

411 MAIN STREET  
DONNELLSON, IA 52625  
FAX/TELEPHONE: 319-835-5545  
E-MAIL: [donnlibr@iowatelecom.net](mailto:donnlibr@iowatelecom.net)  
WEB SITE: [www.donnellson.lib.ia.us](http://www.donnellson.lib.ia.us)

June 2022

Issue #190



“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



## Happenings

“A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never-failing spring in the desert.” Andrew Carnegie was a Scottish-American industrialist who led the enormous expansion of the American steel industry in the late 19th century.

Library Happenings are written and submitted by Sunny Robbins, Director of the Donnellson Library, unless otherwise posted.

### Preschool Story Hour

This month we have read books on bears, rocks, and farm animals. The kids enjoyed painting rocks for one activity. Some of these pieces of art can be seen in our rock bed as you leave the building.

We enjoyed this weekly hour of reading books, singing, and getting wiggles out. Story Hour is weekly year-round on Tuesday mornings at 10 am. Join us!



## Summer Reading Program: Read Beyond the Beaten Path

Our Summer Reading Program has begun! We have enjoyed 28 kiddos at our opening 1:30 activity painting canvas bags. Our 1:30 art camp has also helped the kids make crafts such as butterflies, alien space crafts, and dinosaur head bands.



Our 1:30 activities on Tuesdays have been focused on acting games in preparation of filming short skits. These skits will be shown at the activity on the last Tuesday in July.

Wednesdays have been double the fun with a school age story hour at 10 am and a 1:30 mystery activity. During the story hour we have been reading a couple school age picture books and a couple chapters of "Cody Unplugged" or similar chapter books. We hope to finish "Cody Unplugged" before we complete our summer activities at the end of July. Our mystery activity has included code breaking, mazes, escape rooms, and other puzzles for the kids to solve.

Thursday's 1:30 activity has been a Lego building social hour. The kids have enjoyed Lego building challenges and time to create with friends.

Friday's movie day have been a blast or bust. Some weeks as minimally attended while others are better attended. The showing of "Sing 2" was a favorite.

Saturday's Jr. chefs' camp has been fun! The kids that come seem to enjoy learning to make simple and delicious food in a pinch. We have made creme pies, Ritz cracker chicken, and nachos.



We have also enjoyed a couple special events in front of the library by Absolute Science. We had bubble stations. The kids enjoyed making bubbles on a beautiful day and then ran around and popped them. Another day we had a couple butterfly tents set up where kids entered and gently played with the butterflies



up close. There were stations where the kids explored activities teaching them about the butterfly's life cycle. It has been a fun month!

## Senior Craft'ernoon



For the month of June Victoria helped the ladies make a patriotic wreath for the upcoming celebration of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Craft'er-noon is held once a month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 3:30 in the Donnellson Public Library Activity Room. To RSVP your spot call 319-835-5545. Let us know if want to be considered a regular and we will automatically count on you each month. Come join us on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July to create another special project.

## The Donnellson Book Core

The Donnellson Book Core read and discussed *A Rumored Fortune* by Joanna Davidson Politano. Our group enjoyed this book and they said they would be interested in reading more like it.

Our book for July is *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie. **Goodreads gives it 5 stars and says** *First, there were ten—a curious assortment of strangers summoned as weekend guests to a little private island off the coast of Devon. Their host, an eccentric millionaire unknown to all of them, is nowhere to be found. All that the guests have in common is a wicked past they're unwilling to reveal—and a secret that will seal their fate. For each has been marked for murder. A famous nursery rhyme is framed and hung in every room of the mansion:*

*"Ten little boys went out to dine; One choked his little self and then there were nine. Nine little boys sat up very late; One overslept himself and then there were eight. Eight little boys traveling in Devon; One said he'd stay there then there were seven. Seven little boys chopping up sticks; One chopped himself in half and then there were six. Six little boys playing with a hive; A bumblebee stung one and then there were five. Five little boys going in for law; One got in Chancery and then there were four. Four little boys going out to sea; A red herring swallowed one and then there were three. Three little boys walking in the zoo; A big bear hugged one and then there were two. Two little boys sitting in the sun; One got frizzled up and then there was one. One little boy left all alone; He went out and hanged himself and then there were none."*

*When they realize that murders are occurring as described in the rhyme, terror mounts. One by one they fall prey. Before the weekend is out, there will be none. Who has choreographed this dastardly scheme? And who will be left to tell the tale? Only the dead are above suspicion.*

As always, if you are intrigued by the books we are reading and want to join the Donnellson Book Core, please let the librarians know and we will order you a copy! The book club meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm.

## Writers' Bloc

The June meeting was held June 20, a week later than normal, from 1-3 pm due to preparation for the first Friends of the Library book sale of the year. Attending were Jan Blankenburg and Aaron and Diane Kruse.

Jan began with sharing her progress on her upcoming book entitled *Where the Heart Lingers*. She is dedicating this book to her granddaughter Nima. Nima has been an avid poetry writer for years and will contribute some of her poetry and essays from her early years through present day.

The book will start with Jan's garden beginning with the spring blooming season and continue with the summer, fall, and winter seasons. Her poetry and prose will cover over 30 years of how her garden progressed with beautiful flowers and plants. Jan indicated she had no master plan for her color schemes but there was color with something blooming all the time. Each season will contain many descriptive essays and poetry.

She also wrote some poems to share with the group: Log Fires, Grand Finale, Thought, Winter, and the last one entitled Silence.

And the best news of all is that Jan won First Place in the Annual Iowa Poetry Contest in the Humor category with a poem entitled "I Do". Along with winning first place came \$40.

Diane mentioned her entry in the Access Energy calendar photo contest which was selected for a page with her photograph of a Lee County farm scene. The photograph brought a prize of \$75 plus \$25 off the next monthly bill. The calendar will be printed and sent to all Access members after the annual August 2 meeting.

Our Writers' Bloc group meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 July meeting will be July 20 from 1-3 pm in the Local and Family History Room.~ **Written and submitted by Diane Kruse**

## **RICHARD PROENNEKE MUSEUM**



Little "Mae" a newborn caribou calf Richard tried to save, bringing it back to his cabin.

### **From Richard's letter to brother "Jake" dated May 12, 1969**

I spotted a caribou cow a long ways away and she had a little calf just what I have been looking for. Couldn't get closer so I hooked on the 400 mm. Soon I saw something beyond on the snow. A bear and coming down. The cow seen him and got the tiny calf in motion. The bear saw them and started to trot. The little calf couldn't go fast enough in the snow. They were all coming my way. I switched to the 75 mm. The cow and calf came along the top edge of a high bench with a slide rock face. At my end it was snow - top to bottom. Me a bit over a hundred fifty yards away. Here came the bear on the run. The cow plowed down the snow slope and the calf bogged down. Then struggled to the slide rock a few yards away. The bear saw the cow at the bottom and took a short cut down the slide. He missed the calf by forty feet and chased the cow on down low pass canyon. They passed just a bit over a hundred yards from me. Boy there was action and I think I got most of it. I waited for the cow to come back for her calf if she got away. It got late and started

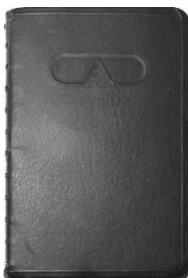


to snow. I stuffed the little doe in the front pocket of my pack and carried her home. Pretty small only her head and neck stuck out. I should have left her as the cow did make it back and this morning I took the calf up and saw her tracks. She didn't find it so left again. I couldn't leave the little thing to lay up there so I brought it back. Pretty tired from the ordeal it has been resting ever since we got back. Probably keep me awake tonight as she did last night.

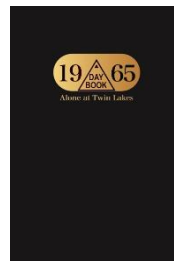
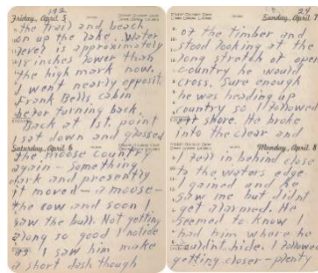
**May 14** - The little calf died in the afternoon after we came down the mt. Sure wish I had never brought it down the first time.

**May 15** - My little calf died late in the afternoon of the day I brought it down. I sure hate it that I brought it down at all after it not having a chance in a thousand with that bear and then me lousing up like I did - never again.

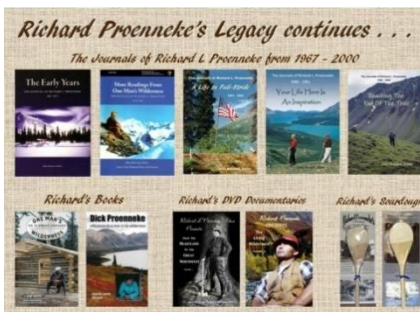
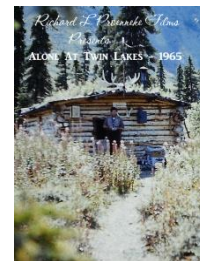
Richard sent the Caribou calf pelt to Roberta Krehbiel. It has been donated to the Richard L Proenneke Museum and is currently on display. A sad ending, but one of life's wonderful and powerful lessons experienced and learned.



The original 1957 Caterpillar Daybook & two pages from the Journal



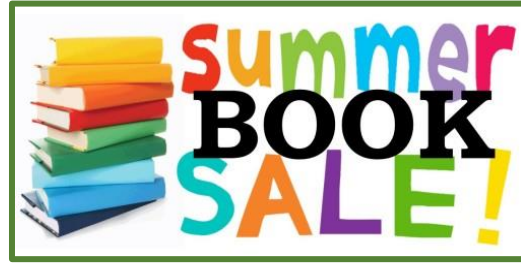
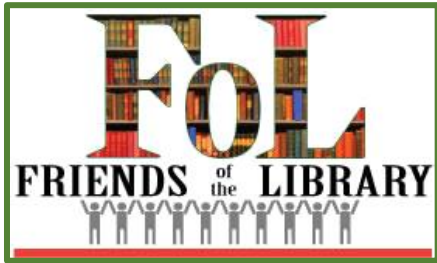
New Journal and DVD Documentary "Alone At Twin Lakes -1965"



*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*

We have a new volunteer to the Richard Proenneke Committee. Danielle Smith is an expert in the "Excel" Program and in building Websites. Since our records are kept in the Excel Program, Danielle's expertise will be a huge benefit into consolidating the information instead of our current setup. Her knowledge with websites will also be welcome in finally getting our site into one location instead of part still being in Yahoo, and the bulk in GoDaddy. Welcome, Danielle!

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](mailto:brie@richardproenneke.com) or contact the new Library Director Sunny Robbins: [director@donnellson.lib.ia.us](mailto:director@donnellson.lib.ia.us)



## WHAT A SALE AND THERE WAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

Friends of the Donnellson Library hosted their first of two book sales of 2022 again at the American Legion from 8:00 AM-4 PM. What a perfect day for the sale as we 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 addition to the huge box of sacks we had boxes for patrons to carry their books.



Setting up for the book sale are Deb Bailey, Jean Kruse, Diane Kruse and to the right Sharon Meierotto. All the books were set out on 29 tables in alphabetical order as well as by collection title.

From l to r: Diane Kruse, Sharon Meierotto, Jean Kruse, and Deb Bailey



The donation of children's books appeared to one of the largest collections received. Other large donations included collections of favorite authors as Janet Evanovich, Beverly Lewis, John Sanford, Nora Roberts, Fern Michaels, and many more.

Because of the overwhelming donation of books from the weeding of our library shelves, our patrons, and other organizations, the Friends are proud to report it was a huge success as the sale brought in \$1,027. All books were sold for a free-will donation

A big thank you goes out to all the Friends from the organizers, set-up crew and clean-up crew who donated their time to make this sale such a success. And thank you to our many patrons who supported our effort. In fact, several of our customers stated they watch for our sale every year, and some bring their own sacks to carry their treasures home. Another comment we heard was we "have the best book sale in the area".

The Friends will continue their support each year by hosting two book sales, one at Yard Sale Days in June and the big event at the Fall Festival in September. We look forward to seeing everyone again in September. ~ **Written and submitted by Diane P. Kruse**

### **June Suggested Reading**

This month's Suggested reading is *Strange Angels* by Lili St. Crow

This novel is the first in a series of five and is written in the horror genre. It is written for the Young Adult (YA) audience. For those who haven't tried the YA category, it addresses some of the common concerns of teenagers, to include such things as loyalty to a friend or cause, doubts about growing up and self-worth, and falling in love. In this current series she addresses all these concerns in a matter-of-fact writing style which does not in any way hinder the flow of a very fine adventure story. The author of this selection, Lili St. Crow, lives in Vancouver, Washington, and has written such series as *Vampire Academy* and *Dante Valentine*. *Strange Angels* is very much in line with Ms. St. Crow's other writings.

Fair warning to any who do not enjoy the horror genre, this series is probably not for you. Not only did this novel delve into depth on creatures and concepts even hard-core readers of this genre might find new (as this writer discovered) but it introduces certain new vocabulary necessary to a full enjoyment of this or the succeeding novels in this series.

The protagonist in this story is Dru Anderson, a 16-year-old girl living on-the-go with her father, a former Marine and loving – if demanding – task master who trains his daughter in survival skills to include what he calls 'dirty fighting'. His training is necessary as Dru lives in what she calls The Real World. This is our own normal world with one exception. A parallel world of supernatural creatures inhabits our world and frequently hunts here to feed their unusual food and other needs. Most people in our world are unaware of the Real-World creatures among us, even as a wide-spread group of dedicated hunters seek to eliminate the threat from these denizens.

Dru has no friends except her father, and even that link to the world changes early in the story. The death of her father leads to a baffling discovery of her own strengths and her introduction to

the Order, the network of hunters her father served but never told her about. Now she finds herself a valued member of this network and, in fact, a primary target for the Real-World creature who killed both her mother and father. In addition to this confusing new set of threats, Dru is on the verge of what the Order members call ‘the bloom’, a change in her innate powers and thus a change in her relationship to others of her teenage group.

If you are ready for a wild ride through an alternate world, and maybe a return to the confusion and anxieties of your teenage world, this series is ready for you. ~Written and submitted by Aaron Kruse



### Local & Family History Department

~ Again, June was an extremely busy month for the Local and Family History volunteers. Not only did they handle the genealogy requests but also prepared for the summer library book sale. Volunteers received phone calls for research requests, greeted visitors, receive several donations, and assisted with several genealogy walk-in and internet research requests. Obituaries continued to be alphabetized and made ready to be filed in the appropriate binders and files. Joyce Francis and Jean Kruse have been regular volunteers working to support our filing system to get our Lee County, contiguous counties, and local Illinois and Missouri obituaries on file. Pat Morrison as well visited and always makes an additional contribution for our records.

Although the Department handles many projects, the display case plays an important role each month. The June display was entitled Donnellson Beginnings. Although many of the photographs were displayed in previous years, it had a special touch this time around. As written in the May newsletter the department obtained the ownership of many of Ed Latta’s carved wood collection.

His collection had several carved-wood cars from 1915-1931. Since he was a long-standing businessman as a blacksmith, he included a carving of that profession along with many of the tools needed to perform that job. The largest piece included in the display was the Donnellson Depot made from over 300 pieces. Photographs of the display are seen at the end of the newsletter.

Since the collection will remain with the department, patrons can look forward to seeing more of the items from the collection over the coming months. The scrapbook given to the department shows the items he cut and carved over the years and displayed at the Des Moines County Fair in Burlington, IA. His autograph is noted on the items as well as the date of he finished his creation. The Ed Latta scrapbook is available for review.



## **Special Donation of the Hohl Family**

As mentioned in the May newsletter, the Local and Family History Department is in possession of a family tree researched and organized by Roland Hohl. Mr. Hohl lives in Germany and forwarded a copy of his first edition for Hohl Family members to review. He explained it still is a work in progress although it is an excellent piece of history which includes many photographs. He stated in his letter which accompanied the book "he would be happy about any contribution (documents/photographs, etc.) to further complete the text and correct mistakes."

The book is mostly in German with some references in English. However, because of today's technology all the German included in the 180-page book can be translated to English by computer.

The book can be viewed in the Local and Family History Department but cannot be checked out. If any member of the Hohl family would like to review the first edition of the Hohl Family Tree and/or would like to contribute photographs or other family history, please contact the Local & Family History Department and leave a message for Diane Kruse.

## **Donations Received**

### **Kenny Tull:**

~ Contributed a copy of an obituary for Christian Proenneke (1840-1905) from the *Fort Madison Weekly Democrat*, August 9, 1905, page 5. The obit was filed in our Lee County records and a copy made for the Richard Proenneke Museum.

~ An excellent photograph of Main Street in Donnellson looking north. This will be filed in the Donnellson photo book.

~ A newspaper clipping from the *Fort Madison Evening Democrat*, November 11, 1976, Page 16 on restoration of monuments in Pleasant Grove Cemetery. This information will be filed in the cemetery records.

### **Bradley Shark:**

~ Contributed a Class Reunion of 1942 photograph which included his mother, Faylene Graf. The photo was taken at the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion of the surviving graduates on May 23, 1992. Also included was a copy of the class history, prophecy, and will. Photographs and a little history of each student was also included. All information will be filed with the Donnellson High School history.

## **Genealogy Queries**

### **John Stuekerjuergen:**

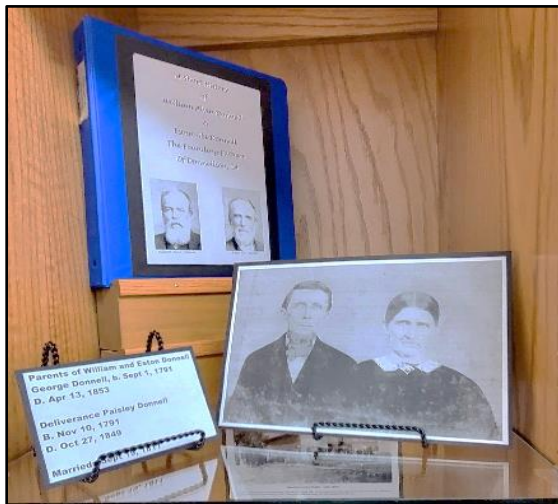
~ Correspondence was exchanged regarding Miss Delia A. Webster to see if she was in any way connected to the Underground Railroad in Iowa. In research done by John, it was noted she was an abolitionist and associated with the Underground Railroad. Research was done because she was in Des Moines, Iowa even though she was associated with slavery in Kentucky. Research showed Delia died in 1904 while living with a niece.

## Hickory Stump School

The department received two queries on the Hickory Stump school located in West Point Township, Lee County. John Stuekerjuergen was looking for the township in which the school was located. Mary Jo Sheetz queried about a teacher named Amie King Peterschmidt, who was a teacher at Hickory Stump in 1916 and was noted as having introduced the first hot lunch program in Iowa rural schools. Information requested was forwarded to both requestors.

## June Display

Below are photos from the June display entitled “Donnellson Beginnings” with special additions from the Ed Latta wood carving collection. Photos are courtesy of Carole Landes Elston.



**The Donnell Family and founders of the town of Donnellson**



**Donnellson Beginnings: Welcome to Donnellson and its history**



**Photographs of the Donnellson Lumber Company**

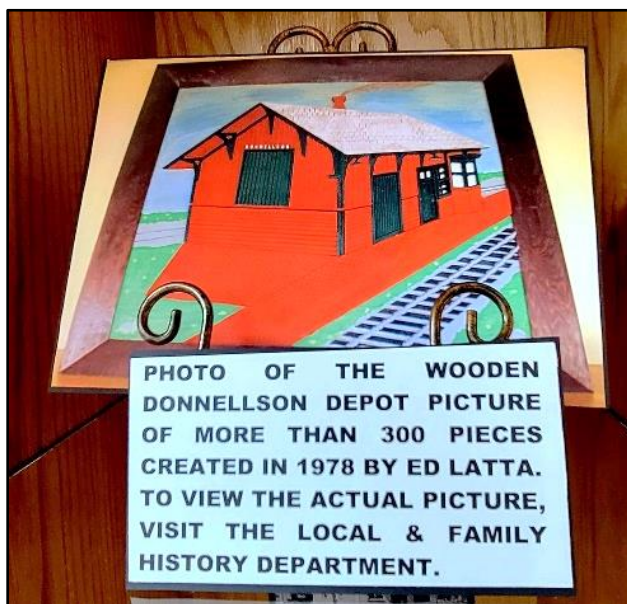


**Photographs of the Citizen's Mutual Bank, the Donnellson House, and the Stock Yard Exchange Saloon. Red beer truck is from the Ed Latta wood carving collection**



Photograph shows the early cars of Donnellson, including two models from the Ed Latta wood carving collection

Ed Latta was a blacksmith in Donnellson for 50 plus years. Photograph shows an example of a blacksmith shop along with appropriate tools from his collection



Check out the original wooden photograph in the Local and Family History Department