



Fall 2005  
Newsletter  
Danish Heritage Preservation Society  
P.O. Box 386  
Danevang, TX 77432-0386



## HEB Grant Brings Hans Christian Andersen to Life for Area School Children

The team of Laird and Winnie Engle has brought their presentations concerning the life and world famous literature of H. C. Andersen to a number of south Texas school districts. These programs have been given in Bay City, El Campo, Edna, Inez, and Sheridan schools and for community groups. Several more programs are scheduled for the remainder of this bi-centennial year celebration of the author's birth.

The program usually begins with a short version of Andersen's life story: the dire poverty of his childhood; his youthful dreams, difficulties, education and adventures; and his achievements as an author.



The Engles tell or dramatize such stories as:

- The Swineherd
- The Shepherdess and the Chimney Sweep
- The Ugly Duckling
- The Emperor's New Clothes
- What the Old Man Does is Always Right
- The Fir Tree

The Engles have included audience participation in some of the stories, which the students especially enjoy.



As part of the H.E.B. Grant, each school library receives H. C. Andersen books. This most successful educational outreach program has been generously funded by the HEB Foundation. The Heritage Society has many more ideas and hopefully opportunities for educational outreach.



## Newsletter

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By Danish Heritage  
Preservation Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 386  
Danevang TX 77432-0386  
(a non-profit 501(c)(3) entity)

Available through Annual Membership, June to June  
Annual Meeting is held in conjunction with  
GrundlovsDag Celebration, first Saturday in June.

## Board of Directors:

Terms Expiring June 2008

Dean Hansen-Danevang TX	979-578-0900
Darryl Petersen-Danevang TX	979-543-1047
Ramona Lesak-El Campo TX	979-543-6703
Kermit Westerholm-Seguin TX	830-379-1219
Floyd Wind-Wharton TX	979-532-2740
Irvin Wind (President)-Danevang TX	979-543-3332

Terms Expiring June 2007

Kenny Christensen (Treasurer)-Danevang TX	979-543-6586
Sherry Green (Vice-President)-Austin TX	512-346-9717
Bridget Jensen -Houston TX	713-524-2328
Larry Jensen -Katy TX	281-391-7794
Helena Lauritsen (Historian)-Danevang TX	979-543-2052
Carl Lester Wind (Secretary)-Alvin TX	281-331-0812

Terms Expiring June, 2006

Elvin Berndt-Danevang TX	979-543-7997
Marilyn Chappell- Danevang TX	979-543-4030
Mickey Christensen (Ch. Emeritus)-Danevang TX	979-543-2106
James Petersen-El Campo TX	979-543-9403
Marilyn Henderson -El Campo TX	979-543-3457

## EX OFFICIO

Rev. Laird Engle-El Campo TX	979-578-0292
Maj. Gen. Homer Smith Ret. (Ch. Emeritus)- San Antonio TX	210-558-6865

## Committee Chairs:

Building & Grounds	James Petersen & Elvin Berndt
Finance	Kenneth Christensen
Fund Raising	Kermit Westerholm
Gift Shop	Elaine Wind
Museum	Vacant
Publicity	Elsie Christensen
Newsletter Editors:	Bridget Jensen Bridget Jensen Howard

The Heritage Society honors with sadness  
the passing of

Carl Johan Larsen

Faithful worker and loyal member

6-12-1023 ..... 10-27-2005

## LINMEM ORIAM

Bethany Bartosh

Student at Blinn College and

Fourth generation descendant of the Wind

family, early Danevang settlers

## Memorials and Gifts

Due to technical difficulties, we are unable to acknowledge your thoughtful memorial and honorary gifts made to the Society since last summer. We will do so in the Winter edition.

Please note these misspelled names in the last issue and accept the editor's apology:

James and Jean Sralla

Billie Ann and Sean Baumert

## Thank You Message from the Miksiks

There are no words that can truly express how Wesley and I feel. Your presence at our 50th anniversary celebration was the greatest gift of all. Those of you who could not attend but remembered us with gifts and cards have made us feel very honored. All of you have made it a day that we will always remember. There is nothing in the world more precious to us than family, your love and friendship. God's grace is so wonderful. God bless you all for making it a wonderful day. God has truly blessed us.

Darleen and Wesley Miksik.

## Danish Prince is Born

A healthy baby boy (weight: 7.7 pounds, length: 20 inches) was born to Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mary and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Frederik on Saturday 15th October 2005 at 1:57 a.m. at Rigshospitalet in Copenhagen (Copenhagen University Hospital).

## El Campo Christmas Mall

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and December 4<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the El Campo Chamber of Commerce will hold its 15th Annual Christmas Mall at the Civic Center. The DHPS will have a booth to sell items from the gift shop. Volunteers are needed. If you can take a shift, contact Elaine Wind at 979-543-3332.

## Volunteers in Action

When the landfall of Hurricane Rita was predicted for Matagorda Bay and its inland path toward Danevang, loyal volunteers hustled to secure vital records of the museum in the vault and make safe the artifacts in the Pioneer House. Though Rita veered away from the region, a hardworking clean up crew including Elsie Christensen, Darleen Miksik, Myrna Thyssen and Elaine Wind went into action, giving the house a most thorough cleaning before returning the furnishings to display. Don't miss going inside the Pioneer House on your next visit to the Museum as it is now looking better than ever.

Thanks to our hot humid South Texas climate, the Museum building began developing a terrible case of mold on its lovely white exterior. Our faithful volunteer, James Petersen, has now washed down most of the building with a special mold removal and retardant solution. A bright white facade now greets travelers looking over from Highway 71. On the inside, Elvin Berndt has been buying and replacing the light bulbs, some of which are very difficult to reach, and also has been keeping us stocked with cleaning, kitchen and bathroom supplies. Speaking of the bathrooms, go in and notice the lovely new skirts around the sinks. Marilyn Henderson made and donated these decorative touches.

Then there are all the "muscles" that Irvin Wind gathered to help move the "new, old" organ. An initial crew of men placed the organ in the Pioneer House. After consideration of the organ's size in relation to the space, a second crew of men moved it to the Museum, which has a more sufficient display area. Thanks to all who helped with both moves.

Of course, we never cease to thank Martha and Marilyn Chappell for their ongoing work in organizing, cataloging, and caring for our collection. The exciting news in this department is that the new computer is here and we are waiting for the transfer of our data from the original system to the new widely used Past Perfect software for small museums.

## Gift of Antique Organ

A recent addition to the museum's collection is an antique pump organ in good working condition. Though the organ was originally used in a home, the Danevang Pioneer House is too small to include this piece. Thus, the organ is on display and for use in the center section of the Museum Building. In the same display area and also available for use is a vintage piano (ca 1911) originally from the James Peter Olsen family, which came to the museum by way of Louise Olsen Petersen (Mrs. Verner A.).

On a recent Sunday afternoon, church organist Patti Jensen had a real workout playing favorite songs and hymns, delighting museum attendees.



Photo by Carl Wind

## Nygaard Gathering

We hear that there was a gathering of some of the cousins descended from the Hans Nygaard family. The occasion for the gathering was Gunner Thyssen's 75th birthday celebration. In case you don't remember the interesting background of the Nygaard name: it was one changed when Hans Christian came to America. His surname had been Hansen, but he changed it to Nygaard, which means "New Farm."

## Katrina Hits Home for Granly Danes

Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to the families of the Granly Community in Mississippi who were so devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Despite everything, these hearty Danes will hold their Christmas Tree Celebration on December 26. For pictures and reports from the Nygaard descendants in Mississippi, John and Else Martin have a family website <http://groups.msn.com/JohandElseMartinfamily/>

## Pilgrim Lutheran Group Tour

On Tuesday, November 15, the Seniors' Group from Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Houston had a full day program in Danevang. The group arrived in the morning and after a rest stop and coffee hour at the museum, they proceeded to the Meeting House where they enjoyed a short presentation on the unique history of the Danevang Community. The group moved on to the church where Patti Jensen had prepared a program and sing-along. Daryl Petersen served as song leader.

The group particularly raved about the noon dinner, prepared and served by Elsie Christensen, Marilyn Henderson, Helena Lauritsen, Ramona Lesak, Darleen Miksik, Myrna Thyssen and Elaine Wind. The ladies served frikadeller, parsley kartofler (potatoes), r(2ldkaal (red cabbage), guler(2ld (carrots), pickles, rygbr(2ld, and desserts of Danish layer cake and pear cake. It is interesting to note that since the Danes in Danevang could not grow apples, they substituted their homegrown pears into the Danish apple cake recipe.

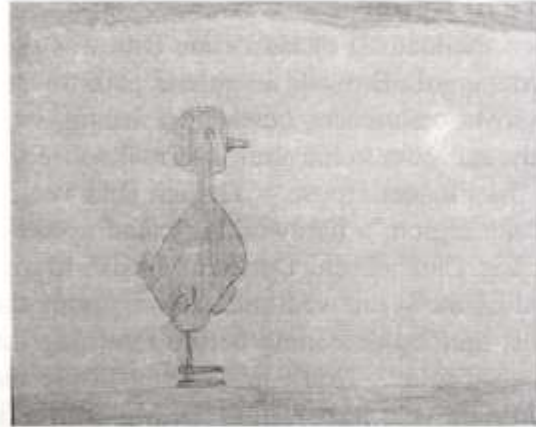
The day continued with time to take in more thoroughly the museum exhibits and gift shop offerings. Since Hans Christian Andersen tales are loved and enjoyed by both young and old, the grand finale of the full day was the presentation of stories by our own H. C. Andersen (a.k.a. Laird Engle) and "Inge" (a.k.a. Winnie Engle). The museum is looking forward to hosting other groups already scheduled for the upcoming year.



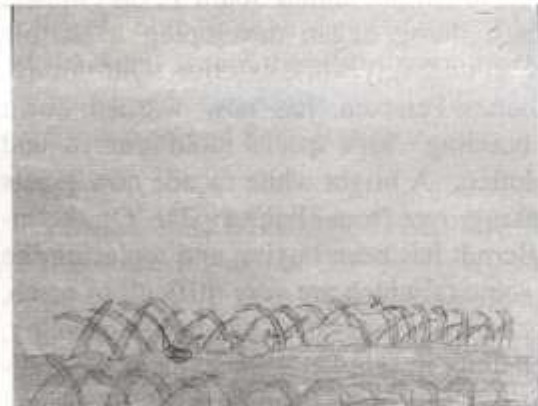
Laird Engle presenting the lucky doorprize winner a Danevang cookbook. Photo by Irvin Wind

## H. C. Andersen Art Contest

The Hans Christian Andersen story books given to the schools (see p. I) were intentionally without illustrations to encourage students to create their own art work to illustrate the stories. Winners of the art contest from St. Philip's Catholic School in EI Campo are shown here (photos by Irvin Wind). Come view them in full color at the museum.



1st place: Colton Krutilek - "The Ugly Duckling"



2nd place: Clayton Harp - "The Ugly Duckling"



3rd place: Jordan Clipson - "Thumbelina"

## Please participate in these important surveys

(stamped envelope enclosed for your convenience)

### MONUMENT SURVEY

The Board of the DHPS is seeking your input on the proposed memorial area to be constructed between the flag poles on the campus of the Heritage Society. Two issues need to be resolved before the funding and construction of the site take place. The first issue is to determine the nature of this patriotic memorial. Should its inscription be general enough to include all patriotic Americans who have performed various works to keep the freedoms of our country or should the wording be limited to honor those individuals who have served in the armed forces? Two suggested inscriptions reflecting these two options are:

In honor of the selfless service of freedom-loving United States citizens.

In honor of the selfless service of our nation's military men and women.

These are only suggested inscriptions, but even a casual observer can note the different emphasis.

Another issue is whether or not individual names should appear in some manner. If so, what should the criteria be for inclusion? The board really needs your input and comments; to that end, please use the form below to send in your views so the board can proceed along the lines that the majority of our members desire. The next board meeting is December 17<sup>th</sup> so don't delay; reply today!

1) Nature of Memorial (see above) option 1\_ \_\_\_\_\_ option 2\_ \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested inscription: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) Inclusion of names yes\_ \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, included names may only be: (check the options you desire)

\_\_\_\_\_ Persons who have lived in the Danevang area

\_\_\_\_\_ Persons related to those who live or have lived in the Danevang area

\_\_\_\_\_ Persons who have made monetary contributions to the memorial site

Other criteria for name inclusion \_\_\_\_\_

### NEWSLETTER SURVEY

Do you want to continue receiving the newsletter? Yes\_ \_\_\_\_\_ No\_ \_\_\_\_\_

Rate your interest in the following topics for inclusion in the newsletter with 5 being very interested to 0 meaning not at all interested.

5 4 3 2 1 0 Society Activities

5 4 3 2 1 0 Writings from the Past

5 4 3 2 1 0 Updates on other Danish-American Communities and Activities

5 4 3 2 1 0 Recent Photographs

5 4 3 2 1 0 Vintage Photographs

5 4 3 2 1 0 Report from the Board

5 4 3 2 1 0 Museum Exhibits

5 4 3 2 1 0 Acknowledgement of Memorials and Gifts

(Please Continue to Other Side)

## SOCIETY SURVEY

Rate the importance of these current and potential activities of the Heritage Society with 5 being very important and 0 meaning of no importance.

- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Maintaining the Heritage Museum and Pioneer House
- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Celebrating Danish Constitution Day, June 5<sup>th</sup> (held the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in June)
- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Celebrating of the Queen's Birthday (held in mid-April but not on Easter weekend)
- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Encouraging participation in the Christmas tree celebration of the Danevang Church
- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Including singing of traditional Danish songs at gatherings
- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Maintaining the grounds
- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Planting wildflowers by the highway
- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Maintaining a gift shop
- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Have gift shop items mainly of a Danish nature
- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Yearly exhibition featuring families of early Danevang settlers
- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Develop a website
- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Promote tourism to Danevang
- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Work with local community groups
- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Work with Danish groups throughout the country
- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Seek funds and grants for educational outreach
- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Seek funds and/or grants for a full-time employee
- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Pursue an updated genealogy record of the Danevang settlers
- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Maintain and update the cemetery map
- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Build a structure to house vintage farm equipment
- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Install patriotic marker
- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Create a permanent display for the history of the Danevang Church
- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Hold workshops for Folk Dancing
- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Hold workshops for Danish Crafts
- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Sponsor an iEbleskiver Fest
- 5 4 3 2 1 0 Explore reinstating early community activities such as Fastenlavn  
("Beating the Cat out of the Barrel") and Ring Riding

The Mission Statement of the Danish Heritage Preservation Society of Danevang, TX is as follows:

To preserve a record of a culture that is disappearing as a result of mechanization, technology, and economic imperatives.

To teach about the dedication and sacrifices made by the Danevang Colony settlers.

To offer instruction on the Danish language, customs, crafts and skills that sustained generations of farmers in Danevang.

Considering your responses about the importance of the various activities, is this mission statement an appropriate guide for future Society activities or should the mission statement be reconsidered?

Appropriate as is  Should be reconsidered

## Danish Culture Conference

If you care anything at all about Danish culture, the Conference in Des Moines, Iowa October 13-16 was both informative and exciting. This event was a rare opportunity to learn about a variety of topics related to Danish culture, from that of yesteryear's Danish-American immigrants to that of Danes today. The pre-eminence of many of the presenters was very impressive, making this a remarkable gathering.

The outstanding three days kicked off with a stimulating lecture by Philip Consibee, Senior Curator of European Paintings at the National Gallery of Art, on the Golden Age of Danish Painting. During the next two days, there were so many choices of subjects and presentations that it was impossible for one person to see, hear and do everything. Some of the highlights for me were sessions on Danish-American Communities, Danish-American History, What We Can Learn from Danish Farmers, Movies from Denmark, and Danish Song and Storytelling. The culmination of the event was the Saturday night banquet with the new Ambassador from Denmark, Friis Arne Petersen toasting the new royal birth and then a grand finale musical celebration and parade of Hans Christian Andersen characters by a troop from Odense, Denmark. (pictures shown here)

Besides the stimulating content of the conference, the camaraderie and fellowship with people of common interests and heritage was uplifting. The importance of supporting such gatherings and maintaining our ties with one another can be summed up in the quote that Elsie Christensen found "Without Heritage, Every Generation Starts Over."



Stories represented counterclockwise from upper left: The Shepherdess and the Chimneysweep; The Steadfast Tin Soldier; Father's Always Right; The Princess and the Pea; The Emperor's New Clothes; The Little Match Girl; The Swineherd; Little Ole; The Tinderbox; The Nightingale; Simple Simon (a.k.a. Hans Clodhopper)

Danish Heritage Preservation Society  
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Danevang TX 77432



### **Favorite Danish Christmas Foods**

The Museum gift shop has several cookbooks available which include recipes for traditional Danish Christmas menu items and cookies, such as:

- Flreskesteg - Roast pork;
- Andesteg - Roast duck;
- Brunede kartofler - Browned potatoes;
- R12ldkaI- Red cabbage;
- Ris a l'amande - Rice almond pudding;
- iEbleskiver - Danish doughnuts;
- Brune kager - Brown cookies;
- Pebernl2llder - Peppernuts;
- Vanillekranse - Vanilla Wreaths.



### **Danevang Annual Christmas December 17**

Program in the Church at 6:30 p.m. followed by  
Dancing around the Tree in the Meeting House

