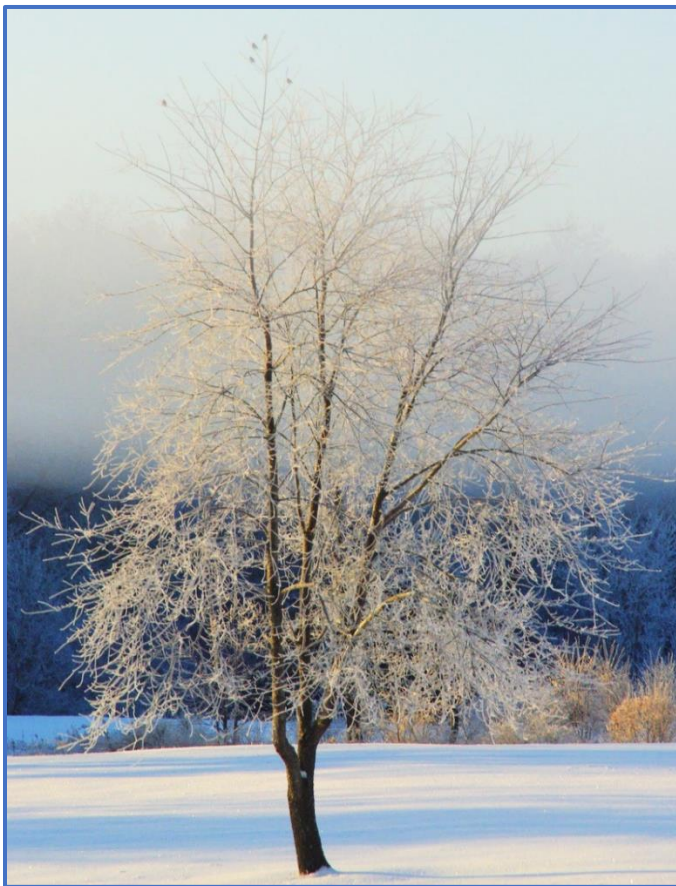


DONNELLSON PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER
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February 2021

Issue #174

LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING



~ PHOTO BY DIANE KRUSE

Library Happenings

February Weather Posed Challenges

We had some weather closings in February due to the severe winter weather. We apologize for any inconvenience. We closed early two days and were closed completely for two days. On one of those days the snow was unrelenting and the temperature never got above zero. We really try

ICEBOUND

SOMETIMES WHEN WINTER STAYS TOO LONG,
AND BROOKS ARE LONGING FOR THEIR SONG,
THERE COMES A SHINING SILVER DAWN
WHEN TREES OF ICE PUT JEWELS ON

SPARKLING BEFORE OUR DAZZLED EYES,
THEY HOLD THEIR BEAUTY LIKE A PRIZE,
AND WE WHO LOOK BECOME MORE WISE
WHILE EARLY RICHES SHRINK IN SIZE.

POOR IS THE MAN WHO CANNOT SEE
THE BEAUTY OF SUCH HARMONY,
THIS SONG OF SUN AND SKY AND TREE
CAPTURED IN ICEBOUND POETRY!

BY BETTY HUNTER,, *WINTER IDEALS*, JANUARY 1963, VOL 20

to keep the library open, but care about the safety of our staff and patrons. We were having very few walk-in visitors when the weather was below zero for almost two weeks.

We are coming up on the anniversary of first pandemic closings in the U.S., that began around March 15 of last year. While the Donnellson Library was closed to visitors for seven weeks in late March and early April, and two weeks in November, we have been able to be open for most of the time with some limitations. For example, when school started in late August, we volunteered to help Central Lee be part of their “Pod” system. They placed various 3rd-5th grade classrooms around town, at churches, community rooms, and various activity spaces. We volunteered our Activity Room, which eventually became too small as the numbers in the classroom rose. But while they were meeting here, we closed the library to patrons, and were open from 3:30-7:30 only. We still require masks and handwashing and have limited computer use to one hour per day. Most of our patrons have been very understanding. We still do deliveries outside the door for those who really do not want to be out in a public place at this time.

Now, as we look forward to spring, and the beginning of vaccines of people in our County are happening, we are doing some planning for outdoor activities during the Summer Reading Program. We will begin with what we are calling the “Outdoor Book Corps.” We will have a park or porch Story Time with a PA system outside for one day each week during the program, for each of the two age groups, (2-6, and 7-12.) After doing some songs, reading, and stretching activities, kids will be able to take home an age-appropriate activity bag, which will include a book. We are asking that they do their library browsing at another time when we can limit crowding in the library. We will also re-launch our Teen Book Club with a plan to meet outdoors, if numbers are higher than 12. Stay in touch to find out more about the Outdoor Book Corps.

The Donnellson Book Core

In February, the Donnellson Book Core met in person, and by ZOOM to discuss *Miss Benson’s Beetle* by Rachel Joyce. I will let the leader of the discussion, Deb Bailey, give a short report and to follow up with an addendum for the March meeting.

Seven members of the Donnellson Book Club met at the library with another member joining through Zoom. Due to snow and bad weather the previous Monday, we postponed our meeting until the following Monday, February 22.

The group discussed the book: *Miss Benson’s Beetle* by Rachel Joyce. We have read two other books by this author, *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, and *The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy*. The group was divided on which of the three books was their favorite.

From Goodreads: It is 1950. London is still reeling from World War II, and Margery Benson, a schoolteacher and spinster, is trying to get through life, surviving on scraps. One day, she reaches her breaking point, leaves her job and apartment, and sets out on an expedition to the other side of the world in search of her childhood obsession: an insect that may or may not exist – the golden beetle of New Caledonia.

When she advertises for an assistant to accompany her, she ends up with a fun-loving Brit, Enid Pretty. Enid, the opposite of serious Margery, seems to attract trouble wherever they

go. And there is some mystery surrounding Enid. What is in the red valise Enid carries onto the ship? Is Enid running away from something or someone? Why is a shell-shocked, former prisoner-of-war obsessed with following Margery and Enid across the ocean?

As in the two previous books we have read by this author, there were humorous moments, thoughtful writing, and unpredictable twists and turns.

The group enjoyed the deepening friendship between Margery and Enid that developed during their adventure. We likened it to friendships we had made through work with people we might not normally encounter.

Our non-fiction readers reminded themselves to use our book club mantra: “suspend your disbelief and just enjoy the story” if situations became a bit too unbelievable.

Members learned about post World War II life, ocean travel, golden beetles, New Caledonia, female friendships, and Spam (the tinned meat, not unwanted emails).

The book club will meet on Monday, March 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Donnellson Public Library to discuss the book: *The Mothers* by Brit Bennett. This was the “All Iowa Reads” 2020 selection. ~
Written and submitted by Debbie Bailey

Addendum to the Donnellson Book Core Report

Our book for the March 15th meeting is the “All Iowa Reads” selection for 2020, *The Mothers* by Brit Bennett. **Here is a review from Goodreads:**

Set within a contemporary black community in Southern California, Brit Bennett's mesmerizing first novel is an emotionally perceptive story about community, love, and ambition. It begins with a secret.

"All good secrets have a taste before you tell them, and if we'd taken a moment to swish this one around our mouths, we might have noticed the sourness of an unripe secret, plucked too soon, stolen and passed around before its season."

It is the last season of high school life for Nadia Turner, a rebellious, grief-stricken, seventeen-year-old beauty. Mourning her own mother's recent suicide, she takes up with the local pastor's son. Luke Sheppard is twenty-one, a former football star whose injury has reduced him to waiting tables at a diner. They are young; it is not serious. But the pregnancy that results from this teen romance—and the subsequent cover-up—will have an impact that goes far beyond their youth. As Nadia hides her secret from everyone, including Aubrey, her God-fearing best friend, the years move quickly. Soon, Nadia, Luke, and Aubrey are full-fledged adults and still living in debt to the choices they made that one seaside summer, caught in a love triangle they must carefully maneuver, and dogged by the constant, nagging question: What if they had chosen differently? The possibilities of the road not taken are a relentless haunt.

In entrancing, lyrical prose, The Mothers asks whether a "what if" can be more powerful than an experience itself. If, as time passes, we must always live-in servitude to the decisions of our

younger selves, to the communities that have parented us, and to the decisions we make that shape our lives forever.

Please let the librarians know if YOU would like to be a member of the Donnellson Book Core. The group meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00. Currently, we have 16 members, and a 12-person limit in the Activity Room, so some members prefer to join us on a ZOOM meeting on their smart phone or laptop. ~**Written and submitted by Brenda Knox**

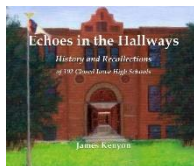
Revival of the Writers' Bloc

Back in November of 2005, a group was formed because as any new writer knows getting published is frequently harder than the writing itself.

This idea caught on and the endeavor was very successful as several members, because of the opportunity to share what they had written, share advice, help to edit, and brainstorm on finding publishers, had books published, submitted articles for magazines, and had their poetry submitted to the Iowa Poetry contest every year. But due to the COVID19 pandemic of 2020, the group took a sabbatical from meeting. Some writers continued to pen their thoughts hoping one day to meet and share their ideas again.

During the month of February, several members agreed to start meeting again and had a meeting date penciled in for March 17 from 1:00-3:00 in the library activity room. Members of the Writers' Bloc look forward to meeting new members so if you are an aspiring writer please join us.

For more information about the upcoming gathering, please call 319-835-5545 to check on the schedule. ~ **Written and submitted by Diane Kruse**



Donnellson High School Memories

Twelve months ago, Dr. James Kenyon met with and interviewed several Donnellson High School graduates in the Methodist church basement in Donnellson to collect stories and some history of the town and high school. Those in attendance were Roberta Krehbiel, Robert Leisy, Marty Miller, Marge Wilhelm, Vi Wilson, and Donald and Lillian Schweer. Diane Kruse was invited to answer questions on the history of the town. Dr. Kenyon also mentioned he consulted county historical records culminating unique school profiles which include information ranging from the origin and growth of education in each county to sporting records, programs, and school traditions.

This month Dr. Kenyon sent notification he had finished his multi-year research for the book entitled **Echoes in the Hallways** published by Meadowlark Press. The book includes stories from former high school students from all 99 counties and is nearly 600 pages in length. If you are interested in reading the history and stories told by those who met with Dr. Kenyon last year, you can go to the web site jamesrkenyon.com to order the book.

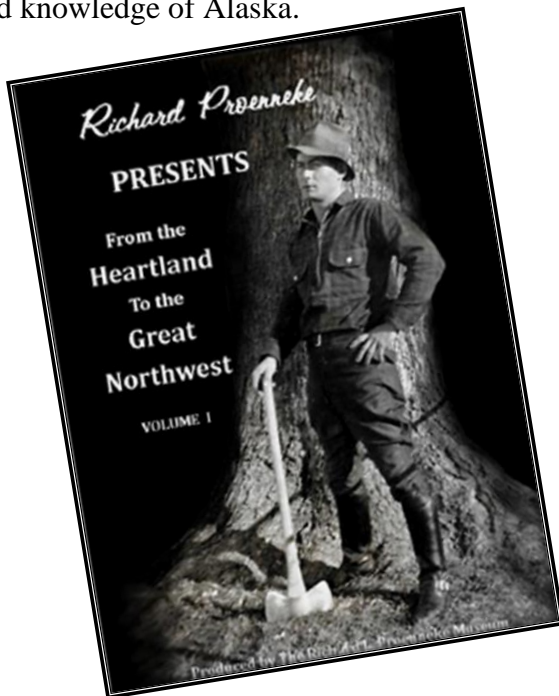
The write up of the Donnellson High School segment should be a very interesting read.
~ **Submitted by Diane Kruse with some information from provided by Meadowlark Press**

Richard L Proenneke Museum

LIFE'S TREASURERS

Every day I grow a little richer, come to own a little something new.
Sometimes it's a greeting from a stranger,
That cheers my world and helps to see me through.
Sometimes it is a bit of a special beauty, a lovely view I've seen before.
Sometimes it's a chance for me to grow some more.
Sometimes it's a moment warm with love,
Every day I grow a little richer in the treasures
That my heart is fondest of.

Richard Proenneke was born and raised in Primrose, Lee County, IA, and ties his Journals to us through the people he knew here and the lives he touched on his many trips back sharing his film and knowledge of Alaska.



A few years ago, some neighbor loaned me the Dick Proenneke DVD and then last month I saw a book online and ordered it. Since then, I have watched as many online videos I could find.

I live in Idaho, not a place like Twin Lakes but I am 20 air-miles from the largest wilderness in the lower 48, with pine, white and red fir all around me, and I take my domestic water off my roof, cut my firewood and until my 75-year-old knees got too sore, hiked the mountain country and big river trails. All this made me especially interested in Dick's life. I was only a rough carpenter but have built most of my outbuildings from scrap wood and I loved all the building description.

I lived in one city of 34,000 for 2 months but the rest of the time, including growing up on an island in Puget Sound, Washington, I was out in the modified sticks. Dick talked of his trip up the Al-Can. My parents a cousin, a dog and me drove the Al-Can in 1962 where I ate ice cream cones with the ice cream made from canned milk. We drove to Tok Junction and on to Anchorage, ending in Seward, where my dad, the cousin and I boarded the boat I had christened when I was 12. We traveled to Port San Juan in Prince William Sound and then Cordova, and at the end of a lucrative commercial salmon seining season, my much older brother, the skipper, and I traveled to Friday Harbor, Washington by way of the Alaska and Canada Inside Passage. With the animals I have seen including a female brown bear a hundred yards from me, Dall sheep seen on the mountainsides, and moose both on the Al-Can and in my area in Idaho, I had an attachment to Dick.

And I helped a neighbor build his log house having done all the peeling with a draw knife and a spud. And when my parents moved north from California to Washington in '54, my parents and I built a log house with vertical rather than horizontal walls. My dad built some amazing, Dick style door handles but as he got more "civilized" he replaced them with conventional. What a waste. These experiences, though not as exciting as Dick's, sure gave me a love for his life.

Patrick Threewith
Kooskia, Idaho

COMING SOON! TWO NEW DVD RICHARD PROENNEKE DOCUMENTARIES!

Documentary Volume I - "From The Heartland To the Great Northwest"

This Documentary represents Richard Proenneke's beginning into the art of film making from the very first attempts in the late 1930's at his home in Primrose, Iowa and his move to the Wilkinson Ranch in Heppner, Oregon in early 1940; the disruption of WW II and his entry into the US Navy; to Portland Oregon and his preparation to make the move to Alaska. The release is estimated for late spring/early summer. For more information and to pre-register please contact brie@richardproenneke.com

Documentary Volume II - "The Living Wilderness"

In this Documentary Richard, now living on Kodiak Island, AK, continues to document his life through film, recording his experiences at Kodiak, Sawmill Lake and Cape Chiniak. He would meet "Spike" and Hope Carrithers, Sam Keith, Babe Alsworth, Terry and Vic Gill. Entering a new path, Richard sets out on a new course at Twin Lakes, from the challenges of winter survival to salvaging a crashed plane. The release is estimated for late spring/early summer. For more information and to pre-register please contact brie@richardproenneke.com

The Journals of Richard L. Proenneke



LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Richard Proenneke Museum is looking for a volunteer to help with the wide variety of functions related to the Richard Proenneke Museum with flexible volunteer hours.

We are needing someone with the following knowledge/experience and should have basic computer skills in the following:

Microsoft Windows 10, Microsoft Word, 2010, Microsoft Excel 2010

Microsoft Office Publisher 2007 or higher would be helpful.

If you are interested in volunteering and being a part of a wonderful and unique experience,

A February Suggested Reading

This month's suggested reading is *Utopia and Terror in the 20th Century*. As the title suggests, the timeframe chosen is the 1900s, and as the viewer will discover, there was a great deal of this mix of offered paradise and delivered Hell in the 100 years under consideration. This selection is a book-and-video choice available from The Great Courses (www.TheGreatCourses.com). These selections are delivered as DVDs with accompanying texts, taught in 30-minute lessons by university-level lecturers.

The instructor for this selection is Professor Liulevicius, an Assoc. Professor of History at the University of Tennessee. Dr. Liulevicius received his doctorate from the U. of Pennsylvania and has published several articles as well as one other book on World War I.

It is simple fact that some of the worst forms of government take root in nations with poverty-stricken or war-weary populations eager for some form of salvation and a better future. The Bolshevik Revolution in Russia resulted in a communist government following the destruction of WWI. Adolf Hitler introduced militant socialism (fascism) in Germany after that nation grew weary of the burden of responsibility placed on it after World War I. Promised as an answer to social ills and resentment of poor government before them, communist and fascist leaders alike promised a utopia in return for acceptance of a 'new form' of government. Terror followed along with the loss of all personal freedoms.

The same pattern followed in China, Cambodia, Rwanda, Iraq, and other countries, all covered in this selection. In addition, Dr. Liulevicius delves into such variables as national history, culture, economics, and the use of scapegoating, propaganda, and education systems in prepping the populations and later controlling them after tyrannical governments are established.

This selection is an excellent refresher for anyone with an interest in global conflict, human psychology, and political intrigue. ~ **Written and submitted by Aaron Kruse**

Local & Family History Department

~ With the return of the regular library hours volunteers continued to increase their hours to keep the file drawers expanding. Roberta Krehbiel continues to clip obituaries and Mary Davis continues to paste and sort obituaries. Arrangements are made on a regular basis to pick up obits to be pasted from Roberta as well as delivering supplies to Mary so she can continue her part from home. Pat Morrison, a regular contributor of information to update our military records and helps update our cemetery records volunteered to help with the Illinois obituary filing. Jean Kruse filed Van Buren County and Local Missouri obituaries and emptied the entire alphabet of names pasted to date. Joyce Francis helped with Lee County obituaries by filing them in the 2021 binder while Sharon Meierotto brought the card file up to date. Thank you, ladies, for your assistance in helping bring the information up to date for the month of February. Action continues.

~ The long-needed project to rearrange the Lee County, contiguous counties, local Illinois, and Missouri records, as well as genealogy references, continues to be a work in progress. The new arrangement will make it easier for our patrons to readily locate their information. New record locations will be appropriately marked with many records being transferred to larger binders to facilitate addition of more information clipped from newspapers or donated by patrons. Action continues.

~ The entire shelving project approved by the library board has been installed and has added the extra space needed to expand our holdings in Local & Family for contiguous counties as well as local Illinois and Missouri obituaries. Having the entire shelving project completed will make it easier to make quicker progress to get our materials organized. Thank you, John Hunold! Action continues.

~ Work continues to update the list of donated family albums. The Local and Family History Department has three shelves of family history albums for patrons' use for family research. To date, the department count is 100 albums. In the meantime, Roberta Krehbiel has donated several more albums for review. At present, the family albums are filed in alphabetical order in the rear of the room on the lower shelves. If you have a family album you would like to donate, we will be happy to accept your copy or make a copy and return the original to you. Action continues.

~ Diane Kruse contacted Mr. John Doherty who mentioned he has his family information boxed and ready to send to add to our long list of family albums. The Local & Family History Department looks forward to receiving the information for addition to our family album library. Watch for future updates of this addition to our family album library. Action continues.

~ Sharon Meierotto completed the research request for information on the Franklin Saloon (now Franklin Tap). The following information was found and passed on to the present owners Gene and Nancy Foecke and Wendy Vonderhaar.

Franklin was laid out in 1840
Tavern was once a general store and post office
Tavern was once the old Seyb store
Proprietors of the Franklin Tap:

1865: Louis Halfman and August Kern

1867 A tornado unroofed the tavern

1868: Val Uhl and C. Hornung

1879: George Halfman

1897: Phil Wiegner and Joe Ohler

Known as the Palace Saloon it advertised choice wines and liquors as a specialty and sold imported and domestic cigars

1900s (early): John Huldorf and Pat Nolte

1996-2016: Ed Weckback

2017: Tom Moeller

To date: Gene and Nancy Foecke and Wendy Vonderhaar

NOTE: From the early records there were two saloons in Franklin, and you cannot tell what proprietors were with what saloon

If anyone has added information about more proprietors or the tavern over the years as well as old photographs, please forward them to Sharon Meierotto at the Local & Family History Department. ~ **Researched and submitted by Sharon Meierotto**

~ Jane Krebill requested information on the Donnellson Depot as the city of Donnellson is looking to confirm the Depot for State Historical Designation. Jane is in the process of filling out the pre-app and needs some information about the history of the railroad in Donnellson regarding the connection to the two rail lines that became the BNSF. If and once it is confirmed as a Historical Designation, application will be made to BNSF for grant funds to do a major upgrade to the building since it is falling into disrepair because the foundation is cracked due to the wood being very old. Diane Kruse forwarded historical information as well as old photographs. Action continues.

~ Diane Kruse received a request from Doug Lozano for information on the Waider/Lozano Family. Information was located and continues to be in touch with the requestor. Action continues.

~ The department received a group photograph of Co "A" 2nd Armored Replacement Battalion with 1st Lt. W.H. Filmore, Comdg. The group photo is dated 1943 and taken at Fort Knox, KY. Sharon Bryant Huey donated the photograph showing her father Gene Bryant, 3rd row from the top, fifth from the left. The photo will be added to our Veterans' Day displays.



and Valentine's Day

Local and Family History Department February Display

The first display of 2021 celebrated Library Lovers' Month and Valentine's Day. This month promoted the idea libraries extend far beyond the four walls of a building – and everyone is welcome to use their services. Whether people visit in person or virtually, libraries offer opportunities for everyone to explore new worlds and become their best selves through access to technology, multimedia content, and educational programs. Many showed their love by stopping in and saying hello to staff and volunteers, viewing the display of “Celebrate Library Lovers' Month and Valentine's Day”, and checked out a few items while they were there.

Below are some photos from the display.



The March newsletter will cover the history of the Donnellson Library including images and memorabilia for all the places it occupied since 1935. You will see it at its beginning in a doctor's waiting room on Elm Street, its time sharing the storefront of a feed store, the time it was stationed above a bank, to the purchase and expansion of the newspaper office. And now, because the library grew, we are fortunate to be located at our present address at 411 Main Street. The coverage of the library will also include the history of the Genealogy (now Local & Family History) Department founded by Erma DeRosear in 1986.

~ Newsletter Editor, Diane P. Kruse, Retirees4Now@aol.com

