

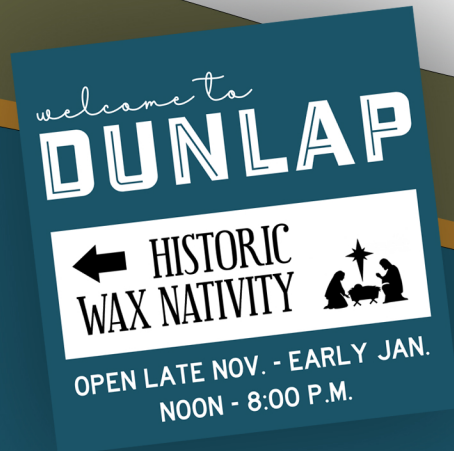
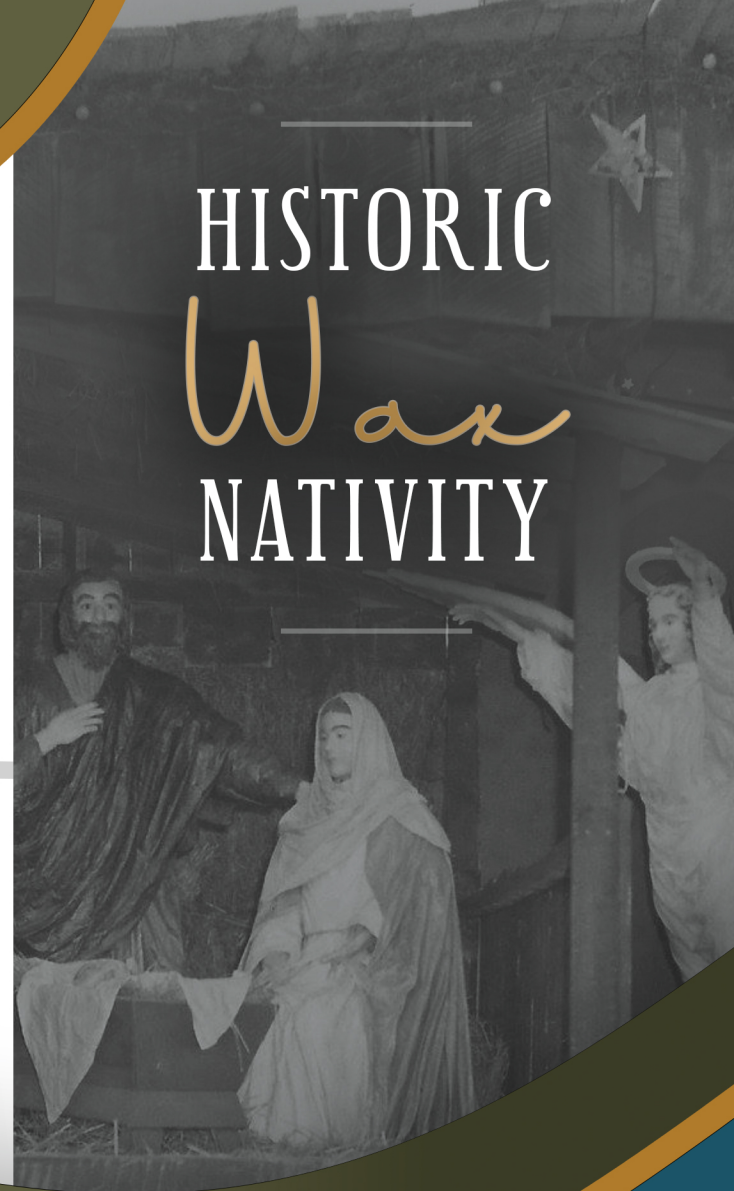


This detailed wax nativity was first created in the early 1950's by farm wife, Agnes Dunham of Dunlap. According to family history, Agnes had been making wax candles for Christmas at the time and found the wax interesting to work with.

When she began making a wax face of Joseph, the idea came to her to make life-size figures of the entire nativity. She created eight figures the first year, including Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus; more figures were added in the following years.



HISTORIC Wax NATIVITY



DUNLAP, IOWA

HISTORIC *Wax* NATIVITY

For many years, the Nativity was displayed on Don and Agnes Dunham's farm north of Dunlap. Thousands of visitors from as many as 15 states stopped to enjoy the beauty of Agnes' handiwork each year at Christmas.

More recently, a new building was built behind St. Patrick Catholic Church at 509 S. 3rd St. in Dunlap, just off Highway 30, where the restored Nativity is now stored and displayed.

When brought back for Christmas in 2019, the Nativity drew over 2,500 visitors. The Nativity is open for viewing from Noon until 8:00 p.m. each day from mid-November through early January.



Don Dunham built wood frames for the bodies of both the people and the animals within the Nativity. Padding was added for a foundation. Garments were made from old sheets dipped into hot wax, and hot wax was applied with a brush for a finishing look.



The Silver Fox Foundation, a foundation lovingly created in memoriam of Jerry Baldwin, organized the restoration of the Nativity and the construction of a new facility to house the pieces of art.

The below photos show an original piece in comparison to a newer model.

