

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

October 2022

Issue #194



Samuel Taylor Coleridge, the English poet, once said: *“Why is it that many of us persist in thinking that autumn is a sad season? Nature has merely fallen asleep, and her dreams must be beautiful, if we are to judge by her countenance.”* The lovely month of October is in no way a sad time, with the beautiful red and crimson of the leaves and the golden pumpkins in the fields. Someone has said that October is just the happy side of summer and the pleasant side of winter. ~ Taken from Ideals Harvest Time Issue No. 5, Sept 1975, Vol. 32

### **Library Happenings**

“Libraries are the mind and soul of their communities, and librarians are the mind and soul of the library.” ~ American Library Association (ALA)

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

## Preschool Story Hour!

This month our story hour themes included, monsters, Halloween, fall and apples. We practiced our fine motor skills while making spider webs. Join us for Preschool Story Hour on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am all year long.



## Senior Crafternoon

Our group had a great time decorating pumpkins with succulents! Another full class! We are grateful to Victoria Matlock and Montrose Health Center for making this activity possible.



## Art Class

Bill Hall of Fort Madison came out on a Tuesday evening and taught an acrylic art class. One participant said the art class was fun and suggested similar opportunities be provided. The next art class will be held December 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. We will learning to use chalk screen to make Holiday themed ornaments. Twelve spots available. Call the library to reserve your spot!



## The Donnellson Book Core

The group discussed and enjoyed *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman for their meeting in October.

The book for November 21<sup>st</sup> is *Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk* by Kathleen Rooney. **Here is what Goodreads has to say:**

**It's the last day of 1984, and 85-year-old Lillian Boxfish is about to take a walk. As she traverses a grittier Manhattan, a city anxious after an attack by a still-at-large subway vigilante, she encounters bartenders, bodega clerks, chauffeurs, security guards, bohemians, criminals, children, parents, and parents-to-be—in surprising moments of generosity and grace. While she strolls, Lillian recalls a long and eventful life that included a brief reign as the highest-paid advertising woman in America—a career cut short by marriage, motherhood, divorce, and a breakdown.**

**A love letter to city life—however shiny or sleazy—*Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk* by Kathleen Rooney paints a portrait of a remarkable woman across the canvas of a changing America: from the Jazz Age to the onset of the AIDS epidemic; the Great Depression to the birth of hip-hop.**

## Calendar

10 a.m. November 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>

Story Hour

1 p.m. November 17<sup>th</sup>  
CARDS

11:30 a.m. November 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>

ENERGIZE, DVD lead exercise group  
Every Monday and Friday

7 p.m. November 17<sup>th</sup>  
Library Board Meeting

3:30 p.m. November 9<sup>th</sup>  
Senior Crafternoon

7 p.m. November 21<sup>st</sup>  
Book Core  
Discussing “Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk”  
by Kathleen Rooney  
Picking-up “The Call of the Wild” by Jack  
London

5:30 p.m. November 15<sup>th</sup>  
Friends of the Library meeting

1:30 p.m. November 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Early Out Activity

1 p.m. November 16<sup>th</sup>  
Writer’s Bloc

CLOSED November 24<sup>th</sup>  
Thanksgiving

## **FRIENDS OF THE DONNELLSON LIBRARY** **OKTOBERFEST BOOK SALE**



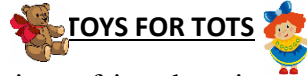
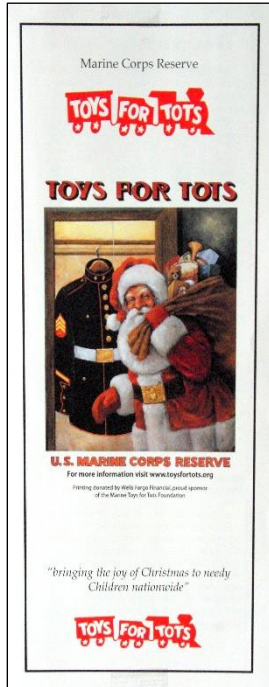
What a perfect day for the Friends of the Donnellson Library to host their second outstanding sale of 2022. The book sale was organized by the co-chairs, Diane Kruse and Sharon Meierotto, and because of the overwhelming donations of books from our library shelves and our many patrons, we are proud to report we exceeded all of the book sales from 2008 to present.

There were many reasons for this success as not only was it a beautiful autumn 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 and had to assemble more. 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 Jenny Seamons and her "army of children", as she calls them; our Director Sunny Robbins, her daughter and husband, plus a nephew and niece; and our Friends members Deb Bailey, Sam Strange, and Aaron Kruse. As usual the helping hands of Jean Kruse and the co-chairs helped patrons with packages to their car and collected the funds for the sale. And we can't forget our patrons who support our sales every year.

Because of the overwhelming donation of books, the Friends are proud to report the sale brought in \$1,706.30. Add that to the success we had at our sale in June of this year of \$1,027 both sales totaled \$2,733.30 for 2022.

The Friends will continue their support each year by hosting two book sales in June and in the fall. See you all next year. ~ **Written and submitted by Diane P. Kruse**



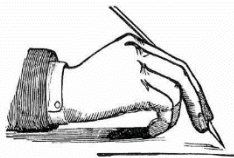
Christmas is a time of joy, happiness, and goodwill. It is a time of giving and helping those who are less fortunate than ourselves, especially children.

Since the U.S. Marine Corps is the unchallenged leader in looking after America's less fortunate children, the Donnellson Library has offered to be a collection point beginning in October through December 22 .

While Marines and other local community organizations organize, coordinate, and manage the program, the ultimate success depends on the support of the local community and the generosity of the people who donate toys.

If you would like to bring that joy and happiness to a child, please drop off your toys at the library during regular business hours: Monday-Friday from 11:30 to 7:30 and on Saturday from 10:00-3:30.

Thank you and Merry Christmas.



The meeting was held October 19 in the Donnellson Library Local and Family History Department. Attending were Jan Blankenburg , Diane Kruse, and Tom Moller. Before the meeting started, we had two surprise visitors – Mike Krebill and his sister Martha Lynn. If you remember from past newsletters, Mike Krebill was mentioned as a new member. Because he was in an automobile accident, he has been unable to attend meetings due to recuperation time. Business was conducted as usual but it was also a special time to catch up on his health and when he will be able to return on a regular basis and a normal routine.

As our guest we asked Mike to start off the meeting to share any new writings since we last saw him. Since Mike's specialty is of a forager's life digging, picking, gathering, fixing, and feasting on wild edible foods he gave us more information from his book entitled *A Forager's Life*. Mike also mentioned another author who loves the same style of life. Frank Hyman who loves any type of mushroom and has written a book entitled *Forage for Mushrooms (Without Dying)*.

Before Tom brought the group up to date on his writings, he responded to Mike about mushrooms, stating he has a passion about hunting mushrooms in the snow. In fact, he found a morel mushroom in December. In addition to his mushroom passion, he mentioned he writes song lyrics and plays the guitar. It appears Tom has taken the group's advice to create and share ideas no matter what type of writings each member is interested in creating.

Jan brought the group up to date on her writing a poetry book with her granddaughter Nima and shared several books of her poetry along with photographs to Tom to help him create another form of writing memories. Jan stated she plans to enter the *Lyrical Iowa Poetry* contest again in 2023 and will again submit a poem in each of the five categories.

Diane brought the group up to date on her book entitled *History and Heritage of Iowa's Lee County Rural Schools*. Tom mentioned I can call him any time to visit the old Franklin two-story schoolhouse but, in the meantime, stated he would bring over some old photographs to share with the group. Those two framed pictures were a topic of conversation. All thought the photos would be a plus to the book.

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 November meeting will be November 16 in the Local and Family History Room.~ **Written and submitted by Diane Kruse**

## **MRS. CLAUS IS COMING TO THE DONNELSON LIBRARY**

She will arrive ahead of Santa's visit with several of her elves and her plan is to arrive on December 3 to visit all the kiddos. Since she has been so busy, her schedule is in the works and will be made final and posted shortly. Keep an eye out for her posted schedule and put on your Christmas best for a photo with Mrs. Claus and have some of her wonderful sugar cookies.



### **THE STORY OF MRS. CLAUS**

Mrs. Claus is the wife of Santa Claus. It is with her help that Santa can bring gifts to all the good little girls and boys. She prepares the toys for her husband and helps him pack them for delivery. Mrs. Claus makes cookies with the elves and prepares Santa's special holiday suit.

#### **What is Mrs. Claus' First Name?**

Mrs. Claus' first name is Holly, but her friends call her Mother Christmas. She was named Holly because she was born on Christmas day. The holly tree is an evergreen tree with beautiful stiff, glossy leaves. Before the plant was hung as a Christmas decoration, it was considered a sacred tree because it remained green and healthy even when other trees wilted in the winter weather. It has clusters of red berries that remain bright all through the year. Just like the holly tree, Mrs. Claus remains kind and strong all year round.

## **Is She as Important as Santa Claus?**

During Christmas, she helps Santa Claus make the naughty and nice lists. She goes through the letters with Santa and arranges them in alphabetical order. Santa often lets his workshop get messy, so Mrs. Claus makes sure that no letters are lost.

When the Christmas season is over, Mrs. Claus goes on vacation with her husband. They get very tired from going through all the letters and compiling the naughty and nice lists. After their vacation is over, they go back to planning for the next Christmas.

Mrs. Claus plays a big role in making Christmas possible. Santa's workshop is always busy, and Mrs. Claus helps a lot. She helps the elves make toys and checks Santa's lists twice. Even though she does not travel with Santa to deliver Christmas gifts, she makes Christmas possible.

Because of her kindness, Mrs. Claus also takes care of all the elves and reindeer. She treats them like her children. She makes them soup when they are sick and teaches them right from wrong. The elves enjoy spending time with her and making cookies together.

The next time you receive your Christmas present, remember that it's not just from Santa. Mrs. Claus also helped in making it. Since Christmas is the season of love and thanksgiving, remember to thank her too.

## **October Suggested Reading**

This month's Suggested Reading is *War in the Modern World*, an educational course provided by The Great Courses, an educational and entertainment supplier of courses on DVDs, available through the U.S. mail system.

*War in the Modern World* is a misleading title, as is the cover scene of high-powered attack aircraft. In fact, the course never addresses military weapons or munitions at all. The course is delivered as four DVDs with 24 half-hour lectures by a professor at the U.S. Naval War College who is a specialist in the historical study of wars both current and back into the 1900s. His emphasis is on political, economic, and cultural factors which lay the groundwork for war and then influence the conduct of the wars.

The coursework begins with Afghanistan and the Nature of Modern War addresses the conduct/progression of world wars, the Cold War, colonial/anti-colonial conflicts, and the impact of all these on our history and growth as nations and a global community. Readers/viewers will be treated to a scholarly study that ranges from the liberation of colonies around the globe, China's civil war, Korea, Vietnam, over to the Falklands, Rwanda and the Congo, and extensive information on the current War on Terror, plus many more conflicts. Although loaded with detail, the pace is brisk and intense. This writer was surprised and pleased at the study of Russia's wars against the Ukraine and the truth of the saying 'The Past is Prelude'.

For anybody with a strong interest in how wars are conducted and what exactly leads to the outbreak of those wars, this is an excellent choice. ~**Written and submitted by Aaron Kruse**

## Richard L Proenneke Museum



Upper photo: the crash sight of Richard & Raymond Proenneke's "Arctic Tern" Piper J 3 Cub near Sheep Mountain, AK.  
Above: Raymond hired two men on their way home to San Diego to truck the wrecked "Arctic Tern" down the coast.

### From "The Journals of Richard L Proenneke" "More Readings From One Man's Wilderness"

**October 6, 1976**

*My face felt numb and was dripping blood. The instrument panel had a deep imprint of my face in it. No wonder I was feeling not quite right about my head. My back hurt and when I moved to pick up the sleeping bag muscle spasms hit me hard. There was an urge to just unroll that bag, crawl in and rest awhile.*

*I could hear traffic on the highway and could see cars and trucks going by. I decided that I had better go while I was able. I headed for the road after one last look at the "Arctic Tern." This, I figured was the end of the last flight of the "Arctic Tern."*

*Going was slow and painful. Twice I rested during the 200 yds. to the highway. I came to the steep gravel grade and decided I couldn't climb it on foot so I crawled up to the shoulder. I was still on hands*



and knees when a camper came by, headed for Eureka and Glennallen. It passed and then slowed, stopped and backed up. A middle aged man and woman got out and decided I was in trouble and had better get to a doctor. They loaded me in the seat with them and as we started to leave I looked and could see the yellow tail of the Cub over the brush. What a way to end the enjoyable year of 1976.

... along the way he had phoned for an ambulance and the troopers, which we met farther down the road. The trooper would salvage my gear from the Cub while we proceeded to the little five bed hospital at Glennallen. I was admitted at 7:30 PM. X-rays were taken and showed a fractured vertebra in my lower back.

... Next morning I was due to be air lifted to the Providence Hospital in Anchorage. Morning finally came. My face was giving me some trouble. The lower jaw didn't meet the upper properly (slightly to one side). Six or a dozen stitches had been taken in my lips, chin, and nose. My forehead felt thick and heavy.

... A Cessna 206 was the ambulance plane. . . Slightly turbulent but a much more comfortable ride than the highway would have been. At the Providence end a young Irish doctor Dr. Nolan took charge. A look at the x-rays and he ordered two weeks on my back and then a cast would be put on. Friends began to come and I was quite a sorry looking sight. Voight and John would go get the Cub. Brother Raymond was notified and flew up to take charge of the crippled bird.

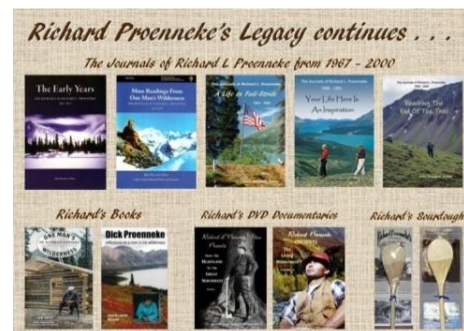
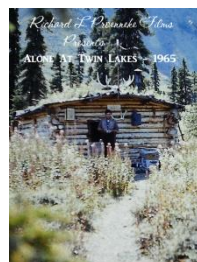
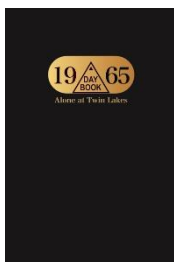
... The day of discharge arrived. Oct. 30 – and Tom Gregory and his wife Marion delivered me to Anchorage Int. Airport. . . . A landing at Seattle-Tacoma airport and then on to L. A. Raymond was on hand and I asked for a wheelchair. It had been a pretty demanding day for my pretty beat up condition.

Lynwood [CA] weather was perfect for the work at hand. Even though it was a project to get out of bed in the morning I was determined to get on my feet and walk as much as possible each day. No more than a few hundred feet on crutches those first days. Then a block, two, three, and more. Finally I could carry the crutches and use them only to lean on while resting. Days, weeks, months went by. I was walking miles every day and the crutches had been parked long ago.

... It was very doubtful that I would be able to go to Twin Lakes in 1977 as much as I would like to. I could walk twelve miles easy enough but there is much more to it than walking. It was as if the muscles of my hips had been welded in a chunk and each one had to be torn loose and worked into shape again. I needed some work to do that.

... I might make it yet.

Richard did return to Twin Lakes June 10, 1977.

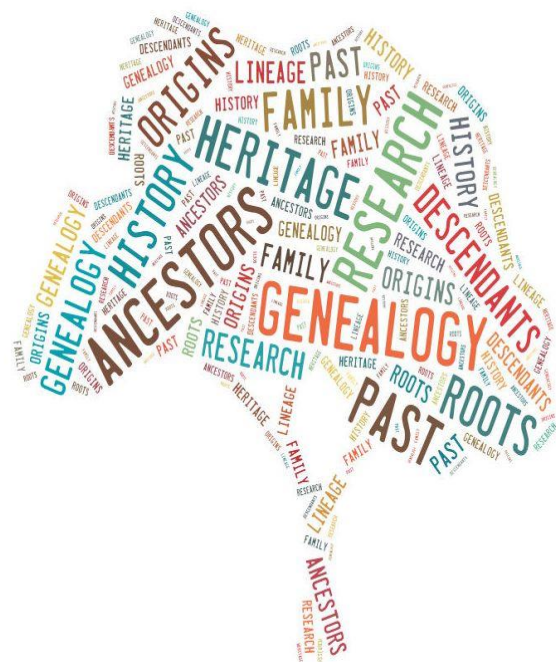


New Journal and DVD Documentary "Alone At Twin Lakes -1965"

*Looking for a Christmas Gift? 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 1965 Journal and DVD Documentary "Alone At Twin Lakes – 1965"; The Homeland and Kodiak Sourdough Starter Spoons are all available at the Donnellson Library or at our website: [richardproenneke.com](http://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](mailto:brie@richardproenneke.com) or contact the new Library Director Sunny Robbins: [director@donnellson.lib.ia.us](mailto:director@donnellson.lib.ia.us)

## **Local & Family History Department**



~ The month of October was very busy for the Local and Family History as volunteers. The Department received several visitors from out of state, several donations were received for future use in displays, and several interesting genealogy requests were completed for local and out-of-state residents.

In additions, 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, Joyce Francis continued working with Sharon Meierotto and finished filing all the obituaries Sharon had prepared.

All these projects are in addition to the monthly display which plays an important role every month.

### **Donations Received:**

Mrs. Janet Mills donated several boxes of memory cards for our obituary collection. We thank her because even though we have the newspaper printed obituaries. We keep memory cards on file so family members can obtain an actual remembrance if they couldn't attend the service. Many memory cards will be filed alphabetically with cross reference to an actual obituary.

### **Loan to the Department:**

Since Ed Latta's wood carvings have generated interest since they have been on display on several occasions, the Department has kept the 300-piece beautifully framed wood carving of the Ora Latta residence in Burlington, IA created in 1985. We have Doug Seyb to thank for this Latta display.

## **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 ready for e-mailing. Land record deeds continue to 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. Due to the difficulty of the many spellings of an immigrant name coming to America, additional time is required to ensure the correct family is being researched in the **Germans to America Lists of Passengers** volumes.

**Wendy Borgeson:** Research on the Brooks/Kincaid families have been completed as much as possible and forwarded to the requestor. In the meantime, research will continue for further information on family members as well as making a list of areas of interest for Wendy to visit when she does arrive in the Lee County area. She said it was important to her to know and see the areas her mother talked about and also meet family relatives who still live the area as well as friends she made while attending Donnellson High School, graduating in 1947. Her planned trip to the Donnellson area from local Missouri to visit with members of the Local & Family History Department has been postponed to the Spring of 2023 due to health issues.

The Department thanks Wendy for her generous donation of \$150 for the research which has been completed.

## **Local Cemetery of Beeler**

Members of the Keosauqua Beeler family visited the Beeler cemetery on land owned by Aaron/Diane Kruse on October 21. In attendance were the Kruses, trustees of the local Lee County cemetery Association, and members of the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Commission.

Beeler family members were pleased with the present condition of the cemetery, took photographs for their records, and shared research completed over the years. A map drawn in 2006 by Dale Bishop was copied for their Beeler records as well.

A Beeler family album was created because of the amount of information in the present file. In addition, the Beeler family members left what they had researched over the years to be included in the new family album.

A meeting is planned for the near future to meet at the Local and Family History Department to present them with the copy of the map as well as a duplicate copy of the combined Beeler file.

To make things more interesting, the family members stated there are Beeler descendants in the Keosauqua/Cantrill area. With that in mind, the file will grow larger and members of the Local and Family History Department will receive an invitation to view their cemeteries which hold Beeler family members.

## **Additions to the Local & Family History Department**

John Hunold installed two 55" shelves in the department above the map case to accommodate an overwhelming collection of books. The shelving holds books on Iowa and local interests.

## October Local and Family History Display

The display for October is entitled **Scenes of Autumn**. The photographs cover the fall season with colorful trees, pumpkins, apples, and the fall harvest of seasonal beans and corn. Photographs will also cover a fall cruise on the Mississippi with Mr. Ed Latta's cruise ship "Luckys" taking a relaxing and colorful voyage down the river through the No. 19 Lock of the Keokuk Dam. An original photo of the first boats which passed through the Lock 19 in 1903 is also featured.

All photographs for the newsletter are courtesy of Diane P. Kruse.



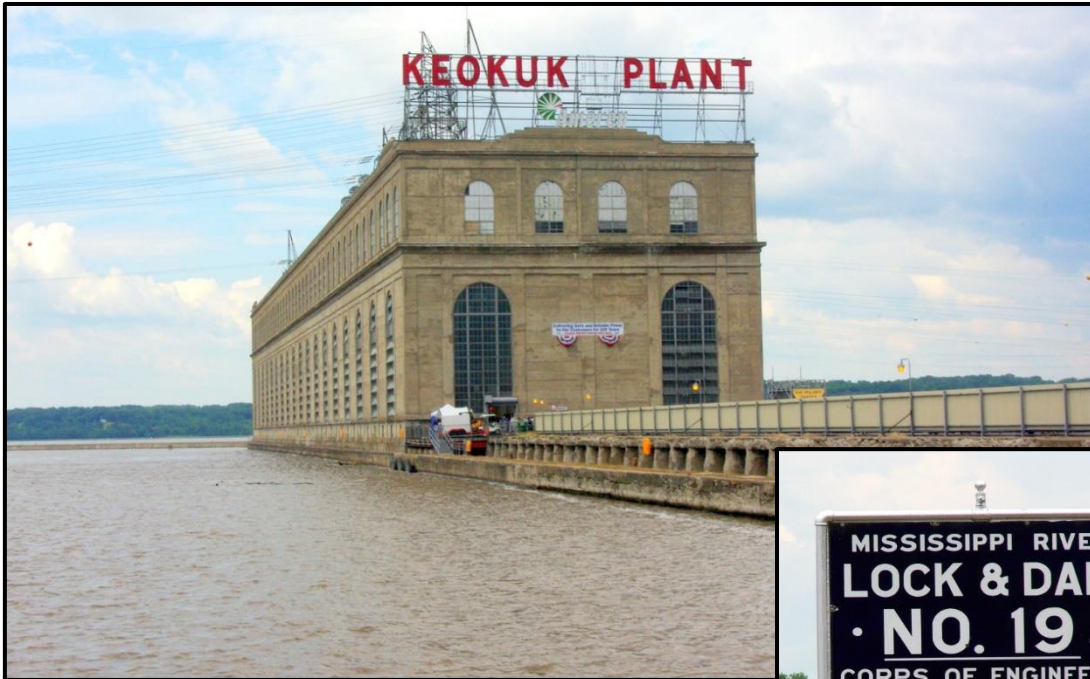
**Fall beauty on the Kruse property**



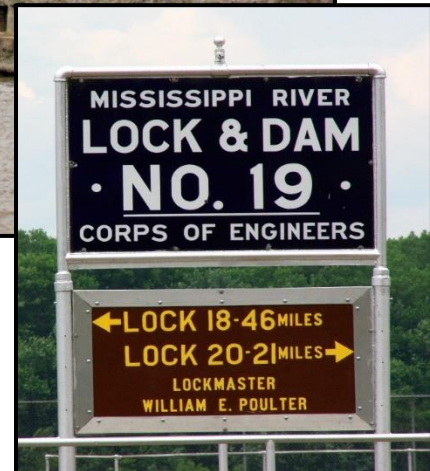
**Some favorite items for fall gatherings**



Wood carving the cruise ship “Luckys” created by Ed Latta in 1985



Keokuk Mississippi River Lock & Dam No. 19





**The first boats to go thru the new lock June 10, 1913**



**Photos of Fall Harvest time  
of corn and beans**

