



Winter 2003
Newsletter
Danish Heritage Preservation
Society
P.O. Box 386
Danevang, TX 77432-0386



Danish Plates, Folk Dancing, Eating, Singing, and
Toasting the Queen of Denmark !!!!

All this is happening in Danevang on Saturday, April 12, 2003

See the article on the next page for details of this grand celebration!

Newsletter

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Annual Meeting is held in conjunction
with GrundlovDag Celebration,
first Saturday in June

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Gift Shop Elaine Wind
Museum Lawrence Petersen
Newsletter Al Jensen
Publicity Elsie Christensen

(continued from Page 1)

On Saturday, April 12, 2003, we will celebrate Queen Margrete's birthday (even though her actual birthday isn't until April 16). We will get the jump on the folks in Denmark!

We have a lot planned for that day:

At 11 o'clock am, the ever-popular **Scandinavian Dancers** from Houston will perform at the Danevang Meeting House. Those of you who have not seen the Texas Historical Commission Marker, which was dedicated in October, 2002, will be able to view it.

At noon, we will have a **catered meal** in the Meeting House.

At 1:15, we will reconvene at the Museum where we will have a **program on Danish Hymnody and Folk Music**, led by Mr. Bob Olsen, the newly-appointed Music Director at Grace Lutheran Church, Houston.

We will be utilizing the 1911 Olson/Petersen piano which has just undergone a "facelift and tuning" with funds donated by Mrs. Myrtle Waldman. We will dedicate this piano at that time.

There will be the traditional "**Toast to the Queen**" plus a **dedication of the valuable complete collection of 102 Bing & Grøndahl Christmas Plates** donated to the Museum by Jette Buhl Smith and Gen. Homer Smith. This collection dates back to the turn of the 20th century and had hung in Jette and Homer's home in San Antonio until the time of the gift. This complete set is a rarity.

More about Bob Olsen, Our April 12th Program Leader

Bob comes from a real Danish background. All four of his paternal great-grandparents were born in Denmark, and eventually emigrated to the Cedar Falls, Iowa area.

Bob received his Bachelor of Music degree in 1974, from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. After teaching public school music for 8 years, he earned his Master of Music degree from Concordia University. His thesis was "The Hymnody of Denmark-A Historical Study". Bob is continuing his research for a book he intends to publish on the "Religious Aspects of the Danish Immigrant".

We are extremely fortunate to have Bob with us April 12. I have a feeling he will be able to add to his book research after spending time in Danevang.

New Museum Exhibit Planned for April Opening

Efforts are being put forth to have an exhibit featuring Danish Holidays as celebrated in Denmark. Danes truly enjoy their holidays! And official flag-flying days are numerous! By my count, there are 21 such days before June 30. Of course, many Danes do as we do at the Museum. Dannebrog (the Danish flag) is flown every day.

Plans are Underway for Grundlov's Dag Celebration and Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 7.

Set aside that day as you plan ahead!!!! Again, we know that **Danish Constitution Day** is June 5, but for our ease we try to celebrate it on a Saturday near June 5. Therefore, this year it will be **June 7th**. We will have details in the Spring Newsletter!

Look for the March Issue of "Texas Highways" Magazine as well as "2003 State Travel Guide"

Writers and photographers from the official publication of the Texas Highway Department were present at last year's Queen's Birthday Celebration and one of the photographers recently made a return visit to capture a few more scenes. We thank Kermit Westerholm for facilitating this effort. The result: there will be an article about Danevang, its Celebrations and its Museum in the upcoming March issue.

Thanks to the efforts of Elaine and Irvin Wind, the large, new "State Travel Guide" on page 45 features Danevang. For copies, call toll-free 1-800-452-9292

Visitors from San Antonio

Recently a bus load of a "55+ Group" from a hospital in San Antonio visited the Museum. They were the most inquisitive and attentive group in attendance in a long time. One lady was fascinated by the fact that the plowed rows were so straight! "How do they do that?"

Here is a photo of Oscar Reyes who added many tid-bits from his past and explained to the group that the pelican that he's pointing to will not eat any dead fish (or bait). Oscar said that he knows this from his first-hand experience.



Two Fine Gentle Men Pass On To The Other Lovely Land

HARVEY WESTERHOLM, born on October 24, 1924, in Danevang died on November 27, 2002, in Lufkin, Texas. Both of his parents were born in Denmark and upon arriving in Danevang started farming cotton. Harvey is survived by his wife, Jetta, brothers Kermit (his twin), Leo and Herluf, as well as his daughter Shannon Shadday, three step-children, nine step-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Harvey attended grade school in Danevang, graduated from El Campo High School and Texas A&I (now Texas A&M-Kingsville). In 1943 he joined the U.S. Army and served in Europe, eventually becoming an interpreter involved in the inventory of all property seized by the Nazis.

He became the Veteran's Vocational Coordinator in Columbus, Texas, before embarking on a career of being City Manager in Columbus, Livingston, New Braunfels and Lufkin, retiring in 1990.

Harvey and his brother Kermit have been very active in the affairs of our Society, particularly in the arena of fund-raising. This "pair" will be missed by those many people who were on the "regular list" of calls by this team; one out-going and one persuasive through his quiet manner (in his red coat suggestive of the Danish National Colors).

Harvey loved dancing and was a member of numerous dance clubs. At his funeral, one speaker said he would remember Harvey as "the Dancing Dude from Danevang".

Indicative of the esteem in which people held Harvey, we want to quote from a letter, from Lufkin, which accompanied a memorial gift to our Society:

"I first met Harvey Westerholm as a parent of one of my sixth grade students. He was one of Lufkin's most well known, a well liked and tremendous leader as City manager.

"But the event that I remember him most for is in 1985, when my Danish mother visited us for the last time before she died. Harvey made a special effort to come out and visit with her. They laughed and shared Danish customs, and since that time, I have called him my 'Great Dane'. Realizing his work for the Danish Heritage Society, I want this memorial to go to this cause. Harvey will be remembered for many of his outstanding roles, but I will always cherish my memory of the GREAT DANE!"

OTTO HARTON, born on October 26, 1911, in Avoca, Texas, died on January 15, 2003. Otto served on the board of the Danevang Lutheran Church for years, but is probably best remembered for his service as Postmaster of the Danevang Post Office for 35 years; Owner and Operator of a Danevang store for 25 years and as Cotton Buyer for 45 years. Interestingly, his late wife, Opal, succeeded him as Postmaster.

Otto was a charter member of the BPOE Elks Lodge and served on the boards of the Danevang and El Campo School Districts. He was a former member of the National League of Post Masters, the Federation of Postmasters and the Strugglers Dance Club.

Otto is survived by his daughter Darla Jean Petersen, son Jimmie Harton and his wife, Carole, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Editor's Note: We must note that both Harvey and Otto loved to dance and the fact that they both had such engaging, broad smiles speaks to their enjoyment of life and a desire to "pass it on" to others! They both will be missed.

“Back to the Kitchen, A New Trend Among Young Danes”

This was the headline in the January 13, 2003, issue of *Den Danske Pioneer*, the oldest Danish-American Newspaper in the USA, published biweekly out of Illinois.

The article asks, “What was one of the absolutely most popular gift items in Denmark this Christmas? The cookbook!”

This leads us into the subject of the reprinting of the “Danevang Community Cookbook”, originally published in 1985, as a project in conjunction with the celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the Danevang Community. This second printing is the result of a great work by Elaine Wind, Elsie Christensen and Helena Lauritsen, as leaders of this effort (which had been deemed “impossible for the price goal” by your editor). Mary Jean Nielsen was involved in proof-reading. We owe all involved a great debt of gratitude for the preservation of this part of our heritage!

Copies of this Second Printing are available in the Museum Gift Shop for \$15 or, by mail, for an additional \$5 per book for handling and postage. See the order blank on the last page of this newsletter.

Writings from the Past: This Time from Danevang Community Cook book

A Feature of each newsletter has been an article out of the archives of the Museum. Now we turn back to a portion of the original 1985 Cookbook, which, although not so old, has value as a remembrance.

“As the community began thinking about a way to celebrate and remember its 90th birthday, bits and pieces of what went

into having the once famous ‘Danish Dinner’ came into being. It was easy for us to remember the last one in 1972 which brought at least two bus loads of people from the Houston-Galveston area who were part of a Scandinavian Interest Group, but we wondered how the dinner came about in the first place. Louise (Mrs. Verner) Petersen volunteered to search out past minutes from the ladies groups in the church to pay tribute to what is remembered by most as ‘The Danish Dinner’.

“Early recollection of ‘Fall Festivals’ and ‘Bazaars’ were remembered and in 1945 the minutes revealed a Bazaar Supper was in the making. The Danish Ladies Aid had been functioning since it was organized in 1900 and in 1939 the English Ladies Aid became a reality. Both ladies groups functioned independently but sometimes collectively to meet the needs of the church and community and so it would seem that the Bazaar Dinner began to take on the idea of a project of both the Danish and English Ladies Aids with the assistance of all the women of the church. The 1957 minutes revealed a menu of roast beef and Danish sausage, mashed potatoes, red cabbage, green beans, corn, apple cake, citron fromage and homemade breads.” (*Editor’s Note: This menu reflected a meal more typical of fare in Danevang, but not necessarily that found in Denmark. This approach is continued in the meals associated with the present Society celebrations.*

“Each year seemed to acknowledge the desire to improve upon the dinner and with this came a larger attendance and a need to involve more people in helping to bring about continuing success. In 1962, the Danevang Lutheran Church became a member of the Lutheran Church in America as a result of the merger of the AELC with the ULCA, Augustana and Suomi Lutheran Church bodies. With this the two existing

Ladies Aids then became one group; the Danevang Lutheran Church Women.

It was about this time that the date was moved from a fall affair to the spring-time date of February, 27, 1962. It would seem that as we lost our identity as part of the Danish Lutheran AELC we continued to retain the identity of an annual Danish Dinner. In some ways it resembled a type of reunion or homecoming time for families and friends. Each year there were new decisions to face and ideas to explore and improvements to be made and gradually it began to involve every person in the community. The men were faced with seeing that we had enough plug-ins and electricity to keep adding the additional ovens that were required to keep the food hot and to keep enough hot water available. Orderly parking became a project for the men to direct. The Danish costumes that were started with the young people of the church when they were learning about folk dancing, soon became a part of the festive look of the day. Decorations for the hall were a challenge that showed the creativity of the ladies. Red and white were always present as Danish colors, but the American flag was a must and the correct way of displaying the two flags together was a topic of conversation to be reviewed each year. Danish posters from the Danish Consul; Hans Christian Andersen banners; red geraniums; the typical embroidered table runners which were so common in Danish homes; white tablecloths; a red, white and blue 'Velkommen' sign; banners in the hall that said 'Vaers'go' (Be so kind), Tak for Mad (Thanks for the food) and 'Mange Tak' (Many thanks) were used.

"But, alas, a great project, 'The Danish Dinner' which provided a lot of fellowship, and showed what could be done

through well-planned cooperation of all, finally outgrew itself in 1972, but lingers in the memories of those who worked and attended."

(Editor's note: This is just one of the many "remembrances" in the Danevang Community Cookbook, and the recipes are "outstanding". Equally good are the comments accompanying each of the recipes, written by many who are no longer with us! A fitting example is with the Æbleskiver recipe submitted by the late Harvey Westerholm)

"This is a recipe I got from Gudrun (Svendsen) Jensen and it's one that I am introducing to all our Lufkin friends. On Christmas Eve morning I cook 'Æbleskiver' for all city employees at City Hall. They think it's a special treat."

One of the speakers at Harvey's memorial service in Lufkin made mention of those "great Danish pancake balls Harvey made for us every Christmas" so we see that what Harvey wrote about 17 years earlier continued to be another of Harvey's "trademarks" to go along with his traditional RED COAT he wore at every Danish function.

Another Family Reunion

The Niels & Emma Hansen Family---

February 23, 2003

We will try to run a story on this family in the next issue. In doing some preliminary research we found that daughter Myrtle Waldman and daughter-in-law Zella were born 8 days apart. We don't think they will mind that we also tell you that in November they will be celebrating their 90th Birthdays. God Bless these two fine ladies and He has blessed us with their lives of service!!!!

It Doesn't Just Happen

When you donate your family heirloom or collectable to the Museum, we have the obligation to lovingly care and preserve it for future generations. To allow you to follow the typical process for a donation we will tell the story of a knitting bag.

During the early years of World War II, before Pearl Harbor, citizens of the United States were assembling "Bundles for Britain". These packages included rationed food; warm knitted scarves, mittens, afghans, etc.; and other scarce items. The young Myrtle Hansen (before she married Jake Waldman) was living and working in Chicago. Of course, she missed her home in Danevang and when she wasn't being courted by Jake, she spent much of her time knitting for "Bundles for Britain".

Myrtle donated this story and her knitting bag to the Museum. The bag is so much more significant with its story. Myrtle's niece, Elaine Wind brought it to the Museum. Elsie Christensen received it, entered the item on our basic accession record and gave the item its Museum Number. Elsie also filled out two donation forms. One form goes to the donor together with a copy of the Museum Donation Policy. The other copy (signed by the donor) goes into the Museum's files.

Next the item was entered into our data base by Lawrence Petersen who also created the computer programs we use for cataloging. We catalog under these categories: Library (incl. documents), Audio/Video, Photographs and Curatorial.

On one of her many days of working visits to the Museum, Carolyn Westerholm filed the Donor Agreement and tagged the item for storage until an appropriate time for it to be displayed. However, Carolyn noticed that one side of the bag was torn. In

order to prevent further damage it needed to be repaired.

Now it was time to call on our expert seamstress and caretaker of fabric items, Marilyn Chappell. Marilyn did her usual fantastic job and then lovingly wrapped the bag in acid-free tissue and stored it in a labeled acid-free box.

Our Museum Committee Chairman, Lawrence Petersen, who orders all the display and storage materials for the Museum, will attest to the fact that such materials to care for and display your donations are costly items. Our Treasurer, Kenneth Christensen, the check writer will attest to the cost of all such expenses together with our regular maintenance.

The above process does not take into account what then goes into the display of the heirlooms and collectables. More members get involved! Most of the display work is accomplished mainly through the efforts of Mickey Christensen & Kenneth Christensen (lighting), Irvin Wind, Lawrence Petersen, Bridget Jensen, and Al Jensen, with occasional help from Carl Larsen.

All of the above-mentioned folks are our willing VOLUNTEERS. The Heritage Society does not yet have the financial endowment to be able to hire staff persons. We have many bus tours from the Houston, San Antonio and Corpus Areas who make arrangements to visit on weekdays. Otherwise the Museum is regularly open to the public on Sunday afternoons. This involves yet more volunteers, whom we have not named. Until we are able to be open many more hours we will not qualify for much grant money.

All of this "story" is to bring each of you up to date on the work of the Society and our wonderful volunteers. But, also, we want to help you realize that you, too, could join the ranks of these volunteers! Think about it!!!



Recycling (to a new level)

Two years ago, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Houston, came to the realization that they had outgrown their Education/Administration Building. But, they had no more land. So, the existing building had to be replaced with a taller building. The existing two-story building had an outside fire escape stair AND it just happened that the newly constructed Danish Heritage Museum in Danevang needed a fire escape stair out of the second floor Library/Work Room. The first to second floor of the museum was 9” more than the church’s building, but, no problem! Note the 9” concrete curbs that were the solution. After an exciting haul from Houston the stair had to have some welding done under Carl Larsen’s direction. Lawrence Petersen and his men prepared and painted the steel. Then, Lawrence on the A-frame truck and his men erected it and touched up the paint. The result: The Danevang Museum had its NEW stair, thanks to a team effort! (We also thank Christ the King for deciding that they were going to replace 50 folding chairs. We found a place for them, too.)

More Team Effort

The next time you’re in the Museum look at the scrapbooks just inside the front door. Helena Lauritsen, Historian, takes a lot of pictures and collects clippings to chronicle the work for the Society. This is our part of history! Elsie Christensen continues to coordinate docents. Merle Jensen continues to mow. Our faithful duo of James Petersen and Carl Larsen are always into some “projects”. Carl’s recent hospital stays have hampered their team efforts, but in the meantime, James has worked alone. Thankfully, Carl is back home recuperating. When he gets back “in the saddle” we look for more good work! You should have seen the outstanding job James did with the Christmas lights again this year! The Chappells (Martha and Marilyn) continue their “book work” in the Library. Lawrence Petersen is on the computer a lot. Elaine Wind has the Gift Shop under control. Mickey C. and Irvin W. are always around. Kenny Christensen pays the bills. In the next issue we will recognize the many volunteer docents. We realize we’ve not done justice to all those others and their hours of service. Thanks to all!!



Latest Museum Exhibit: McCormick-Deering All-Steel Rice Separator

Each month we attempt to feature in the newsletter one of the exhibits. This rice threshing machine, donated by Grady Allen (left) after arrangements were finalized by Lawrence Petersen (right) is the newest exhibit and is an attempt to honor the fact that even though “Cotton is King” in Danevang, much of the area surrounding Danevang is very much “Rice Country”. Norris Raun, a member of the Society and a BIG rice farmer, relates that there was a saying as settlers came west and reached El Campo, “Those who turned right became rice farmers and those who turned left became cotton farmers”. That generalization didn’t hold 100% true. J.K. Allen used this separator along with a binder to harvest his rice crops in the Five Corners Area (north of Danevang). Lawrence Petersen writes, “These separators were used to harvest all kinds of grain and oil seed crops until the combine was invented. The grain was cut with a binder and tied into bundles left in the field to dry. The bundles were loaded onto a wagon and hauled to the stationery separator where they were fed into the front of the machine. The seed was ‘separated’ (hence the name). augered into a bin, bagged, loaded onto a truck and hauled to market or storage. Maybe many of you will remember the large stacks of rice straw left in the harvested fields at the former separator locations.”

U of T Symposium, March 28 and 29, “The *Other* Six Flags Over Texas”

This interesting program honoring the contributions of the Danes, Swedes, Norwegians, Poles, Germans and Czechs has been put together by Carrin Mauritz Patman. There is too much to describe here so we direct you to the website www.utexas.edu/conferences/sixflags for the program and maps to the Flawn Center. Also, for info, call Al Jensen at 713-524-2328.

Memorials

We remind you that we have a program of receiving contributions in honor or in memory of someone. Unless the donor has a specific purpose or project, the funds will go into our Endowment Fund and the interest earned by those funds will pay for operational needs. In this way, Honorary and Memorial contributions “live on”.

We offer our thanks for the following remembrances:

In Memory of:	By:
Harvey	M/M Frank Arender
Westerholm	Aurum Technology
	M/M Bob Bonar
	M/M E.J. Bowers
	Aubrey Canon
	B.J. Cardwell
	Nancy Conway
	M/M Wayne Corley
	M/M O.V. Christensen
	M/M Bill Davis
	Lynn Ervin
	Norma Fisher
	M/M R.I. Garrettt
	M/M Gary Green
	Dr. Nash Hogue
	M/M Al Jensen
	M/M Alfred Jensen
	Gudrun Jensen
	M/M Raleigh Johnson
	Mary Kister
	Mary & Kerry Koehler
	Thelma Koehler
	M/M Leonard Lauritsen
	Helen Lowe
	M/M Tony Marburger
	M/M Wm. Miller
	Lucille Moore
	Edith Potter
	Betty Pruitt
	M/M Henry Rawlings
	M/M Ernest Rowe
	Ruth Schaeffer
	M/M Doyle Schaer
	Dagny Sisco

In Memory of
Harvey

Westerholm (contd)

Bobby Stanbery
Gerda Stuart
M/M John Taylor
Texas City Management
Association

Dr/M W.D. Thames
M/M Jimmy Tinkle
Maurine Valle
M/M Kermit Westerholm
M/M Leo Westerholm
M/M Mark Westerholm
Virginia Wilcox
M/M Irvin Wind
Dr/M Barry Wood

**In Memory of:
Otto Harton**

M/M Al Jensen
M/M Doyle Schaer

**In Memory of Andrew
& Emma Berndt**

Elvin Berndt (Designated
for the “Historic Danevang”
Highway Sign)

This is the listing as of the date of printing this newsletter. Memorial Contributions are still being received at:

P.O. Box 386
Danevang TX 77432

and contributors will be recognized in the next newsletter. “Honorary Contributions” honoring friends and/or relatives are also being received at the same address.

The Board and the Membership of the Society wish to express our gratefulness to the contributors, (past, present and future) for these expressions of remembrances.

Memberships

In the last issue your editor listed the Current Memberships in the Danish Heritage Preservation Society AND made the remark that the listing probably contained errors and omissions. I came very close to “covering” myself by saying there are 6 intentional “errors” placed in this listing with a challenge for you to find them. In that way I wouldn’t have to “eat crow” when errors did appear.. But, I played it straight and now I have to “eat crow” and show the corrections, BUT there have also been renewals. So the following list includes those additions along with corrections. In other words, the list is not just made up of errors, but is an attempt to be complete. We are extremely fortunate that our Treasurer Kenneth Christensen now has a computer AND knows how to use it, so our membership records from now on should be much more accurate than when these records were kept manually. BUT, be patient, there may be errors/omissions from time to time.

Corrections/Additions to Membership Rolls

Dale Atchetee	Glen Holland	Franklin Lund	Clough Shelton III
Ardythe Berndt	Melissa Horton	Clifford Lykke, Jr.	Linda Shelton
Ruth Blanton	Jens Houken	Diane Murff	Norene Swendsen
Patricia Bruecher	Mary Bell Ingram	Russell Nielsen	Evelyn Thompson
Alta Campbell	Kathi Jensen	Bob Olsen	Alfred Thyssen
Frank Greene	Paul Jensen	Arlene Petersen	Judy Tines
Doris Hansen	Virginia Kelly	Donald Petersen	Ed Trapp
Henry Hansen	Robert Krehbiel	Ralph Petersen	Liz Tunnel
Nancy Hansen	Glenda Kurten	Curtis Reece	Maurice Tunnel
Lawrence Harton	George Larsen	Dagmar Ricketts	William Tunnel
Jill Hester	Gerthe Lauritsen	Stephen Schmelting	CarolynWesterholm
Preston Hicks	Ib Lauritzen	Debra Scholz	Kermit Westerholm

As most of you probably realize, our Membership Year runs from Annual Meeting date to Annual Meeting. So, current memberships (except for 26 who have already renewed) expire June 7. There are a couple other ways we could structure the membership year, and if our current system is confusing, members will be able to express their desires at the Annual Meeting on June 7, 2003. So renewals or new memberships received from February 20, 2003 will be applied to the June 2003-June 2004 “year”.

As has been stated many times, annual membership contributions are a valued expression of your philosophical support of the Society. The membership monies raised are appreciated, too, but we are certain you realize that the monies raised don’t come close to supporting operations. So, the morale factor of knowing that there IS a loyal following provides incentives for the needed larger contributions. PLEASE, show your support by sending in your membership contributions and if you wish to go beyond the minimum, MANGE TAK!!!

Detach and Mail to Kenneth Christensen P.O. Box 386 Danevang TX 77432

Memberships in Danish Heritage Preservation Society ___ @ \$10 per person/ year \$

___ **Cookbooks** (incl mailing) @ \$20/ea \$

Reservations for Meals (Adults \$7.50, Age 12 & younger \$5)

Queen’s Birthday: April 12

___ Adults \$

___ 12 & younger \$

Annual Meeting/Constitution Day: June 7

___ Adults \$

___ 12 & younger \$ ___

TOTAL \$

(Meal Tickets will be held in your name) Name:

Address:



See you here at the April 12 and June 7 Celebrations !!

Danish Heritage Preservation Society
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