

DACOTAH PRAIRIE TIMES

Children's Activity Area to Open February 8, 2011

The entire north side of 2nd floor will be devoted to an exciting learning and creative play area for children and their families. The exhibit will continue through April 8th, with the possibility of continuing long term if visitors are enthusiastic about it.

Families are the first learning community that a child experiences. When families visit a museum, they have the opportunity to share compelling experiences, to watch one another, to reinforce something they already know, or to discover something in a new and personal way.

The first section of the exhibit, the Lamont Gallery, will be transformed into a hands-on art studio complete with berets and artist's smocks. There will



be easels to design on, colored prints of famous masterpieces to see, artists to read about, blocks to build with, looms to weave on, and musical instruments to try. Once the creative juices are flowing for our young visitors, they can visit the Agriculture and Eco-system area. There they can build a sod house, wash on a washboard, gather eggs from the barn, follow the animal and bird tracks to the pond, or sit in the covered wagon and read from "Little House on the Prairie."



The Frontier Town section next door will offer three galleries of town fun. Visitors will shop at a

frontier store, play in a town house with dinner dishes and pioneer clothes, discover hidden pictures in the transportation poster, or move clouds across the endless prairie sky.

These full-body kinesthetic experiences are both an outlet for young energy and a moment to pause and reflect on the similarities between past and present. Discoveries of things from the past can trigger conversation and encourage our young guests and their families to slow down and take a closer look. These activities plant seeds for questions at home where water flows from the tap and milk and eggs come from the store. We at the Museum hope that all parents and grandparents will bring the children they love and share some discovery time together.



DPM Events Calendar

November

- 9 5:30pm DPM Foundation Board
- 10 1:30pm Hamlin Garland Society
- 11 CLOSED for Veterans Day
- 13 2:00pm Genealogical Society
- 17-19 Christmas Tree Lane Set-up
- 23 5:00pm DPM Board
- 25 CLOSED for Thanksgiving
- 30 Downtown Neighbor Open House

December

- 7 Open House for Members
- 14 5:30pm DPM Foundation Board
- 24-25 CLOSED for Christmas
- 28 5:00pm DPM Board

January

- 1 CLOSED New Years Day
- 8 2:00pm Genealogical Society
- 11 5:30pm DPM Foundation Board
- 12 1:30pm Hamlin Garland Society
- 25 5:00pm DPM Board

Featured Exhibits

Landing Gallery

"1970's Home Life"

November 1 - December 30

Lamont Gallery

"Sugar & Spice: A Gingerbread House Extravaganza"

November 10 - December 23

"Memories in the Making: Snow Queen Festival"

January 1 - 31

Dacotah Gallery

Christmas Tree Lane

November 20 - December 30

1970-2010 ~ 40 Years on Main

Ken Vaughan's Family Establishes Memorial Fund to Benefit DPM

Ken Vaughan, an Aberdeen businessman, was instrumental in establishing the Dacotah Prairie Museum and remained one of its most loyal supporters until his death in 2009. Vaughan served on the pilot committee organized in 1964 to discuss the possibility of creating a museum for Brown County. The group, under Vaughan's guidance, drew up bylaws, articles of incorporation, and selected the Dacotah Prairie Museum name in preparation for meetings with community members to promote the museum idea. Enthusiasm for the project grew, and Vaughan was appointed to the site selection committee. He and his committee reviewed several options and ultimately accepted the property at 21 South Main Street, which was offered by Fred Hatterscheidt. The new Dacotah Prairie Museum moved from its temporary home at Anderson Recreation Center (today's Senior Center) to Main Street in June of 1970 and hosted its Grand Opening that fall.

Mr. Vaughan served on DPM's first board of directors and was ultimately appointed a permanent life member of the board. He witnessed the museum's growth from an institution with 2 staff members and 1500 artifacts to one with a staff of 6 and a collection of more than 40,000 items. He also saw the museum budget grow from \$25,000 to \$275,000 and its physical size expand from occupying one floor of its massive home to filling its three floors and basement to capacity. He took an active part in recent discussions regarding DPM's need for more space.

Vaughan firmly believed the success of the museum depended on its continued growth, but he passed away before plans for a capital campaign for expansion could be launched. Upon his death, the Kenneth W. Vaughan Family Trust Fund donated \$50,000 to establish a fund dedicated to the museum expansion project. The family hopes others who share Ken's passion for history and its preservation will add to this fund to help the Dacotah Prairie Museum reach its full potential of public service.

The staff and boards of the DPM share their sincere thanks with the Vaughan family for its generous gift; a founder's vision continues.

Susan Vaughan presents DPM Director Sue Gates a check for \$50,000 on behalf of the Ken Vaughan family.



See this and other Gingerbread Houses in the Lamont Gallery November 10—December 23.

"Curator's Cottage" created by Sherri & Sue



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Artifact Spotlight

The Victorian Charm String

In the mid 1800s it was popular for young girls to collect buttons and create a charm string. Friends exchanged buttons and families shared treasures found in grandmother's button box in an attempt to build a string of 1000 different buttons. According to legend, when a young girl found and attached button number 1000 to her string, she would meet her Prince Charming soon after.

Rules for creating a charm string stated buttons were to be one-of-a-kind and be the most beautiful and brilliant available. While being created, the charm string was kept out for viewing to encourage visitors to contribute more buttons. Buttons sometimes represented important events in the life of a family being taken from articles of clothing worn on special occasions such as baptisms or weddings. Because of that complete charm strings are seldom found today. Family members dismantled them to capture and share the mementoes with another generation, or button collectors cut them up to take specific buttons.



This charm string was created by early Aberdeen resident Mrs. T.C. Gage and her sister between 1860 & 1870. It does include more than 1000 buttons, no two alike.



CHRISTMAS TREE LANE 2010

Please call and reserve your spot for Christmas Tree Lane. There are still a few spots available. Trees must be set up on November 17, 18 or 19 during business hours. Decorating instructions can be found on the museum website at www.dacotahprairiemuseum.com.

*Remember the Museum
Mercantile when you are
looking for your special
Holiday ornaments &
presents!*

Four Decades of Fun—A Night with the Museum

On October 2 the DPM turned back time to celebrate the past 40 years with food, fun, music, and fashion from the past four decades. The Ward Hotel Crystal Ballroom was the site of this fundraising event that drew people of all ages. DJs Rob Brandner and Jay Dean kept everyone entertained with music and trivia from the period. DPM provided vignettes for each decade featuring items popular at that time. The food was also reflective of the past—some attendees even enjoyed drinking a TAB with their fondue! Thanks to everyone who supported this event in any way. Funds raised will be used for upcoming exhibits. Plans are being made to host another “themed” party in 2011.



Dancin' to the Oldies

A Couple of Hippies



Playing Atari



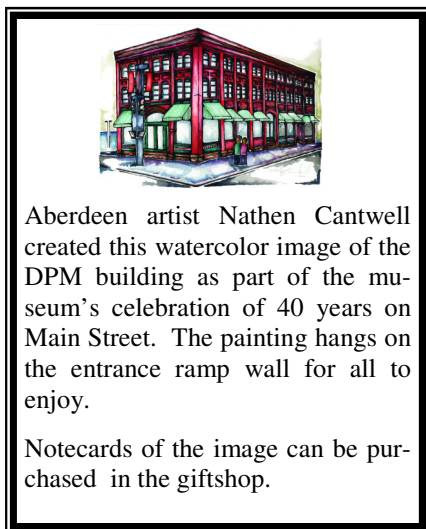
Doing the Macarena

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Second Aberdeen Ornament Unveiled



The Dacotah Prairie Museum has created a second Christmas ornament featuring a collage of Aberdeen's four railroad depots. The ornament will be available for purchase in the museum gift shop beginning Wednesday, December 8. The cost will be \$12.95 with all proceeds going to the DPM projects.

The 2009 ornament featuring local landmarks is still available as well if you missed purchasing one last year.

Both ornaments can be purchased online after December 8th at www.dacotahprairiemuseum.com and shipped within the U.S. in time for holiday giving.