

August 24, 2006

DANEVILLE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION



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Calendar

Museum: 101 N. State St., Viborg: Open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CDT; Sundays and non-mail federal holidays. Cameras welcome.

DHA Monthly Board Meeting: September 6, 6:30 p.m. at the Museum. Members and interested individuals welcome.

Museum News:

Hooker Reunion: The Hooker reunion at the DBS Hall, Sunday, August 13th, had forty people sign the guest book. This seems down from past years. Possibly many conflicts for the day. A couple of people suggested a different day, possibly in September. Please inform Sue Jensen of any suggestions: 45907 Hooker Rd., Viborg, SD 57070; ph. (605) 326-5363.

Mange tak to Richard Skola for again obliging by hosting the museum while the writer enjoyed three or four hours at the Hooker Reunion. A large group of the Nelson family of Hooker, Viborg and Irene, enjoyed his tour of the facility.

Later in the afternoon, Erma Hattervig, Viborg, and granddaughter Linda Messler of Yankton were enthusiastic visitors in the museum. Mange tak to all of the visitors.

Quilt Squares For Some Ladies Of Hooker, SD: The following information is adapted from a notice provided at the Hooker, SD reunion by Sue Jensen (address above).

"Norman Westre attended the 2005 picnic (reunion) and gave me these quilt squares that belonged to his wife, Ina. He did not know the history of the beginning of the quilt, except that the names were of women from Hooker, SD. He had recently moved into the Wakonda Nursing Home, and wanted to donate them."

The following sixteen names were on the blocks, one name per block: Ida Feekes, Elsie Fetzner, Ida (or Ina?) Gors, Minnie Gors, Caroline Hammond, Katie Hammond, Beula Hendrickson, Tillie Hendry, Carrie Johnson, Mary Loe, Ruby Ludens (Mrs Jake--LRL), Harriet Nelson, "Mother", Edity Smit, Jessie Temple, Esther Wragge.

Sue continued: "If you know who "mother" is, please document. I would like to find a volunteer to finish the quilt. There is money in the Hooker Fund to buy the material. If it doesn't get finished, maybe someone has an idea how to display the pieces. The quilt would be a nice addition to the Hooker display in the museum."

(LRL comment: My belief is that "mother" most naturally is the mother of Mrs. Westre's wife,

Ina.)

(If the quilt is to be completed, it might be possible to make blocks with names of additional women from Hooker, SD area. Maybe even a second quilt?! This is another historical search worthy of pursuing.)

Mystery Album

Last week's (Aug. 17) Mystery Album feature closed with this statement: "The sky area of the print, as opposed to the photographic image, has a mystery of its own, which may not show in the newspaper."

The sky area of that photo appears to contain three large cloud areas. The third, or rear, extends further to the left than the second, and the second further left than the first, or front "cloud". It is the writer's opinion (guess) that the "clouds" are (maybe) the effects of water damage if the photo had been wet three times.

However, the REAL mystery is in the left end of the rear "cloud" area, just to the right of the left most buildings and over the left side of apparent street or road through town.

This image is of the dome of some building with a spire or flag pole on top, pointing up. Where did that come from? Viborg didn't ever have such a building. Is it some sort of photo image that does not fit, possibly from some other photo work? Some diddle or joke by a photographer? Some accidental result of the wet damage, if that actually occurred? Could it be a mirage? From where? The courthouse at Parker? That is the mystery. Finding the answer is the problem.

The August 3 issue carried three flood snapshots that this writer thought might have come from one of the floods of the Vermillion River in the Davis area. Still might be. But, since then the DHA collection of mystery photos has revealed a similar photo (flood, different location), that has "Denison, Iowa" written on the back. Does that put the three photos of August "in a whole new ball game?" Does it ring any one's memory bell?

Neighbors

From the Parker NEW ERA: 8/13/1946: "Coyotes killed chicken's for Mrs. Earl Wirt and lambs for Sam Rundell. Clarence Knuckle Killed a 36 lb. badger."

(LRL NOTE: This reminds me of a story Viborg's Sam Jensen told us many years ago, when he was helping here on this farm. A farmer's dog had gotten into a fight with a badger, which raged furiously for some time. Eventually, the badger was getting the better of the fight. The farmer

then killed the badger with a post or some other club. The dog was so exhausted that it had to lay and rest for a long time. But it was so angered at the badger, that each time it rested a bit, it would go and shake the dead badger a few times until tired out again.)

Memory also says that Sam Jensen worked for the writer's father, Martin, when they lived a mile west and a mile north of Viborg, where the writer was born, about 1920-1926.

Another from Sherree Schmiedt's "Years Ago" in the CENTERVILLE JOURNAL: August 1931: Frank Lambertson forgot to adjust the spark on his Ford. It "kicked" and broke his arm."

This writer remembers seeing that chore. As soon as the cranked car fired, the man left the crank, ran around to the driver's door, to move the spark lever below the steering wheel. There was also a choke or throttle lever there, on the opposite side of the steering column.

Ah, the "good old days." but, some of the modern technologies cause their own problems. The writer has been having trouble with the ignition key being locked by the steering wheel and being unable to start the car! Six of one and half-a-dozen of the other.

Save It

Museums would be empty buildings (or buildings used for something else) if no one saved or donated anything.

At the DHA Annual Meeting, Toots Peterson mentioned that someone had commented upon having unwanted items, but did not know what to do with them. So, what did Toots suggest to this person? GIVE IT TO THE MUSEUM.

So many irreplaceable artifacts and archives have been lost due to lack of thought of preservation, or of lack of place to which to save it.

Even this writer, with a lifetime wish to preserve, has had to see items, over which he had no "say", be neglected, damaged, destroyed, or just vanish.

Even this spring's listings for the city-wide rummage sales in Viborg, contained items that the museum would have been pleased to accept.

Make it a motto, to "Ask the museum first!" If Viborg's DHA Museum is your preferred museum. (In the case of archives, libraries will often preserve in the absence of a museum.)

Save it in the museum. "Try it, you'll like it!"

Which places a moral obligation on the museum people to not only accept artifacts and archives, but to (from an unknown source) "save, preserve, and protect." Losing, damaging, distorting, or destroying historical items "is a crime against humanity."