

JOTTINGS



A publication of the Danish American Archive and Library January—April 2013



DANES GROWING UP AMERICAN

A delightful photo exhibit featuring Danish immigrant children as they adjust to life in America is scheduled to open September 9, 2013, at the Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss Library on the campus of the University of Nebraska Omaha in Omaha, Nebraska.

Upon entering the library, visitors will walk into the world of Danish immigrant children at the turn of the 20th century. Twenty 8-foot high by 4-foot wide panels will line both sides of the main concourse of the library. These panels will feature roughly 50 photos showing various stages of a child's life at the time, from infancy to their early teens. All of the photos come from the DAAL's collections, and were selected out of tens of thousands of wonderful photos housed at the Archive. Being scanned at very high resolution, the selected photos can be blown up to the size of the panels without losing any clarity. In fact, the larger size photos

allow one to see detail not possible in the small snapshots.

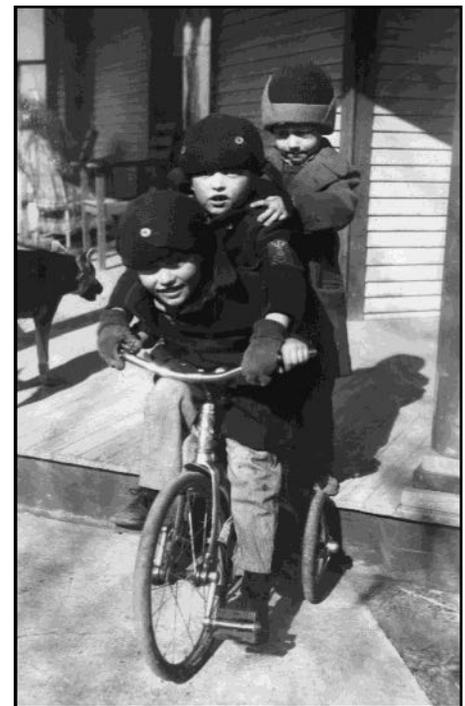
Several phases of life for children at the turn of the 20th century will be depicted. Among other things the exhibit will show immigration, both to and from Denmark, children at play, the clothes and costumes they wore, life on the farm, religious life and education. Several touching photos show the impact death had on the lives of these children, whether it was the death of a sibling or the death of a parent which resulted in their being sent to an orphanage. And the affection the parents had for their children is evident from the many compelling formal photographs they paid to have taken.



Although the photos depict Danish children, their experience is universal among immigrant children then, no matter what their nationality. In fact immigrant children today are still experiencing some of the same or even greater challenges that these earlier Danish children faced.

"This project is the latest manifestation of the community

cooperation agreement that UNO and the DAAL signed last year," says DAAL Executive Director Jill Hennick. "We are so grateful to UNO for the tremendous amount of help they have provided us in the planning and execution of this exhibit." Stephen R. Shorb, dean of the library at UNO expressed his pleasure at being able to host the exhibit. "Students, researchers and the Omaha area community will all benefit from this exhibit," he says.



"With an average of 4,000 visitors to the library each day, the Danish children's exhibit will really get the exposure it deserves."

The exhibit will be open for viewing September 9 and will run through October 25. An opening reception is planned for later in the week of September 9, and a lecture and panel discussion will take place at a date to be announced. The exhibit is the result of the efforts of both UNO and the DAAL, and is possible because of the sponsorship of Bruce R. Lauritzen and Mogens C. Bay of Omaha.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I'd like to highlight the key visitors we've had recently to give you an idea of what goes on in our day-to-day operations.

Jill Hennick

In the 6 months since our last board meeting, we have had four residents of Denmark visit the Archive.

In December, we hosted the "archives group" which is a quarterly meeting of representatives from the DAAL, the archive at Grand View University, the Danish American Heritage Society, the Family History and Genealogy Center and the Danish Immigrant Museum. I was able to attend most of this meeting and could see the benefits of having a chance to ask the opinions of professionals in our sister Danish organizations.

Dr. Kathy Tumpek-Kjellmark from Grand View University continues her research on the Lucy Wilder collection. Currently she is focusing on completing a play that Lucy Wilder started about the Danish Resistance during WWII with the goal of having it performed at Grand View University.

Les Valentine, the archivist at UNO, visited to help us plan the Danish children photo exhibit. The pictures we have selected for the exhibit are currently on display at the front of the Archive.

Omaha business owner, Nancy Sempeck, visited for the first time, and since then has agreed to serve on our board of directors. Because of her business background and her strong ties to UNO, we look forward to her contributions as a board member.

The Blair City Council attended a coffee and kringle reception after one of their February meetings. In addition to generating goodwill, the meeting resulted in a very nice story in the Blair newspaper after one of the council members contacted them about the Dagmar Vasby exhibit we had on display at the time. Our president, Gary Madsen, established a good relationship with the council members, and he was invited to the special session they held to meet with representatives of Midland University. City officials encouraged us to request available city funds for projects at the Archive.

In our day-to-day operations, we have 13 volunteers who work 1-2 times a week on projects that range from the Danish Brotherhood record books and the Dana collection to data entry and identifying photographs. We have 8 volunteers that work 3-5 times a week. The projects they work on are accessioning books and

materials, digitally cataloging the collection, answering inquiries, translation, information technology issues, scanning photos for the UNO exhibit, publicity, the newsletter, thank-you notes and other correspondence, filing (which is actually one of the most complicated things we do), typing, computer entry, sorting, coding, and hosting coffee.

During Spring Volunteer week, 10 to 13 people added manpower for translating, scanning and organizing archive boxes, the obituary project and indexing articles in magazines. I am looking forward to having Kate Garrett work here as an all-around office and bookkeeping intern this summer. She has just finished her Junior year in High School. She has volunteered for us the past two summers. She took accounting in school this year, and I have high hopes that after the initial training I will have time to catch up on filing (both physical papers and files in the computer), and that I might actually get to do some regular archive work!

As we reflect on the future of the Archive, we do need to realize that our main street location gives us a high degree of visibility which encourages visitors. We also need to recognize that we have a committed volunteer base, without which this enterprise would be all but impossible.

DANISH BROTHERHOOD AND SISTERHOOD

After nearly 20 years, archive volunteer Helga Hansen sees light at the end of the tunnel in digitizing the tens of thousands of entries in the Danish Brotherhood record books. That being the case, we want to consolidate all the DB and DS materials, which now live in several locations within the Archive, into one well-organized and accessible space.

To help us in this effort, the Archive applied for and was granted \$1,000 from the Blair Area Community Foundation (BACF) last October to go toward the purchase of shelving to accommodate these materials. After adding in the \$1,700 already raised, we still needed approximately \$2,500 to purchase all the shelving. So in April President Gary Madsen sent a letter asking for matching funds to Jerry Christensen, Woodman of the World Vice President for Fraternal Affairs, and asked him to forward the letter to all of the DB and DS lodges. As a result of this letter, approximately \$1,000 in additional funding has been raised, leaving just \$1,500 more to complete funding of the shelving.

"Since moving into this location in 2010, we've done the best we could in making sure all the materials were out of boxes and onto shelves," says Library Director Sharon Jensen. "Out of necessity, the huge Danish Brotherhood collection was located in several different spaces. Relocating everything into one space will not only make the materials more accessible and useable, but also free up valuable space within the Archive."

The BACF grant money must be used by October 1, so we plan to start buying as much shelving as we have funding for this summer. If you are able to donate any of the remaining \$1,500, please contact Jill Hennick.

Be sure to check out the expanded listing for the Danish Brotherhood and Sisterhood on the Collections page of our website. In addition to several photos and documents, you will see photos of medals that were worn by individual lodge officials along with a directory telling what each one signifies. This is just a small sample of what can be found in this wonderful collection that genealogists everywhere value for its extensive historical information. You will find the Collections link on our website at www.danishamericanarchive.com.

NEW SUMMER VOLUNTEER WEEK JULY 8—12, 2013

Come join us for our newly scheduled volunteer week this summer.

If our spring and fall dates are inconvenient, this might be for you!

Besides the interesting and satisfying projects you will work on, you will participate in wonderful fellowship and great snack breaks.

Please try to fit us into your schedule, and contact Dody Johnson at 319-354-2939 or dodyrj@aol.com.

JOIN THE 50/100 CLUB**Myrv Christopherson**

Senior Advisor for Advancement

mchristo1@hotmail.com

(563) 382-1939



It has been gratifying for me to witness the number of people who have stepped forward to support the Danish American Archive and Library. Whether they be Danish American, Dana or Grandview alumni, or for whatever reason recognize the importance of preserving the rich history of people and institutions, countless make monthly gifts. Equally gratifying is the remarkable progress the DAAL volunteer staff makes in caring for and growing the archival collection.

What surprises me just a little is that more people do not step forward with commitments of support. I am quite sure many who have yet to make a commitment recognize the historically valuable and insightful correspondence, news reports, records, and other media in the DAAL collection that testify to the lives and institutions of Danish Americans and their families and associates. Hence, I am confident, many more will join in the effort to preserve and promulgate the rich Danish American history and heritage.

The 50/100 Club is a signature effort that is proving attractive to many DAAL supporters. This is a group of people who have committed to donating \$50 each month for the Archive's operating expenses. The goal is to secure 100 members of this important club. Thus far, 47 have subscribed to this level of support, which amounts to just a little over \$1.50 per day. Reaching the goal of 100 such monthly donors will ensure that a large share of our expenses are covered each month. Of course, many choose to do more than \$50/month, but gifts of any size, large or small, are welcome and appreciated. Some choose to make such commitments as a tribute or in memory of a prominent Danish American. For example, one couple recently suggested that friends of the beloved Rev. C.C. Mengers who was born 150 years ago this year might wish to make their commitment in honor of Mengers. You may wish to honor another Danish American or family member.

Some supporters decide that their best opportunity to help DAAL is by making a plan to include DAAL as a final beneficiary of a life insurance policy, IRA, retirement plan, or another asset. If you have made such a provision or plan to do so, please let Jill Hennick, DAAL Executive Director, know so that we can register your plan and offer any assistance you might request.

One thing is clear, the Danish American Archive and Library profits immeasurably from those who choose to make a provision in their current and future giving plans. If you are not yet one of the 50/100 Club or have yet to make a commitment at some other level, please do so now. The DAAL archival collection is a jewel that I believe any ethnic or immigrant group would be proud to lift up. Please consider how you can help!



Passages from India
Letters, Essays and Poems
Norman C. Bansen

**Dr. Norman Bansen's
Book on Sale!**

This is your chance to purchase a wonderful compilation of letters of an American officer serving in the China-Burma-India theater of WW II at half price. This book provides insight into Indian life and culture as well as a vivid account of Danish colonial settlements in India. Dr. Bansen, a former professor of English at Dana College, includes a number of his early wartime poems.

Normally priced at \$19.95, you can purchase this book for just \$10 plus \$3 shipping and handling!

Act soon. You can order by calling 402-426-7910 or by e-mail at info@danishamericanarchive.com.

Nebraska residents add 7% sales tax.

Jill Hennick, Executive Director
John W. Nielsen, Executive Director Emeritus
1738 Washington Street, Blair, Nebraska 68008
Telephone: (402) 426-7910
E-mail: info@danishamericanarchive.com
Hours: 8am-noon, Monday-Friday

VOLUNTEERS: 2,648 hours by 39 volunteers from Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin.

VISITORS: 46 visitors from Florida, Iowa, Nebraska, and Oklahoma.

USERS: 27 users from California, Iowa, Idaho, Maine, Nebraska, South Carolina, email, phone, and Denmark.

ACQUISITIONS

Without your donations of materials, the Archive could not continue to fulfill our goal of documenting the history of Danish Americans from the time of their immigration to the present. Fortunately, we continue to receive a wealth of wonderful materials, including complete family collections, photos, books, periodicals, music and even obituaries.

Materials:

Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)
 Mrs. Michael Buck (Eau Claire, WI)
 David Carlsen (Blair, NE)
 Borge M. Christensen (Rochester, MN)
 Bob & Martha Christiansen (Tempe, AZ)
 John & Birgitte Christianson (Minneapolis, MN)
 The Danish Immigrant Museum (Elk Horn, IA)
 Danish American Center (Minneapolis, MN)
 Lois Eagleton (Umpqua, OR)
 Family History & Genealogy Center (Elk Horn, IA)
 Elizabeth Fredlund (Anoka, MN)
 Christie Jensen Gehringer (Omaha, NE)
 Esther Grindberg (Circle Pines, MN)
 Delores Hansen (Omaha, NE)
 Fritz Hansen (Wichita, KS)
 Harold Hansen (Albert Lea, MN)
 Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)
 Susan & Charles Hettinger (Westminster, CO)
 Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt (Urbandale, IA)
 Nira Horeis (Lafayette, CA)
 Lynette Hunt (Blair, NE)
 Jim & Marge Iversen (Decorah, IA)
 Jack & Opal Jensen (Blair, NE)
 Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)
 Rich & Pat Jorgensen (Blair, NE)
 Svend Koch (Cedar Rapids, IA)
 Judith Lamas (Port Townsend, WA)
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
 Inga Larsen (Bremerton, WA)
 Nancy B. Larsen (Ashland, OH)
 Robert Laursen (San Francisco, CA)
 Larry & Susan Legore (Algona, IA)
 Michael Lowe (Logan, IA)
 Edgar Madsen (Princeton, NJ)
 Margaret Madsen (Milwaukee, WI)
 Ruth Malm (Kingsley, IA)
 Francis McGee (San Leandro, CA)
 Earl Nelson (Mount Pleasant, WI)
 Lisa Nielsen (St. Marys, GA)
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Niels Henrik Nielsen (Denmark)
 Ruth & Allan Nyegaard (Eugene, OR)
 Mrs. Steve Payne (New London, MN)
 Mrs. Martin Petersen (Omaha, NE)
 Roger & Dorothy Olson (Blair, NE)
 Palma & Larry Plume (Evergreen, CO)
 Viggo Rambusch (Jersey City, NJ)
 Gerald & Sigrid Rasmussen (Junction City, OR)
 Ruth Rasmussen (Omaha, NE)
 Joe Rezik

Eleanor & Don Schou (Albert Lea, MN)
 Jens & Eileen Simonsen (Oakdale, NE)
 Don Sorensen (Kennard, NE)
 Philip Stanhope (Cumberland, ME)
 Marion Svendsen (Cedar Falls, IA)
 Don & Marjorie Wahlgren (Gowrie IA)
 Merle Walling (Polson, MT)
 Sandra & Leroy Wigdahl (Blair, NE)
 Lawrence M. Woods (Worland, WY)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Memorials:

Clarice Andersen
 Verda Swanson (Des Moines, IA)
 Sigrid Christensen
 Myrvin & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
 Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)
 Arvin Hernes (Blair, NE)
 Alvina Hjortsvang (Council Bluffs, IA)
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Phil Pagel & Lorraine Jensen (Blair, NE)
 Norman Henriksen
 Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)
 Harold & Ruth Nelson Holm
 Estate of Marilyn & LeVern Nielsen (Racine, WI)
 Kyle Jessen
 Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)
 Harold Johnson
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Mabel Kastrup
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge 206 (Blair, NE)
 Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)
 Eileen Lindblad
 Gene and Nancy Lindblad (Blair, NE)
 Grace Lundberg
 Elizabeth Fredlund (Northfield, MN)
 Janice Hurd (Wayzata, MN)
 Larry and Susan Legore (Algona, IA)
 Court and Jean Nystuen (Menomonie, WI)
 Helen McNichols
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
 Scott Miller
 Myrvin & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
 Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)
 Richard & Delores Jorgensen (Poy Sippi, WI)
 Norval Nelson
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Cindy Schou (Bloomington, MN)
 Don & Eleanor Schou (Albert Lea, MN)
 John and Deb Wood (Oklahoma, OK)
 Alton & Becky Neve
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
 Aster Neve
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
 Lela and Paul Neve on birthdays
 Lori Jones (Texarkana, TX)
 Reid & Eunice Neve

Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
 LeVern and Marilyn Nielsen
 Lois Barnes (Ashland, WI)
 Myrvin & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
 Ruth Rasmussen (Omaha, NE)
 Dick & Sonja Switzer (Omaha, NE)
 Marilyn Nielsen
 Lois Carter (Blanchard, LA)
 Lori Jones (Texarkana, TX)
 Lisa Nielsen (St Marys, GA)
 Family of Marilyn Nielsen (Racine, WI)
 Rev. N.P. & Christine Nielsen
 Estate of Marilyn & LeVern Nielsen (Racine, WI)
 Tom Nielsen on anniversary
 Patti Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Harriet Palle
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge 206 (Blair, NE)
 Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Dean Rasmussen
 Phil & Marilyn Christensen (Sparks, NV)
 Harley Rector
 Duane & Dixie Petersen (Wichita, KS)
Honoraria:
 Walt Behrens' 85th birthday
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
 Arvin Hernes' 80th birthday
 David Hernes (Albert Lea, MN)
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
 Dr. Paul (deceased) and Gail Laursen
 Myrv & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
 John W. and Elizabeth Nielsen
 Jon and Elizabeth Fredlund (Anoka, MN)
General Fund:
 Anonymous
 Dennis Barten (Kirkwood, MO)
 Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)
 Blair Area Community Foundation (Blair, NE)
 Annette Brown (Mishicot, WI)
 Victor Buck (Wantagh, NY)
 Ann Bundgaard (Burnsville, MN)
 Niels Carlsen (Summerfield, FL)
 Borge M. Christensen (Rochester, MN)
 Myrvin & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
 John & Kirsten Christopherson Clark (Gibsonia, PA)
 Bent & Lee Collin (Washington, MO)
 Robert Creekmore (Old Fort, NC)
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge #14 (Kenosha, WI)
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge #126 (Valencia, CA)
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge #143 (Petaluma, CA)
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge #268 (Eugene, OR)
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge #342 (Palmyra, NJ)
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge #348 (Eugene, OR)
 Roger & Marilyn Hanson (Cedar Falls, IA)
 Robert Hemmingson (Fergus Falls, MN)
 Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt (Urbandale, IA)
 Ken & Bonnie Jensen (Albert Lea, MN)
 Lorraine Jensen (Blair, NE)
 Lis Jorgensen (Burnsville, MN)
 Jean Clark Kaldahl (Port Townsend, WA)
 Judith Lamas (Port Townsend, WA)
 Charles Lang (Uehling, NE)

Inga Larsen (Bremerton, WA)
 Edgar Madsen (Princeton, NJ)
 Claudia Martin (Omaha, NE)
 Darrell McHughy (Lincoln, NE)
 John Neitzel (Seattle, WA)
 W. Clayton Nielsen (Solvang, CA)
 Gerald & Sigrid Rasmussen (Junction City, OR)
 Greg Schou (Albert Lea, MN)
 David & Ellen Solevad (Pioneer, CA)
 Joan Sorensen (Richardson, TX)
 Martha Staby (Loveland, CO)
 Arliss Stockdale (Ames, IA)
 Larrie Stone (Blair, NE)
 Jody Stricker (Fergus Falls, MN)
 Mary Teten (Talmage, NE)
 Myrna Tostenson (Pine River, WI)
 Anna Vetter (Winter Springs, FL)
 Don and Marjorie Wahlgren (Gowrie, IA)
 David Wallman (Lincoln, NE)
 Washington County Genealogy Society (Blair, NE)
 Sandra & Leroy Wigdahl (Blair, NE)

Endowment:

In honor of Doris Petersen Hanson's 90th birthday
 Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)
 In honor of Alvina Hjortsvang's 86th birthday
 K. Joyce Mynster (Council Bluffs, IA)
 Rev. Aster & Ruth Neve Family Fund
 Myrvin & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
 General

Paula & Keith Anderson (Gaylord, MN)

50/100:

John & Ginny Beck (Colorado Springs, CO)
 Ruth Randall Benson (Apple Valley, MN)
 Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)
 Becky Bryant (West Des Moines, IA)
 Borge M. Christensen (Rochester, MN)
 Myrv & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)

Norman Freund (Fremont, NE)
 Christie Gehringer (Omaha, NE)
 Neil & Arlene Grover (Staples, MN)
 Fritz Hansen (Wichita, KS)
 Roger & Marilyn Hanson (Cedar Falls, IA)
 Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)
 John Hibbing & Anne Nielsen (Lincoln, NE)
 Elaine & Mark Hoyer (Blair, NE)
 Tim & Sharon Jensen (Blair, NE)
 Lynda Jeppesen (Oak Park, IL)
 Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)
 Julianne Johnson (Columbus, OH)
 Luther & Doris Kloth (Wauwatosa, WI) FOUN-
 DER LEVEL
 Gene & Nancy Lindblad (Blair, NE)
 Gary & Diane Madsen (Verona, WI)
 Earl Nelson (Mt Pleasant, WI)
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
 David Nielsen (Winfield, KS)
 John Mark & Dawn Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE) FOUN-
 DER LEVEL
 Lisa Nielsen (St Marys, GA)
 Ruth Nyegaard (Eugene, OR)
 Donald & Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)
 Karl Petersen & Joan Pearson (Bainbridge Is-
 land, WA)
 Pete & Shirley Petersen (Canyon, TX)
 James Peterson (Richfield, MN)
 Palma & Larry Plume (Evergreen, CO)
 Bill & Margaret Rodenburg (Centerville, OH)
 Sandy Sonderup (Blair, NE)
 Joan Sorensen (Richardson, TX)
 Elaine Steenblock (Ames, IA)
 Doug & Jane Wilson (Farragut, IA)
 John & Deb Wood (Oklahoma City, OK)
 Sandra Wunder (Omaha, NE)

Around the Archive

- ◆ Fall Volunteer Week is scheduled for October 6 -11, 2013. Be sure to mark your calendar and plan to join us.
- ◆ The Archive will be closed the week of July 15 and will reopen Monday, July 22. If you want to visit the archive by appointment during that week, just call us and we will arrange it.
- ◆ Don't forget to send us any obituaries of people of Danish descent that you see in your local newspaper. The Family and Genealogy Center associated with the Danish Immigrant Museum also collects obituaries, but we have different uses for them, so it's important that you send us any that you see.
- ◆ We would like to have your alternative address if you spend part of the year in a different location from your main residence. To ensure that you don't miss any of our mailings, please let us know where to send them.
- ◆ On Saturday, July 27, the Nielsen Family Reunion will come to the Archive. All of John and Elizabeth's children and many of their descendants attended Dana College and will be present. Lots of family items will be on display and family stories will be told.
- ◆ The Archive is proud to have Kate Garrett from Blair, Nebraska, as our first paid intern. Kate will be a senior at Blair High School this fall. She has worked as an unpaid volunteer for the past two summers, and this summer will be assisting Jill Hennick with administrative and financial duties.

Welcome aboard, Kate!

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

At the end of April, our net gain for 2013 was \$3,416.74. As I have mentioned in prior Financial Summaries, we do not have a steady stream of income, so year-to-date gains and losses fluctuate widely. At the end of April 2011, our net loss was -\$14,294.77 and in 2012 the loss was -\$2,708.79.

In addition to our regular gifts, donors have found some new ways to provide contributions, and these have made a difference.

Estate gifts. We had two estate gifts in 2013 that were designated for the general fund. We do also have an endowment fund available for such gifts. If you have any questions about planned giving, please let us know.

Matching funds from employers. We have received matches from Microsoft, First Data and Cargill. Does your employer have a matching program that we can be part of?

Thrivent Choice Dollars. We have become eligible for Thrivent Choice Dollars (see page 6) and have received our first contribution.

Direct contributions from IRAs. The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 extended the qualified charitable distribution provisions for 2013. Two people have taken advantage of this tax savings already. Please talk to your financial advisor regarding the details if you think this might be an option for you.

Honoraria. Donors continue to think of occasions to celebrate with honoraria. Looking for an idea? August 19th will make the 150th anniversary of the birth of Rev. C.C. Mengers. Because of his strong sense of history, he started amassing his family collection. He passed that sense of history on to his daughter Agatha Hansen and his granddaughter Sara Hansen-Walter. They turned that material, which spans generations, over to the Archive. It is our largest collection, filling 221 acid-free boxes!

ED HANSEN COLLECTION IS MAJOR ACQUISITION FOR DAAL

When Reverend Edward Hansen passed away at the age of 92 in 2009, he left behind a rich treasure trove of materials that he had collected and saved during his long and varied career. He had donated about a third of these materials to the DAAL while he was still living, and honoring his wishes, his wife Shirley donated the remainder after he died.

Executive Director Emeritus John W. Nielsen has worked at accessioning the collection off and on for three years, and has worked exclusively on it for the past six months. The accessioning process consists of taking the materials that were organized according to Ed's personal files and adjusting them to the organization system of the DAAL.

The materials must be sorted, then coded, then indexed, placed in acid-free envelopes and finally into acid-free boxes and shelved. What started out as more than 30 large cardboard boxes of materials will eventually become 150 acid-free clamshell boxes and will be one of the DAAL's largest collections.

And a rich collection it is. Because Ed saved virtually all of the paperwork from his extensive career, we have materials that range from his student days to his early pastorate in Minneapolis and Hutchinson,

Minnesota, to his time as Bishop of the Southwest Minnesota district and his active retirement. Thus it is a record not only of the UELC synod, but also the mergers first with the ALC and then the ELCA.

"In the accessioning process we've come across a vast amount of family material," says Director Nielsen, and some of it connects to other large DAAL collections. Shirley comes from the Bondo family, and there is also a connection to the Johnson family of the huge Walker-Johnson collection which Ed was partially instrumental in obtaining for us.

"It seems that Ed must have written letters almost every day and he saved them all," Nielsen added. "This is so important in terms of understanding the UELC." Nielsen estimates that he has about half of the materials accessioned and organized now, so the project will continue for many months to come.

TRINITY SEMINARY AND DANA COLLEGE LIVE ON AT THE ARCHIVE

By Ann Harms George

The Dana Room is easy to find in the Danish American Archive and Library - just look for the framed portraits of Dana's and Trinity's presidents that used to be in the Presidents Room in the E.C. Hunt Campus Center.

File cabinets and shelves with records of Trinity's and Dana's past line the walls. Stacked boxes in a corner hold a jumble of photos, printed programs and newspaper clippings, and that's what Gene Lindblad, retired professor of chemistry, and I are working on. Using a classification system developed by Dr. John W. Nielsen, executive director emeritus, we place these materials in acid-free envelopes and file them away.

Gene recently completed cataloging and filing the contents of two large boxes of photos and printed materials from the early 1900s through 2010. Now he's going through another box, this one with photos of campus activities from the late '50s into the '80s from the Public Relations Office.

Occasionally on Thursday mornings (that's when Gene and I volunteer), I'll find a request on my desk for information, for example, on a relative who attended Dana years ago or for photos for an exhibit or a Homecoming class reunion booklet. (The Archive e-mails scanned photos.)

But most recently I've been working with a collection of Blair newspaper clippings from 1928, when Alumni Memorial Auditorium was new (it was razed in 1982); Dana Choir members were preparing for the Choir's first concert tour of Denmark, in the summer of 1929; and the debate society, Alpha Sigma Phi, seemed
(Continued on Page 7)

DAAL ELIGIBLE FOR THRIVENT CHOICE PROGRAM

The DAAL is now enrolled as a participating organization in the Thrivent Choice program. Thrivent Choice is a charitable grant program that allows eligible members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes part of its charitable outreach grant funds each year. The DAAL will be listed in the program's searchable online catalog, and when eligible Thrivent Financial members direct Choice Dollars® to your organization in a particular month, Thrivent Financial reviews the recommendation and makes an electronic contribution by the 10th of the following month. Those funds may be used to carry out the religious charitable or educational purposes of your organization.

Any members who may be eligible to direct Choice Dollars to the DAAL should refer to the Thrivent Choice Media Tip Sheet at www.thrivent.com for guidelines on spreading the news about Thrivent Choice.

For questions about Thrivent Choice, please contact a representative from the Member Connection Center at 1-800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and say "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt or email mail@thrivent.com.

Trinity and Dana (continued)

to be almost as popular as the college's sports teams, with some of the debates described in long articles.

The brittle, yellowed clippings, with the exception of one article from early 1929, cover the 1927-28 spring semester and the 1928-29 fall semester. Together, they give us a glimpse into what campus life was like 85 years ago:

-- An article in a December 1928 clipping from the *Pilot* that's headed, "Dana Gymnasium is Being Much



Alumni Memorial Auditorium circa 1940

Used: Is Used Almost Every Evening of the Week for Practicing Basketball by High Schools of the County," reports that "Blair high school makes use of it for basketball practice every evening; Calhoun high school uses it two or three evenings a week; the Boy Scouts use it one evening a week; and this last week business men's volley ball team has also been entered upon the schedule."

-- Clippings trace the development of plans for the Choir's trip to Denmark: One of them, dated February 1, 1928, from the *Pilot*, has the headline, "Dana Choir to Europe: Plans Maturing Rapidly for a Trip Across the Sea for A Capella Choir." Another headline, from the October 11, 1928, *Tribune*, announces, "Choir Starts Work: A-Capella Choir at Dana Prepares for European Tour." And a headline in the November 7, 1928, *Pilot* invites readers to a "Big Carnival, Dana College Gymnasium, Saturday, Nov. 17th, Under Auspices of the Choir to help raise funds for the trip to Denmark next summer."

-- Debate topics were determined by the National Forensic Society, and the November 7, 1928, *Pilot* reports that the "question" currently being debated by Dana's negative and affirmative teams and by teams at other colleges and universities was, "Resolved, The Present Jury System of the United States Should be Abolished." (The topic startled me. Was this a national issue at the time?) Clifford Madsen, who later served as Dana's president from 1956 to 1971, was Alpha Sigma Phi's president when the society, according to a December 1928 clipping, compiled a booklet on the "jury question"; the article reported that the society was receiving orders for it

from "many of the largest universities." At least one debate - Dana's affirmative team vs. Peru College's negative -- was broadcast over KMA, "Earl May's new broadcasting studio" in Shenandoah, Iowa. The lone article from 1929, a clipping from the January 9 *Pilot*, announces that on January 11 at Dana, the college's affirmative team would debate the negative team from Creighton University's Law School.

The clippings report on game results, student trips to Omaha for concerts and art exhibits, campus visitors and trips home, classroom activities, a campus flu epidemic, home and area concerts and a concert tour by the Choir under the direction of Waldo B. Nielsen, special events by guest lecturers and musicians, and the results of a student poll on Presidential candidates Al Smith and Herbert Hoover. At the end of a long article about Commencement, the reporter comments, "One thing the writer noticed, having attended the graduation exercises for a number of years, this was the first year not one word was spoken in the Danish language. . . ."

Arranged chronologically, the clippings are a time capsule. We thank Sharon Rayburn of Blair, who contributed them, and we'll continue to welcome clippings, printed programs and photos (with, if possible, years and identifications) from alumni and their descendants.



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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Erna Berthelsen hard at work at last spring's volunteer week.

Erna Berthelsen's Danish roots run deep. Not only did her parents emigrate from Denmark, but she graduated from Dana College and for the last 11 years has travelled from her home in Albert Lea, Minnesota, to the DAAL twice a year to translate documents that are

written in Danish into English.

Erna's parents obtained a homestead in South Dakota, and that's where she was born. Due to several years of drought and grasshoppers, they pulled up stakes and moved to Albert Lea, Minnesota, when Erna was nine years old, and she has lived there with a few interruptions almost ever since. She graduated from Dana College and married Robert Berthelsen, also a Dana alum. Robert's work as a school administrator took the couple to Nebraska, Hawaii, and Minnesota before they settled for good back in Albert Lea.

Through her friendship with Jody Sorensen, John W.

Nielsen and Lillian and Duane Ohlsen, Erna learned about the Archive and the kind of work she could do there. She began to volunteer in 2002 along with her husband. When Robert died six years ago, Erna continued to faithfully attend the spring and fall Volunteer Weeks to provide her invaluable translating.

But volunteering her time and talent isn't all Erna does for the DAAL. She has contributed a generous amount of valuable materials from her personal family history as well as clippings, obituaries and other materials she sees that belong in our collections. For example, in the month of May alone, she has sent a photograph album full of wonderful early 20th century pictures of her family; a naturalization certificate and a receipt for the Knight of Dannebrog award from H.P. Berthelsen; a Berthelsen family history and a variety of historic clippings, letters and postcards. You'd think her contributions of time and materials would be enough, but Erna generously donates money as well.

Erna doesn't leave her volunteer efforts at just travelling to Blair twice a year. Back home in Albert Lea, she volunteers at the local hospital as a "mover." "I get to tell people where to go," she laughs. She is also active in Trinity Lutheran Church, especially sewing quilts for LWR. About her DAAL experience she says, "I love to translate and I always enjoy coming to the Archive." Anyone who works at the Archive will tell you that the feeling is more than mutual.

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