

## DANEVILLE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION



Daneville Heritage Association  
Calendar:

DHA MUSEUM (wheelchair ramp): 101 N. State St., and DHA Rural School: 106 N. State St., Viborg, SD. 57070: Open Sundays and no-mail federal holidays: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST.

Both available also by appointment: ON CALL: Richard Skola 605-766-5675 (10-15 minute wait); Lester Lauritzen: 605-563-2732 (15-30 minute wait).

DHA Basket Social, Nov. 29, Saturday, 7 p.m., in DHA School building, 106 N. State St. Lunch also sold.

Museum open 9-4 CST, Dec. 6, for Viborg Development Corp.'s Annual Appreciation Day (in Viborg Community Building).

Mange Tak:

For donations and contributions since last report.

DHA News:

No visitors Sunday, November 2. Grant Peterson was in briefly in a.m. Showed the host a box of items from Darrell Pasco, including a book of photos of changes in road work construction by Pasco Construction, over the years. Fascinating.

More business (& other) photos, records, and artifacts, are encouraged by DHA. Velcomin. Mange Tak.

DHA Voting Members' and Directors' Meetings:

Both meetings were held, in the DHA Museum (transferred from the rural school building) the afternoon of Wednesday, November 5 at 1 p.m. All Board Members, Grant Peterson, Sr. (Pres.); Palmer Peterson (V.P.); Lester Lauritzen (sec.); Roberta Rasmussen (Tr.) and fifth-member Alphi "Toots" Peterson. Additional voting members included Marjorie Peterson, Gary Ward and Richard Skola.

In a brief voice vote, Lester Lauritzen and Toots Peterson were returned for their third, three-year terms.

Meetings discussed insulating the west room; need for additional display room.

Richard Skola commented upon how the visitors he gets "on call" are surprised and excited of how much the museum does have on display in only four years of being open.

Several New Certificates of new Voting Members were signed by President Grant Peterson and Secretary Lester Lauritzen.

A brief monthly DHA Board meeting followed.

After the meeting, lunch was served by the ladies present.

And, so, Viborg's DHA Museum Building and School Building continue preserving Daneville-Viborg and area history, approaches it's sixth "birthday anniversary", slowly increasing it's results.

NOTE: Subsequent to leaving the museum, the host/writer learned that the Viborg Development Corp.'s Annual Appreciation Day will be Saturday, December 6, in the Viborg Community Building.

Therefore, for the convenience of their guests, this writer/host plans to have the Museum & School open the usual 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., CST, to help welcome their guests.

History: Daneville & Neighbors

An item from the 10/29 "Years-ago" column in the NEW ERA reported that the hotel in Viborg had been closed in October of 1908, a hundred years ago! The writer (ENTERPRISE editor is presumed) lamented its loss to the well-being of Viborg. He asked every businessman to seek new operators for the hotel, to return it to the city's prosperity. He also lamented the enterprising individuals that had started taking in roomers and boarders, contribution to the failure of the Hotel. The writer observed that Viborg centered a considerable area from which to draw roomers and business, including Centerpoint, Hurley, Davis, Centerville, Irene. Also cited was that salesmen could get off the train and headquarter at Viborg, and do business in these towns.

This writer suspects, that at that time, some, at least of those towns, had their own hotel and railroad service. Such is municipal pride and industry.

Does any one know where the hotel was located at that time?

This writer remembers when there was a "Hotel" (or rooming house) in the present residence, east across Main Street from the Lund Theatre and Mick's Station. This would have lasted at least into the 1940's. (It was recently mentioned elsewhere.)

In the October 30 Centerville JOURNAL, Sherree Schmiedt's "Yesteryear" Column, comes a report, that the October 1933 JOURNAL reported that Mail Route Five, out of Centerville, had been merged into two other Centerville routes. The residents (boxholders) of the discontinued Route V, had held a party at Gunderson Park (aka "The Beach") to honor the retiring carrier, Paul Wiese. Wiese had served the Route for thirty years. He had reached retirement. (Which may have contributed to the closing of Route Five!) Wiese likely started carrying mail by horse and buggy.

Now, Centerville is served by two carriers, one of whom also carries a Route out of Viborg. (Marty Buseman.) Viborg also has another carrier, Ordell Jensen.)

The seventy route residents, presented Mr. Wiese with a gift. Vermillion:

The city of Vermillion will celebrate its Sesquicentennial anniversary next year, 2009. Cleo Erickson, host and researcher at the Clay County Historical Society's museum, is doing a series taken from the old issues of the city's weekly PLAIN TALK newspaper. One item, from 1911 (the year that my Lauritzen family came to near here, north of Centerville), reports difficulty in getting people to put numbers on their houses.

Another item said, "The County Commissioners are in session this week, and will likely not conclude their work before Satur-

by Lester R. Lauritzen RR 2 Box 117 Centerville, SD 57014

day evening." (Hmmm, how many days did they need? For what?)

"If the price of the PLAIN TALK was \$2. per year, I would pay it just as willingly as the \$1.50 rate", by the Mayor.

"Gasoline for sale, thirteen cents per gallon, pumped from a tank six-feet below -- ground". "Kerosene 10- cents per gallon."

(LRL: Kerosene is much like furnace fuel. It was used mostly for lamps and lanterns, before electric lighting.)

An item in a couple of newspapers reports that in June 1885, Dakota Territory held a special census of both Union and Confederate Civil War veterans. The census listed 69 Confederate soldiers and about 6,000 Union soldiers. Data included first and last name, county, regiment and company, enrollment date, termination of service, rank, the month and year they arrived in Dakota Territory, and remarks concerning their service.

These records are at the SD State Archives. It's telephone number is 605-773-3804. It is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and the first Saturday of each month.

A couple of items from the current NEW ERA, are of interest to neighbors:

November 8, 1923: "The Pumpkin Center Road is to be graveled! Turner County Commissioners to gravel north from Parker to the County Line at the Kraemer farm.

LRL: That was a distance of seven miles, of what is now known as SD Hwy 19. The road/highway then jogged east to "Pumpkin Center". (Still does, as Hwy 19, and continues north to Madison.)

And, this writer, was just over 4 months old!!

Another item, dated November 11, 1948: "Turner County's poor farm was sold on Friday afternoon. The sale was the SE quarter of Section 34, Township 99, Range 44, Turner County, and was sold to Jonah Ries at \$112 per acre. Also sold was a section to Ed Satter for \$104 per acre. Only a small number have been cared for at the poor farm in recent months. Lack of patronage lead to the sale."

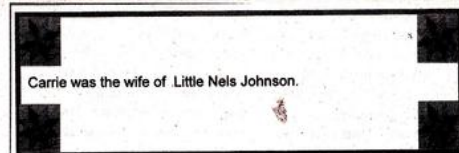
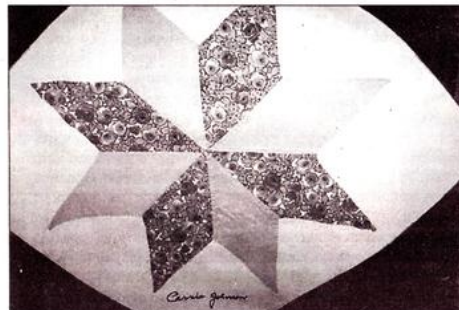
(LRL: Don't jump to any quick conclusions! But this writer remembers that poor farm.)

(Back in the 1930's, the county was in both a drought and a recession. Much like what we have now, only it seemed less complicated. As a "stimulus", [they didn't use that word, but the idea was to raise farm income], the limited farm production, possibly based on past production. Any units over the permitted production had to be destroyed, or given to the government for charities. Something like that. (Memory fades!)

My father had a few too many little pigs. He did not want to kill and waste them. He put them in a sack and took them to the County Poor Farm at Parker. I rode along.

I believe we went west on the street at the north side of the Court House in Parker. Across the road at

## An In-Depth History of Hooker and its Quilt Series presented by Lester Lauritzen to be continued...



Carrie was the wife of Little Nels Johnson.

the west side of Parker, we jogged off to the side (I believe) onto the "poor farm." The sack of pigs were given to someone there, official or resident, unknown. Apparently a number of men worked the farm, and ladies did the housework for the place

And one more item, from 1923:

"The fastest corn picker reported to THE NEW ERA this season is a young man from Grant County, who is picking corn for Carl F. Christensen, near the Spring Valley Store. On Oct. 31, he picked 137 bushels, and Nov. 1, he picked 136 bushels."

LRL: That HAD to be a year of a good yielding corn crop, at least on that farm. That is a lot of corn hand picked in one day. It must have yielded 50 bu. per acre, or more.

Corn was hand picked into wagons 36 inches wide and 10 ft. long. They were 36 inches high, before adding the heap on the far side of the wagon, or adding boards on the near side and ends when the

box(es) got full. The box itself was also 36 inches high. This box, held a bushel per inch of height. Fifty bushels needed the addition of a board or two on the near side and each end, plus the heap that built on the far side against the "bang-boards". Two fifty bushel loads per day was considered a full day's work. (I never got close!)

My father, Martin Lauritzen, was nineteen years old when his parents and part of the family came to South Dakota in 1923. As Iowa, Illinois had more rain, and produced larger yields than even southeast South Dakota. He told me that down there, the best pickers, could pick two 50-bushel loads, and scoop off the corn, by middle afternoon. Then they cleaned up, and took their horse and buggy to town for an evening's relaxation.

The DHA Museum would like to preserve other old time stories of all kinds, and use them in DHA as space permits. Welcome.