

Photo C: On the mount below the four by five and a half inch photo is embossed "Anschutz, Keokuk, IA."

Random Thoughts

The following comments are based upon various newspaper or other sources read in recent weeks.



Some are from clippings or newspaper pages given to the writer. Despite need for more "input" from readers, for DHA News, it is surprising, sometimes, how much does arrive. Some of it is attributable, some not. Among the later has come information that some museum towns receive donations of historical and/or exceptionally distinctive or attractive homes (and some times other buildings), that are much as last used by the last residents (or other occupants). Menno has two neighboring such: Lennox and Vermillion each one. They can be used as a museum,

furnished as "last used", or if empty, refurbished with appropriate artifacts from other donors. All are welcome.

These form "one family museums" within a museum organization's holdings. Occasionally, a little material from other donors can fit in properly with original furnishings.

Two buildings that could not be preserved for Viborg's future distinction were the C.T.S. (Blacksmith) Goodhope residence (now school parking lot west of the current COOP filling station; and the original DBS Hall, where Wells Fargo Bank is now located). also some lesser homes or businesses would also be historically significant.

Another, different, dream of DHA, and of some it's idea sources, is to have a rural church brought into Viborg, as another of DHA's historical preservation prizes.

But, as hinted, a nice house in which to preserve and display a fine collection of historical artifacts.

The recent story of the closing of the Binder Brothers' business of ice cream sodas and pops, reminds us that all businesses should preserve samples (if possible) of their products or activities, both by variety and by date. Also, records, good and bad, copies of advertisements, promotional items, photographs of products, buildings, and operations.

The story's comment about "working ten hours a day, it was like working on a farm", is a compliment to farms, and of the small towns that support, and are supported by, farms. Businesses like to employ people from farms and small towns. And, before

consolidation, high school found children from farms to be among the better students.

And, contrary to a comment by a recent ARGUS LEADER writer, old (historic) buildings should NOT be disposed of by any means.

Anecdotes

Anecdotes can be valuable items in family history. In some instances they are of general historical significance. The recent homestead story is one of the latter. The following story of the writer's father is more the former. Both seem interesting, and may be historically informative.

My father, Martin Lauritzen, never swore to my hearing. He rarely used the word "Cripes". Though strange, I never thought to ask its meaning.

I chanced to read the December 10 or 11 ARGUS LEADER, which included a cartoon character that used the word "cripes". Consulting a large dictionary, the word was defined as a derivative of the word "Christ". This is the only time I've known the word to be used other than by my father. The dictionary did not indicate either, that it was a curse word or swear word. After maybe seventy years, it was attention catching to see it used.

The incident illustrates that small, seemingly unimportant incidents can still be historically insightful, at least to those involved.

If space continues to permit, the writer may present other personal anecdotes. Readers are encouraged to submit personal or family stories of historical significance for possible use in DHA news. (Or write a letter to the ENTERPRISE readers.)