

DAILY GRIND



NEWS FROM THE MILL

Shaun Sayres

Please allow us to introduce our newest publication, the *Daily Grind*. With *Rolling Hills Community News* on hiatus, we are stepping in to ensure the Danish Villages have the local news source it deserves. There are too many people to thank for helping us make this possible, and rest assured we will try to keep this going as long as we can. We hope readers share our excitement for it, and that a new newspaper may soon emerge.

It hardly seems real that Summer is on its way out. The windmill, like tourism attractions around the state, suffered a downturn in visitors this year. Insiders speculate this is mostly do to the chaotic and extreme weather patterns throughout the state that has left many Iowa towns limping along. We're thankful that the Danish Villages, and the windmill itself, have largely avoided these unprecedented storms. We're also thankful that despite the lack of visitor traffic, gift shop sales continue to climb.

In other news, Shaun made a return trip to Denmark in August. While at Formland he negotiated orders with our two largest Danish souvenir suppliers, Det Gamle Apotek and Godtbergsen's, along with a number of other Danish companies. While many of these orders can be done by email in this day and age, it always helps to meet face-to-face and see new products, and you never know what new companies you might come across. This time, Shaun met with business reps from IB Laursen, a company that we haven't bought from in about 10 years. He also had the opportunity to sample a new flavor of Dansk Mjød, our mead from Billund, coming to the US next year and we will do everything we can to convince our distributor to pick it up because it is delicious. We're still in the process of organizing the container shipment and can't wait for everyone to see what we have coming.

Shaun also had the opportunity to have dinner with Morten Petersen and Erik Batenburg in Ribe. They talked about Møllebygger Petersen's progress with the institute they are developing to

With *Rolling Hills Community News* on an indefinite hiatus, we at the windmill echo the sentiment of our community that we need a local news source. We appreciate all that Steve, Dusty, and the rest of the RHCN team have done for our community and we hope another group might soon pick up the torch. In the meantime, we are offering this new, limited format as a means to share community news and happenings.

Please note this is not RHCN. Our organization does not have the capacity in staff, time, or resources, to produce a full newspaper, but we are more than willing to keep this going until a newspaper returns. It will be produced once a month and will feature some of your favorite RHCN content in addition to some new contributors. Finally, thank you to Kringleman Pastries and Farmhouse Quilting for helping us sponsor this inaugural issue, and Harlan Publishing for printing it.

train a new generation of millwrights as well as upcoming plans for our windmill when Morten and Erik arrive in October. We're very excited to have them here to help repair our windmill and ensure its safety going forward. Please don't forget that we are still fundraising for this project. It will be costly, but it ensures we get the repairs we need and will help us maintain the windmill going forward. We need all of the community support we can get to make this happen and ensure we can keep the lights on next year.

As we transition into Fall, several new items are in the store including some nice decorations from the Danish felt company, Gry & Sif. Our licorice has been restocked and back again is Wilson's Orchard Apple Cider Donut hard cider. We've also brought in new long-sleeve tees for the changing weather and don't forget we have hoodies, too. Don't forget to check out our new windmill puzzle either!

Finally, we want to acknowledge the departure of Elk Horn's own Alissa LaCanne from her position with the Museum of Danish America. Alissa has moved on to teaching and we wish her the best on her new journey. We also want to recognize her unparalleled service to our community. Her devotion to the development of fun and innovative youth programs coupled with her vested interest in showcasing local history will be irreplaceable. We have no doubt she will excel in her new position, but we are saddened to see her move on in a professional capacity. Her energy, drive, and passion will be sorely missed.

ELK HORN LIBRARY LANTERN

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



Hello Friends!

I'm delighted to introduce myself as the new children's librarian at the Elk Horn Public Library. My name is Julia Hawks, and my family and I have been proud residents of this wonderful community for the past three years. We made the move from Omaha to a charming acreage north of Kimballton, transitioning from the hustle and bustle of city life to the peaceful embrace of country living.

Since our arrival, the Elk Horn Public Library has been our gateway to connecting with the community. We've found a warm and welcoming home here, and it has been a joy to explore all that this beautiful part of Iowa has to offer. I am incredibly excited to now contribute to this vibrant space as the children's librarian.

In my role, I am looking forward to engaging with the children and families in our area. I am eager to create enjoyable and enriching experiences through our library programs and to foster a love for reading and learning among our young patrons.

Thank you for the warm welcome we've received so far. I can't wait to get to know you all better and to share many memorable moments with our community's children. If you see me at the library or around town, please feel free to introduce yourself—I'd love to meet you!

Julia Hawks

In September we have the following programs: Early out Wednesdays we have a 3 – 6 grade program and Brainfreeze for teens:

Brainfreeze: Join us for brainstorming and frosty treats! This is an opportunity to come up with creative projects, events, or activities you're passionate about and see them come to life at the library. Your ideas could shape what happens at the library, from new book clubs and game nights to community service projects or art displays.

Be a Trendsetter: Influence what's popular and cool in the library.

Showcase Your Talents: Use your skills and ideas to create something amazing.

Every Monday is The Nature Nook for K-3 graders.

On the non-early out Wednesdays is Reading Rainbow with Donna McClain.

Beyond the Book Club is at 6:30 on September 5th, **Outlook Study Club** is 6:00 on the 16th and **Cookbook Club** is 6:00 on the 19th with Zucchini Recipes- bring a sample and the recipe.

We are adding a coffee time once a month at 9:00 am on the 25th.

We can't wait to serve you!

The Elk Horn Library Team

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YES, THERE IS GOOD NEWS!

Bill Rollins

In our previous format, I prematurely gave a “goodbye” message. God had a different idea. And so here we are striving to do God’s will in written format. Thank you, Shaun, for picking up the ball in this matter!

As I read over the previous article, there was one phrase that caught my attention; “Please remember this, God is building a family!” It is important to understand this because the idea of a family was in God’s original plans for humanity. We may get distracted in this endeavor as we look around our society and detect a desire to undermine God’s will.

Many men and women are living together and having children without walking within the framework of a marriage covenant as God originally intended. Some folks are throwing off the shackles (as they see it) of a binary gender system as God originally created it.

Many are treating the concept of divorce and remarriage as a consumer endeavor: i.e. if you are not satisfied with your TV, just get rid of it and get a new one. I believe we have lost our bearings in this society.

In Isaiah 32:17, it is stated, “The fruit of righteousness will be Peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and trust forever.” There does not seem to be very much peace in our world today. Whether it’s in our day-to-day societal events, in our strange political culture, in our big cities overrun with aliens who have not gone through the proper legal entry process or in the whole wide world around us, we do not see the righteous attitude that makes for peace.

Simply said, “No righteousness, no peace!” But hey, let’s go back to the starting point: God is building a family. And how should that family be perceived? Well, what do we know about our God? First things first – God is a HOLY God!

And who should know about the holiness of God better than those who dwell with Him – His angels. Going back a several chapters in the book of Isaiah let us see how these angels address the God of all the universe: chapter 6 verse 3, “And they (the angels) were calling to one another: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is filled with His glory.’”

In the book of Revelation we read this, “Day and night they (the living creatures around God’s throne) never rest saying: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.’” A little later in this same book we read that the twenty-four elders “Fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

Yes, He is a holy God and our society does not know Him! Do you?

IT’S ONLY SCIENCE

Bob Mortenson

Medical schools are beginning to include specialized courses concerning the effects of global warming. They are concerned about the fact that many of the geographic norms no longer apply.

Doctors in the past based the diagnosis partly on what could be expected for diseases within a geographical area. When a patient presented with a certain set of symptoms they would expect the diagnosis to be one of the usual suspects. They would inquire about any travels the patient has made outside of the local area. And if the patients had travels to an area climate different than the local area they would consider a wider range of possibilities.

With global warming allowing some organisms to survive in an expanded area, they need to be aware of a wider range of potential diseases. Sometimes it is because a carrier of a once tropical disease can now survive our milder winters. Or certain water borne organism are now able to survive in our warmer seasonal temperatures.

Another factor the medical schools are considering is just how much global travel occurs every day. This means that while their patient may not have traveled to another area, they may have been in close contact with someone else who has visited an area where a disease is prevalent.

As more studies are conducted about this, scientists may change their recommendations of which vaccines should be in our yearly vaccinations.

SCRATCHES FROM A RUSTY QUILL

Wava Petersen

Hello again! Thanks to Shaun, the guy who keeps the windmill running smoothly, Rolling Hills newspaper is being resurrected, though in a shorter, more compact version. I’m sure he would appreciate any help you can offer to make it a success. And I will sharpen up my rusty old quill and try to be a little less wordy in the future. But first, let’s hear a roar of applause honoring Steve and Dusty for the wonderful service they did for the community by providing a home-town newspaper. I have personally received calls and letters from all over the USA, plus numerous casual comments from local folks letting me know how much they appreciated the community newspaper. They say it takes a village to raise a child, but it also takes a rural community to publish a local newspaper.

Schools are in session again. How exciting the first day of a new school year must be for kindergarten teachers when the new crop of little scholars arrives to begin formal education! It isn’t just the children who get an education; we adults can gain a lot of knowledge by listening to a child’s blunt take on life. Art Linkletter was a radio personality who interviewed little kids on his show. In

THE STORY OF A MAIL ORDER BRIDE

Wanda Sornson

Wanda Sornson is a resident research specialist for the Museum of Danish America’s Genealogy and Education Center. Through years of researching family tree requests, she has uncovered a long list of interesting and unusual anecdotes, like the one below.

When we think of mail-order brides, we usually think of the Old West.This seemed to be a phenomenon of the 19th century in America. The Louisiana Purchase in 1803 nearly doubled the size of the United States.More land was added as a result of the Indian wars as Native Americans were shoved off their lands. These lands became available for settlement, and married men could often get twice the amount of land as single men. The number of men in the West could outnumber women 2 to 1. In California in 1859, a newspaper reported that men outnumbered women by 200 to 1.It seems logical that in order to remedy that problem, it would be necessary to import women. The women were not really “bought” as the term “mail-order bride” suggests, but rather were provided their travel expenses. Very often a couple had corresponded before arranging to get married.

In genealogy we find instances of a male immigrant writing home to Denmark to find a wife. It could be someone he knew previously, someone his family or friends knew, or just an advertisement in a flyer that was circulated advertising a new life in America. The thought of owning their own land was an enticement for immigrants; and the thoughts of a woman to marry a man who owned land could be an enticement for the woman! Of course, they

PLOTTING THE PAST: JENS JOHANSEN, 1842-1900

Warren Watson

Snippets from Warren Watson’s extensive research into the burial plots of the Elk Horn Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Rasmus Hansen was born in 1841 in Denmark. He witnessed his share of tragedy. His father died when he was 15 and he cared for his mother during her fight with tuberculosis. Tuberculosis was called “consumption” during this time. His father, mother, his sisters, and all but one brother died from consumption. Rasmus’ first two wives and a baby daughter would also die of the same disease over a short space of years in America.

He served with the Danish Marines during the 2nd Schleswig War of 1864. One family story suggests he left Denmark to avoid being conscripted a second time. He immigrated to America in 1866 with his surviving brother, first settling in Moline, IL. Here he married his third wife in 1874. He worked in Moline beating out plow shares on an anvil for John Deere. They

1962 he published a book titled Kids Sure Rite Funny filled with gems he learned from kids. I’d like to share a few:

(Use the word assume in a sentence.) I would just assume be grown as like I am. ** I have never seen a cowbird so I don’t know which half is which. ** GULLIBLE was the traveler. ** HAMLET was a small pig made famous by Shakespeare. ** The Puritans came to this country so they could enjoy freedom of persecution. ** In the winter, if the pioneers found any sugar-maple trees, they would send somebody out in the cold to get his. Then they would get the sap and boil him in syrup and sugar. I know this sounds cruel, but times were hard then. ** It used to be thought that we had 48 states in America. Then someone counted again and there was 50.

That is just a sample from the book. Now, I’ll close this out with one of our family gems: It was a birthday party and, as customary, the older ladies sat in a circle around the living room visiting. Four-year-old Timmie, our great-niece, climbed up on her great-great aunt’s lap. Aunt Elma was blessed with many deep wrinkles and Timmie entertained herself by tracing over each wrinkle with her finger. Suddenly she stopped, and with a concerned look, blurted out, “Aunt Elma, you forgot to iron your face before you came.” Yes, as Art Linkletter remarked, “Kids do say the darndest things.”

probably never guessed about the amount of hard, physical labor it would take to establish a homestead!

One such woman was Katherine “Kate” Jensen

Lindvig. She was born 8 April 1864 in Sønder Borris Parish, Ringkøbing County. Her parents were Jens Jensen and Else Fuglede living in Lindvig. She was one of nine children. The name given to her at birth was Johanne Kathrine Jensen, and that was the name under which she immigrated in 1886. She was commissioned as a ‘catalog bride’ for a man in Nebraska and so she left for her new life in the United States.

Unfortunately for this unlucky patron, mail-order brides also had minds of their own, and upon meeting her husband-to-be, Katherine had second thoughts. She quickly moved on from Nebraska to try her luck further west. Settling in Colorado she was known by the name of Catherine Jensen Lindvig,Jensen being such a common name probably led her to assume the name of Lindvig which was the place where she had been born. She settled in Aspen, Colorado, and worked as a cook. Later she eventually opened her own boarding house. She received a homestead in Snowmass Creek when the owner could not pay and then also homesteaded another property.The Bureau of Land Management has records of one purchase of 160 acres and another of 206.08 acres, but she had 640 acres when she named her property Snowmass Falls Ranch. She was referred to as “The cattle queen of Snowmass Creek Valley, Aspen, Colorado.”

In the 1940 U.S. Federal Census, Catherine was living with her nephew.She had leased her land to her niece.She later moved to San Diego, California, where she died at the age of 92. Catherine Jensen Lindvig never did marry!

moved to Atlantic in 1875 and soon after to the undeveloped community of Elk Horn. It was referred to as the Indian Creek community at the time. Much of present-day Elk Horn stands on the old Hansen homestead.

The couple would have 15 children... 3 dying as infants. Rasmus attended the Elk Horn Folk School during the Winter, but he was pretty much self-educated. As new immigrants found their way to the area, Rasmus would ride out his pony and help them to build a 10x10 shanty. He operated a grocery and department store. He was an early postmaster (postmasters would serve the public out of their own businesses). From its conception in 1886, Rasmus was president of Danish Mutual until 1923.

Rasmus’s son, Alfred, wrote that he and his father discussed German grammar and also that Rasmus had attended a school in Berlin, Germany. Presently, there is nothing to document this interesting story. Adding to the mystery are the comments by P.S. Vig that Rasmus had an interest in the writing of the German philosopher and hymn writer, Friederich Funcke.