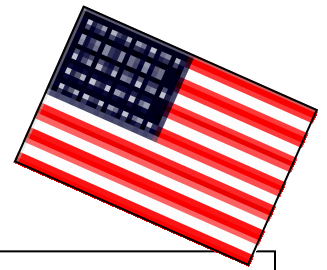


JOTTINGS



A publication of the Danish American Archive and Library Jan. – April, 2014

THE DAAL TAKES THE NEXT STEP

The Danish American Archive and Library began a journey in July of 2010 when we left the Dana College campus, eventually relocating at our current address on the main street of Blair. Since that time we have continued to grow, thrive, and strengthen and are now ready for the next major step in our journey.

On Sunday, April 27, 2014, the DAAL Board of Directors voted unanimously to join with the Blair Public Library in the construction of a new facility that would house both the Blair City Library and the Danish American Archive and Library. Finding a permanent home for the Archive where we are partnered with a government or educational entity has been one of our long-term goals. With that in mind, the board appointed a Futures Committee to investigate our options. For more than a year this committee, comprised of board president Gary Madsen and board members Paul Johnson and Nancy Sempek, has focused on three primary opportunities for the future location of the DAAL:



Current home of the DAAL at 1738 Washington Street in Blair.

- ◆ The University of Nebraska at Omaha,
- ◆ Midland University in Fremont, Nebraska, which plans to reopen the Dana College campus
- ◆ The proposed Blair Public Library building slated for construction in Blair.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha. Because of the exceptionally beneficial community cooperation agreement between the DAAL and UNO, a merging of the two institutions seemed like it could work well. However, after the committee met with Chancellor John Christensen it was determined there is no realistic way the University of Nebraska system could offer us space or financial support. Chancellor Christensen remains very supportive of the DAAL and wants to do everything in his power to help us succeed. We also want to continue with our UNO intern program and cooperation on exhibits, both of which have been a tremendous benefit to both the DAAL and UNO.

Midland University/Dana College Campus. Several high-level discussions between the committee and Midland University representatives produced a written proposal from Midland for the DAAL to eventually move back to the Dana College campus. Unfortunately, the projected time to rehabilitate the campus and create a viable space for the DAAL is too far in the future to be practical for us, and the amount of fundraising required is beyond what we are comfortable with. As with UNO, the Archive wants to maintain a close relationship with Midland through internships as well as other cooperative projects.

The Blair Public Library. In meeting with both the Blair Public Library leadership and the Blair City Administrator, the committee determined that this option would be the most viable for the DAAL. The Blair City Council has voted to support the construction of a new public library on land the city already owns in a prime location in Blair. The proposed library structure would be 22,000 square feet. About half of the financing for this building is already in place, and sources for the rest have been pinpointed. We have discussed with city administration the possibility that the city would construct the additional space needed to house DAAL's current and future needs. The city would then lease-purchase that additional space to the DAAL on the same terms as the city will be financing its share of the new library project. Because we would be sharing space, such as the break room, conference room, and restrooms with the library, we will have substantially more useable space than we currently have. An additional benefit is that we can be tied into the library technology to better serve our archiving and research needs. By the City of Blair's taking the lead and lease-purchasing the new space to DAAL, it will eliminate the need for collateral or a down payment on a loan, and the monthly payments on the lease-purchase will be substantially less long term than we now pay in rent.

After the DAAL board's vote to accept this third option, it appointed a planning committee to work with the City of Blair, the Blair Public Library and the selected architectural firm to ensure that all of the DAAL's needs are met in the new building. Detailed planning will begin in June 2014 with the hope that the entire project will be complete by the end of 2015. This plan is contingent on an agreement being approved by the Blair City Council.

"The future of the DAAL looks better than ever," says Council President Gary Madsen, "and we're excited about completing this project in a way that guarantees the DAAL will continue to thrive for a long time to come. Partnering with the Blair City Library is a very good fit for us. Library Director Gayle Roberts has been supportive of us since before we left the Dana campus, and has never wavered in that support. We look forward to working with her, the Library Foundation and the City of Blair's administration

FROM THE DANA ROOM

PAUL SIMON, DANA'S "MOST DISTINGUISHED DROPOUT"

By Ann Harms George

Paul Simon, who became a U.S. senator in 1985, left Dana College in 1948 at the end of his junior year at age 19. He became this country's youngest editor-publisher, of the weekly newspaper in Troy, a small town in southern Illinois' Madison County. He would eventually own a chain of 14 weeklies.

He was interested in politics, he writes in his 1999 autobiography, "P.S."¹ but felt at the time that his "destiny" was in journalism. His father, a Lutheran minister, wrote and published religious materials for Sunday school children and adults, and from an early age, Paul had helped run his father's printing press. He'd taken journalism classes in high school, and as a first-year student at the University of Oregon in Eugene, his hometown, he'd been a part-time reporter for the local newspaper, the Register-Guard.

In 1948, his parents were living in Highland, Illinois, and Paul, who had transferred to Dana as a sophomore, was a second-semester junior when his father sent him a telegram that the newspaper in nearby Troy was for sale. With the promise of a loan from several local business leaders, buying the newspaper and becoming a journalist was an opportunity he couldn't pass up.

A year after leaving Dana, he launched a crusade in his Troy Tribune against criminal activities in Madison County, activities that included illegal, big-time gambling and political corruption. When his crusade influenced Illinois Governor Adlai Stevenson to take action, Simon received national exposure, and in 1951 he was invited to testify in Washington, D.C., at a hearing of U.S. Senator Kefauver's Special Committee on organized crime in interstate commerce.

In the early '50s, wanting to get his military service over with, Simon enlisted in the Army. Instead of being sent to



Dana thanked Paul and Jeane Simon at the 1996 Homecoming in several ways, and this was one of them.

Korea, he became a special agent in the Army's Counter Intelligence Corps and was sent to Coburg, a town in then West Germany on the East German border, where his assignment was to obtain information on Soviet and East German troop movements. He asked Dana classmate Ray Johnsen, who had already worked at the Troy Tribune in the summer months, to leave his job as a high school teacher in Blair and to run the paper in his absence.²

In "P.S.," Simon writes, "I had always viewed running for office eventually as a possibility, but my two years in the Army gave me time to reflect on Madison County and the reality that I could more likely effect real change through public office than through my journalistic efforts."

He decided to run for a seat in the Illinois House of Representatives, was elected and became a legislator in 1955.

In 1960, he married legislative colleague Jeane Hurley – "We have been partners in the fullest sense," he writes in "P.S." (Their children are Martin, a professional photographer in

Washington, D.C., and Sheila, who was a law professor at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and is now Illinois' lieutenant governor.)

After eight years in the House, Simon was elected to the Illinois Senate. While in the Senate, he divested himself of his newspaper holdings because, he writes in "P.S.," I wanted neither the bother of having to make business decisions, nor the problem of someone charging that I used the newspapers for political purposes."

Simon became known as a politically independent Democrat. An article about him in the spring 1979 Dana Review, the alumni magazine, describes him as "a progressive on social issues but a watchdog on public expenditures." It also notes that every year, during his years in the House and Senate, the Independent Voters of Illinois had named him "Best Legislator." He was also one of the first legislators in this country to release, every year, detailed information on his personal

(Continued Page 3)

Paul Simon (Cont.)

finances, a practice he continued throughout his career in politics. He became lieutenant governor in 1969 and during his four years in that position worked with a Republican governor. His activities as lieutenant governor included becoming the state's voluntary ombudsman and trying to resolve racial tensions in Cairo, the state's southernmost city.

It was in the latter part of Simon's years in Illinois politics, the fall 1979 Dana Review reports, that Dana President C.C. Madsen had once introduced him at an alumni gathering as "Dana's most distinguished dropout."

After an unsuccessful run for governor, Simon took a two-year break, beginning in 1973, which he describes in his autobiography as "the pause that refreshed." During this interval he taught at Sangamon State University (now the University of Illinois at Springfield) and at Harvard as a Fellow at the Kennedy School's Institute of Politics.

He returned to politics, but on the national level, in 1975, when he became a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. By this time he had written or co-written more than twenty books.³

Simon moved from the U.S. House to the Senate in 1985. Three years later, after being urged to run for President by several organizations and individuals -- including, he writes in "P.S.," 15 House members from nine states -- he decided to run as a candidate in the Democratic primaries. Although he won the Illinois primary and came in second in the Iowa caucus, he eventually withdrew because of lack of funds.

In 1996, the last year of his second term in the Senate, he announced that he had decided against running for a third term, even though, he notes in "P.S.," newspaper polls showed his favorable ratings at an all-time high. In explaining his decision, he cited his lack of enthusiasm for having to raise, once again, large sums of money for a re-election campaign.

Simon's accomplishments in Washington were significant. For example, he introduced the Direct Student Loan Program for college and university students and the National Literacy Act. He was the chief sponsor of the School-to-Work Opportunities Act and worked with John Walsh to establish the Center for Missing Children.

There were disappointments, too. In 1994, Simon and Senator James Jeffords of Vermont, alarmed by mass ethnic killings in Rwanda, called the world's attention to the genocide, but their appeals were mostly met with apathy.

When he announced his retirement, recognition came in many forms. Newspaper editorials regretted his decision. Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia paid him tribute on the Senate floor (the text is online). Simon writes in "P.S." that he especially valued a poem Gwendolyn Brooks, a Pulitzer Prize winner, wrote about him and his efforts to help the oppressed -- and that one day in the Senate, his colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, surprised him when the men wore bowties (his trademarks were a bowtie and horn-rimmed glasses) and the women wore scarves tied into bows. "Everyone enjoyed the occasion, no one more than I did," he writes. "Small things in life make a difference."

Paul and Jeanne retired to their home in southern Illinois. Jeanne died in February 2000, and Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois, a longtime friend and Simon's successor, paid tribute to her in the Senate. In May 2001, Paul married Patricia Derge, the widow of former Southern Illinois University president David Derge.

In retirement, he taught classes in political science, history and journalism at Southern Illinois University, where he also established the bipartisan Public Policy Institute, which has been named in his honor. He monitored presidential elections in Croatia and Liberia, fulfilled speaking engagements, continued writing books and articles and did a biweekly commentary on ten NPR stations in Illinois.

So how did Paul and his younger brother, Art, an alumnus who founded Bread for the World, come to Dana? Paul was born in November 1929 in Eugene, soon after his parents returned to this country from China, where they had been Lutheran missionaries. Paul and Art's father, Martin, in addition to writing and publishing religious materials, was pastor of a Missouri Lutheran Synod congregation in Eugene.

In recalling childhood experiences in "P.S.," Paul writes that their father spoke out against the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II. He also recalls that he would periodically invite an African-American friend, a California minister, to speak to his congregation and to stay in their home. "We learned

lessons of race relations from our earliest childhood days," Paul notes.

The answer to the question, how did the Simon brothers happen to attend Dana, is that their father and Ingward "Inky" Olsen, pastor of Bethesda Lutheran Church, a UELC congregation⁴ in Eugene, were friends. Paul had completed his first year at the University of Oregon when his parents moved to Highland, and when his father asked Pastor Olsen about colleges in the Midwest, Olsen recommended Dana. (Senator Simon wrote about Ingward's role in a letter to Dana art professor Jim Olsen, Ingward's son.)

About his first year at the University of Oregon, Paul writes in his autobiography that because he hadn't participated in extracurricular activities there -- he'd worked thirty to thirty-five hours a week as a reporter for the local newspaper and had lived at home -- "my educational enrichment was not as great as my later college years would be."

After he transferred to Dana, he writes, "Unlike my first-year college experience,



Row 2, far right, Simon is shown in the 1947-48 Dana College Choir.

I did not work (except for a few hours each week in the college canteen. . .) and found my years at Dana more exhilarating in every way. I had some outstanding teachers. . . ."

Continuing, he writes that ". . . at Dana I stayed in a dormitory, and found the

(Continued Page 4)

Paul Simon (Cont.)

daily bull sessions enriching. The ethnic (with one exception) and geographical diversity of the student body I found stimulating.” [The exception was that there were no African-American students.]

And he was involved in campus activities. The college’s 1947 yearbook, the Danian, shows that he was its associate editor, a member of the Dramatics Club and president of the Lutheran Student Association – and that students had elected him prince of Lilac Time, the college’s spring festival.

He was also a reporter his sophomore and junior years for the Hermes, the campus newspaper. In several of the fall 1947 issues, he had a by-lined column titled “Student Thinking,” in which he polled students on traits they looked for in the opposite sex, the desirability of student evaluation of faculty members, and whether they would favor student body scholarships for African-American students. His brother Art (who attended Dana from 1948-49 to 1950-51) continued to promote this last proposal, which led to the college’s first African-American student in the 1952-53 academic year, with students contributing to a scholarship.

Paul was elected student body president his junior year, and the 1948 Danian describes him in this position as “conscientious” and “an able administrator.” Events sponsored by the Simon-led Student Council included a talk at Dana by Nebraska Governor Val Peterson.

He also sang in the Dana College Choir – and at future Homecomings, he joined alumni and students in singing at the traditional Choir reunion. (In 1988, when Life magazine asked Presidential candidates to name their favorite singer or music group, Simon named the Dana College Choir.)

In the fall semester after he left Dana to become a journalist, he returned to speak to the Lutheran Student Association (and certainly to see Art, a first-year student). In his talk, the October 15, 1948, Hermes reports, he “urged his hearers to develop an attitude of responsibility towards their fellow men.”

In “P.S.,” Simon writes, “Dana College was good to me, and in a small way I want to repay that fine school.” Over the years, he found many ways to do that. He

helped support two major on-campus conferences, one an international conference on the rescue of the Danish Jews during World War II, the other a national forum on prison reform. When he retired from the Senate, he gave Dana cash from his remaining campaign funds to establish an interest-free international travel and study fund, with the stipulation that students borrowing from it repay their loans, as they were able to, after graduating. And when the Anti-Defamation League gave him its national award for fighting discrimination, he contributed the cash part of the award to Dana to engage a Jewish scholar to teach a class on Jewish history, traditions and religious thought – a class that was taught by a doctoral candidate at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City who at the time lived in Omaha.

Simon was a Dana Regent from 1978-81 and from 1985-96, and he was planning to become a Regent again at the time of his death in December 2003.

(1) “P.S.” was published by Bison Books, Inc., at 160 East Illinois Street in Chicago. Permission couldn’t be obtained from the publisher to use this

book as a source because, according to a May 13, 2010, Wikipedia entry, the company had been purchased in 2002 and moved to California, and “Currently, it does not have a working web site and no truly current information is available.” Sources for this article, in addition to those identified in the text, include Dana Room files, Dana catalogs, web sites related to Simon’s career and publications and information provided by Dana Professors Emeriti Jim Olsen and Del Hutton.

(2) Ray Johnsen continued as editor of the Troy Tribune after Simon’s return from Germany, and he took on major responsibilities at the other weeklies as they were acquired. In Illinois and Washington, he was Simon’s executive assistant. Johnsen retired during Simon’s first term in the U.S. Senate.

(3) Simon’s 22 books are on a variety of subjects. His pre-Washington books include “Lincoln’s Preparation for Greatness: The Illinois Legislative Years” (1965), “Protestant-Catholic Marriages Can Succeed” (1967), written with his wife, Jeanne Hurley Simon, and “The Politics of World Hunger” (1973), written with his brother, Art. Among those written while he was in Washington are “Let’s Put America Back to Work” (1987), “Winners and Losers” (1989) and “We Can Do Better” (1994). Those written after he retired include “Tapped Out: The Coming World Crisis in Water and What We Can Do About It” (1998) [the 2005 documentary, “Running Dry,” is based on this book], “P.S.” (1999), “Healing America” (2003) and “Our Culture of Pandering” (2003).

(4) The UELC, United Evangelical Lutheran Church, was the Danish Lutheran synod that founded and supported Trinity Seminary and Dana College. ■

NEW UNO INTERN DISCOVERS MORE ARCHIVE TREASURE

Adding to a welcome influx of young workers coming to the DAAL this year is Neil Polzin, our newest intern from the University of Nebraska at Omaha where he is working on his master’s degree in English. He then plans to go on to earn his PhD, also in English.

Neil’s main focus at the DAAL is on the Sophus Keith Winther collection, which he has already begun sorting into broad categories. Next he will go deeper into each category to analyze what documents are actually there. Winther was a Danish immigrant who wrote and published several novels about the pioneer experience in the Great Plains, and who taught English at the University of Washington for many years.

“This work is fascinating,” says Polzin. “I find the life of Sophus Winther so interesting. And working with this collection has made me think of how to manage my own documents.” Asked if his work at the Archive has changed the direction of his studies in any way, he replied, “Definitely. It changed the whole focus of my studies from British Literature to American Regionalism. This was no small task, but definitely worth it.”

Polzin discovered an intriguing reference to some letters to Winther from noted author Eugene O’Neill on the O’Neill Foundation web site, and now is on a mission to find the letters themselves as he digs deeper into the collection. Neil is the second intern from UNO to get hooked on Archive work. Like Heather Hannaford before him, Neil plans to come back as a volunteer when his internship has ended at the end of spring semester. ■



UNO intern Neil Polzin has uncovered a treasure trove of materials in the Sophus Keith Winther collection.

VOLUNTEERS: 2,883 hours by 48 volunteers from Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Oregon and Texas.

VISITORS: 26 visitors from Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Denmark.

USERS: 31 users from California, Colorado, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Nebraska, Tennessee, Utah and Denmark.

ACQUISITIONS

The following are the donations of materials we have received from September through December. The Archive could not continue to document the history of Danish Americans without these wonderful materials including complete family collections, photos, books, periodicals, music and obituaries.

Materials

Miriam Bennett (Discovery Bay, CA)
 Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)
 Arlene Bisson (Muskegon, MI)
 Patricia Brock (Selma, CA)
 Connie Buller (Blair, NE)
 Vaughn Christensen (Blair, NE)
 Lois Eagleton (Umpqua, OR)
 Sherry Forest (Omaha, NE)
 Kate Garrett (Blair, NE)
 Chris Gehringer (Omaha, NE)
 Linda Grandage (Maryville, TN)
 Esther Grindberg (Circle Pines, MN)
 Frederick "Fritz" Hansen (Wichita, KS)
 Alvina Hjortsvang (Council Bluffs, IA)
 Paul & Jean Hundtoft (Blair, NE)
 Jim & Marge Iversen (Decorah, IA)
 Ken & Bonnie Jensen (Albert Lea, MN)
 Tim & Sharon Jensen (Blair, NE)
 Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)
 Paul Johnson (Fremont, NE)
 Maya Jones (Roseville, MN)
 Delores & Richard Jorgensen (Poy Sippi, WI)
 Richard & Pat Jorgensen (Blair, NE)
 Bob & Joan Krogh (Blair, NE)
 Nancy Larsen (Ashland, OH)
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
 Larry & Susan Legore (Algona, IA)
 George Madsen (Omaha, NE)
 Joyce Madsen (Blair, NE)
 Margaret Madsen (Milwaukee, WI)
 Claudia Martin (Omaha, NE)
 Michelle McNabb (Elk Horn, IA)
 Gene & Betty Megrue (Blair, NE)
 Bob Mesenbrink (Arvada, CO)
 Connie Muller (Bloomington, MN)
 Museum of Danish America (Elk Horn, IA)
 Lloyd & Muriel Neve (Blair, NE)
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Ruth Nyegaard (Eugene, OR)
 Donald Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)
 Bill Petersen (Orum, NE)
 Ruth Rasmussen (Omaha, NE)
 Eleanor & Don Schou (Albert Lea, MN)
 Connie Sheets (Blair, NE)
 Harold & Carol Ann Sorensen (Albuquerque, NM)
 Joan Sorensen (Richardson, TX)
 Martha Stone (Boston, MA)
 Sharon Street (Blair, NE)
 John Thomsen (Brooklyn, NY)
 Sandra Wigdahl (Blair, NE)
 Deborah Schou Wood (Oklahoma City, OK)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Memorials:

Maynard Andersen
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Ted Bansen
 Jon & Julie Bansen (Monmouth, OR)
 Pastor Walter Behrens
 Patricia Bentsen (Blair, NE)
 Audrey Berthelsen
 Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)
 Rev. Robert Hansen
 The Green Kitty Cat Fund of the Lutheran
 Community Foundation (Minneapolis, MN)
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Robert Neil Hansen
 Roger & Marilyn Hanson (Cedar Falls, IA)
 Margret Petersen Jacobsen
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Kurt Jensen
 Christie Gehringer (Omaha, NE)
 Audrey Jessen
 Patricia Bentsen (Blair, NE)
 Clifford Woodrow Larson III
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
 Jane Lemon
 Bodil & Jorn Muller (Hillsboro, OR)
 Rev. C.I. "Jerry" Lund's 90th Birthday
 The Green Kitty Cat Fund of the Lutheran
 Community Foundation (Minneapolis, MN)
 Elna Nielsen Mathiasen
 Lois Kemble (Lincoln, NE)
 Peter Mathiasen (Aldergrove, BC)
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Marilyn Guyer McCormick
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Leo McKillip
 Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)
 Alton & Becky Neve
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
 Rev. Aster Neve
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
 Dr. Paul & Lela Neve
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
 Dr. Paul Neve's Birthday
 Lori Jones (Texarkana, TX)
 Rev. Reid & Eunice Neve
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
 Phil Pagel
 Greek & Marilyn Abariotes (Blair, NE)
 Bill & Betsy Anderson (Blair, NE)
 Anonymous
 Jon & Julie Bansen (Monmouth, OR)
 Lloyd & Ann Bansen (Yamhill, OR)
 Lois Blobaum (Blair, NE)
 Larry & Lois Bornemeier (Danbury, CT)
 Meta Brandes (Blair, NE)
 Karla Broman (Blair, NE)
 Milt & Elaine Brostrom (St. Peter, MN)
 Myrv & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
 Darrell Dibben (Blair, NE)
 Agneta Gaines (Omaha, NE)

Timothy & Robley Garrigan (Blair, NE)
 Ann George (Blair, NE)
 Shirley Hansen (Edina, MN)
 Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)
 Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)
 Arvin Hernes (Blair, NE)
 Roger & Linda Howland (Blair, NE)
 Paul & Jean Hundtoft (Blair, NE)
 Bud & Pat Hunsche (Blair, NE)
 Del & Trudy Hutton (Blair, NE)
 Ronald & Susan Jansen (Wautoma, WI)
 Beth & Paul Jensen (Omaha, NE)
 Jack & Opal Jensen (Arlington, NE)
 S. Michael Jensen (Blair, NE)
 V. Gail Jensen (Blair, NE)
 Alice Jorgensen (Blair, NE)
 Chuck & Joyce Jorgensen (Blair, NE)
 Don & Joyce Jorgensen (Ripon, WI)
 Herb & Carol Jorgensen (Green Lake, WI)
 Jerry & Janet Jorgensen (Blair, NE)
 Richard & Delores Jorgensen (Poy Sippi, WI)
 Lois Kemble (Lincoln, NE)
 Bob & Joan Krogh (Blair, NE)
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
 Dennis & Libby Lee (Leawood, KS)
 Dale Lemon (Blair, NE)
 Gene & Nancy Lindblad (Blair, NE)
 Tom and Janice Lippincott (Blair, NE)
 Norm & Patricia Madsen (Monroe, IA)
 Ann & William McPhillips (Omaha, NE)
 Gene & Betty Megrue (Blair, NE)
 Maxine Mitchell (Fremont, NE)
 Richard & Sharon Nelson (Omaha, NE)
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Jim & Sue Olsen (Blair, NE)
 Roger & Dorothy Olson (Blair, NE)
 Lyn Pahls (Omaha, NE)
 Laurids & Judi Pedersen (Blair, NE)
 Burke & Melanee Petersen (Fort Calhoun, NE)
 Duane & Dixie Petersen (Wichita, KS)
 Pete & Shirley Petersen (Canyon, TX)
 Holly & Myron Peterson (Eden Prairie, MN)
 Mic & Susie Pinquoch (Blair, NE)
 Ruth Rasmussen (Omaha, NE)
 Donna Rector (Norfolk, NE)
 Carl & Marla Rennerfeldt (Blair, NE)
 Alice Schattauer (Blair, NE)
 Bob & Judy Schmoll (Greenville, PA)
 Jens & Eileen Simonsen (Oakdale, NE)
 Sandy Sonderup (Blair, NE)
 Larrie Stone (Blair, NE)
 Marilyn Svendgard (Blair, NE)
 Pat Swanson (Omaha, NE)
 Sonja & Dick Switzer (Omaha, NE)
 Myrna Tostenson (Pine River, WI)
 Linda Walz (Beatrice, NE)
 Carol Weckmuller (Blair, NE)
 Mary Weckmuller (Blair, NE)
 LeRoy & Sandra Wigdahl (Blair, NE)
 Robert & Mary Wright (Omaha, NE)
 Helen (Larsen) Petersen
 Robert & Martha Christiansen (Tempe, AZ)

Memorials (Cont.)

Rev. Carl Schattauer

The Green Kitty Cat Fund of the Lutheran
Community Foundation (Minneapolis, MN)

Keith Skogman

Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)

Norma Stone

Bodil & Jorn Muller (Hillsboro, OR)

Mark Thomsen

Milt & Elaine Brostrom (St. Peter, MN)

Myrv & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)

Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)

Richard & Delores Jorgensen (Poy Sippi, WI)

Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)

John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)

Duane & Dixie Petersen (Wichita, KS)

Dagmar Vasby

Family & Friends

Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)

Honoraria:

DAAL Volunteers

Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)

Phil & Florence Larsen

Pat Bentsen (Blair, NE)

Ib & Cleo Melchior's 50th Anniversary

Linda Steffensen (Hoffman Estates, IL)

Allan Nyegaard's 85th Birthday

John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)

Don Schou's 90th Birthday

John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)

General Fund:

Peter & Lydia Beckman (Bainbridge Island, WA)

Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)

Blair Area Community Foundation (Blair, NE)

Judy Brehm (Blair, NE)

Ronald & Mary Bro (Cedar Falls, IA)

Philip & Marilyn Christensen (Sparks, NV)

Ingrid Christiansen (Brookline, MA)

Paul & Leana Christoffersen (Underwood, IA)

Anne Marie Douglas (Chicago, IL)

Don & Bev Freberg (Prairie Village, KS)

Gregerson Family Fund of the Community

Foundation for SW Washington (Vancouver, WA)

John & Esther Grindberg (Circle Pines, MN)

Cynthia Gunderson (Elgin, IL)

Charles Hansen (Mt Prospect, IL)

Lloyd Hansen (Lincoln, NE)

Robert Hemmingson (Fergus Falls, MN)

Lee Indahl (Burke, SD)

Paul Johnson matched by Thrivent Gift Multiplier

(Princeton, NJ)

Jean Clark Kahldahl (Port Townsend, WA)

Nathan Kramer & Amy Barlow (Omaha, NE)

Charles Lang (Uehling, NE)

Jeff Langholz (Royal Oaks, CA)

Ruth McMasters (Nebraska City, NE)

Greg Nelsen (Lincoln, NE)

Vordyn Nelson (Luther, MI)

W. Clayton Nielsen (Solvang, CA)

Clayton Nietfeld (Greeley, CO)

Marie Hansen Odgers (Lincoln, NE)

Robert Olsen (Houston, TX)

Carole Schetter (Highlands Ranch, CO)

Ann Schnuelle (Indianapolis, IN)

Greg Schou (Albert Lea, MN)

Schwab Charitable Fund/Anonymous donor (San
Francisco, CA)

Jody Sorensen (Richardson, TX)

Arliss Stockdale (Ames, IA)

Larrie Stone (Blair, NE)

Thomson Reuters (Princeton, NJ)

Myrna Tostenson (Pine River, WI)

Sandra & LeRoy Wigdahl (Blair, NE)

Endowment:

In memory of Margret Jacobsen

Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)

In memory of Glenn Neve

Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)

In memory of Phil Pagel

Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)

In memory of Mark Thomsen

Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)

50/100:**FOUNDER LEVEL**

Luther & Doris Kloth (Wauwatosa, WI)

Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)

John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)

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)

Neil & Arlene Grover (Staples, MN)

Fritz Hansen (Wichita, KS)

Roger & Marilyn Hanson (Cedar Falls, IA)

Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)

Elaine & Mark Hoyer (Blair, NE)

Geraldine Jasan (Northfield, MN)

Tim & Sharon Jensen (Blair, NE)

Lynda Jeppesen (Oak Park, IL)

Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)

Julianne Johnson (Columbus, OH)

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)

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) ■

- ◆ **New venues for the Danish Children exhibit**—The *Danish Children Growing Up American* exhibit has been engaged in five different venues until December of 2015. It was on display for the month of April at the *Cedar Falls, Iowa, Public Library* and will be shown at *Love Library at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln* from June 25 through July 31, 2014. From mid September 2014 to early April 2015, the exhibit will be on display at the *Museum of Danish America in Elk Horn, Iowa*. In October of 2015 it will appear at *the national convention of the Danish Sisterhood* to be held in Denver, Colorado, and finally will move to the *Denver Public Library* from mid October to the end of December 2015. We plan to continue to add more venues, so be sure to visit the exhibit when it comes to a library or university near you. If you would like to request that the exhibit come to your area, simply contact us by telephone or e-mail at the DAAL.
- ◆ **Spring Volunteer Week**—Another successful volunteer week concluded on Friday, May 3. More than a dozen volunteers came in from Iowa, Minnesota, Colorado and Texas, and spent a rainy week translating, organizing, sorting, and storing materials in acid-free envelopes, boxes and Mylar sleeves. Executive Director Jill Hennick commented that this particular experienced group comes in already knowing what to work on and how to do it. They give us a big boost in organizing our materials.
- ◆ **Archive Visitors**—In March the Archive received two visitors from Denmark via the Museum of Danish America (MoDA) in Elk Horn. Helle S. Christensen and Sofie Krogh Nielsen are part of an intern program at the museum. MoDA usually sends any Danish interns to the DAAL in order to give them a broader Danish American experience. In addition to a tour and general information, Helle and Sofie received pointers from the DAAL's library director, Sharon Jensen, on the standard cataloging techniques she uses. ■



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:

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 'S REPORT



Jill Hennick

I suppose no non-profit organization is ever comfortable with their financial situation until they have enough in their endowment fund to finance the yearly operating expenses through the endowment earnings. With approximately \$54,000 in endowment, we are a far cry from being in that position. However, considering we started with no money at all in July of 2010, we have an astonishing amount to be grateful for.

Financially, we have the \$54,000 in endowment, and following our best first quarter yet, at the end of March 2014, we had enough money in our checking and savings accounts to cover a year's worth of operating expenses. Over the 3 ½ years since we have been an independent charitable corporation, thanks in part to 15½ months of advancement efforts by former Dana College president Myrv Christopherson, we have had 620 households and organizations donate to us and have raised over \$400,000. This shows us the Archive is something people truly value.

Another indication that the Archive is valued is the number of people it

touches in a year. In 2013, our newsletter was mailed to 1,128 households in 46 states, the District of Columbia, Canada and Denmark. We had 352 visitors and researchers from 27 states, Denmark and Japan. Materials were donated by 166 households in 31 states, the District of Columbia, Madagascar, Japan, Canada, Demark and Germany. And, we had 58 volunteers from 8 states and Denmark helping to organize our collection. Nine of the volunteers were new in 2013.

We are grateful that we are able to preserve materials documenting the experiences of Danish Americans. We are also pleased that authors and students are able to use these primary source documents in their research. We are in the process of introducing more people to the Archive through our traveling exhibit, *Danish Children Growing Up American*, which showcased at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) and recently closed at the public library in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

In addition to the special project of creating the traveling exhibit, more regular archive work is being accomplished. We hired an Archive Assistant, Michael Hennick, in March 2014. He is helping our library director to catalog the collection and will enable us to expand our hours of operation to 3 p.m., Monday-Friday.

One of the most gratifying progressions is the increasing involvement of young people in our organization. Aaron Loyd, who is working on a master's degree in Library Science, and Andy Nielsen, who has spent many hours organizing the Danish Brotherhood materials, have been volunteering an average of four days a week for the past 2 ½ years. High school senior, Kate Garrett, volunteered with us in the summers of 2011 and 2012. In 2013 she did a business and accounting internship with us and will repeat that this summer. She also encouraged the Blair High School FBLA to do volunteer work at the Archive this school year. We got our first intern, Heather Hannaford, from UNO the fall semester of 2013 and our second intern, Neil Polzin, from UNO the spring semester of 2014. They have both enjoyed their projects so much that Heather has continued as a volunteer and Neil plans to do the same.

We are so proud of our Archive. It is a valuable collection that touches people across the country and throughout the world. It is a center of research that is helping prepare young people for their future careers. And, it is a volunteer opportunity which provides a sense of purpose and fellowship for our core volunteers. So, it is with a great deal of gratitude and anticipation that we look forward to the future. ■



1738 Washington Street
Blair, Nebraska 68008

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ARCHIVE ASSISTANT JOINS DAAL STAFF



*Archive Assistant
Michael L. Hennick*

Michael L. Hennick joined the DAAL staff as archive assistant on March 1st with the primary responsibility of learning the duties of Library Director Sharon Jensen.

“It is important to have more than one person with overall knowledge of how the cataloging systems works,” says Jensen. “Michael not only provides backup for me, but also performs a wide variety of functions throughout the Archive.”

Having volunteered at the Archive off and on since 1997, Hennick was the ideal candidate for this position because he already had in-depth knowledge of the DAAL’s history and how it works. One of his first projects was to evaluate all the materials in the “flat file” a large file cabinet containing oversized documents and photos. After looking at all the materials, he was able to eliminate some, relocate some and organize the rest so they can be easily found when needed.

Hennick’s main responsibility now is to catalog the DAAL’s large collection of hymnals so they can be integrated into the main library collection. Many of these hymnals were included as part of the audio music collection, and some were still waiting in boxes to be shelved for the first time. As part of the cataloging process, he weeds out unnecessary duplicate hymnals that take up precious shelf space.

A Dana College graduate, Hennick’s focus has been in the area of customer service, warehousing and transportation, often within the national park system. His customer service skills, ability to handle multiple projects at once, his deep interest in history, and being “about half Danish” all serve him well as an archive assistant. With more archive experience under his belt, he will be assisting the local volunteers with administrative decisions.

The addition of Hennick to the DAAL staff allows us the stay open until 3 p.m., which adds to the convenience of those who can’t visit us in the mornings. ■