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August 2022

Issue #192

Goodbye vacation!
Hello to school!

Hello new class,
Goodbye old pool.

Vacation time is over,
School time is here,

Now we welcome
A new school year!



Library Happenings

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

Preschool Story Hour!

August included story hour themes such as: the beach, boats, rain, colors, and the alphabet. We had between two and six kiddos join us each week. We tried finger painting with a paint recipe.





Senior Crafternoon

The floral arrangements created in our Crafternoon activity were beautiful. The next Crafternoon will be September 14th at 3:30. We are making autumn décor.

The Donnellson Book Core

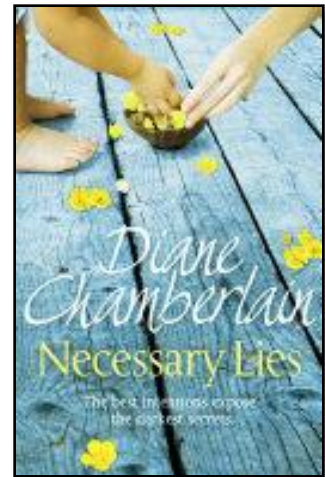
The group discussed and enjoyed *The Girls in the Stilt House* by Kelly Mustian for their meeting in July.

The book for September 19th is “Necessary Lies” by Diane Chamberlain. **Here is what Goodreads has to say:**

North Carolina, 1960. Newlywed Jane Forrester, fresh out of university, is seeking what most other women have shunned: a career.

But life as a social worker is far from what she expected. Out amongst the rural Tobacco fields of Grace County, Jane encounters a world of extreme poverty that is far removed from the middle-class life she has grown up with.

But worse is still to come. Working with the Hart family and their fifteen-year-old daughter Ivy, it’s not long before Jane uncovers a shocking secret, and is thrust into a moral dilemma that puts her career on the line, threatens to dissolve her marriage, and ultimately, determines the fate of Ivy and her family forever.



Soon Jane is forced to take drastic action, and before long, there is no turning back.

September Programs:

Sept 13 th	Story Hour	10 am	
Sept 14 th	Crafternoon	3:30 pm	10 spots available
Sept 15 th	Library Board Meeting	7 pm	
Sept 19 th	Book Core	7 pm	
Sept 20 th	Story Hour	10 am	
Sept 20 th	Friends of the Library	5:30 pm	
Sept 23 rd	Early Out Activity	1:30-3:30 pm	
Sept 27 th	Story Hour	10 am	
Sept 28 th	Writer’s Bloc	1-3 pm	

Upcoming October Programs

Oct 4 th	Story Hour	10 am	
Oct 8 th	Fall Book Sale at the Donnellson American Legion	8 am – 4 pm	
Oct 11 th	Story Hour	10 am	
Oct 11 th	Beginner Painting Class	5-7 pm	10 spots available
Oct 12 th	Crafternoon	3:30 pm	10 spots available



Writer's Bloc

The meeting was held August 17 in the Donnellson Library Local and Family History Department. Attending were Jan Blankenburg, Marty Miller, and Diane Kruse.

Marty read a poem entitled *Gobbios Moon*. She explained it was about being awakened by the bright moonlight at 2 am and going outside to see the moon and wondering how many moons she had missed. There was a bright star or planet or possibly the space station, and she remembered her dad showing her Telstar many years ago, back when satellites were an exciting new thing and science seemed full of promise.

Jan shared a book loaned to her by granddaughter Nima entitled *Serendipity – Anthology of Stories and Poetry* by Jill S. Amack. It was published in 2003 as a second edition in Nebraska with contributions of poetry and prose from a group and dedicated to a past writer. Jan also shared a poem “Summer on the Farm” describing late summer of August and how it is time to fill our lives with color. She also gave an update on the book she and Nima are working on and still plan to contribute both prose and poetry and a possible photograph for each season. A title is still to be determined.

Diane mentioned she would be attending the rural school conference at UNI in Cedar Falls, IA, September 26 and 27. It comes at a good time since she has contacted a printer for her book on rural schools for some time next year. On the way to the conference there is a planned stop at the Dunkerton Public Library to visit with Michelle Wheeler, Library Director, and Teresa Stafford, Executive Director of the Dunkerton Historical Association. These two ladies made a visit to the Donnellson Local and Family History Department this past May to obtain information on how to get set up for the newly formed Dunkerton Historical Association. The stop is looked forward to since they promised a “show and tell” on their new set up.

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. However, our September meeting will be September 28 in the Local and Family History Room.~

Written and submitted by Diane Kruse

Donnellson City Council Approves Preliminary Restoration Plans for Depot

The Donnellson Depot’s days as a dilapidated storage unit are numbered according to an article in the August 12, 2022, *Daily Gate City*. The depot building is full of historical artifacts and Mr.

James Lewiston, a Montrose resident and local history buff, is excited to restore the depot to its former glory.

Lewiston said, “Back in the early days, everybody went to the depot to see who was coming to town on the train and to get the latest gossip.” It used to be the heart of the town. When the trains stopped, the Donnellson Depot shuttered its doors.

The first step according to the City Council is to clean up the outside of the building. Lewiston is sending paint chip samples from the depot’s exterior to determine the paint composition. Once that is established, he will restore the “Donnellson” sign. The second step is cleaning up the interior and begin the tremendous task of cataloging historical artifacts.

Lewiston stated, “there are a lot of grants available, either county, state or federal, for the cultural or historical aspects of the restoration”. With a lot of consistent volunteering the City Council hopes the depot will be open for visits by next summer. ~ **Information taken from the August 12, 2022 Daily Gate Democrat summarized by Diane Kruse, Library Newsletter Editor**



DURING OCTOBERFEST, OCTOBER 08, 2022



There has been a change in the timing of the Fall Friends of the Library Book Sale so that it can be coordinated with the 8 Oktoberfest being sponsored by the Donnellson Vision organization.

Time is getting closer for the Friends huge book sale and with the donations to date, there will be “something for everyone”. The Friends of Donnellson Library will be holding their second book sale of 2022, Saturday, October 08 from 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. at The American Legion Hall, 419 N. Oak Street, Donnellson, IA. All books are sold for a free-will donation. Friends are now accepting donations of books which can be delivered to the back door of the library during regular business hours Monday-Friday 11:30-7:30 and Saturday from 10:00-3:30. We will not be accepting magazines, encyclopedias, old textbooks, or condensed Reader’s Digests.

The Friends look forward to seeing our second very successful sale of the year. So, see you all on October 8th. ~Written and submitted by Diane Kruse

Richard L Proenneke Museum



Hope Creek where Richard fished and collected water with Crag Mountain in the background.

From Richard's August 23 and August 26, 1982 Journal entries

[Temperatures at 44° to 48°]

A humorous clipping from my young 86 year old [Iowa] farmer Ben Cook.

A mt. climber was falling to certain death and at the last minute managed to grab a hold of a bush which stopped his fall. While hanging there he looked up at the top of the mt. and at the top of his voice he desperately yelled "Is anybody up there?" There was no answer. "Is anybody up there? Someone please save me?" After a while a voice boomed out. "I'm up here." "Who are you," the mt. climber asked? "Save me, Save me." "I am the lord your god and I can save you. Do you believe in me?" The climber cried out, "I believe, I believe." The voice replied, "Then let go of the bush." The climber waited a moment and then shouted, "Is there anybody else up there?" I find myself wondering what Babe would have done if he found himself in the mt. climber's shoes. Everybody wants to go to heaven but nobody wants to die.

I didn't sleep well due to thinking about my big rams being in danger. But then I overslept come morning. I was relieved to find fog right down close to the lake level. Closer examination found traces of blue overhead and bright spots along the mts. way down. I headed for Hope Creek to fetch a fresh bucket of water and see where the raft had beached. I didn't see it on Erv's beach and the cabin looked secure.

About that time someone called my name and from behind me. A young guy wearing glasses and he looked familiar and yet I couldn't place him. "Well, we're back," he said and that didn't tell me much so I said, "What is your name?" "Gordon – Gordy the geologist, remember?" Of course, Gordon and Marty the core drilling team. I had come down with Marty's sickness after they left. "Came back to drill more cores," he said but this time he had his brother Bruce and his teacher Rob. "Did I care to go with them today? Going down to that interesting looking Pyramid Mt." Yes, I would go if I could do them any good. OK, they hadn't had breakfast but would be ready to travel in about an hour.

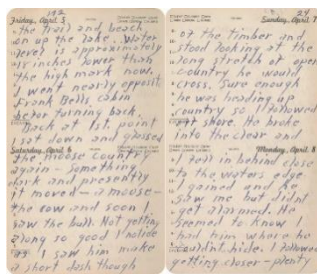
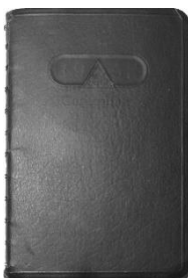
Hotcakes for breakfast and I finished dishes and everything in record time. Instead of waiting for them to drop by with the Zodiac I would take my GI pack board and go over. I found them making hotcakes for sticks of dynamite. Big ones with lots of peanut butter and honey, folded in the middle and all stuffed into a zip lock bag. I got properly introduced to Bruce & Rob. Likeable sort of guys and the three of them had spent quite a lot of time drilling cores in the Iliamna area this summer. Saw lots of moose, caribou and few bears.

We loaded up and headed down at a fast clip. A big motor on the Zodiac and it fairly flew. At the stream we ran into Tim Wingate the boy ranger and his Native cleanup crew of two. I wondered, what do Native boys think of this business of picking up foil and beer cans in the wilderness?

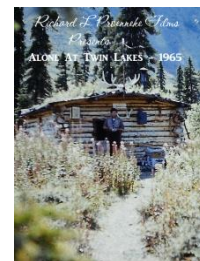
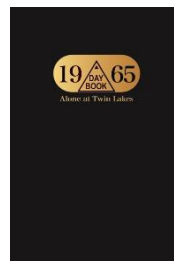
Gordy shut down the kicker and we visited with Tim a few minutes before going on down the lake. He said that they had sawed up the C-206 wreckage enough to get it into a Goose for flying out.

Enough for today and Glen would be in to fly Rob out tomorrow morning. He wanted to see the Teetering Rock so we came down to cross the bridge and climb the hump. Bruce went along for he is also a geology student. Rob, the teacher, thought the rock as really one of a kind and he estimated its weight at 5 or 6 tons. One of a kind if you traveled the world over. 24 movements he counted and with him sitting on top it teetered 22 times. We went on to split rock which he figured to weigh 200 tons or there about give or take 50.

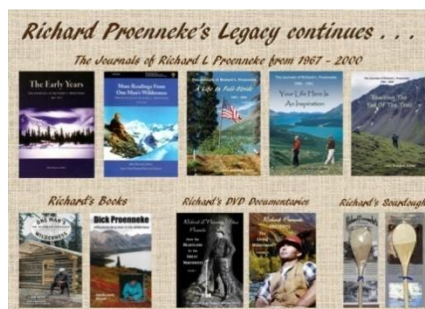
The Richard L Proenneke Museum is partnering with the Central Lee Building and Trades group to build a shelter house for "May's Park" located across from City Hall. The RLP Executive Committee met at the end of July to discuss the possibility of funding a project Central Lee Building & Trades kids will be working on. One of the projects they have slated for this upcoming year is a shelter house at May's Park. Currently there is a 12' x 12' concrete slab with a picnic table. There is only a bench near a tree that offers some shade during the day. It is a very good fit for the community and is right up Richard's genre. They will work on it over the winter months in-between their other projects.



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 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 new Library Director Sunny Robbins: director@donnellson.lib.ia.us

August Suggested Reading

Suggested Reading *Lighting Out for the Territory*

This month's Suggested Reading is an accounting of the little-known story of how Samuel Clemens – later Mark Twain – dodged being shanghaied into the military at the start of the Civil War by traveling to Nevada with his brother, and the many (mis)adventures the two shared. There is also the story of how Clemens came to write under the pen name Mark Twain.

Fans of Mark Twain who have read *Roughing It* will recognize much of the action in this selection, although with changes of name and detail in the separate accountings. There is in this selection a great deal of more prosaic information such as troubles with the American Indian tribes and the colorful characters who operated the stage lines and Pony Express, the boarding houses and brothels, and just generally those living in the various towns and ranches in the far West.

The author is Roy Morris, JR., the editor of *Military Heritage* magazine and five other books – as of this 2010 printing – on the Civil War, and biographies of Walt Whitman and Ambrose Bierce.

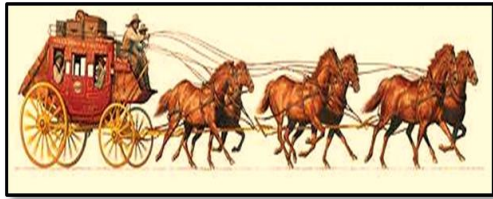
An intriguing look at the early days of our Old West in the Civil War period. ~**Written and submitted by Aaron Kruse**

Local & Family History Department



~ The month of August was very busy for the Local and Family History as volunteers handled genealogy requests, received phone calls for research, received donations, and assisted with several genealogy internet research requests. Obituaries continued to be alphabetized and made ready to be filed in the appropriate binders and files. Pat Morrison visited and always makes an additional contribution for our obituary records. In addition, Pat⁷ donated several updated indexes for our cemetery records. All names are alphabetized.

~ The Department continues to handle many projects but the display case plays an important role each month.



The July display entitled *American Stagecoach: A Partial History of the Vehicle* continued through the month of August because of the interest it generated.

The display for the upcoming month of September is entitled Iowa Football and Festivals. The well-known Tri-State Rodeo Parade with “Shoeloose” as the grand Marshall, the Rodeo, Mexican Fiesta, and the Keokuk Geode festivals will be displayed along with the Nauvoo Grape Festival and the Henry County Old Threshers gathering in Mt. Pleasant. Photos will be taken by Carole Elston and placed in the September newsletter.

Donations Received:

Kim Latta: A big thank you to Kim for his generous donation of \$50 to the library for a copy of the photographs in his father’s scrapbook donated to the Local and Family History Department. For those interested in viewing more Latta wood carvings, the scrapbook is available in the Local and Family History Department.

Loan to the Department:

Because of the interest the Ed Latta wood carvings have generated, Doug Seyb loaned a photograph from Ed’s wood carvings of the Ora Latta home in Burlington. The 300-piece framed wood carving is beautifully laminated and on display in the Local and Family History Department.

Genealogy Queries:

Christina Fairchild: Research continues with Christina from Angels Camp, CA regarding her requested information on St. Peters’ Church and family names of Voss and Ewert. Photographs and the history of the St. Peter’s Church were located and are in the process of being copied and e-mailed. Land record deeds will be researched at the **Lee County Clerk's** office for land, mortgage, and title deed records for the family names concerned with Voss and Ewert in Franklin Township.

Wendy Borgeson: Sharon and Diane continue to work on the request from Wendy who resides in Missouri and plans to make a trip to Donnellson later. We have located a photograph of the former family business location called King Brooks Bakery. In addition, we have received information on the Kincaid family from Kenny Tull because several families farmed in the same vicinity and attended a rural school. Obituaries from our records were copied to acquire more family information. Since her mother Betty Brooks attended Donnellson High School (DHS) graduating in 1947, a book will be available for her perusal.

Newsletter Editor- Diane P. Kruse