00/yr. You may also join as a family for \$25/yr. or for a lifetime membership of \$100.

Collecting for Holiday Goodness!

This year, our library will be collecting both for Toys for Tots, sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, and Christmas for Kids of Lee County. This year will be the last for Toys for Kids, which we have supported in the past. Toys for Tots is stepping in, to provide new toys for kids in Lee County and NE Missouri. Bring in NEW unwrapped toys and put them in their respective boxes. Toys for Kids of Lee County will also accept donations of gift cards for teens, (think Amazon and I-tunes, cards that you can get at Wal-Mart, Dollar General, etc.) Please support these worthy causes so kids can have a great Christmas!

Writers' Bloc



The October meeting of the Writers' Bloc was held at 1:00 p.m., 20 October, in the Local & Family History Department of the Donnellson Public Library. Attending were Jan Blankenberg, Marty Miller and Diane and Aaron Kruse.

Jan briefed the group on the Annual Lyrical Iowa 2021 publication and read some of the interesting poems selected for publication of interest to the group. The Lyrical Iowa judges are now selected

from a list of out-of-state persons to assure impartial consideration of all contributions. The selection Jan read was *Food for Thought*.

Following this, Jan read one of her own works *The Winter Texan*.

When Jan's daughter-in-law worked for the Lincoln Zoo in Nebraska and her granddaughter Nima was brought to the zoo daily with her mother from an early age. The personnel at the zoo of course adopted the little girl and taught her all they knew about the animals she was daily visiting. Jan was asked by the zoo personnel to write short poems about every animal there. Jan read three of the poems to the group as a down-memory-lane refresher. In total there were seventy-five poems, but of course only time to review a few including the Madagascar cockroach, the naked mole rat, and a lemur.

Sound enticing?

The group revisited Marty's *Hummingbird* poem, covered in the September Writer's Bloc, and the group agreed the longer version of the poem was better. Diane presented Marty with a fine photograph of a hummingbird at a feeder as a reward.

Following the free flight of the hummingbird, Marty led the group in a discussion of a log jam she saw on a recent trip to Oakland Mills south of Mt. Pleasant. The log jam became synonymous in the discussion with the effort for an aging mind to make a decision. Unpleasant even if apt.

New points of view are welcomed from those who dare.

The next meeting will be held 17 November in the library. ~ **Written and submitted by Aaron and Diane Kruse**

October Newsletter Reminders for Upcoming Known Events

10 November – Senior Crafternoon. The next one will be 14 December 3:30 p.m.

10 November - Friends of the Library Meeting with guest speaker Tom Coyne 5 p.m.

15 November - Donnellson Book Core Book Discussion 7 p.m.

17 November - Writers' Bloc 1 p.m.

24 November - Deadline for picking up form for Christmas Decorating Contest

25 November - Library Closed for Thanksgiving



1 December - Have Christmas Decorating Up by this date and keep until New Year

NOTE: The Library is working on re-scheduling pre-school story hour. Please call the library at 319-835-5545 with any suggestions.

Richard L. Proenneke Museum



The Story of the Lost Richard Proenneke Journal

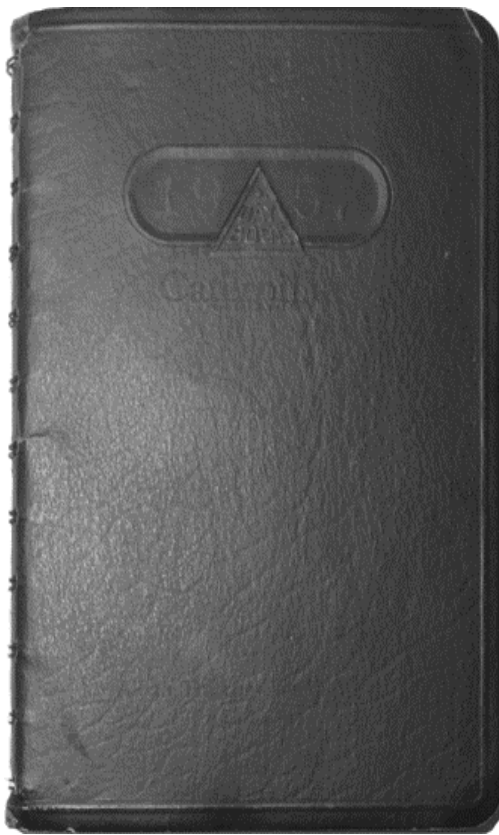
In 1965 Richard Proenneke was invited by “Spike” and Hope Carrithers to spend several weeks at Twin Lakes along with their friends Bob and Joe Emerson and Roy Allen. The Emersons and Roy Allen were hunting sheep; the Carrithers were simply interested in spending time at their cabins and doing some fishing. Richard would stay at their guest cabin so as to not disturb the others. He would take the opportunity to film and explore the vast area surrounding the Twin Lakes. The only shooting Richard was interested in was with his cameras. Richard was concerned that if he went after some of the big game he had spotted with the others, they would be tempted to shoot.

Richard stayed on at Twin Lakes after everyone had gone and on September 16th he bid “Spike,” Hope, Bob & Joe goodbye and set out to spend the next 4 weeks by himself. Richard wasted no time in taking out across the lake to look for sheep. He came across a large bull moose, paddled back to the cabin for his cameras, then back to the canoe to try to catch up with the moose. That evening Richard began to record his experiences for the day in a small 1957 “Caterpillar Day Book.” For the next 24 days Richard would write an entry each night in his small makeshift Journal.

Richard brought the small Journal home with him when he returned to the Proenneke homestead in Primrose over the winter of 1965/1966. He sent it off to his friend Sam Keith to read and get his

impressions. Sam got a big kick out of reading his entries. It was this encouragement that sparked Richard to begin keeping a Journal of his experiences beginning in 1967 until October 15, 1996, his last Journal entry.

After the passing of Richard's sister, Florence in 2003, an estate auction was held of the Proenneke Homestead. Buried in a box of old magazines was this old 1957 Caterpillar Daybook that Richard had recorded his adventure at Twin Lakes, AK in 1965. The small Journal would stay buried for the next 15 years until the owner, prompted by the opening of the Richard Proenneke Museum, would dig out that box of old magazines purchased at the estate sale. Down in the bottom of the box was this precious small Journal, written in Richard's hand, his very first Journal of his experiences at Twin Lakes, AK that would set off a chain of events even Richard could have never imagined. This small Journal would be the magic spark that would be the trigger to his notoriety around the world.

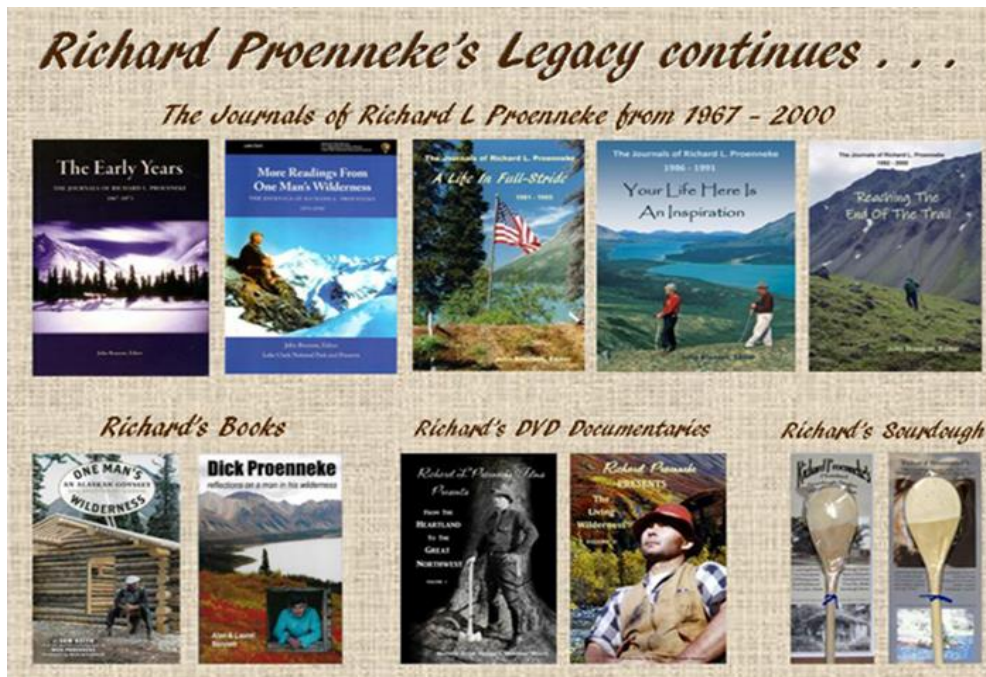


112
Friday, April 5 09:20 CLEAR CLOUDY DRY
RAIN SNOW HUMID
9 the trail and beach
10 on up the lake. Water
11 level is approximately
12-18 inches lower than
1 the high mark now.
2 I went nearly opposite
3 Frank Bells cabin
4 before turning back.
EVENING
5 Back at 1st. point
6 I sat down and gassed
Saturday, April 6 09:20 CLEAR CLOUDY DRY
RAIN SNOW HUMID
7 the moose country
8 again - something
9 dark and presently
10 it moved - a moose -
11 the row and soon I
12 saw the bull. Not getting
1 along so good I notice
2 I saw him make
3 a short dash though

24
Sunday, April 7 09:20 CLEAR CLOUDY DRY
RAIN SNOW HUMID
9 of the timber and
10 stood looking at the
11 long stretch of open
12 country he would
1 cross. Sure enough
2 he was heading up
3 country so I followed
4 out shore. He broke
5 into the clear and
EVENING
Monday, April 8 09:20 CLEAR CLOUDY DRY
RAIN SNOW HUMID
9 I fell in behind close
10 to the waters edge.
11 I gained and he
12 saw me but didnt
1 get alarmed. He
2 seemed to know I
3 had him where he
4 couldnt hide. I followed
5 getting closer - plenty
EVENING

This is the original 1957 Caterpillar Daybook that Richard used to record His first Journal about Twin Lakes, AK.

Two of the pages from the 1965 Richard Proenneke Journal



The complete set of the Journals of Richard L Proenneke and the book "One Man's Wilderness;" the "Reflections on a man in his wilderness; DVD Documentaries, "From The Heartland To The Great Northwest" and "The Living Wilderness;" The Homeland and Kodiak Sourdough Starter Spoons are all available at the Donnellson Library or at our website: richardproenneke.com

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 us a line at: Brie Anderson, Richard Proenneke Museum Curator: brie@richardproenneke.com Brenda Knox, Librarian bknox@donnellson.lib.ia.us

An October Suggested Reading

This month's Suggested Reading is *Billy Summers* by Stephen King.

Regular readers of Stephen King know that the Master of Horror also writes a very good novel based purely on the oddities of the human brain. Such a novel is *Billy Summers*. The author's preview is:

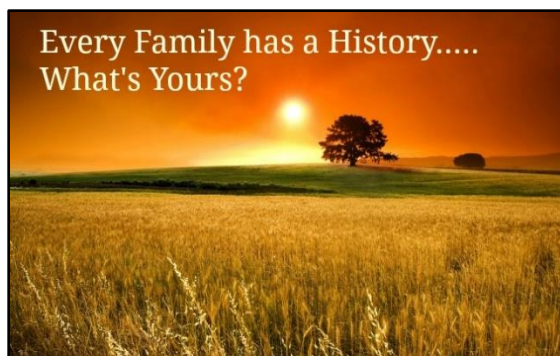
"Billy Summers is a man in a room with a gun. He is a killer for hire and the best in the best in the business. But he will only do the job if the target is a truly bad guy. And now Billy wants out."

Stephen King is perhaps best known for his *Dark Tower* series, a thriller set in an alternate universe manipulated by a demon seeking to destroy the entire human civilization and condemn us all to rule in Hell. Even this dark fantasy is based largely on the psychology and history of the protagonist, a knight and law-bringer in an alternate universe where magic is real and largely dark, and civilization has fallen into the shadow of evil. But even as readers enjoyed this and other such demon and ghost-haunted stories, King turned out human-interest stories such as

Dolores Claiborne, the story of a very human heroine intent on saving her children from poverty and the twisted mind of a ne'er-do-well husband.

Billy Summers is the story of a man fed up with his own strange career, based on his abilities with a long-range rifle and his great understanding of human perceptions. Caught up in one last job before retirement, Billy finds himself the fall guy in an intricate plot to salvage the reputation of a billionaire pervert. The plot is complicated along the way with a victim in a perverted sexual crime who finds herself in love with Billy, he with her, and Billy's concern he might forever curse his future if he gives in to his feelings for her.

Highly recommended as a very interesting story of twisted emotions and underlying good intentions. ~ **Written and submitted by Aaron Kruse**



Local & Family History Department

The month of October proved to be another remarkably busy month for our Local and Family History volunteers due to several requests for family research and donations.

~ Sharon Meierotto continued to update Lee County obituaries and Diane Kruse continued filing with the local Illinois, Missouri, and Van Buren obits.

~ Several family albums were added to the department from the Roberta Krehbiel collection. Family albums have been a favorite of our patrons to create or add to their present family tree. If you have a family album you would like to donate it, we will be happy to accept your copy or make a copy and return the original to you.

~ Diane received further information from Kenny Tull on the Waverly rural schoolhouse as well as the Columbia rural schoolhouse.

A page from an abstract on the Waverly School showed "in Book 4, page 434 consideration of \$5 dated October 5, 1849, and recorded December 12, 1849, for the conveyance of ½ of an acre from Benjamin Casey. Other information acquired from a May 2015 *Bee-Star Yester Years* article showed Waverly closed its 1914-1915 school term one hundred years ago and that Miss Clara Kincaid was the teacher. Information will be filed to update already recorded information on the school.

Further information on the Board of Directors for Columbia School was found in several schoolhouse *Secretaries Journals*. Information from the years 1893 to 1912, 1919, and 1923 to

1928 will be added to the already recorded information. In addition, several pages from the *Secretaries Book* from March 13, 1893, through September 17, 1894, were copied and will be added to the already recorded information.

~ Mary Ann Haase Engel, formerly of Donnellson, donated several items for Local & Family History Department records – original documents included were 1920's-1930's Lee County documents from her grandfather George Bentzinger as well as a scroll history of Iowa's first school – the Galland school – written by her father Leonard Haase who was a member of the Lee County Schoolmaster's Group which sponsored a project to build a replica of the Galland School so that youth might better visualize the educational beginnings in the Commonwealth. He was also the Superintendent of Schools from 1936-42. All information will be added to the department records.

~Diane met with Mary Jo Scheetz regarding the two Brush College schools in Lee County. Mary Jo belongs to a study group researching schools with the name of Brush College in Iowa and other states. Information was shared on Lee County's Brush College in Washington Township and Franklin Township. Diane plans to research other Brush Colleges in Iowa as well as other states and report results.

~ Diane visited the McKeehan and Acklam cemeteries with Barbara Schau, a Harrison Township clerk working with the Lee County Trustees. Since the Local & Family History Department maintains records for all cemeteries in Lee County, the tour was helpful to hear about what the Trustees do to maintain the cemeteries, including pioneer cemeteries (those where there have been twelve or fewer burials in the last 50 years). It was noted a recently established Pioneer Cemetery Commission was established to maintain those cemeteries but may ask for assistance from the County Trustees. The Henkle Cemetery was also visited even though it is located in Van Buren Township because it is a unique cemetery because of its location.

Local and Family History October Display

The display of the month was entitled "Remembering Three Small Villages" – La Crew, Primrose, and Minerville. **Photos courtesy of Carole Landes Elston and display design by Diane Kruse.**

La Crew

Standing at the Lee County present-day intersection of 160th Avenue and J-40 is a plot of land in a sizable grove of tall, slender trees. In an area of rich farming ground, this seems a bit strange, but the one ½ acre site marks the location of La Crew, one of Lee County's many vanished towns.

Mr. Seeley Lodwick and his sister Martha Chambers bought the property in 1998 from Dean Miller (son of Emil Miller). Seeley and his family members took on the restoration project with dedication and perseverance and on August 11, 2001, the small and once prosperous community saw activity when it was donated to the Lee County Conservation Board.

An entire story of La Crew, also noted as "a town gone but not forgotten," can be found in the Local & Family History Department in the Donnellson Library.



Primrose

The little village of Primrose was laid out in 1844 by George Perkins, who was a grandson of the Revolutionary War Veteran George Perkins buried in Sharon Cemetery in 1840 and James A. Washburn.

It was named by Minerva McCulloch who was so entranced by the primroses which grew in the area she named the village Primrose. The village was a German settlement for the most part. After major land sales in 1837 and 1838 in Burlington, people came flooding into the area from Bavaria and the Hanover areas. By 1850 the area was well-settled.

The small village had three churches, a two-story schoolhouse, stores, coopers, blacksmith shops, doctors, a mill, and a couple of hotels and general stores.

This history of Primrose can also be found in the Local & Family History Department.



Minerville

Minerville was an old railroad town in the middle of a modern world. This full-size railroad and village was an authentic re-creation of a country branch line railroad and village circa 1930. It was conceived, designed, and built – almost single-handedly – by Dave Miner (with support from his wife Carol) beginning in 1990.

Tracks were laid and buildings built or moved in. The railroad was then open to the public summer weekends for train rides for five years beginning in 1994 and on select weekends until 2006.

Unfortunately, due to Dave Miner's health the tourist railroad and old-time country village was sold at public auction on June 16-17, 2008.



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