

January 5, 2006

DANEVILLE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION



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

Calendar

Museum open Sundays and legal federal holidays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., weather permitting.

On call numbers: 605-563-2732 or 605-766-5675.

DHA Board meeting January 4, noon, Kountry Kookin' Cafe.

Museum News

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day, visitors were Dr. and Opal Mark and Richard Skola. Richard also was in briefly in the late afternoon. This writer, as host, added a few more items including a 1946 S.F. Rendering Co. "Farm Record Book" for 1946. Palmer Peterson, with daughter Becky and son-in-law Jim Zirpel came as the host left.

Monday, Dec. 26 Robert Lee was a forenoon visitor. Richard Skola and Michael Lohan were brief afternoon visitors. The host hung a 1942 calendar (school band photo) from Viborg Businesses, from Toots Peterson, and did some chores.

A small accordion belonging to Arne Sorensen has recently been brought into the museum. (Would be interesting to hear Arne play it some time.)

Neighbors

The Centerville Journal's ever interesting historical column, "Yesteryear," researched from old Journal issues of that paper by Sherree Schmiedt, again has a couple of items that might

have been appropriate to have happened anywhere in this area. (Dec. 13, 2005 - adapted some what from the original.)

December 1930: A farm family found a porcupine perched between two hens on a roost in their chicken house. Family members managed to get it into a steel barrel without getting themselves quilled. A few days later they sold it to a fur buyer for \$5.00.

December 1955: The school's third-grade class had studied pioneers. They had read how pioneers sometimes had nothing to eat except hand ground grain during a snowbound storm period. To see how it was done and what it would be like, students brought corn and a coffee grinder to school. After grinding the corn was cooked into mush, which they then ate. A kerosene lamp and lantern were on the table for additional pioneer atmosphere.

Note: This DHA writer only reads the Viborg and Centerville

papers. Readers also reading other neighboring papers, please note and send any similar information. Copy by machine or by legible handwriting. Include titles and headings, photo or illustration if any, author or information. Also name, town and date for required credit. Please include sender's name and address, in case of questions. If preferred, request not being named as source.

And, any other historical recollections or questions about Viborg/Daneville continue to be welcome.

South Dakota Magazine, now in its 21st year, has reached voting-age and adulthood, at least as seen from sixty years ago when a high school education was less important than a college degree seems to be now. Then, a 14-year old boy could become a cowboy, a farmhand, a laborer or go in the army. Now a college degree seems no more valuable, but more necessary, that a strong back and a willingness to work was then.

The March/April 2005 issue of SD Magazine carries the story by John E. Miller, about Viborg's native son, famed economist Alvin Hansen. A farm boy who was among the early to go to college. The same issue contains the usual mixture of subjects, featured: history, small towns, geographical features, "cultural" items (whatever culture is), "art" (ditto), weather, attractions, etc.

Of special interest to DHA News, is the Publisher/Editor Bernie Hunhoff's editorial "What's On Our Walls?" Mr. Hunhoff said: "What a man hangs on his walls tells a lot about him. Likewise, the things we save in our museums show what we are as South Dakotans." He then lists several items seen in some South Dakota museums.

Mr. Hunhoff said, "Sadly, most of us visit our hometown museums less that we visit the local mortuary. We take such places for granted, so they share the same quiet atmosphere. Yet, put us in a strange town with an hour to kill, and we're likely to ask if there is a museum. We hurry there to study old photographs, local art and relics, and the like, and in an hour we know more about that foreign town than we know about our own. (Funeral directors might say the same of wakes -- the living may learn more about the

deceased than they knew when he was still breathing.)

(LRL: And if still breathing, he might learn more kind thoughts about himself than he could have expected through his life.)

Mr. Hunhoff continued: "In 20 years of exploring South Dakota with this magazine, we've learned tricks on how to quick-study a town. Must-stops are the coffee shop, the local bar at quitting time, and the museum. The first two yield colorful yarns (again, as do funeral homes), and a museum accomplishes the same with smaller lies and exaggerations."

"I always walk out of museums wondering what we have today that someone will save in a museum in 100 or 200 years."

(Quotations from S.D. Magazine by permission.)

LRL: I wonder if Mr. Hunhoff (or anyone from SD Magazine) has been in Viborg's about 18-month old museum. In many times hosting, I've not seen him, or his name in the guest registry. Unless he slipped in and out unseen during Danish Days. During Taste of Denmark, January 2, 2005, I was told that SD Magazine was in Viborg photographing the Danish Dancers, and that I should expect a visit from them. But SD Magazine did not appear. It would be interesting to show Mr. Hunhoff through the museum, and what has been saved over the past 125-plus years and donated to DHA's museum work. For Mr. Hunhoff, the museum schedule is at the beginning DHA News each week.

From DHJ to DHA

DHA News often promotes the keeping of family genealogies and history. The winter 2005-2006 Draft Horse Journal gives us an example of how far back some family's history might go:

"Overheard at a party attended by high society people: 'My ancestry goes all the way back to Alexander The Great,' said one lady. She then asked her listener, 'And how far does your family go back?' 'I don't know,' was the reply, 'All of our records were lost in the flood.'"

Mange Tak

Mange Tak for all the visitors, the donations of artifacts, the purchases of souvenirs, of memorials and other donations.