

TENNIS ANYONE ?

It's easy to social distance.



Photo from DCHS Collection

Grantham Tennis Courts c1920 – These courts were located in the backyard of the Grantham House at 101 West 15th Street in Lexington. The house is just off the photo to the right. Washington Street is the street just behind the courts so the photo is taken looking east northeast. The big white house in the background is at 16th & Grant Streets.

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WORKING WHILE DISTANCING

BY CRYSTAL WERGER

I have to admit these months of quarantine have been really good for the museum. I wasn't sure what to expect or how things would work, but now looking back I'm quite pleased with what we've accomplished. Goals we set back in January are irrelevant and plans for Fall 2020 are in constant revision, but I'm excited about behind-the-scenes progress we've made and exhibits that are emerging from the COVID-19 months.

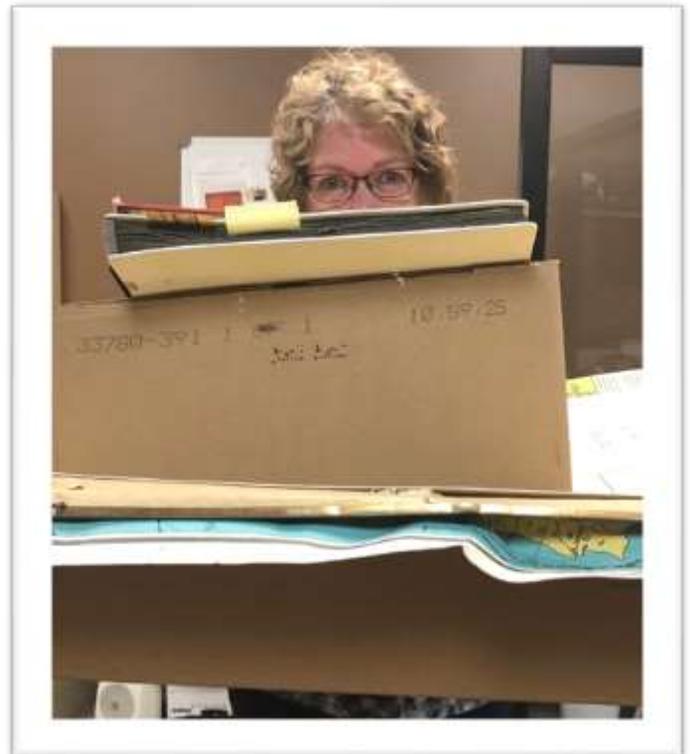
We're devoting this newsletter to updating our members on what we've been doing at the museum and some of the interesting things we've found. It has been a strange couple of months, but it's been fun too. We kept the museum open by appointment only, but since most people were in quarantine, we had few visitors. Occasionally someone would come by to look up something in our archives or drop off a donation, but most days it's been me and one or two others on this big campus.

Volunteer Steve Wolff is dedicated to restoring our stained-glass window. Having him consistently working in the main gallery has been encouraging. It is always interesting to talk with Steve. He is knowledgeable about such a variety of topics! Plus, watching the window take shape has been a fascinating process.

While spending so much time in my office by myself I decided something had to be done with my piles. So, Mary White, a volunteer, and I got to work. I tend to collect things in my office – things that have no obvious home get put in "deal with later" piles. Mary, bless her heart, dove head-first into this project and went through box after box of items that had better places to be than my office. Thank you, Mary! I can actually see my floor now.

Carol diligently updates and expands our obituary files. The Dawson County Historical Society archives has an enormous collection of obituaries. I'm not sure when it began but I am grateful for its presence in our museum and very grateful that Carol takes so much time keeping it going. Not only does she keep up with current obits she also adds old ones as well. Our files are paper and very well organized making them easy to locate when someone needs an obituary to aid in their research. (A good thing to remember the next time you need to find someone that is no longer living. 😊) It's a full-time job for Carol, but that's not all she does! Over the past several months she has been compiling a list of every single board member the Dawson County Historical Society has ever had! Surprisingly, that isn't something that is easy to find, but Carol is a dedicated and hard-working woman and won't stop until every last one is accounted for. We are so lucky to have her!

Cheri, our Display Designer, decided to limit her trips to Dawson County for a while and spent her time at home going through boxes of children's clothing from the museum. She's creating a children's exhibit in the art gallery to show off all the fun things she's been ironing.



Reading old newspapers is one of my favorite things to do here at the museum. Very rarely will you see me looking through a contemporary newspaper but when I get asked to research something or someone, I will drop just about anything I'm doing to get started on it. I love disappearing into the past through words and pictures!

Early in May I was asked to go through old newspapers to find anything related to Lt. Norman Rasmussen, a Lexington native, who was a Bombardier with the 100th Bomber Group. His flying fortress went down over Bassum, Germany returning from a mission to Berlin. Two men were able to escape the aircraft before it exploded and went down in flames. They were later captured and became Prisoners of War. Everyone else perished in the explosion but this was unknown for several years. At the time Lt. Rasmussen was declared Missing in Action. It wasn't until Spring 1951 that Lt. Rasmussen's remains were returned to Lexington and laid to rest in Greenwood Cemetery. More information regarding the 100th Bomber Group can be found on facebook at "Kinda-Ruff B17G 42-38011 Triumph and Tragedy in the Skies".

<https://www.facebook.com/Kinda-Ruff-B17G-42-38011-Triumph-and-Tragedy-in-the-Skies-110602657342559/>



As I've been reading through the 1944-45 newspapers looking for articles relating to Lt. Rasmussen, I have also been keeping my eye on the obituaries to see if there is anyone we need to add to our collection. And well, yes, sometimes I do get distracted with everything that was going on during the time period I'm reading about.

This is one of the interesting things I found in the August 1944 papers.

As I look towards the remainder of 2020, I really don't know how things are going to play out with the museum. But I do know that we will have new exhibits and we still plan to hold our annual Trivia Night fundraiser in November. COVID-19 changed the way society does a lot of things and I know many people feel we are living in very uncertain times but one thing that will remain constant is the Dawson County Historical Museum.

Carl Michel Speaks to Rotarians Here

A very enthusiastic and enjoyable evening, with Carl Michel as guest speaker, was enjoyed by the Rotarians at the Cornland hotel, Wednesday evening, August 9th. Mr. Michel is a graduate of the Hellberg Institute of Swedish Massage and Physical Therapy and is now working with Dr. Wycoff.

He is also a graduate of the Iowa School for the Blind at Vinton, Iowa. His subject was "Friendship" which he gave from braille notes. It was the first time that many of those present ever saw a speaker deliver his message in this fashion. He also told about his dog, how he obtained him and the process of getting acquainted with the dog and the dog with his master. He

says that he has come to like the friendly reception he has received in Lexington and asks that when you see him be sure and exchange greeting. (This, by a touch on the shoulder or a hand shake.)

DR. WYCOFF EMPLOYES BOY WITH EYE SEEING DOG

Carl Michel, masseur, has been recently employed by Dr. Wycoff and will work in his office.

Carl, who gets around with the aid of his seeing eye dog, Andy, was raised in Boone, Iowa and went through the Vinton, Iowa, School for the Blind and Deaf. He graduated from the Kellberg Institute of Massage in Chicago.

"This type of work is beneficial to any community," stated Carl, who is interested in seeing massage work introduced into smaller communities.

History is our job and it is always being created so there always will be something fresh & interesting to look at in our museum.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE BEEN MISSING COFFEE WITH CAROL GAMES

Four Tricky Tongue Twisters!

working memory,
attention to detail,
processing speed

Repeat each tongue twister three times quickly and out loud, without making a mistake.

Greek grapes

Irish wristwatch

Willy's real rear wheel

Crisp crusts crunch and crackle

Stinky Pinky

long-term memory,
executive functioning

Each Stinky Pinky answer contains two words that rhyme. Can you figure out what the answer is from an offbeat definition? For example, the answer to the clue *Mrs. Onassis's tan pants* is *Jackie's khakis*.

1. A science research room for a leggy crustacean
2. A very bad smell in Paris
3. A small fake horse
4. A gloomy father
5. Hilarious currency

Order, Please!

long-term memory,
working memory,
multitasking,
executive functioning

Given a list of three or four items, your job is to rearrange them in the order called for in the question.

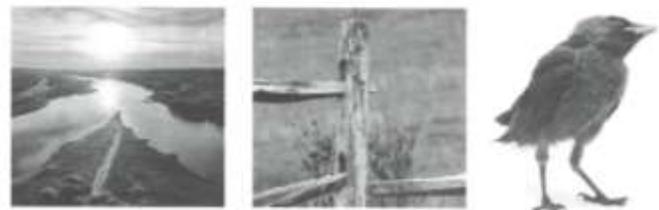
1. Put these structures in order by height, starting with the tallest:
 - ___ Statue of Liberty
 - ___ Golden Gate Bridge
 - ___ Eiffel Tower
2. Put these inventions in order of the year they were invented, starting with the earliest:
 - ___ Elevator
 - ___ Telephone
 - ___ Telescope

Pictures & People

working memory,
multitasking,
executive functioning

By combining one picture and one first name, can you come up with the full names of six famous people? *Note: The spelling may not always be exact, but the pronunciation will always be correct.*

| | | |
|-------|-------|------|
| PETER | EMILY | JOEY |
| AL | LARRY | JOAN |



4TH OF JULY FLAG FROM 1882



Mina (Mullin) Volk told the story of this flag often. It was printed in Lexington newspapers several times over the years. This flag was made by Mina's mother.

In July of 1882 S.C. Mullin, his wife Margaret Morris (Hunt) Mullin, and their 8-yr-old daughter Mina were new to the South Loop community. There was to be a 4th of July picnic at the river. Mrs. Mullin, a cultured and talented lady, formerly of Philadelphia and Washington, DC, felt that an American flag should be on display at the celebration. Upon investigation none was to be found, so Margaret decided to make one. She sat up long past midnight on July 3rd in order to have the flag ready. Made from fabrics that were available that week, the 80"x48" flag is machine and hand stitched together. The stars are appliqued (granted there are a few more stars than there were states at the time) and then trimmed out, so they show white on both sides. The flag proudly flew over the picnic and many celebrations after that. Mina gave it to DCHS in 1962.

This was not the only flag that was part of Margaret Mullin's portfolio. After they moved to Lexington, she designed a Flag Mosaic that was displayed at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893. Margaret, Mina and some of the ladies from the Dawson County Women's Republican Club glued 25,000 corn kernels plus grains of wheat and alfalfa into a flag that was 5'x2' with a frame and glass. Mina described the mosaic as blue sweet corn for the canopy, red & white popcorn for the stars and stripes, yellow corn for the frame, wheat as the background with an alfalfa seed border. The ladies created the flag at the Mullin home and then had a photographer "make a picture" of it before they shipped it to Chicago. When he printed the photo, he did it backwards, so much to their dismay, the ladies' remembrance of it was a flag flying to the left. However, if you attended the Chicago World's Fair that summer, you saw the Dawson County Nebraska exhibit as a perfect flag, flying to the right.

BY CHERI BERGMAN

MUSEUM REOPENING

DCHS Museum will resume Regular Hours 10-4 Tuesday – Saturday

JULY 7, 2020

DID YOU KNOW JENNIE (LANCASTER) NELSON?

She was Edward Nelson's 2nd wife – they married in 1931. Jennie's parents were William & Bertha (Strickler) Lancaster and her paternal grandparents were Edward Jr & Amanda Maranda (Barlow) Lancaster.

Jennie donated several Lancaster items to the museum in the 1960s. She died in 1971.

We're trying to find a connection to Dawson County. They all seemed to be in York County most of their lives, and she & Ed are buried in Beatrice. Can anyone tell us why we have the Lancaster family's items?

Congratulations to DCHS Board Member Courtney (Anthony) Litzenberger & Matt

who were recently married in a ceremony not quite like they had originally planned.

We wish you a wonderful life full of fun surprises!

Last month we came across two other weddings that were not exactly what the couple had been planning.

Mina (Mullin) Volk remembered:

One winter day in the 1880s, a man with his bride-to-be were in a buggy drawn by horses and were trying to cross the Burr Oak Stream. In some way, the horses were frightened, and the buggy overturned, throwing the bride into the stream. Soon her clothes were frozen stiff about her. They took her to the home of Henry & Ida Stuckey where Samuel & Margaret Mullin were also living. The ladies found other clothes for her to put on while they reconditioned her own clothes.

Dr. Burbank was sent for and he checked out the bride.

Then the couple was married . . . the bride wearing Mrs. Mullin's brown dress. Dr. Burbank was a doctor as well as a minister.

Excerpt from Dawson County Pioneer, Sept 30 1899:

Perhaps the most unusual element of the 1899 Street Fair was a public wedding. The management of the Street Fair offered a minister to perform the ceremony and a free set of bedroom furniture. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon on September 28 the public wedding was held. A raised platform had been erected at the corner of Sixth & Washington for the occasion. Some two thousand spectators witnessed the ceremony performed by Judge H.A. Turton who united Eugene Underwood and Carrie Adamson in marriage.

Answer Key to page 4: Puzzles from 299 on-the-go games & puzzles to keep your brain young Nancy Linde

Stinky Pinky: 1. Crab Lab 2. French Stench 3. Phony Pony 4. Sad Dad 5. Funny Money **Order Please:** 1. Eiffel Tower (1063') Golden Gate Bridge (746') Statue of Liberty (305') 2. Telescope (1608) Elevator (1853) Telephone (1876) **Pictures & People:** Peter Graves, Emily Post, Joey Bishop, Al Capp, Larry Bird, Joan Rivers

We are making headway with our Plectron exhibit!

If you worked at Plectron or used their products we would love to get your stories.

Talk to Crystal or send us a story or photo!