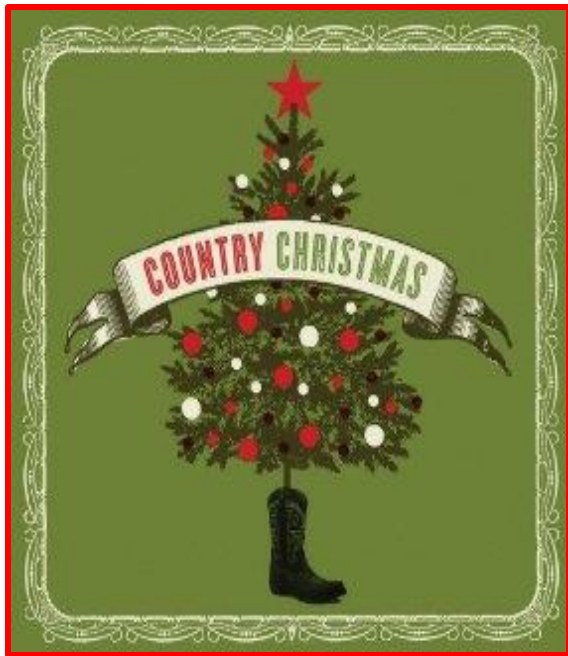


411 MAIN STREET
DONNELLSON, IA 52625
FAX/TELEPHONE: 319-835-5545
E-MAIL: donnlibr@iowatelecom.net
WEB SITE: www.donnellson.lib.ia.us

December 2022

Issue #196



~ Poem from *Ideals Christmas*
written by Ruth K. Stroh

Christmas is snow on the rail fence and pine;
Christmas is icicles' sparkle and shine,
Mistletoe, crowfoot, and red-berried holly,
Carols and friendship and everything jolly.
Christmas is candles and fragile glass balls,
Firelight flickers on knotty pine walls.
Christmas is letting the dogs in the house
And sharing our feast of turkey and grouse.
Christmas is jingle bells, angels, and joy,
A laugh with a toy from a girl or a boy.
Christmas is bright tinsel strung on a tree,
Popcorn and cookies and much jamboree.
Christmas is magic where it's found,
Giving and sharing when goodies abound.
Christmas is memories mellow and pleasant,
Finding quaint cards with a quail or a pheasant.
Christmas is starlight, dream light, and love—
A small bit of heaven comes down from above.
Christmas is hope in the hearts of all men
That peace will return to the earth once again!

Happenings

“When I discovered libraries, it was like Christmas every day.” ~ Jean Guttery Fritz. She was an American children's writer best known for American biography and history. She won the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award for her career contribution to American children's literature in 1986. She died in May 2017 at the age of 101 years.

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

We thank Our Generous Donors:

We would like to thank the family and friends of Merle Adkisson for their donation to our library.

If there are books, authors, magazines subscriptions, or newspapers subscriptions you would like to adopt for the library, please mention it to the librarian on duty. She will take down the title/author, your name, and your number so we can get back to you on the adoption status and price. ThankYou!

Preschool Story Hour

This past month we read books about Winter, Bears, Christmas, and Farm Animals! We love seeing the kids each week. The kids look forward to popping bubbles between story time and the activity.



Senior Crafternoon



For December Lee County Floral lead the group in making Christmas in a Can. Big thanks to Victoria Matlock and the Montrose Health Center!

The next Senior Crafternoon will be held on January 11th at 3:30 and is a cute snowman.



Winter Activities

We had a great time the last week of the year with the kiddos. It started off with Tuesdays regularly scheduled story hour, then Wednesday's obstacle course, Thursdays Lego Challenge, and Friday's showing of *Homeward Bound: the Incredible Journey*.



December Library Activities

January 6th, 9th, 13th, 16th, 20th, 23rd, 27th, & 30th @ 11:30 a.m.
Geri-Fit DVD lead exercise group, Come get fit with us!
Every Monday and Friday

January 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st @ 10:00 a.m.
Story Hour

January 11th @ 3:30 p.m.
Crafternoon - Sponsored by Montrose Health Center
Program by Lee County Floral,
Hosted at Donnellson Library - 10 seats available

January 16th @ 7:00 p.m.
Book Core
Discussing "The Lost Vintage" by Ann Mah

Picking-up "How Not to Die Alone" by Richard Roper

January 17th @ 5:30 p.m.
Friends of the Donnellson Library meeting

January 18th @ 1:00 p.m.
Writer's Bloc

January 19th @ 1:00 p.m.
CARDS

February 3rd @ 1:30 p.m.
Early Out Activity - Valentine's Theme

February 20th - Library will be CLOSED for President's Day

The Donnellson Book Core

The book club met on Monday, December 19th, to discuss *Call of the Wild* by Jack London. Most of the members enjoyed this classic.

Next month's book is *The Lost Vintage* by Ann Mah. **Here is what Goodreads has to say:**

Sweetbitter meets *The Nightingale* in this page-turning novel about a woman who returns to her family's ancestral vineyard in Burgundy and unexpectedly uncovers a lost diary, an unknown relative, and a secret her family has been keeping since World War II.

To become one of only a few hundred certified wine experts in the world, Kate must pass the notoriously difficult Master of Wine Examination. She's failed twice before; her third attempt will be her last. Suddenly finding herself without a job and with the test a few months away, she travels to Burgundy, to spend the fall at the vineyard estate that has belonged to her family for generations. There she can bolster her shaky knowledge of Burgundian vintages and reconnect with her cousin Nico and his wife Heather, who now oversee the grapes' day-to-day management. The one person Kate hopes to avoid is Jean-Luc, a neighbor vintner and her first love.

At the vineyard house, Kate is eager to help her cousins clean out the enormous basement that is filled with generations of discarded and forgotten belongings. Deep inside the cellar, behind a large armoire, she discovers a hidden room containing a cot, some Resistance pamphlets, and an enormous cache of valuable wine. Piqued by the secret space, Kate begins to dig into her family's history—a search that takes her back to the dark days of the Second World War and introduces her to a relative she never knew existed, a great half-aunt who was teenager during the Nazi occupation.

As she learns more about her family, the line between Resistance and Collaboration blurs, driving Kate to find the answers to two crucial questions: Who, exactly, did her family aid during the difficult years of the war? And what happened to six valuable bottles of wine that seem to be missing from the cellar's collection?

Join the Donnellson Book Core by letting the librarians know you are interested. We will get you the current book. Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the library Activity Room.

Two Friends of the Donnellson Library December Events

Mrs. Claus Visits the Donnellson Library



**Mrs. Claus with her three elves
(Diane Kruse, Carole Elston,
and Sharon Meierotto)**



**Mrs. Claus (Carol Stuekerjuergen
with her first visitor**

Mrs. Claus was pleased to accept the invitation from the FRIENDS OF THE DONNELSON LIBRARY to share her time and speak with the kiddos about what they would like for Christmas this year. She mentioned she prefers to make a stop before they visit with Mr. Claus to confirm whether they have been naughty or nice for the entire year so Santa can bring them what they requested. Of course, all stated they have been very good and told Mrs. Claus to please pass on the good words. She also mentioned she prepares the toys and helps him pack the sleigh for delivery

Both moms and dads brought their cameras or cellphones to capture the moment of the visit. The activity room was decorated with holiday cheer with two lighted Christmas trees and many of the kiddos loved the bears, blocks, and Christmas books. The bears added a special touch to many photos and the books entertained those who loved pictures and telling their own story. Another special touch of Christmas music added to the holiday atmosphere and many sang along.

The elves were busy helping Mrs. Claus keep her basket of goodies full and once the kiddos received their bag of goodies, they had to open them immediately. Inside they found a Christmas tree sugar cookie, a candy cane, and an orange.

So the next time you receive your Christmas presents, remember that it's not just from Santa. Mrs. Claus also helped in making Christmas possible.

All who attended agreed the event was a very special one not only for their kiddos but them (the parents) as well. The elves and Mrs. Claus hope they will be invited back for the Christmas season of 2023.

The Friends thank all who attended and participated in the holiday event.~ **Written and submitted by Diane Kruse**

Delicious pie, books and a life story shared at library event

Beth Howard: love, pie, and peace

A piece of pie, a simple yet elegant and decadent dessert. How could such a staple promote peace throughout the world? Friends of Donnellson Public library hosted Beth Howard on December 17, 2022 for knowledge on just how powerful pie can be.

Local author, blogger and radio commentor, Beth Howard spoke to a full house at the Donnellson Public Library while giving a hands-on and informative demonstration of pie making followed by a book signing. Beth has thirty plus years in journalism where she has written for numerous magazines, been featured on television, Tedx Talk, and in public speaking events. She is also the author of four books, Making Piece: A Memoir of Love, Loss and Pie; the cookbook entitled Ms. American Pie: Buttery good Pie Recipes and Bold Takes from the American Gothic House; and Hausfrau Honeymoon: Love, Language and other Misadventures in Germany and her most recent World Piece: A Pie Baker's global Quest for Peace, Love and Understanding. Each book takes you into Beth's life, adventures, and emotional growth and healing.

With a down to earth, loveable personality, it is no surprise Beth is a native of Iowa. Her pie making demonstration at the library was filled with stories of her experiences as she effortlessly created an apple pie from scratch right in front of the audience. One lucky person was drawn to win the pie which they could take home and bake themselves. While others in attendance won various prizes and all enjoyed delicious slices of several types of pies baked by members of Friends of Donnellson Public Library.

Beth's first book, Making Piece: A Memoir of Love, Loss and Pie is about how pie helped her heal after the death of her husband. It has helped others through their grief and inspired pie making.

Ms. American Pie: Buttery good Pie Recipes and Bold Takes from the American Gothic House is her second book which features pie recipes and stories from her years stay at the American Gothic House in Eldon, Iowa.

In her third book, Hausfrau Honeymoon: Love, Language and other Misadventures in Germany details her life in Germany with her husband and is the prequel to Making Pie.

Beth's most current book World Piece: A Pie Baker's global Quest for Peace, Love and Understanding is described as part travelogue, culinary adventure, and love story. If you attended the book signing at the library Beth gave us all a spoiler alert to the end of the book, being well worth the read.

All of Beth's books are available to be checked out at the Donnellson library or they may be ordered directly from Amazon, Barnes and Nobel, online book retailers or visit your local bookstore. She is available for book club appearances plus you can follow her on Facebook and at her website The World Needs More Pie.

We invite you to grab one (or all) of Beth's books, snuggle up for a good read and leave a review on Amazon or Good Reads. Friends of Donnellson Public Library would also appreciate your feedback if you attended and if you would like to see more local authors featured at our library.

Wishing you all pie and peace in 2023!
Victoria Matlock
Friends of Donnellson Public Library member

Below are several photos from the event:





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

In addition to poetry and writing musical lyrics, Tom continued to share his sketch book because he loves to draw. His plan to continue with his personal sketches is improving and is glad he decided instead of cutting photos out of magazines to go along with his poetry to sketch the "picture" to explain his words of poetry. Jan suggested since poetry and music are interests of Tom's, he should write a poem to go along with music lyrics.

In the November newsletter, Jan surprised Tom with a letter from Santa Claus. The letter was a reminder he" better watch out Santa is watching him closely". Even though in the end the letter was a joke, Jan surprised Tom again with an envelope with a present he would like to receive. When Tom opened the envelope, he found his dream red truck. Only it wasn't the huge truck he was wishing for. It was a red truck ornament for his Christmas tree. I guess even though Santa thought Tom was not a good boy he gave him a replica as a reminder so maybe next Christmas he could still look forward to the "real" thing.

Since Aaron has been absent from meetings from time to time, he brought up the subject of gophers again as a topic. Marty suggested Aaron should write a book or write essays about this topic as it would probably be an entertaining. Especially if he gives the written piece the title "Go-4-It". Aaron stated he may take a stab at either one or will report is decision at the January meeting.

Jan shared her Teddy Bear Tree article in *My Iowa* which won her accolades and \$100. The article was a full page along with a photograph of the tree with more than 100 bears. Her husband Evan years ago made a Christmas tree from a wood frame and wire. Once the frame was in place the bears were placed depending on their size from bottom to top with a special bear chosen every year to have the honor to be at the top of the tree. Once the bears were placed Christmas greens were used to fill in the spaces to make the form look like an actual tree. This special Christmas item has found a place in their living room for decades. Over time, the tree frame deteriorated and the special bears found homes elsewhere. Many given to family members or special friends.

Diane reported on the progress of her book entitled *The History and Heritage of Lee County, Iowa Rural Schools*. Collections of materials including photographs, interviews, presentations at various libraries and organizations, interviews of former school students and teachers have been collected for close to ten years. The book is now in its first manuscript draft which allows editing to add, delete, or correct information already in each chapter. The book has a chapter on how it all began plus a chapter on each township and its schools – all having its own story of where they began until it closed. Other chapters of interest concern the training of a teacher and how the teacher conducts a class for students from the first to the eighth grade. Other topics of interest

include standardization, consolidation, memories of school days of teachers and students, lists of known teachers and students. To add a special touch, educational quotations and poetry about school days are placed throughout the book.

The publishing date has not been set but an early-late spring deadline is planned.

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 January meeting will be January 18 in the Local and Family History Room.~ **Written and submitted by Diane Kruse**

December Suggested Reading

Big Bend a Homesteader's Story

This month's suggested reading is a humorous story of a married couple who in 1909 spend nearly all their money in a desperate ploy to cure the husband of chronic debilitating disease symptoms and at the same time provide a better home for their child. Betting all their resources on a better life, the couple homestead in the Big Bend country of Texas, a place so named because it lies in the large loop carved out by the Rio Grande river. The couple, J.O. and Bessie Langford, accompanied by daughter Lovie, are attracted to this particular homestead by the hot mineral springs on the property, touted as a cure for everything from hangovers to gonorrhea and visited annually by a wide selection of people just for the chance to drink from and bathe in the mineral water.

While the gamble is huge and the journey to the homestead is difficult, the couple are welcomed upon arrival by a wide array of neighbors (some squatting on the homestead) who provide a warm welcome, help in settling in, and a wealth of advice and example which makes the transition to this new home a pleasure. J.O. discovers the mineral springs provide good drinking water which, along with the recommended 21 baths, actually eliminates his chronic pains and fatigue permanently.

J.O. builds a bathhouse with stone tubs, all fed by the mineral springs, and charges the revolving clientele a small fee per bath which, given their ever-growing numbers, brings in a steady income. Meanwhile, he engages in a variety of money-making efforts and the family lives off the land, eating quail, rabbits, and deer. The activities of the homesteaders, the antics of various neighbors, the occasional genuine danger – the couple come awake one night to find a six-foot sidewinder rattlesnake in the bedroom – make for an intriguing story, excellent pastime reading for anyone with an interest in the not-too-old West or perhaps the intent to try homesteading.

Highly recommended. ~**Written and submitted by Aaron Kruse**

Richard L Proenneke Museum



Rear view image of Richard Proenneke's Cabin and Cache; sunlit snow covered "Allen Mountain" in the background.

From The Journals of Richard L Proenneke – 1981 – 1985 "A Life In Full Stride"

Dec. 25, 1981 Overcast, Calm, & 11° - Christmas Day.

As my cabin is overloaded and the cache near full I had hoped that if people must send something it would be of a here today gone tomorrow nature. As I cut tape and unwrapped I was happy to find it going in that direction. Several packages of oats, (Quaker and Buckeye) rolled oats groats, Oroweat cereal, granola, popcorn, banana chips, popcorn and white fruit cake. Walnuts, almonds and peanut brittle. Peanuts in the shell and peanuts shelled. Soup mix and seasonings. Some sweet chocolate and cocoa mix. Tangerines, maple sugar, Samovar Tea, and coco banana trail food. Honey berry combination in jars. Pilot bread and ginger crisp crackers, a big round metal box of homemade fudge. Lots and lots of bite size candy bars and granola bars. Homemade foil wrapped chocolate bars with a soft white center (good!). And a huge beef stick (summer sausage type). Toothbrushes, a couple rolls of film, tube of glue, roll of binding tape. Three books and one of them *Diary of an Early American Boy* by Eric Sloane. That one from my cowboy Big Horn Mt. couple, Ed & Hilda McGough. A letter from them saying that they are hibernating in their cabin at 8,000 ft. again.

My floor was well cluttered by the time I had finished. Of course I had to sample and that amounted to quite a lot. My little turkey had been brought in to thaw and I took it back out in the cold again. I had saved one leg of my Thanksgiving turkey in case I needed it for Christmas. So now, the gifts were sorted, combined and stowed away. Finished, I felt as if I had made out like a burglar. I wish that I could somehow feel that I deserved all this but I can't. About all I can say is, Really! You shouldn't have and thank you until you are better paid.

Dec. 28, 1981 Partly Cloudy, Calm & -18°.

The ice was my route to One Mile Rock and the broken trail to the timber trail above. On down the game trail crossing of the creek and then follow the creek bottom until brush crowded me up the bank.

The trench is the winter trail. Solid snow cover and always wind packed as hard as the road. I found it that way this time. A few spots of an inch or two of loose snow on top and tracks of rabbits leading far and returning from the pass and no doubt the Kijik River country. Rabbits are quite the travelers. I have seen many tracks crossing the lake this winter. Lyman Nichols the sheep biologist at Cooper Landing wrote of seeing a lone rabbit track crossing a very large snow field at 4,000 feet elevation.

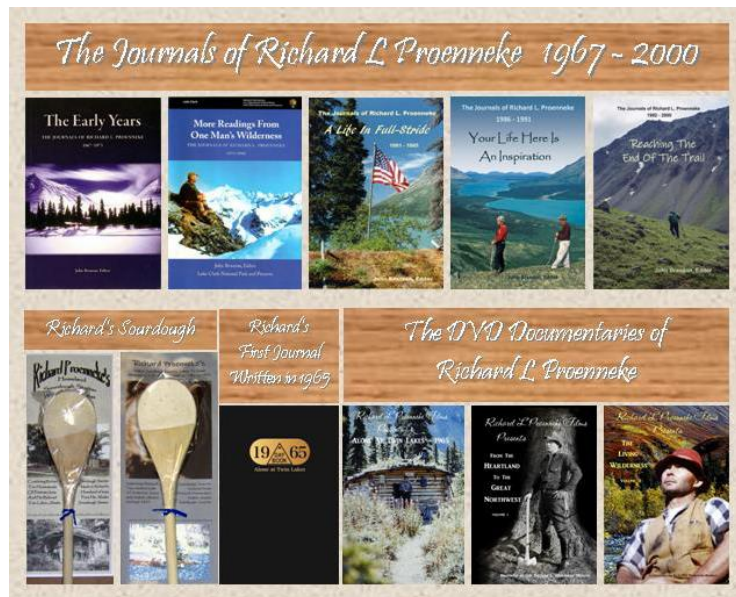
My home made crampons for the snowshoes did a perfect job on the climb and would coming down also. I made the trip nonstop and arrived at the summit about 1 PM. The Kijik side of the Mt. shaded the [Low] Pass but my look out rocks two hundred yds. beyond and 50 ft. higher were in bright sunlight. A cool breeze had followed me from near the pass and an overcast was forming to the northwest. How high above the horizon is the winter sun in late Dec.? That was something I wanted to see. I judged it to be maybe more than 15° but less than 20°. The temperature in the shade ten degrees above zero and in the sun 20°. Out of the breeze it was like a spring day. Lots of snow but nothing compared to the solid white of last winter when I circled Cowgill Mt. on the snowshoes.

The sun went behind the Mt. and I headed back down the chute. Off of the wind packed snow but a broken trail which makes snowshoeing a welcome exercise. On a good trail I find snowshoeing faster and less effort than hiking a trail in summer.

Biting cold on the lake again but I found the temp. only a +10° at the cabin when I arrived just after three o'clock. The cloud cover was 50% or better and I expected a mild nighttime temp.

For a better fire I sawed a few sticks of water soaked poplar. Like solid ice and used for the side sticks of my night fire it won't burn so vigorously. My chimney cleaned and wood in, I was set for the night. My birds had their bedtime snack and had gone to roost. At 8, nearly clear, calm, & -1.

Richard L Proenneke's Legacy continues



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



A Proclamation on National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, 2022

On National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, we honor the memories of the 2,403 service members and civilians whose lives were cut short on that tragic December morning. We reflect on the resilience of America's Armed Forces, who withstood the attack and built the most capable fighting force the world has ever known. In the wake of tragedy, these brave women and men — the Greatest Generation — answered the call to defend freedom, justice, and democracy across the Pacific, throughout Europe, and around the globe. Today, we carry forward their spirit of unity and their enduring resolve to protect the United States against those who seek to do us harm.

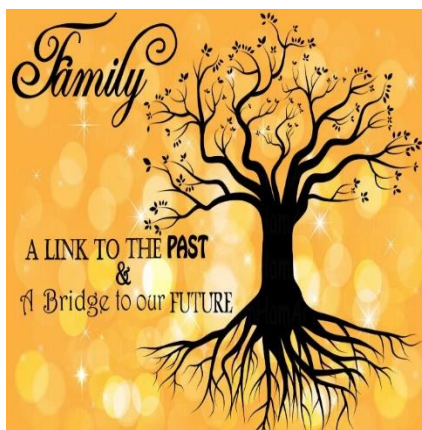
This commemoration is also a solemn reminder that our country is capable of achieving great triumphs coming out of dark moments. From the death and destruction at Pearl Harbor came victory over the forces of fascism. Fierce battles with the Axis powers gave way to diplomatic partnerships with strong allies. And from the darkness of World War II came the light of liberty and the establishment of a rules-based international order. Today and every day, we remember that the great and defining truth about our Nation and our people is that there is nothing beyond our capacity — we do not break, we never give in, and we never back down.

The Congress, by Public Law 103-308, as amended, has designated December 7 of each year as “National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.” Today, let us commemorate the patriots who were wounded and who perished on December 7, 1941, and continue to fulfill our sacred obligation to care for our service members and veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim December 7, 2022, as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. I encourage all Americans to reflect on the courage shown by our brave service members that day and remember their sacrifices. I ask us all to give sincere thanks and appreciation to the survivors of that unthinkable day. I urge all Federal agencies, interested organizations, groups, and individuals to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff on December 7, 2022, in honor of those American patriots who died as a result of their service at Pearl Harbor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-seventh. JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.

Local & Family History Department



~ The month of December was very slow for the Local and Family History volunteers due to weather and the holiday season. The Department received one donation and kept the filing of obituaries pasted and filed. Because of weather and the slow days, most of the work was done remotely from home. We hope to have our needed help back after the first of the year so we can get progressive out of slow motion. Pat Morrison visited and as always made an additional contribution for our obituary records.

~ Once the members of the department get settled in after the holidays, meetings for new plans for the group will be set up. Once a plan has been scheduled, it will be posted in a newsletter to get the word out as well as on the library activities schedule each month.

Donations Received:

David Roth stopped by the Local & Family History Department to donate a huge binder of past Apple Days events from 1998-2011 in the charge of Ivin and Elsie Roth. The binder is full of photographs and festivities over the years and makes an excellent reference for any future plans of setting up another phase of Apple Days. In addition, the Department has a notebook from Elsie Roth with a schedule of meetings to help set up the event as well as other participants who helped the Roth's run the show.

December Local & Family History Christmas Display

The Christmas display, another favorite feature of the Department was set up a little earlier than usual so patrons could view the display and hopefully get in the Christmas spirit. This year patrons will see the popular figures of Santa, Mr. Snowman, and the Christmas carolers. In addition, special additions of a Very Beary Christmas, Christmas Gnomes, An Angels' Choir, and a snow scene will be featured. "Thank You's" go out to Sharon Meierotto (choir of angels, the Salvation Army singing group), Diane Kruse (snowmen, Santa, Boyd's bears collection, and snow scenes) Jan Blankenberg (Boyd's bear pin collection and wooden props) and Carole Landes Elston (Christmas kittens) for their contributions to make the display a success. Below are some photographs of the display courtesy of Carole Landes Elston.





Newsletter Editor: Diane P. Kruse