

DAILY



GRIND



NEWS FROM THE MILL

Shaun Sayres

There is plenty to be excited for as we quickly switch gears for 2025. While we don't have the numbers done quite yet (you'll have to come to the annual meeting to get them!), this was nothing short of another tremendous year. We'll talk about the year as a whole at the annual meeting in a few weeks, but in the meantime we had a rather eventful December to reflect on.

First, our annual Christmas market in Des Moines was another major success this year. Shaun, Julie, and Tami ran the hut over the weekend and Sarah McDonald volunteered to help on Friday. We loaded up a 15-foot uHaul with as much product as we could, built more displays to be used outside, and sampled about 500 servings of gløgg. The weather was unseasonably warm and people came out in droves. Between 11am and 9pm on both Friday and Saturday, there wasn't even a moment to step away from the register.

We knew going in that it was going to be a very busy four days, but we didn't expect this. Last year we grossed over \$26,000 in sales and averaged a transaction about every 2 minutes. This year, we hit \$36,000 and 1,100 transactions in 30 hours of our hut being open. For perspective, that's more revenue than we had in the entire month of June this year, at the peak of Summer travel. To go through that much product in a short time is exhausting work and we're thankful to have the staff on hand willing to make that possible. Additionally, and this should come as no surprise, we are looking to have 2 to 3 additional people with us next year to help. As fun as this festival is, we found the limit for what 3 people can do to manage something like this. It continues to grow every year and we are already looking forward to next year.

What's even more impressive between our recent successes during both Julefest and Christkindlmarket is how we managed to achieve so much with what we had. As those following along already know, our Denmark shipment was delayed significantly this year. It's the first year we hadn't received our goods by Thanksgiving, and the bulk of it didn't even arrive by Christmas. Much of what we ordered had been intended for these events specifically, and while it is a little disappointing to have to shelve these items for next year, we can't help but be excited at the results regardless.

And yes, our shipment is finally here. It arrived in three parts and in a manner we hope to never repeat again. First, when we placed our orders in September, our Danish suppliers had not yet

received all of their goods yet themselves from the manufacturers. This meant we would have to plan for a secondary shipment in late-October / early-November by air. The *typical* time for an air shipment is 1-2 weeks, so that wouldn't be an issue. It would arrive by the second week in November and we would be fine... but that's not what happened.

Our sea shipment arrived in Chicago on November 3rd where it remained detained by US Customs for nearly 2 months while we waited for each Danish supplier to come up with the appropriate paperwork for the special exam that was to take place.

In the meantime, coordinating the air shipment also took longer than expected. The goods arrived later than initially planned and coordinating with businesses 7 hours ahead is difficult itself without factoring in how busy these companies are during the holiday season. Beyond these reasons, and we still aren't sure as to why, our air shipment was delayed by an additional month, and we didn't receive these goods until 6:30 AM on Christmas Eve.

The second Christmas miracle occurred when we received word on Christmas Eve that Customs had released our main shipment. 12 pallets arrived at the windmill on Friday from a driver that didn't know where the windmill. He also didn't have a pallet jack. Shaun was able to push 11 of the pallets to the back of the truck where Julie and Jo, as well as Cloid Farley and Andy Anderson, were ready to carry boxes inside.

And finally, the last of our shipment arrived last Monday: an 11-pound box of vimpels that our exporter sent by sea, by itself, by accident. In case anyone is wondering, it costs approximately \$1,000 to ship a singular 18 x 12 x 12 box from Denmark to the US by sea. Thankfully we were able to have most of that waived due to the shipper's error(s).

As we write this, there are towers of boxes in all directions. The shipment arrived just as we start our annual inventory count, so it is taking longer to get everything unpacked. It's a long process, but we will get there. Plenty of our new stuff has already been added to the store and we encourage everyone to stop down sometime to see it all for themselves.

Finally, our annual meeting is coming up. This event is completely free to attend and will feature a presentation by Shaun on the state of the organization, notable events of 2024, and plans for 2025 and beyond. We'll have two new board members to elect or re-elect, and there will be smørrebrød to snack on, too. This is a great way to learn about our membership program, volunteering opportunities, and more. Come join us for the evening and learn more about what we do and the help we need to make 2025 an even better year.

ELK HORN LIBRARY LANTERN

Shining the light on what is going on at your library!



Welcome to 2025 at the Elk Horn Public Library! We have lots of plans for January through May and look forward to providing for our communities!

Thank-you to our Christmas Decoration providers. We were able to provide a special atmosphere in the library for all to enjoy. Margo Larsen set a goal for 2024 to read 20,000 pages. She met her goal having read 60 books and 20,040 pages before the end of 2024, she's already starting on her next 20,000! We would love to help everyone work on meeting their own reading goals. Let us know how we can help!

Our Beyond the Book Club selection is "The Midnight Library" by Matt Haig. We will be discussing it January 16th at 6:30. Plan on stopping in to get a book or a set of CD's.

Here is our January and early February schedule:

- January 6-Nature Nook w/ Mountains
- January 11-Enchanted Bookworms for Preschoolers and Toddlers 10 am
- January 13 – Nature Nook w/Animals in Winter

- January 15-Bee a Disney Character and Make Ice Cream
- January 15-Brainfreeze for Teens
- January 15-Disney Trivia Night at the Pub-sign-up by January 9th
- January 16-Beyond the Book Club
- January 20-Nature Nook w/Snow and Ice
- January 20-Outlook Study Club
- January 22-Community Coffee Club 9am
- January 23-Family Game Night and Chili Cook-off 6:00
- January 25-Enchanted Bookworms for Preschoolers and Toddlers 10 am
- January 27-Nature Nook w/Shadows
- January 29-Maker Space
- February 3-Nature Nook w/Nocturnal Animals
- February 5-Bee a Valentine and Crafts
- February 10-Nature Nook w/Maple Sugaring
- February 12-Lincoln Dinner at 6:00
- February 17-Wii Bowling 10-12 Wii Tennis 2-4
- February 20-Your Life As Story-Preview for a Writer's Retreat with Anna Redsand
- We have several new books and DVD's! Stop in and join in the fun!

We look forward to serve you!

Danish Windmill's

ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, January 27 | 7:00 PM

Elk Horn Town Hall

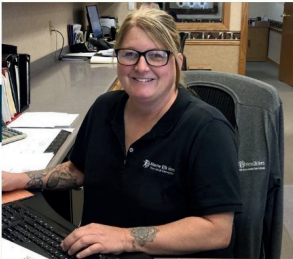
Featuring presentation by Shaun Sayres on everything that happened at the mill in 2024 and future plans for 2025, board member elections, and membership drive.

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PRAIRIE ROOTS RUN DEEP , Pt. 5

Warren Watson

In an Elk Horn Review newspaper article dated April 24th, 1947, there appears a story concerning an attempt to rid the town of Elk Horn of rats. An intensive 7-day campaign to rid Elk Horn of rats was to take place. Three battalions of high school boys were enrolled in the campaign with Donald Wiges, George Bramer and Kirk Hansen as leaders. All other able-bodied men of the village were invited to join in the biggest rat hunt ever staged in Elk Horn. Modern and primitive weapons of warfare would be used. Clubs, spades, and tomahawks would be wielded. All dogs were wanted; gas would be used. Cash prizes were to be given to boys bringing in the most rats. The next issue of the newspaper contained a terse announcement that the campaign was only moderately successful, as no Cyanogas was available. If one Googles “Cyanogas” it is quite apparent that today’s EPA would not approve. Old-timers in Elk Horn may have hidden the gas from the boys. Cyanogas in the hands of high school boys may have rid the town of residents rather than the intended rat population.

Native American activity in Clay Township is quite evident. No trace of permanent or semi-permanent sites have been uncovered, however. The above-mentioned boulder north of the Interstate 80 holds a clue. Local legend relates that a bowl-shaped depression in the top of the rock was used by Native Americans to grind seeds and grains. Even today it could easily facilitate that task. Original government land surveys of Shelby County containing plats and field notes

SCRATCHES FROM A RUSTY QUILL

Wava Petersen

Happy New Year from my rusty quill. Does anyone still make New Year’s resolutions? I gave up on that many years ago. How can a dedicated chocolate lover give up homemade chocolate brownies with fudge frosting or, for that matter, anything else chocolate? And then there is the matter of the five pounds gained through the holidays. Bad, bad woman! None of my resolutions ever lasted over a week so why bother making them.By the end of the first week, I’ve forgotten anything else I vowed to do.

What about New Years Eve? Mine are pretty low-key compared to those of long, long ago. The earliest celebrations date back to around 2000 BC in Mesopotamia. Babylonians celebrated the new year, called Akita with an eleven-day festival that included rituals, coronation of a new king and promises to be good. Those promises included paying of debts, returning borrowed farm equipment, etc.This was done after the first new moon after the vernal equinox, Pope Gregory revised a calendar establishing January 1st as New Years Day in 1585. It symbolizes a fresh start.

Tradition says you shouldn’t wash your dishes or clean your house on New Years Day lest you accidentally wash or sweep away your good luck. I could handle that one except that I don’t like dirty dishes in the sink. Romans considered it good luck to toss a coin in the river on New Years Day. We spent one New Years Eve with family in Texas near the Mexican border. It was customary there to set off firecrackers to celebrate the new year and something we had never before experienced.

According to Google, a unique custom in Denmark is the tradition of smashing plates against friends and neighbors’ door on New Years Eve symbolizing leaving any negativity behind and welcoming a new start, the more broken at your door the better luck you’ll have. Boiled codfish is a traditional food on a Danish New Years Day menu along with other seafoods.

When I was just a gullible kid my mother used to tell us that on the stroke of midnight when the new year began, all the farm animals celebrated by talking to each other like humans. (I think she got that one from Grandpa Johnson.) One year we decided to set an alarm clock for a little before midnight, get our coats on and go out to the barn and see this magical event for ourselves.I’m pretty sure Mom turned the alarm off after we were sound asleep in our beds. So I’ll probably never know whether or not the animals have a party when the clock strikes twelve on New Years Eve.

My celebrations are pretty low-key now. I just sink into my recliner, turn on the TV and promptly fall asleep. When I wake up several hours later the ball has dropped, the new year is well underway. Too late now to watch the animals party. So I toddle off to bed. Maybe next year...or the year after!.

Whatever your customs or traditions, Hav et godt nytar!

denote Indian trails in the eastern part of the county. In a letter to Shelby County historian E.S. White, General Grenville Dodge shared the following story from a railroad surveying expedition in 1853. “Just after I got near to Indian Creek, I struck some Indians who were coming from the south and had packs. I afterwards understood they had been down to the settlement stealing pigs and carrying them north. They thought I was a settler after them, and were as greatly frightened as I. We both of us got out in a hurry. There were Indian trails north and south up Indian Creek and up the East Botna (Nishnabotna River). It is possible up the West Botna. But on the East Botna and Indian Creek they were plain.” It is very likely the Native American trails were former buffalo trails. They would follow the ridges and streams. Buffalo preferred the ridges due to winds keeping flying insects to a minimum. An early settler Lawrence Nelson remembered as a boy at home southwest of Elk Horn, seeing the smoke from an Indian camp on the hilltop of Elk Horn Grove.

IT’S ONLY SCIENCE

Bob Mortenson

Let’s look at some early scientific methods and discover some things about the Danish Villages. It is very fitting that we have a location known as Creamery Hill. The dairy industry was brought to the United States by immigrants.

The first dairy cattle were imported by the Dutch immigrants starting in 1621. Holsteins, Jersey, and Guernsey cattle arrived between 1840 and 1852. But the dairy industry was still in its infancy. From 1880 to 1900 was when the largest immigration of Danes came to this new nation. And they brought some important advances to dairy farmers and creameries.

The dairy men were paid for their milk by how much it weighed. There were no reliable tests of milk quality available at first. The tests that were in use could produce widely different results even when evaluating the same batch of milk. So perhaps if there was still some water left in the milk can when it was filled with milk, well that did add some weight and worth. In 1890 the Babcock test was developed which gave consistent results for the quality of the product. This changed how the dairy man was paid for his product. Price was set by the quality of the milk not just the weight. It was said that the Babcock test produced more honest dairy men than the Bible.

Denmark in the late 1800’s had more technologically-advanced dairies than existed in the US. They had steam powered centrifuges that allowed them to produce larger quantities of

YES, THERE IS GOOD NEWS!

Bill Rollins

“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.” (Matt. 6:9) This is one of the most well-known scriptures in the bible; recited daily by many and it is the beginning to what we know as ‘The Lord’s Prayer’ or ‘The Our Father’.

In our previous article we took a precursory look at the name of God and its implications. In this familiar prayer we see that the one who recites it makes the claim that God’s name is to be hallowed; in other words to be respected as holy. This is a very important concept to notice because many times we say this phrase (and the entirety of the prayer) as only something to be spoken by rote. (In past articles I have covered the subject of the importance of the words of this prayer.My subject here, however, is to explore the fact that God has a name and it is a holy name).

“Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him; sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! (1 Chronicles 16:8-10) This beautiful Psalm was written by King David. God found it so special that it has a place in two separate scriptures in the bible; here in 1 Chronicles 16 and also in Psalm 105:1-3. We are told in 1 Chronicles 16:7 that it is a Psalm of thanks to the LORD.

“Call upon his name”, David encourages us to call upon the name of God! The occasion for

By the middle of the 1800s most permanent Native American villages were along the Missouri River with the majority on the western bank. The Potawatomi had been removed from the Kanesville area to Kansas Territory. Various accounts of native activity during this time along Indian Creek probably involved visits for the purpose of hunting. The Omaha tribe from eastern Nebraska were known to hunt and roam in western Iowa. The Dakota would range far south into southern Iowa to harass other Indians and whites. I found in an old cattle shed ¼ miles west from Indian Creek in Clay Township two ancient stone Native American tools. There is little doubt as to the origin of how Indian Creek received its name.

To be continued...

milk and even more importantly the farmers had formed cooperatives allowing them to share vital information with one another. The influence of the Danish arriving produced many new dairies and creameries where they settled. The Danes kept detailed records of how each individual cow performed. This allowed them to remove the poorest performing animals from their herd. Only having the best performers allowed them to produce the best feed to milk ratio improving their bottom line. And they realized that tracking only the females was only looking at half of the possible means of improvement.

So how could they evaluate the Bulls? They stared to track the “daughter-dam” statistics. Did the daughter gain improvement over the dam’s (mother) statistics from being bred by this bull? Or did the results not show any beneficial changes? Or did this breeding produce any problems in the offspring? By this method they could track how effective this animal was in improving the performance of his offspring. This process became known as proving a bull.

The very success of this method lead the remainder of the cattle industry to realize that this methodof tracking the daughter-dam information could be used in improving the quality of their cattle. Looking at feed to weight gain, marbling of the meat, etc.

We should be proud of the contributions that sprang from these early scientific methods. And we should not forget those that our villages draw their names from.

writing this Psalm has to do with moving the Ark of God to the city of Jerusalem. David desired, with all his heart, to give thanks to God for being given this opportunity. The entire story is told in 1 Chronicles 15.

It is a fascinating story; an amazing celebration, with God’s ministers, (i.e., the Levites), the priests of God, a whole chorus of singers and an entire orchestra. All of the elders of Israel came to this event along with the military commanders and their men. This scripture tells us that all Israel was invited to the occasion. David himself was awe struck by idea that the arc of the covenant of God would now be dwelling in Jerusalem and he, the king, would be living nearby!! My purpose here is not to consider the arc of the covenant, but to look at David’s reverence of His name.

“Glory in His holy name” here David tells us to glorify this most holy name of God.In another Psalm David write this, “Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.” (Psalms 29:1-2)Here David asks the angels (heavenly beings) to “Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name.”

In days long since passed, Rabbinical Jews thought the name of God too holy to speak and so today most translators follow their lead and actually hide His name behind the word ‘LORD’ (note that LORD when used for His name has all capital letters). Next time let’s consider the third commandment; “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. (Exodus 20:7)