



De's Dazzles – A Sweet Surprise

Hear what people are saying about the tours I gave during June: 1) **Very Worthwhile** said Craig & Pamela P. 2) **Love it!** From Becky P. 3) **Very Interesting** from Mary Beth. 4) **Amazing!** From Beverly M. 5) **Fabulous Learning** Diane P. and 6) Vicky W says **Sweet Surprise!**

Our family has taken many trips together and tours are a frequent activity from the natural attractions, man-made attractions, and cultural entities. We remember the special tours that made us laugh (Wisconsin Ducks), let us learn through touching (have you touched a stingray?) and so on. Jim and I were also surprised on a tour of Europe because nowhere in the company's advertising did it mention it is for Indian people, and you only eat Indian food! Surprise! That was an eye-opening tour for sure!

Every place has a distinctive story, and our behind-the-scenes historic tour will help you discover our past, from the architecture to the events that have been held here and learn about where we are going. No other place can tell our story, making it a cherished experience. I have given tours since 2012 telling stories I read from the early 1900s Adams County Free Press archives, and from people who have shared their stories with me. Recently I became a Certified Professional Guide through Iowa State University tour guide training. As a tour guide, I translate facts into meaning, such as teach about the limelight, entertain with stories about Corning's Milo Green and Warren Lee, and transform the information into a memorable experience whether it be touching the First National Bank's teller window or taking pictures in comical hats.



With any tour I lead, the first question is, are you interested in history, architecture, or the arts. That will personalize the points of interest I share with you or your group. In June, Imagine the Possibilities brought a group for a specialized tour since they are unable to do steps so we played a drama game, "painted" the ceiling, and took a picture. Another group consisted of retired teachers who were very interested in history and how our hands-on school tours teach about the lightboard and microphones. Another group was into architecture and enjoyed learning about the raked floor and Shakespeare door. During the month of June alone, I gave 11 tours, some planned and some just drop-in.

A memorable tour I gave was to four sisters who each live in a different state: Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Iowa. They pick a location and spend a weekend together. The organizer for this day planned time at Lake Icaria, shopping on our Main Street and an hour tour of the Corning Opera House. Unknown to her siblings, she had prepared a video of their lives together from birth to the current day. So, after the tour, I encouraged them to set in the cool and "left" them, but in reality, I started the video. For the next couple of hours, they cried and laughed together as they remembered their parents who had passed on, shared clothes as teenagers, and being there for each other's families at the birth of their children. A truly memorable tour!

I believe life is meant to be experienced, live it, and taste it! Some of my favorite memories are ones I stumbled upon while I was looking for something else. Come explore and let's weave some beautiful stories together!

Sincerely,

De Heaton, Executive Director 7/1/2023