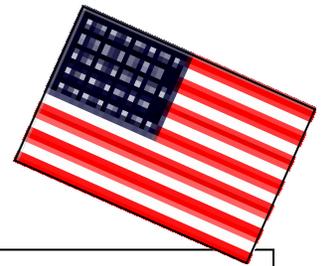


# JOTTINGS



A publication of the Danish American Archive and Library May—August 2013

## DAAL – UNO PHOTO EXHIBIT OPENS TO POSITIVE REVIEWS

“These pictures allowed me to travel back in time”.....”How charming”..... “It’s wonderful”.....”Great exhibit”..... were just a few of the comments visitors to the *Danish Children Growing Up American* photo display wrote when the exhibit officially opened in September.

Renze Display of Omaha, the company who actually printed the four foot wide by eight foot tall panels, set up the display on September 9. Archive volunteers completed the exhibit with several artifacts that enhanced the photos and told a story of their own. Among these artifacts were a beautiful baptismal gown and certificate loaned by Phil and Florence Larsen of Blair. In addition Phil and Florence loaned a globe, toys and other artifacts dating from the early 1900s. Archive board member Chris Gehringer of Omaha, whose mother stars in the marquee photo used in all print advertising, posters and the cover of the informational booklet, loaned a wonderful handmade child’s dresser with mirror, also from the early 1900s. Other artifacts included a butter churn, books, certificates and even an antique bicycle that was obtained on loan by UNO Library Dean Steve Shorb from The Bicycle Museum of America in New Bremen, Ohio.

First opened to the public on September 10, the exhibit occupies most of the main aisle on the first floor of Criss Library at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The evening of September 11, roughly 75 visitors attended the opening reception hosted by UNO featuring a lovely buffet and a talk by Karma Ibsen, a former actress, director and college professor who is descended from a traditional Danish immigrant family. Ibsen related stories of the experiences of her ancestors who came to the U. S. from Denmark.

The exhibit itself creates an impressive walkway for visitors. Ten of the panels are placed on each side of the wide aisle leading to the large marquee photo at the far end of the exhibit. Visitors can indeed walk back through time as they view these very large photos of Danish immigrant children in all walks of life from infancy through school, religious training and sadly sometimes death. As visitors walked through the display, most paused to study the remarkable detail in these photos, enlarged to roughly life sized or even greater.

Together UNO and DAAL form a community partnership that combines the DAAL’s wealth of resources with UNO’s educational goals. The “Danish Children” exhibit is one of the first projects that has emerged from this partnership, and appropriately occurs in the American city that according to the 2010 census report has the largest percentage of people of Danish descent. Two prominent local businessmen of Danish descent, Mogens Bay and Bruce Lauritzen, have provided the major funding for the exhibit.

Library Dean Steve Shorb had this to say about the joint UNO and DAAL effort. “We hope that through this exhibit we can raise the visibility of the DAAL, resulting in more use for scholarly research, and for the simple joy of exploring the rich history contained in the Archive. We also hope our students will have in-class opportunities to consider the exhibit, along with informal conversations about the historical and contemporary issues affecting immigrants. It’s a great opportunity to talk about assimilation, language, culture, laws and borders, education and the challenges and opportunities facing immigrants and especially immigrant children.”

And Archive President Gary Madsen went on to say, “The opening of the exhibit went off without a hitch thanks to the wonderful cooperation between the UNO staff and the volunteers at the DAAL. We highly value the great relationship we have developed with the UNO staff—especially Chancellor Christensen, Dean Shorb and Archivist Les Valentine.” He concluded, “We have a wonderful group of tireless volunteers who worked diligently on this project for the last 9 months—and what a great job they did! I hope that many of the Danish immigrants in the greater Omaha area can stop by the Criss Library to enjoy this marvelous exhibit of their heritage.”



**Twenty double-sided panels create a virtual walk into the world of Danish immigrant children at the turn of the 20th century.**

## FROM THE DANA ROOM

### GIFT RECALLS VISIT BY JESSE OWENS

by Ann (Harms) George

Two framed and matted photo assemblages, recently given to the Dana College collection in the Archive, document the late March 1963 campus visit of 1936 Olympics track and field gold medal winner Jesse Owens.

Both display a large black and white photo of Owens with five members of the track team at Dana's track; the larger of the two also has smaller photos of Owens competing at the Olympics. They were donated

by Lynn and Joan Kay (Rathe) Barnes and had been assembled several years ago by Judy (Barnes) Cocking as a gift for her brother. (All three are Dana alumni, and Lynn Barnes is among the team members pictured with Owens.)

At the Olympics, Owens, an African-American who had already set world records, won four gold medals, in the 100- and 200-meters and the long jump and as a member of the 4x100-meter relay team. His achievements in Berlin brought him lasting international fame.

These wins, however, angered Hitler, who'd intended the Olympics to display what he

considered the superiority of German "Aryan" athletes. (Wikipedia notes that Owens "was the most successful athlete at the Olympics" and that the dormitory where he stayed "has been fully restored into a living museum, with pictures of his accomplishments at the Games....") Owens was at Dana as one of three speakers at an American Lutheran Church Student Conference with the theme, "Called to be Human in a De-Humanizing World," which was announced in the March 29 "Hermes," the campus newspaper (the conference was to open that evening.) The other speakers were William Stringfellow, a New York attorney, social activist and lay theologian, and John Bachman of Union Theological Seminary, where he was professor of practical theology and director of the seminary's Center for Communication and the Arts.

While Owens was at Dana, another event focused on his achievements. The April issue of the "Dana Review," the alumni newsletter, reported that Dana College and the D Club had named him an honorary Viking and had given him a plaque "in recognition of his personal athletic accomplishments and his continued leadership in providing educational opportunities for the youth of America."

But -- with the photo assemblages as evidence -- for those students on the track team, the highlight of Owens's campus visit must have been when he joined them at Dana's track, watched them work out, and gave them tips on improving their performance.



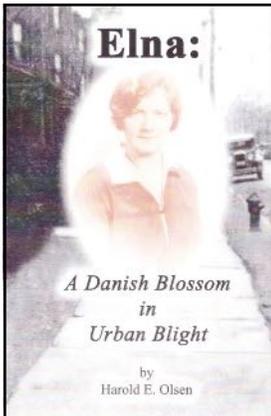
*Legendary Olympic athlete Jesse Owens demonstrates hurdle technique to Dana College track athletes during his 1963 visit to the Dana campus.*

Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to own a copy of  
***Elna: A Danish Blossom in Urban Blight***

Normally priced at \$18.50, you can now  
purchase it for just \$10 plus \$3 shipping and handling!

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

Nebraska residents add 7% sales tax.



Reviewed by **Catrine Kyster Giery**

*The songs of renewal, both religious and secular, rang from the gathering places of these young people as they lifted their voice in one great big "Skaal" to their achievement in arriving in the new land. A few slept the next day away. The disciplined were hard at their labors again so they could enjoy yet another evening of celebrating and singing.*

For 23-year-old Elna Jespersen Laumark, a Danish "expat" living in the Northeastern United States in the early 1920s, the once-a-week evening gathering of the Danish Young People's Society in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, is the highlight of the week. The eldest daughter of a poor Jutland farmer, Elna has dutifully left her relatively good position as a domestic in Copenhagen's high society in order to escort her younger sister across the Atlantic Ocean to live permanently with better-off relatives. Elna is working to save up enough money for her ticket back home to Denmark, when one evening, socializing at the Hall, a handsome, charming, tall Danish stranger walks in. Instead of returning to Denmark, Elna becomes an immigrant wife and mother in the USA. A few years later, she is abandoned by her husband and left in sole charge of her children and the household, trying to make ends meet during the Great Depression.

Elna's story of "excitement, pleasure, apprehension, pain and a deep reliance on her faith and her cultural heritage" is engagingly and compassionately told by her son, Harold E. Olsen, a retired pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in the biography *Elna: A Danish Blossom in Urban Blight*.

The twists and turns of Elna's life are interesting in themselves, but fortunately Olsen is bold enough to dig deep and attempt, successfully, to explain and illustrate how and where Elna found her strength to deal with things when times were tough and to accentuate the pleasure when times were good. Olsen identifies Elna's Danish culture and faith – noticeable through her joy of singing Danish songs and hymns, dancing traditional Danish folk dances, spending time with Danish people with "a common understanding of life," and her involvement with the Danish church – as that which sustained and comforted her. During her first years in the U.S., Elna recharged her batteries with other young Danes at the Danish Young People's Society. Later the Danish church became more important:

*"Sunday provided refreshment for their souls, both spiritually and culturally, and life took on a glow that lasted from week to week in their newfound land and in the community in which they lived. In the last analysis, it was really Our Savior's Church that was the most important ingredient of their days . . . ."*

In addition to examining the role and value of ethnic community, culture, church and language in the life of an "accidental" Danish immigrant, this book adds to the knowledge and understanding of the Danish-American experience and history as Olsen takes the reader inside social halls and churches of the Danish communities in urban New Jersey and Connecticut in the 1920s and 1930s. With great detail, he makes it easy to imagine yourself walking into the Danes' social hall for a lively evening of folk dancing, singing and gymnastics or seated with fellow immigrants singing Danish hymns in the pews of Our Savior's Evangelical Lutheran Church –

perhaps looking forward to some coffee, cake and a good chat at Elna's apartment later.

Compared to Elna's generation, today's Danish immigrants and Danish expats are much more fluent in English and less so in Danish folk dancing. However, the strength and joy that many Danes in the U.S. seek in meeting and bonding with fellow countrymen here can still be observed in Danish and Danish-American organizations, informal meetings, online forums, and on social networking websites. As in Elna's era, Danes in the U.S. today meet to network, share experiences, connect emotionally, and support each other as they "by fate or deliberate decision" live their lives far from the country that they once called – and some perhaps still call – home.

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## UNO INTERN GETS HOOKED ON THE ARCHIVE

When Heather Hannaford, a University of Nebraska at Omaha graduate student came to work at the Archive as an intern, she didn't realize that her work there might change the direction of what she wants to do long term.

As the first of what we hope is several interns resulting from our community cooperation relationship with the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Heather had hoped to gain some archival experience to enhance her work on her master's degree in British literature. But now she has added archival work to the areas in which she wants to work after she completes graduate school with a PhD.

"My internship is scheduled for just one semester," she says, "but I would like to stay longer. I would even come back as a volunteer." This is good news for the regular DAAL volunteers who would welcome her back with open arms.

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**See the story on Page 5 about the astonishing discovery Heather made on one of her first days at the DAAL.**

**VOLUNTEERS:** 2,360 hours by 42 volunteers from Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

**VISITORS:** 75 visitors from Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Denmark and Germany.

**USERS:** 74 users from Arizona, Arkansas, California, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, email, phone, Canada, Denmark and Japan.

## ACQUISITIONS

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

### Materials:

Dorothea Larsen Adarkin (Victoria, BC, Canada)  
 Andy & Susan Andersen (Tampa, FL)  
 Lynn & Joan Barnes (Atlantic, IA)  
 Marcia Bergmeyer (DeWitt, NE)  
 Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)  
 Bethania Lutheran Church (Solvang, CA)  
 Egon Bodtke (Salem, OR)  
 Ruth Bryan (Lexington, KY)  
 Joanne Carlson (Omaha, NE)  
 Borge M. Christensen (Rochester, MN)  
 Rolf Christensen (Gloucester, ON, Canada)  
 Danish Immigrant Museum (Elk Horn, IA)  
 Family History & Genealogy Center (Elk Horn, IA)  
 Steve Godwin (Medford, OR)  
 Louis Hansell (Drexel Hill, PA)  
 Fritz Hansen (Wichita, KS)  
 Lloyd Hansen (Omaha, NE)  
 Hans Hermansen (Racine, WI)  
 Susan & Charles Hettinger (Westminster, CO)  
 Alvina Hjortsvang (Council Bluffs, IA)  
 Nira Horeis (Lafayette, CA)  
 Elisabeth Hotsgaard (Denmark)  
 Jane Jensen (Plainview, NE)  
 Tim & Sharon Jensen (Blair, NE)  
 Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)  
 James Jones (Twain Harte, CA)  
 Richard S. & Pat Jorgensen (Blair, NE)  
 Joe Klein (Portola, CA)  
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)  
 Nancy B. Larsen (Ashland, OH)  
 George Madsen (Omaha, NE)  
 Linda Miller (Henderson, NV)  
 Jean Jaspersen-Naegel (Columbus, NE)  
 Sidney M. Nelson (Medicine Hat, AB, Canada)  
 Lloyd Neve (Blair, NE)  
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 Ruth Nyegaard (Eugene, OR)  
 Jon & Dorothy Petersen (Puyallup, WA)  
 Tom Petersen (Indianola, IA)  
 Karen Peterson (Eugene, OR)  
 Palma Plume (Evergreen, CO)  
 Ruth Rasmussen (Omaha, NE)  
 Margaret & Bill Rodenberg (Centerville, OH)  
 Sandy Sonderup (Blair, NE)  
 Mildred Spellman (Omaha, NE)  
 Larrie Stone (Blair, NE)  
 Martha Stone (Boston, MA)  
 John Thomsen (Brooklyn, NY)  
 Sandra Wigdahl (Blair, NE)

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### Memorials:

The Christensen Family  
 Joanne Carlson (Omaha, NE)  
 Siggy Christensen  
 Patricia Bentsen (Blair, NE)  
 Letha Sorensen Grutzik  
 Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)  
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 Marjorie Wahlgren (Gowrie, IA)  
 Marion (Mrs. Maynard) Hansen  
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 Ruby Hansen  
 Patricia Bentsen (Blair, NE)  
 Eunice Carlson Larsen  
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)  
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 Joan Sorensen (Richardson, TX)  
 Inga Shultz Larsen  
 Roger J. & Marilyn L. Hanson (Cedar Falls, IA)  
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 Anita Lyngard  
 Phil Pagel & Lorraine Jensen (Blair, NE)  
 Luella Nielsen  
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)  
 Marilyn Nyegaard  
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)  
 Harriet Palle  
 Patricia Bentsen (Blair, NE)  
 Dr. Jack & Ruth Petajan  
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)  
 Rev. H. Milton "Bud" Peterson  
 Luther & Doris Kloth (Wauwatosa, WI)  
 Bill & Toni Lawson (Green Bay, WI)  
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 Rev. Peter J. And Nona Vammen  
 Patricia Bentsen (Blair, NE)

**Honoraria:**  
 DAAL Board Members  
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)  
 Family birthdays & anniversaries  
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)  
 C. C. Mengers' 150<sup>th</sup> birthday  
 Don & Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)  
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen  
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)  
 John W. Nielsen's 88<sup>th</sup> birthday  
 Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)  
 David Nielsen (Winfield, KS)  
 John W. Nielsen's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ordination  
 Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)  
 Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)  
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)  
 Charles & Julie Rolfing (Blair, NE)  
 Bill & Margaret Rodenburg on Margaret's birthday  
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 Eleanor & Don Schou's birthdays  
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 Weekday volunteers  
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)

### General Fund:

Carla Anderson/Cargill Community Enrichment Campaign (Blair, NE)  
 Ingvert & Sharon Appel (Eldora, IA)  
 Harley & Marcia Bergmeyer (DeWitt, NE)  
 Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)  
 Philip & Rebecca Bryant (West Des Moines, IA)  
 Borge M. Christensen matched by The G.E. Foundation (Fairfield, CT)  
 Vaughn & Clarice Christensen (Blair, NE)  
 Robert & Martha Christiansen (Tempe AZ)  
 Robert & Joan Coffey (Menomonee Falls, WI)  
 Robert Creekmore (Old Fort, NC)  
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge #16 (Minden, NE)  
 John & Esther Grindberg (Blaine, MN)  
 Charles Hansen (Mt. Prospect, IL)  
 Fritz Hansen (Wichita, KS)  
 Hans Hermansen (Racine, WI)  
 Hans Hermansen matched by Woodmen of the World (Greenwood Village, CO)  
 Rikki Hulsebus (Omaha, NE)  
 Jean Jaspersen-Naegel (Columbus, NE)  
 Tim & Sharon Jensen (Blair, NE)  
 Ada Jeppesen (Blair, NE)  
 Marjorie Johnson (Blair, NE)  
 Niel Johnson (Independence, MO)  
 Paul Johnson matched by Thrivent (Appleton, WI)  
 Don and Joyce Jorgensen (Ripon, WI)  
 Lis Jorgensen (Burnsville, MN)  
 Jean Clark Kaldahl (Port Townsend, WA)  
 Harold & Barbara Laursen (Kearney, NE)  
 Johannes Laursen (Rockville Centre, NY)  
 David Ledding through Cargill Community Enrichment Campaign (Blair, NE)  
 Jerry Lincoln matched by Thrivent (Appleton, WI)  
 NE/CO District Danish Sisterhood (Lincoln, NE)  
 William Nelsen (St. Peter, MN)  
 W. Clayton Nielsen (Solvang, CA)  
 Clayton Niefeld (Greeley, CO)  
 Lilly Pedersen (Rockville, MD)  
 Julie & Charlie Rohlfing (Blair, NE)  
 Karen Sorensen (Overland Park, KS)  
 Larrie Stone (Blair, NE)  
 Martha Stone (Boston, MA)  
 Arlene Stork (Arlington, NE)  
 Marilyn Svendgard (Blair, NE)  
 Larry Syndergaard (Kalamazoo, MI)  
 Myrna Tostenson (Pine River, WI)  
 Marjorie Wahlgren (Gowrie, IA)  
 David Wallman matched by Assurity Life (Lincoln, NE)  
 Fredric & Janice Youra (Clatskanie, OR)

**Endowment:**  
 In memory of Ken Fricker  
 Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)  
 In honor of Dody Johnson  
 David Johnson (Lawrence, KS) for Mother's Day  
 Julie Johnson (Columbus, OH) for Dody's 87<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
 In memory of Eunice Larsen  
 Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)

In memory of Inga Larsen

Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)

In memory of H. Milton "Bud" Peterson

Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)

**50/100:**

John & Ginny Beck (Colorado Springs, CO)

Ruth Randall Benson (Apple Valley, MN)

Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)

Mark & Erika Bondo (Freehold, NJ)

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) FOUNDER

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) FOUNDER LEVEL

Lisa Nielsen (St Marys, GA)

Ruth Nyegaard (Eugene, OR)

Donald & Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)

Karl Petersen & Joan Pearson (Bainbridge Island, 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)

**Grants:**

UNO Exhibit

Mogens & Cindy Bay Foundation (Omaha, NE)

Bruce Lauritzen (Omaha, NE)

Linda Karen Miller (Henderson, NV)

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

At the end of August, our net loss for 2013 was -\$3,240.48. 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 August 2011, we had a net gain of \$780.13 and at the end of August 2012 our net loss was -\$10,184.14. We do still have a cushion in our checking account to see us through the temporary losses. Like most non-profits, we receive the majority of our donations in the last quarter of the year.

Donors continue to provide additional funds through employer matching programs and direct contributions from IRAs.

As noted in our last newsletter, we have become eligible for Thrivent Choice Dollars. So far, 6 people have authorized Thrivent to donate \$816 to the Archive! If you qualify for this benefit and wish to designate DAAL as a beneficiary, you can contact Thrivent by computer or telephone. Contact Jill at DAAL if you need any additional instructions.

**DAAL INTERN MAKES REMARKABLE DISCOVERY**

**By Dr. John W. Nielsen**

Discovery is always an exciting result of an archive visit. It may be a family locating the maiden name of their great-grandmother in the Danish Brotherhood beneficiary list of the 1880 records. Or it could be Dr. Edward Hansen finding his parents' wedding invitation of the 1980s, or a grandson discovering that his grandfather had been awarded the Purple Heart in WWI.

Most recently it was Heather Hannaford, the DAAL intern from the graduate English department at the University of Nebraska at Omaha who, in processing the Elna Nielsen Smith Melvin collection for the Archive, discovered several personal letters from Eleanor Roosevelt in which she discusses her progressive social convictions. The collection also contains numerous photos of Sioux chiefs and tribal members from Elna's days in the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Such are the existing discoveries that await the casual browser and the serious researcher in the DAAL, and all this is possible because individuals and families like you with a sense of history have made the Archive the repository for your personal and inherited letters, pictures, diaries, and memorabilia. We thank all of you contributors and users. You have made the DAAL possible, and you sustain it.

**Calendar of coming events:**

- ◆ September 9-October 25, UNO Photo Exhibit.
- ◆ October 5, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Mingle & Kringle at the Archive during the Dana Alumni & Friends Homecoming event.
- ◆ October 7-11, Volunteer Week. Once again the DAAL is offering a flu shot clinic. It is scheduled for Tuesday morning, October 8, and is free to all those who have Medicare Part B or other insurance coverage.
- ◆ **NOTICE: October 9, 2013, 9:30 a.m. Meeting of Members. Voting members are those who have donated time, material, or money in the last two years. If you cannot attend the meeting please consider sending a proxy.**
- ◆ October 9, 6:30-9:00 p.m., volunteers will be calling some members. See "Thanks...Again" article on page 7.
- ◆ October 10-12, *Innovation The Danish Way*, a Danish American Heritage Society Conference in Des Moines, Iowa
- ◆ November 28-29, Archive closed for Thanksgiving.
- ◆ December 23-27, Archive closed for Christmas.
- ◆ December 31, 2013. Checks hand-delivered by noon or those postmarked the 31st will be considered 2013 donations.
- ◆ Einar Vig spent years collecting and consolidating information about Danish immigrants and Washington County, Nebraska, residents. You can access this rich trove of material at [www.danishamericanarchive.com](http://www.danishamericanarchive.com), then go to the "Digital Archive" link and then the "Vig Collection" link.
- ◆ We need your help! The Vig collection mentioned above was scanned thanks to two members of the Washington County Genealogical Society and two DAAL volunteers. You could help us with reaching our ultimate goal of digitizing all the collections in the Archive. To volunteer, call 402-426-7910. We will train you.

## ENDOWMENT FUND IS UP AND RUNNING!

By Paul Johnson

At its spring meeting, the board of directors approved bylaws for maintaining and growing a permanent, endowment fund to help support the Archive for years to come. Until these bylaws were approved, the funds were simply held in savings. Since the board meeting, however, those funds have been invested according to the guidelines stated in the bylaws.

With a current balance of approximately \$34,000, the board also stated its intention not to draw from the fund until it reaches a balance of at least \$100,000. While current gifts are always appreciated, endowment funds often rely on estate gifts in order to grow substantially. If you've not made provisions for the Archive in your estate plan, we would kindly ask you to consider making such arrangements. Such planned gifts can be done through your will or simply by updating the beneficiary documents on life insurance, IRAs, or other investment accounts. For those who need assistance in making an estate provision, Jill Hennick could possibly introduce you to someone knowledgeable to assist you. Donors are encouraged to discuss their options with their attorney, CPA, and/or other financial advisors.

Those who have included the Archive in their estate plans are asked to notify Jill of your intentions. We are considering how we might recognize such donors so that their example might prompt others to do the same. As always, please don't hesitate to contact Jill if you have any questions.  
Mange tak!

## REMEMBERING INGA LARSEN

By John W. Nielsen

Being the middle child is said to be a difficult role. If that be true, Inga Larsen, who died last May, pulled it off with aplomb. She was the second child born to A.T. Schultz and Ingeborg Anker being preceded three years earlier by a sister, Ninna Engskov, and followed two years later by a brother John.

Whatever childhood rivalry may have existed among them, it had long departed by the time I met them. Then only respect and admiration were evident.

Both Inga and Ninna spoke of the resentment they felt that their parents and grandparents Anker insisted that they not only study Danish, but that they master it, not knowing that it would become the tool whereby they would become invaluable translators in the Archive. Their value was enhanced because they were thoroughly acquainted with the old UELC and its beliefs, practices, and people.

Both sisters also dared to think and to differ from prescribed interpretation of texts. This was evident not only in daily conversations, but most noticeably when John Schultz was accused of heresy in his *Called to Be Human*, a publication of the Youth Department of the new church after the UELC had merged with the more conservative ELC and old ALC. Both sisters made no secret of their support of John.

If determination and fixed goals were especially important for a middle child, then this was manifest during Inga's college years. Lilly Jorgensen, her California cousin, who also was a middle child told me that she and Inga, her Dana roommate, determined before their choir tour west that they would not



only gain the attention of the two "handsome" bus drivers, but they would win their love as well. How long this took to occur, she did not report, but subsequently the cousins became Mrs. William "Bill" Larsen and Mrs. Severine "Sev." Sorensen!

Inga followed her husband as he moved from a pastorate in Boston, to the uncertain life of the military chaplaincy during WWII, to years as head Lutheran pastor at the University of Minnesota, to last president of the UELC and the first secretary and then vice-president of the ALC. During these changes in location she had a successful career not only as homemaker and volunteer, but also as an English teacher.

After Bill died, she later she married Edward Larsen who also preceded her in death. Inga's death further depletes the ranks of the original Archive volunteers. She will be missed.

### Clarification

Several of our members have received a mailing from the Danish American Heritage Society with a Grand View University return address. These preprinted postcards were actually sent to our mailing list by the DAAL itself. We never release your contact information to any other organization.



the danish american  
**archive** and **library**  
Center for Research and Education

**Would you like to help?**

Please cut out this card 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**



Jill Hennick

The summer has passed quickly here at the Archive, because we have had so much activity.

One of the best things that happened for me this summer was having an

assistant. The board of directors approved hiring Kate Garrett, a high school student who had volunteered for us the two previous summers, to help with office work. She was able to perform a variety of general office work and by the end of the summer was doing most of our accounting clerk duties. That allowed me to focus more on working with our volunteers and helping with their various projects.

And, we did have projects this summer! In a two week period, June 7-17, we had three different researchers here, two of whom were from Denmark. We also set a record on the 17<sup>th</sup> by having ten visitors in one regular work day. The visitors varied from people popping in because they “had never been here before,” to members of the Neve family doing family research, to a Danish visitor researching the Nigerian mission, to our annual visit from a supporter who lives in Germany.

We also had our first summer volunteer week. Although the number of

volunteers was smaller than at our spring and fall weeks, the timing allowed five new volunteers, including teachers, to join us. We hope this will become a yearly event.

The pace of the summer shows no signs of slowing down now that autumn has arrived. Evidence of our relationship with UNO is manifested in our first intern from there, and also the photo exhibit currently on display on campus. We will host a Kringle Mingle for the Dana Alumni and Friends Homecoming. During our fall volunteer week, we will have a board of directors meeting, a meeting of members, a visit to the UNO exhibit and a phonathon. We are only able to sustain this level of activity with the help of our loyal volunteer base. Please consider joining us.

**Danish Brotherhood and Sisterhood Shelving**

Due to a Blair Area Community Foundation \$1,000 grant combined with matching donations from Danish Brotherhood lodges and several of our members, the shelving we need to consolidate the Danish Brotherhood and Sisterhood materials into one section of the Archive have been ordered. We are hoping to have the shelving in place and the materials moved by the time we host the traditional “Mingle & Kringle” for Dana College alumni during Dana Homecoming Week.

**OUR THANKS.... AGAIN!**

October is one of our favorite months because that’s when we get to see many of our friends from neighboring communities, neighboring states and places beyond. Our fall volunteer week begins on Monday, October 7, and continues throughout the week. This year we took care to schedule volunteer week so that those who want to can attend the DAHS conference in Des Moines as well.

Last year we held the first ever phonathon, and it turned out to be a wonderful success. Already this year we’ve had more than a half dozen people sign up to be callers on Wednesday, October 9. These calls aren’t the typical fundraising calls—their purpose is first and foremost to thank our members and volunteers for their support throughout the years and to touch base and answer any questions you may have. However, if you are inclined to make a donation at this time, our callers can make it easy for you. If we miss you for some reason, you can always contact us by telephone or e-mail. Best wishes to you all, and thank you for your ongoing support.

1738 Washington Street  
Blair, Nebraska 68008

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## MORE FROM THE PHOTO EXHIBIT

Remember the DAAL-UNO photo exhibit will be on display through October 25. The photos we used were a tiny percent of the total we have in our collections. The following list shows from which collections the exhibit pictures were selected:

Christian Hansen  
Hansen-Mengers  
Fred and Carrie Hansen  
Walker-Johnson  
Anker and Vita Jensen  
C.B. Larsen  
Hans J. Christensen  
Earl and Dorthea Jensen  
Rev. Soren Kaldahl  
Hansen-Plume  
Reid and Eunice Neve  
Alfred and Agnes Madsen  
Dagmar Petersen Vasby  
UELC Missions  
Louis and Ben Miller  
Elk Horn (Iowa) Folk School  
Peter A. and Katherine Petersen  
Matt Petersen

