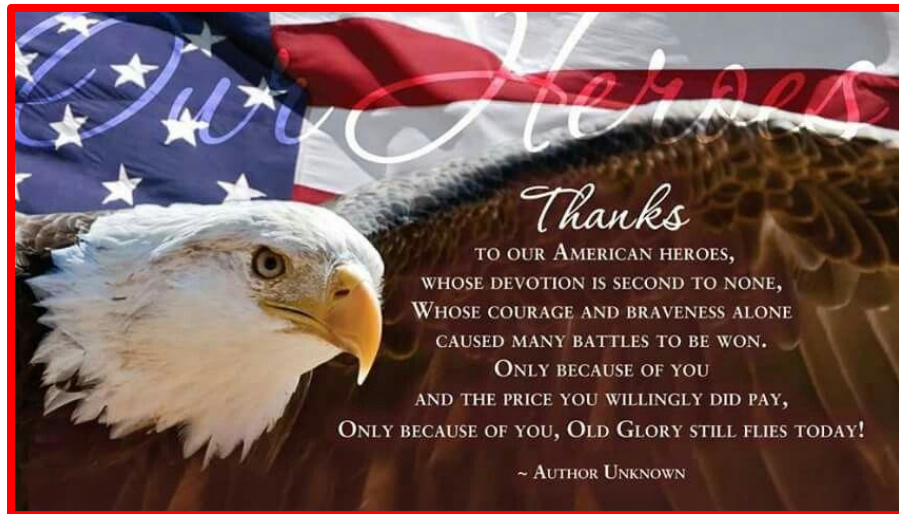


**DONNELLSON PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER**  
**411 MAIN STREET**  
**DONNELLSON, IA 52625**  
**FAX/TELEPHONE: 319-835-5545**  
**E-MAIL: [donnlibr@iowatelecom.net](mailto:donnlibr@iowatelecom.net)**  
**WEB SITE: [www.donnellson.lib.ia.us](http://www.donnellson.lib.ia.us)**

May 2021

Issue #177

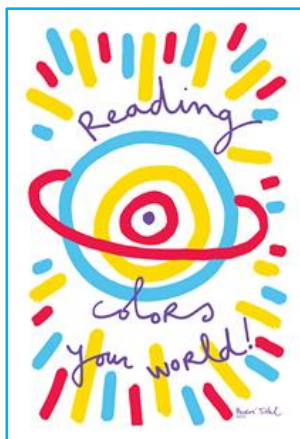


### **MAY IS MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH**

#### **Library Happenings**

**“Libraries are city treasures, community centers, welcoming to children and families, and important resources for a multitude of community needs.”**

Library Happenings are written and submitted by Brenda Knox, Director of the Donnellson Library, unless otherwise noted.



We are gearing-up for the Summer Reading program: Reading Colors Your World! The programs begin on Tuesday, June 8, but we also have reading log-bookmarks to give out beginning that week. With the reading log, kids will color a circle each time they read for 20 minutes. If they read 5 times during the week, their name will be entered into a drawing to win an art kit! The programs will end on July 22.

We will have big programs and small programs for kids of all ages, including teens. On Tuesday mornings at 10:00, we will have a front porch reading time for the younger kids, ages 2-6, and we are calling

it the “Outdoor Book Corps.” We will read some books about color and the rainbow spectrum and have some movement and song activities. The Outdoor Book Corps for kids ages 6-12 will be on Wednesdays, at 10:00 a.m., unless a special program is being held at the Donnellson Railroad Park. We kick-off the first week with Absolute Science at Railroad Park from 9:00-11:00 with a series of bubble science hands-on activities. Stay as long as you like, and let the kids have some good clean fun with bubbles.

Future large programs at the park include The Iowa State University Insect Zoo on Wednesday, July 7, at 10:00 a.m. Kids of all ages can see some interesting bugs. On Wednesday, July 14 at 10:00 a.m. we will welcome some small animals from the Blank Park Zoo. They will represent areas in the world that have a Rain Forest environment. Finally, on July 21, we will be back on the front porch of the library with a rock duo called “Sheltered Reality” at 10:00 a.m. This dynamic group really gets the kids involved!

### **Programs for Teens**

For the teenagers, we are re-forming the Teen Book Club, cancelled during the COVID-19 crisis last March. The teens will choose when to meet and what to read, and prizes and snacks will be offered at the meetings. Because of the smaller size of this group, we will get to meet in the Activity Room. We will also be hosting a series of art classes for teens including floral arranging, acrylic pour painting, and some other offerings. We need teens to sign up in advance, if they are interested in attending, as the meeting room still is limited to 12 people at a time. Victoria Matlock will organize the teen groups. Call the library at 319/835-5545 if you have questions about any of the summer kids’ activities, or those for our teen patrons.

### **The Donnellson Book Core**

The Book Core discussed *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn on the meeting Monday evening, May 17. The book was well-liked, but some thought a bit implausible. A WWI spy thriller, the book was an exciting suspense-filled novel, with villains you love to hate, and heroes and heroines to love.

The Book Core will be discussing *I Will Send Rain* by Rae Meadows on Monday evening, June 21, at 7:00 p.m. Here is what GoodReads has to say about the book:

*A luminous, tenderly rendered novel of a woman fighting for her family's survival in the early years of the Dust Bowl; from the acclaimed and award-winning Rae Meadows.*

*Annie Bell can't escape the dust. It's in her hair, covering the windowsills, coating the animals in the barn, in the corners of her children's dry, cracked lips. It's 1934 and the Bell farm in Mulehead, Oklahoma is struggling as the earliest storms of The Dust Bowl descend. All around them the wheat harvests are drying out and people are packing up their belongings as storms lay waste to the Great Plains. As the Bells wait for the rains to come, Annie and each member of her family are pulled in different directions. Annie's fragile young son, Fred, suffers from dust pneumonia; her headstrong daughter, Birdie, flush with first love, is choosing a dangerous path out of Mulehead; and Samuel, her husband, is plagued by disturbing dreams of rain.*

*As Annie, desperate for an escape of her own, flirts with the affections of an unlikely admirer, she must choose who she is going to become. With her warm storytelling and beautiful prose, Rae Meadows brings to life an unforgettable family that faces hardship with rare grit and determination. Rich in detail and epic in scope, I Will Send Rain is a powerful novel of upheaval and resilience, filled with hope, morality, and love.*

Our book for discussion for July 19 will be: *Little Mercies* by Heather Gudenkauf. As always, if you would like to join the Donnellson Book Core, just let the librarians know, and we will order an extra book, and give your name and e-mail info to the discussion moderator.



## **Writers' Bloc**

Writers Bloc met in the library meeting room at 1pm on May 19th. Only two members were present: Jan Blankenburg and Marty Miller. Diane and Aaron Kruse were on a trip to Montana in search of the elusive gophers that inhabit the high plains.

We started with a discussion of writing during the covid shutdown. Neither of us produced the Great American novel, or even the Great American Short Story. It would seem that enforced isolation would provide plenty of time for creative endeavors, but it had the opposite effect. We were perhaps too distracted by the pandemic to be motivated to write our way through it.

Jan shared an essay about that very topic. She also had brought along one of her scrapbooks and read some of her poetry. Her scrapbooks are a way to collect her poetry and articles, many of which deal with country life. Each page has photos or artwork to accompany the writing. She has had success writing for Country magazine and shared some of her articles that have been published there. She has also written four novels and a poetry collection. She thinks if she writes another book, it will most likely be another poetry collection.

Marty read a poem she wrote during a walk at Wilson Lake in which she observed turtles and dragonflies that seemed like they could have been there since time began. She also read an account of meeting the author, Bill Bryson, who spoke at Drake University several years ago. Bill Bryson was born and raised in Des Moines and has become a bestselling author of such books as *A Walk in the Woods* and *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*. His speech concluded with his list of ten commandments which he had shared with graduating college seniors. One of his commandments was, "Always buy Bill Bryson books in hardback."

We looked at a new magazine called *Tap Root* that has articles on country life that might accept articles for publication. We agreed that the motivation to publish is a reason to keep writing, and that Writers Bloc gives us an audience to vet our work and discuss possible changes. We missed the input of Diane and Aaron and hope they will come back from Montana full of new stories. Hemingway made a career out of writing about big game hunting and the gopher market has not been tapped.

We also encourage anyone in the area who is interested in writing in any format to join us the third Wednesday of each month at 1 pm at the library. There is plenty of room at the table! ~ **Written by Marty Miller and submitted by Diane Kruse**

### **Making a Dent (or not) in the Richardson Ground Squirrel Population**

The following article is a follow-up to comments made about gopher stories in the Writers' Bloc segment.

Diane and Aaron Kruse just returned (late May) from a varmint hunt in southwest Montana, the Shields Valley, which reaches from White Sulphur Springs on Routh 89 south to the Yellowstone River adjacent to Interstate 90. Along the way the highway passes the Bridger Mountains and the Crazy Mountains and huge amounts of grazing and cultivated land.

The Kruses make this annual pilgrimage, hosted by rancher Melvin Goffena of Wilsall (a tiny burg but featuring a post office, one small hotel, a grocery and liquor store, and three small restaurants).



The main varmint available in this part of Montana is the Richardson's Ground Squirrel, a very small but destructive pest which is the bane of the agricultural industry wherever found. Although averaging five and one-half inches tall when sitting up (prairie dog fashion) and one and one-half inches wide, this little pest lives in colonies and destroys large amounts of hay and other crops.

Although amusing in a chipmunk fashion, they are extremely territorial and fierce fighters. They are also cannibalistic and quickly devour their own dead and/or wounded.

Ranchers are hindered in their efforts to protect their crops by broad-brush wildlife protection laws and readily welcome experienced varmint shooters. Favored rifles are generally high-speed, small calibers equipped with telescopic sights. Quick and constantly moving, the squirrels are a challenging target out to 200 yards and more. Animal predators include the badger, long tailed and brown weasels, and raptors.

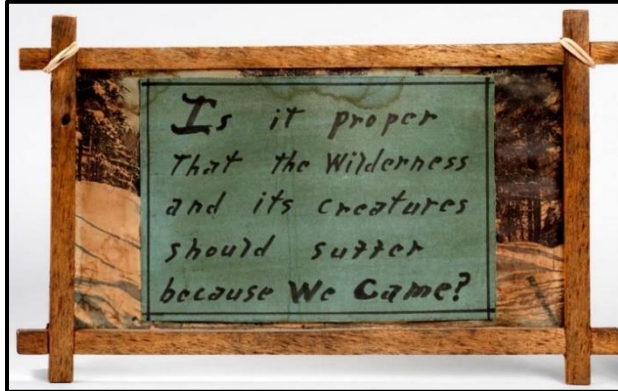
The squirrel population in the Shields Valley took a major plunge the winter of 2019-2020 when a series of warm spells mixed with rain followed by freezes filled burrows and killed off many of the small creatures. The population has not recovered and the 2021 hunt was disappointing.

Of note, the Richardson's Ground Squirrel inhabits a wide range and is known by numerous local names to include gophers, prairie gophers, yellow gophers, picket pins, flickertails, and tawny American marmots. At present the prairie dog populations in southwestern Montana are undergoing a resurgence of the bubonic plague (a soil-carried bacterium and the scourge of ground-burrowing species) which is greatly reducing their numbers. Curiously, the Richardson's Ground

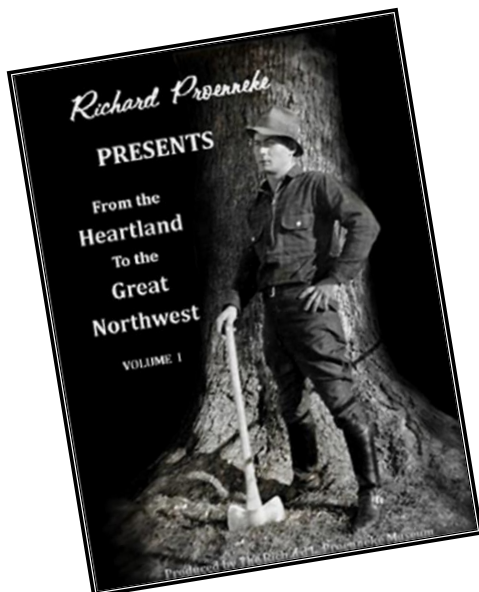


Squirrel, although living almost identically to the prairie dog and in much the same territory, appears unaffected by this plague. ~ **Written and submitted by Aaron Kruse**

### **Richard L Proenneke Museum**



During the summer of 1984, my family and I were flown in a single-engine, Piper, tail-dragger plane from Merrill Field in Anchorage to a dirt runway in Port Alsworth. Our excellent pilot was in his late teens or early twenties and a member of the Alsworth family. The Alsworths were excited because they were soon getting a town telephone system for the first time. An older Alsworth flew us in a float plane to the upper and larger of the two Twin Lakes. We set up our tent next to the mouth of a stream that flowed into the lake. The following morning, we glassed a glint on the lake and saw a man in a canoe paddling toward us. That man was Dick Proenneke. Dick brought each of us a large sourdough pancake with peanut butter rolled inside. He took us up a steep mountain trail to an empty bear's den near the mountain's high summit. I was 40, a marathon-runner, in good shape. I couldn't keep up with Dick, who, we believe was 72 at the time. He politely and repeatedly stopped to pick and munch on blueberries — to allow us to catch up, winded. Maggie was the back-country National Park Ranger. She packed a gun to protect herself from poachers. The following day, Maggie paddled across to bring us a large bottle of blueberries that she and Dick had picked for us. We learned from Dick that he loved chocolate. For several years, we sent him a large carton filled with boxes of Hawaiian macadamia nut chocolates. The cartons were marked, "Do Not Open Until Xmas." We have very fond memories of Dick. He was a one-of-a-kind, special, loving gentle man. ~ **The Dick Quinn Family Honolulu, HI**



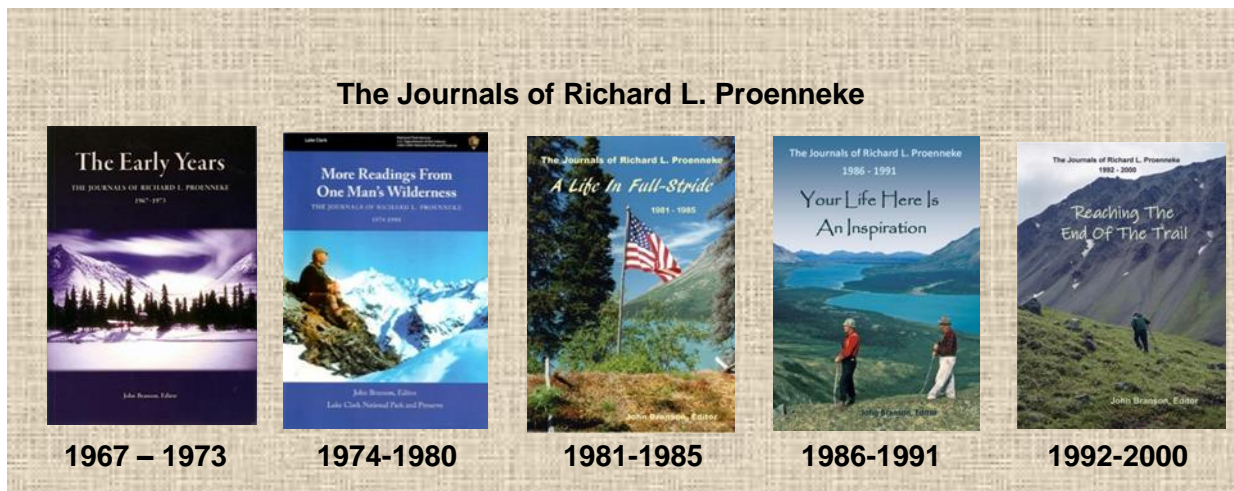
## COMING SOON! TWO NEW DVD RICHARD PROENNEKE DOCUMENTARIES!

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:brie@richardproenneke.com)



## 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, please contact:

**Brenda Knox, Librarian: [bknox@donnellson.lib.ia.us](mailto:bknox@donnellson.lib.ia.us)**

**Brie Anderson, Richard Proenneke Museum Curator: [brie@richardproenneke.com](mailto:brie@richardproenneke.com)**

## An Upcoming Event



### **Library Friends to Hold A BIG Book Sale during Yard Sale Day, June 19**

Time is getting closer. The Friends of Donnellson Library will be holding their first book sale of 2021 during Donnellson's Yard Sale Day, Saturday, June 19, from 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at The American Legion Hall, 419 N. Oak Street, Donnellson, IA. All books are sold for a free-will donation.

With the huge donations to date, there will be “something for everyone”. The donation of children’s books appears to be another one of the largest collections received. Other large donations include books on cooking, gardening, hobbies, historical, political, inspirational, and religious topics. In addition, there are collections of favorite authors such as Clive Cussler, Tom Clancy, John Sanford, Nora Roberts, Fern Michaels, and many more. Westerns from Louis Lamour and other known western writers filled several boxes. In addition, children and adult favorites of audio books and DVD’s will be available with many categories to choose from. If you like an author, take the entire box—reading material will keep you busy for months.

New additions for our patrons:

The Friends have added some new additions to the book sale this year to share with our patrons.

~ Pre-packaged snacks and water will be available during the sale.

~ Have you ever had a blind date with a book? People ask, “**What is 'blind date with a book'? We wrap a book in brown paper and indicate some key features you can match to your taste. How do I know which book is inside? You don't! That's the fun. You'll just have to read it and find out.**” Look for the special table area marked “Blind Date with a Book” with books nicely wrapped in brown paper.

~ Another addition is for our county outdoorsmen who loves hunting and fishing. **These books are excellent if you are interested in reading about outdoorsmen and their experiences.** The donation of this huge collection has volumes of hard back books, coffee table books with beautiful photographs, and many are boxed as a collection covering hunting for deer, elk, pheasant, turkeys, etc. in Iowa or out-of-state hunts across the United States.

If you are interested in or have done an African safari hunting for wild game, there are books of interesting stories by those who experienced the hunt. **~Written and submitted by Diane Kruse**

## A May Suggested Reading

The selection this month is *Why Evil Exists*, an offering from the educational company The Great Courses. For those readers not familiar with this company Great Courses offers a very wide selection of courses, each taught by college-level academicians. The courses are purchased over telephone or the Internet ([www.thegreatcourses.com](http://www.thegreatcourses.com)) and come as CDs or DVDs along with a printed book of the lectures. The sessions are 30 minutes each.

*Why Evil Exists* is presented by Professor Charles Mathewes, an Associate Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia. Professor Mathewes is a former editor of *The Journal of the American Academy of Religion* and author of *Evil and the Augustinian Tradition* among other scholarly works.

Far from being presented as a definitive definition of evil itself, *Why Evil Exists* is a step-by-step study of the ideas/concepts of philosophers ranging from ancient Greece (Thucydides – *The Peloponnesian War*) to such modern scholars as Nietzsche, and an in-depth study of religious concepts presented in individual lessons dedicated to each religion.

For anyone with an interest in the concept of evil and its impact – historical and current – on human society, *Why Evil Exists* is a fascinating study of a complex subject. ~ **Written and submitted by Aaron Kruse**

## Local & Family History Department

Several requests were received in the Department during the month of May. Both Diane Kruse and Sharon Meierotto worked on research, compilation of information found, and final contact with the requestor. One request includes an update, and four new ones were received.

~ The request from Kim Townsend Spangrude on Thomas Townsend was updated this month after her visit to the Local & Family History Department. Kim forwarded the following successes: During her visit to the library Kim found Thomas buried in Sharon Cemetery even though her search started with looking into another area – Quaker cemeteries since Thomas came from a long line of devout Quakers. She visited Sharon Cemetery but found no stone. However, after speaking with the cemetery superintendent found Thomas was buried without a marker. It was noted in the Sharon Cemetery Index as Record Book 9, Section C, Logbook #12. Last residence of Thomas and Mary Hastings Townsend was in Primrose, IA approximately 3.5 miles from Sharon Cemetery. Sharon Meierotto assisted in this endeavor.

In her search on the Quaker side, Kim found additional family members in the Denmark and Salem Cemeteries based on information researched by Diane Kruse.

All information located and forwarded from Kim Townsend Spangrude will be filed in a family file.

~ Rich Lowe corresponded with Sharon in his search for Minnie Miller Troutman who was born near Summitville, Montrose Township in 1864. He was also looking for the name of Minnie's



mother. Joseph A. Miller was her father and her obituary stated she was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hinich of Bonaparte at the age of two. Sharon Meierotto assisted him in a search in our Local & Family history based on research submitted Mr. Lowe. Unfortunately, she was not able to find any additional information.

All information provided by Mr. Lowe will be filed in a family file. NOTE: The research is dedicated to Nancy Lamborn Lowe (great-granddaughter of Minnie Miller Troutman) who passed away on May 11, 2019. All the information will benefit of all the descendants of Stephen Scott and Minnie Miller (Hinich) Troutman.

~ Joan Schock from St. Lous stopped by the Local and Family History department in search of information on the Schau Family. She reviewed the Schau Family file, and the Zion Church records. Information was found in both records.

~ Daniel Svendesen Betts sent an e-mail in search of the old Sugar Creek Norwegian settlement settled by immigrants from Sweden and Norway in the mid-1800s. He was also curious about the Quaker house of worship built on Ommund Oleson's land near the old Melrose Station in Des Moines Township. Files relating to the settlement will be reviewed.

~ Mary Ann Engel, daughter of Leonard G. Haase, sent an e-mail regarding an old *Madisonia* which mentioned her grandfather George Bentzinger and a prank he was involved with at the schoolhouse in La Crew. The article was reprinted from a letter (author unknown). Mary Ann was curious as to who might have written the letter because even though it gave the history of the small town of La Crew, the article did not include much about the real things about the town – the people, the businesses, the name of the schoolhouse (Hazel Dell), the post office and the big day when Old Jerky made her last run between Mt. Pleasant and Keokuk.

She was also interested in finding out where her mother and grandmother taught a rural school. Another interest was the Galland schoolhouse and its dedication as her father was Superintendent of Schools and dedicated the replica schoolhouse.

Information on La Crew, the schoolhouses, and the Galland School will be forwarded, and a copy of the information placed in the appropriate files.

~ During the month volunteers continued to keep the informational files expanding. Roberta Krehbiel continued to clip obituaries and sort through her many treasures of memorabilia to eventually pass on to the Local & Family History Department. Mary Davis continued to paste and sort obituaries from local Illinois, Missouri, and Van Buren County. Thank you, ladies, for your assistance in helping bring the information up to date for the month of May.

~ 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. 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.

## Remember When?

### A TOUGH DAY AT THE MILL



Remember the Granite Roller Mills anyone? The photo shows the interior as the Ideal Feed Mill in West Point, Iowa from a postcard dated 1905 with Otto B. Walljasper, owner, John Winnike, and Steve Hesse. No one knows how old the building is but one of the beams is marked 1852. ~ Photo taken from the *Remember When*, December 1972 loaned by Jane Krebill

### Local and Family History Department Display

For the month of May, the Mother's Day display stayed intact due to the absence of Diane Kruse who was on sabbatical for several weeks during May.



A new display is being created for the month of June until the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The display will cover our military heroes in all the wars as well as D-Day, National Flag Day/Week, and ending with July 4<sup>th</sup>.



~ Newsletter Editor, Diane P. Kruse, [Retirees4Now@aol.com](mailto:Retirees4Now@aol.com)

