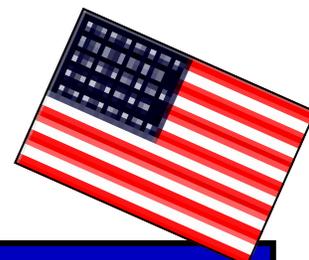


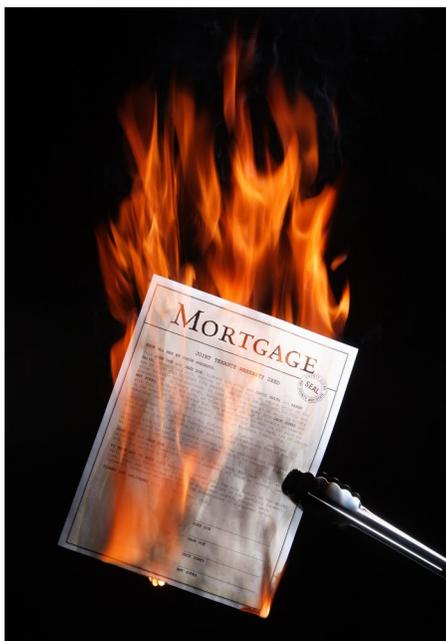
# JOTTINGS



## SPECIAL MORTGAGE PAYOFF EDITION

### A New Beginning

#### SEVEN YEARS OF HARD WORK PAY OFF



By the time you read this, the Danish American Archive and Library will be on the brink of paying off our five-year mortgage in just a little over two years!

It's been a long journey. When we were notified in July of 2010 that we needed to vacate our space in the lower level of the C.A. Dana-LIFE Library within three days or have all our books and materials locked in when the college closed for good, our first reaction was shock. We never dreamed that within seven years we would not only be operating better in a new location, but would own the building free and clear. And all this has been made possible by our nationwide network of supporters and volunteers.

At the time, the people of Blair and surrounding communities rallied to our support, and upwards of 100 people came with trucks and trailers from near and far to help us pack up and haul everything out. A local paper warehouse provided storage space for us at a discount, so we were able to keep all the documents and books together in one environmentally friendly location. Other people volunteered space in their homes for our furniture and equipment, and within the three days we had moved out approximately 1,100 cubic feet of written materials, recordings and photographs plus more than 10,000 books, along with tables, chairs, desks, file cabinets, shelving and computers before the doors of the library were permanently locked.

Thus began a new life for the DAAL. Staff and volunteers began meeting once a week in a room generously provided for us at First Lutheran Church in Blair.

From July until October, we accomplished several things:

- Located and leased the building on Washington Street in Blair and contracted to have it renovated
- Began the process of becoming an independent non-profit corporation
- Began rebuilding our financial assets
- Purchased a sign for the front of the building
- Moved as much of our stored property as possible to the newly renovated building
- Worked with the Blair Public Library to transfer our online catalogue from the one that Dana College provided to the one that the Blair Public Library provides.

The first week of October 2010, we held our first volunteer week in our newly leased building, with volunteers working on materials still boxed up, some sitting on the floor or at temporary folding tables on loan from various local people. It took us a full year and a half to bring everything back to the building, assemble the shelves and fill them with our gray acid-free boxes of precious documents and the 10,000 books.

Since then our library has increased by more than 3,000 books and more than 300 cubic feet of documents, and our volunteer staff continues to grow. In addition we have established formal cooperation agreements with the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa, and the Museum of Danish America in Elk Horn, Iowa. We produced a popular photo exhibit which has been shown in multiple venues from Denver to Des Moines. We have sponsored interns from UNO, Midland University and the University of Nebraska at Kearney. In addition we have presented archive classes to Midland history students, and have given several tours or presentations to genealogists, scholars, family reunions, and fraternal and civic organizations—all while continuing our main purpose of collecting, organizing and preserving our Danish American history.

Now we are planning an event to celebrate this milestone in the Archive's life during our usual Fall Volunteer Week on October 12. Please see the invitation on Page 4, and plan to join us to celebrate this happy occasion. ■

# THE HOME STRETCH

Three of our long-time supporters were instrumental in helping the DAAL finally realize the dream of owning our own building, Bruce Lauritzen and Alf and Lili Gregerson.

## Bruce Lauritzen.

In September of 2016, Bruce Lauritzen, Chairman of First National Bank of Omaha toured the DAAL and met with staff members to discuss our business plan and advise us on how best to proceed for the long-term future of the Archive. His advice was first and foremost to pay off our mortgage, and he followed it up with a substantial



**Bruce Lauritzen**  
Photo by the Omaha World-Herald

donation to be used for that purpose. His donation brought our mortgage balance down to the point that the end was in sight and prompted the challenge grant from Alf and Lili Gregerson. This was not the first time Mr. Lauritzen had supported the DAAL in a big way. In 2013 together with Mogens Bay, president of Valmont Industries in Valley, Nebraska, Mr. Lauritzen financed the creation of our popular photo exhibit, *Danish Children Growing Up American*, which has been a huge asset for the DAAL.

## Alf and Lili Gregerson



**Alf and Lili Gregerson at the Fort Vancouver Seafarers Center.**

Early in July of this year, Executive Director Jill Hennick received a letter stating that a \$25,000 pledge was being made from the Gregerson Family Fund, a member of the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington to be used as a matching grant for mortgage payoff. Alf and Lili Gregerson are Danish immigrants from Ridgefield, Washington, and have been faithful supporters of the DAAL. It was at their request that this matching grant came to be. Lili is the niece of the late Chris Korshoj of Herman, Nebraska, and the late

Simon Korshoj of Blair. Both were prominent businessmen in the area and were supporters of Dana College.

This is a chance for our donors to double their money. See the form on Page 3 for details on how to become part of a milestone in the history of the DAAL. ■

FROM THIS.....



Photos by Enterprise Publishing.

...TO THIS!



# You can double your donation and help us make history!

Your donation on or before September 30, 2017 qualifies for the challenge grant.

Please cut out this form and send it in with your tax-deductible contribution.

A check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. (Please make payable to the Danish American Archive and Library.)  
Or to pay by credit card:

\_\_\_\_ Mastercard    \_\_\_\_ Visa    \_\_\_\_ Discover    \_\_\_\_ Am Ex    for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ V-Code No. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Any funds raised that exceed the mortgage total will go into a building maintenance fund.

**Thank you for your past and ongoing support of the Danish American Archive and Library**

## BEFORE AND AFTER



1738 Washington Street  
Blair, Nebraska 68008

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## SAVE THE DATE

Are we going to actually burn the mortgage? Much as we'd like to, we wouldn't want to set off the sprinkler system. Instead we're going to have an open house! The second week of October will be a busy one for us. Make a note of all the events and plan to join us for as many as you can—especially for the Mortgage Open House.

- October 7—Kringle Mingle for Dana College Homecoming
- October 9 to 13—Fall Volunteer Week
- October 11—Annual Meeting of Members
- October 12—**MORTGAGE OPEN HOUSE!!**
  - \*Plenty of Danish treats
  - \*Organized stations to tour with prizes at the end
  - \*Friends, old and new



**Watch your mail for the annual meeting announcement with times and more details.**

