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WET & DRY

ALCOHOL IN CLAY COUNTY
1871 - 1937

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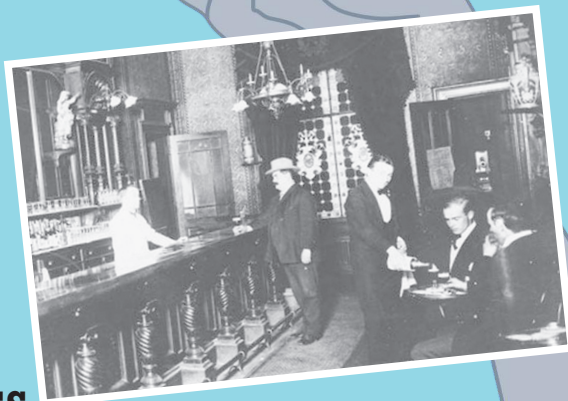
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Wet & Dry Exhibit Runs Throughout 2017
At The Hjemkomst Center In Moorhead



A Joint Publication Of The
Historical And Cultural
Society Of Clay County And
Clay County Connection
February 2017

HISTORICAL
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SOCIETY
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Many Got Their Alcohol From Bootleggers

By: HCSCC Staff

Although the term "bootlegger" is often used to describe anyone who illegally sells alcohol, the term originally described someone dealing in small amounts of booze that were hidden in their clothing, such as the leg of a boot.

Prohibition bootleggers typically dealt in eight ounce bottles of hard liquor known as mickeys.

Bootleggers could be found in pool halls or cafés, allowing patrons to discreetly add moonshine to their sodas. Bootleggers could be found at any good barn dance or party.

A customer might have a regular bootlegger who could deliver bottles to their house or meet them at their usual spot. Bootleggers could be amateurs trying to make a buck or long-time professionals with connections to big booze networks.

Although people usually think of moonshine in glass mason jars, almost all illegal alcohol in this area was transported in gallon-sized metal tins. Tins were easier to store than glass jars, not as breakable, and could carry much more liquid.

Bootleggers typically bought alcohol in tins like this and



Alcohol was often transported in this area in metal tins similar to the modern day pail on the left. People often purchased their alcohol sold by bootleggers in an eight ounce bottle called a mickey, pictured on the right.

transferred the contents into smaller "mickeys" to sell to their customers.

Flat, half-pint bottles of alcohol called "mickeys" were the common unit of booze bought by people during Prohibition.

They were small enough for people to hide in their clothing, such as in one's boot, which is where we get the term "Bootlegger." A mickey of homemade moonshine would cost about \$2.50-\$3 around here, about \$40 in today's money. Quality Canadian booze would cost double or more.

Although it is almost unheard of today, spiked malt was one of Prohibition's most common drinks.

Once making alcohol became illegal, many breweries continued to make "near beer" by removing alcohol from the beer they brewed.

People simply put the alcohol right back into the bottle by adding bootleg moonshine, making a drink called "spiked malt" or, locally called, "North Dakota Champagne."

"You would take a quart of City Club malt or near beer, and pour off the malt down to where the neck would start coming out," explained Roy Faught, Jr. of Absaraka, ND. "Then you would fill the bottle up with alcohol. That was good drinking, it tasted like beer."



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Wet And Dry Alcohol In Clay County From 1871-1937

By: HCSCC Staff

People have enjoyed alcoholic beverages for thousands of years. Liquor can put people in a good mood. It's an important part of the culture, fun to drink and a multi-billion dollar industry.

It's also a dangerous, addictive drug that can lead to irresponsible and violent behavior, destroy lives and families. Clay County residents have tried to resolve this disconnect; how to give the people what they want but still

maintain social order.

Efforts between 1871 and 1937 are marked by extremes. In 1890 all North Dakota saloons closed.

Just across the Red River, Moorhead soon became a booze boom town, with 45 saloons operating day and night with minimal attempts to enforce what laws existed. It didn't work out. It resulted in crime, political corruption and disrespect for authority.

In 1915 reformers reacted by succeeding in outlawing liquor completely. Prohibition also did not work out. People managed to find liquor and the result was, again, crime, political corruption and disrespect for authority.

Clay County allowed the sale of hard liquor to resume in 1937. Since then residents have continued to struggle with alcohol. Though there

CONTINUED TO PAGE 4



During prohibition people still consumed alcohol, they just had to be more careful when and where they drank and bought the stuff. One might purchase a bottle of liquor along the roadside, a back alley or out back of the barn.

**HISTORICAL
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**Dr. Maureen Kelly Jonason
Executive Director**

Prohibition All Over Again?

History has a way of repeating itself or so goes the old cliché. Take The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, for instance (see article on Page 52). Lots of other ethnic groups were also barred from immigration to the US in the past, too. Germanophobia popped up in Russia here and there as early as 1860 and in the United Kingdom after the Franco-Prussian War.

According to the ever-reliable Wiki-pedia, "Interviewees for the Royal Commission on Alien Immigration believed that Germans were not of the white race and involved in prostitution and burglary. Many people viewed Germans working in Britain as non whites and as threatening the livelihood of Britons by being willing to work for longer hours."

Many people in the US carried this view of German immigrants well past the US involvement in WWI beginning in 1917 and into WWII. We'll all learn more about life in Clay County in 1918 in the next big Clay County history exhibit at the Hjemkomst Center, due to open in February of 2018.

But for now, we'll enjoy one more year of Wet and Dry: Alcohol in Clay County, 1872-1937. Visitors who go through the nearly 3600-square-foot exhibition have told us it is amazing, informative, sensitive to multiple perspectives, and full of local family names of people on both sides of the law. If you have not seen it yet, come on in. Bring your visiting friends and relatives. If you remember the 1930s personally, bring in the kids, grandkids, and great-grand kids and share your first-hand experiences. The rest of us will just have to tell our family legends of bootleggers and speak easies passed down from generations now gone. We might even add a little embellishment for the sake of a good story.

The recent discussion on legalizing marijuana brings to mind those days of Prohibition once again. Recreational cannabis wasn't regulated until the first Food and Drug legislation of 1906, and laws weren't vigorously enforced until the 1930 formation of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics. It appears that a lot of attention was being paid to "poisons" that threatened the stability of society at that time. Medicinal cannabis had long been used to treat many illnesses in the early years of this country. Like many things that are made illegal after being legal, cannabis trade became criminal enterprise that continues today.

Now take a moment to think ahead one hundred years. What immigrating group will be banned this time? Will immigration even be an issue in 2117? Will borders even still exist in 2117? What recreational chemicals that are currently commonplace and medicinal will be labeled poison and made illegal? Human beings are always up to something. That's what makes history interesting.

**WET &
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1871-1937**

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Wet And Dry Alcohol In Clay County From 1871-1937

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

are now have more reasonable laws and law enforcement, a 2011 survey by the Centers for Disease Control identified the Fargo Metropolitan Statistical Area Cass and Clay Counties as having the highest rate of binge drinking and heavy drinking in the country. We clearly haven't sorted this out yet.

Just as in the past many social ills today are made worse by alcohol. Surveys indicate that 36 percent of those incarcerated in the US report that they were under the influence at the time of their offense. Among violent criminals it is 40 percent.

Each year some 13,000 people die in alcohol related auto accidents. The economic costs associated with alcohol use in Minnesota total over \$5 billion, \$975 for every resident. That is 17 times the alcohol tax collected.

Clay County residents' long history of alcohol use and abuse

continues to this day. Though the majority of County residents who drink do so responsibly, a significant number either cannot or will not control their consumption.

Surveys by the National Institutes for Health find that underage binge drinking is particularly high in the Red River Valley. Nearly 60 percent of locals between age 17 and 25 report binge drinking in the last month.

Over 3,200 Clay County



ALCOHOL IN CLAY COUNTY
1871-1937

residents over age 18 suffer from Alcohol Abuse Disorder. That is seven percent of the population.

So why do people here drink so much? The answers are complicated and not altogether clear. Some suggest there is not much else to do in this rural area. Others note Scandinavian and German immigrants' heavy drinking traditions. Still others blame the large number of bars per capita.

We may be influenced by North Dakota's long history of prohibition. The state was dry from 1890 to 1936, forty-six years. Drinking did not stop but went underground, creating a "forbidden fruit" effect and may have resulted in more binge and heavy drinking.

A similar situation existed between 1973 and 1984 when Minnesota lowered its drinking age to 18, then 19. At any rate, alcohol plays an important role in area culture. And changing culture is difficult.

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Prohibition Era Tumultuous Time In History

By: Karen Carpenter

Prohibition in the United States was a nationwide constitutional ban on the production, importation, transportation and sale of alcoholic beverages that remained in place from 1920 to 1933.

It was promoted by the "dry" crusaders, a movement led by rural Protestants and social Progressives in the Prohibition Democratic and Republican parties.

Members of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union began the grass roots movement. After 1900 it was coordinated by the Anti-Saloon League.

Prohibition was mandated first by a majority of states, then finally nationwide under the Eighteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1920.

Rules for enforcing the ban were set down and defined the types of alcoholic beverages that were prohibited.

For example, religious uses of wine were allowed. Private ownership and consumption of alcohol were not made illegal under federal law. In many areas, local laws were stricter, with some states banning possession outright.

North Dakota's 1895 Druggist Permit Amendment allowed physicians and drug store owners to administer alcohol for medicinal and sacramental purposes. In 1923, a 640-gallon shipment of alcohol disguised as hair tonic was seized at the NP freight depot in Moorhead. It was addressed to a false street number so exactly who the shipment was intended for was unclear.

Prohibition years lasted until December 1933 when both Minnesota and North Dakota voted to repeal the Eighteenth Amendment.

In the 1920s the laws were widely disregarded, and tax revenues were lost. Their opposition mobilized and nationwide, Prohibition ended with the ratification of the Twenty-first Amendment, which repealed the Eighteenth Amendment, on December 5, 1933. Some states continued statewide prohibition.

When North Dakota statehood came, saloons had to be closed by July 1, 1890. Moorhead saloons quickly filled the gap, offering free transportation to Fargoans still needing a lawful drink. That liaison lasted until Clay Countians voted dry in 1915, closing Moorhead's saloons

ahead of national prohibition in 1920.

Prohibition marked one of the last stages of the Progressive Era. During the 19th century,

alcoholism, family violence, and saloon-based political corruption led activists, led by pietistic Protestants, to end the liquor and beer trade. This it thought

would cure the ill society and weaken the political opposition.

Among other things, this led

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6



Jag wagons were a free transportation system sponsored by Moorhead saloons to bring thirsty customers from Fargo over the river to wet Clay County. They were commonly a large wagon pulled by a single horse that operated day and night. The main pick up station was on NP Ave just east of Broadway in Fargo. Jag wagon drivers got in trouble for delivering booze orders across the river and even transporting North Dakota Native Americans to Moorhead in order to drink. Fargo had hoped passage of a new streetcar law franchise would put jag wagons out of business, but the free rides still continued until 1913.



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REPEAL OF PROHIBITION
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Clay County Saw Tumultuous Times

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

many communities in the late 19th and early 20th century to introduce alcohol prohibition, with the subsequent enforcement in law becoming a hotly debated issue.

Prohibition supporters, called “Drys”, presented it as a victory for public morals and health. Anti-prohibitionists, known as “Wets”, criticized the alcohol ban as an intrusion of mainly rural Protestant ideals on a central aspect of urban, immigrant, and Catholic life.

Although popular opinion believes that Prohibition failed, it succeeded in cutting overall alcohol consumption in half during the 1920s, and consumption remained below pre-Prohibition levels until the 1940s, suggesting that Prohibition did socialize a significant proportion of the population in temperate habits, at least temporarily.

Some researchers contend that its political failure is attributable more to a changing historical context than to characteristics of the law itself.

Criticism remains that Prohibition led to unintended

consequences such as the growth of urban crime organizations and a century of Prohibition-influenced legislation. As an experiment it lost supporters every year, and lost tax revenue that governments needed when the Great Depression began in 1929.

The U.S. Senate proposed the Eighteenth Amendment on December 18, 1917. Upon being approved by a 36th state on January 16, 1919, the amendment was ratified as a part of the Constitution. By the terms of the amendment, the country went dry one year later, on January 17, 1920.

On November 18, 1918, prior to ratification of the Eighteenth Amendment, the U.S. Congress passed the temporary Wartime Prohibition Act, which banned the sale of alcoholic beverages having an alcohol content of greater than 2.75 percent.

This act, which had been intended to save grain for the war effort, was passed after the armistice ending World War I was signed on November 11, 1918. The Wartime Prohibition Act took effect June 30, 1919, with July 1, 1919, becoming known as the “Thirsty-First”.

On October 28, 1919,

Congress passed the Volstead Act, the popular name for the National Prohibition Act, over President Woodrow Wilson’s veto. The act established the legal definition of intoxicating liquors as well as penalties for producing them.

Although the Volstead Act prohibited the sale of alcohol, the federal government lacked resources to enforce it. By 1925, in New York City alone, there were anywhere from 30,000 to 100,000 speakeasy clubs.

While Prohibition was successful in reducing the amount of liquor consumed, it stimulated the proliferation of rampant underground, organized and widespread criminal activity.

On March 22, 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt signed into law the Cullen-Harrison Act,

legalizing beer with an alcohol content of 3.2 percent and wine of a similarly low alcohol content.

On December 5, 1933, ratification of the Twenty-first Amendment repealed the Eighteenth Amendment. However, United States federal law still prohibits the manufacture of distilled spirits without meeting numerous licensing requirements that make it impractical to produce spirits for personal beverage use.

One of the main reasons why Prohibition did not proceed smoothly was the inefficient means of enforcing it. From its inception, the Eighteenth Amendment lacked legitimacy in the eyes of the public who had previously been drinkers and law-abiding citizens.

In some instances the public viewed Prohibition laws as “arbitrary and unnecessary”, and therefore were willing to break them.

Law enforcement found themselves overwhelmed by the rise in illegal, wide-scale alcohol distribution. The magnitude of their task was unexpected and law enforcement agencies lacked the necessary resources.

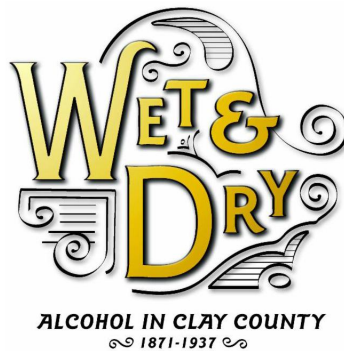
Additionally, enforcement

of the law under the Eighteenth Amendment lacked a centralized authority. Many attempts to impose Prohibition were deterred due to the lack of transparency between federal and state authorities. Clergymen were sometimes called upon to form vigilante groups to assist in the enforcement of Prohibition.

Furthermore, American geography contributed to the difficulties in enforcing Prohibition. The varied terrain of valleys, mountains, lakes, and swamps, as well as the extensive seaways, ports, and borders which the United States shared with Canada and Mexico made it exceedingly difficult for Prohibition agents to stop bootleggers given their lack of resources.

Prohibition created a black market that competed with the formal economy, which came under pressure when the Great Depression struck in 1929.

State governments urgently needed the tax revenue alcohol sales had generated. Franklin Roosevelt was elected in 1932 based in part on his promise to end prohibition, which influenced his support for ratifying the Twenty-first Amendment to repeal Prohibition.



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Peter Engels Was A Leader Of The Wets



Peter Engels was elected mayor of Barnesville in 1894. He was elected to six subsequent terms of office scattered over 31 years. He was political leader of the Wets.

By: HCSCC Staff

Barnesville, Clay County's second largest city during the time of Prohibition, was a stronghold for the Wets. Being 20 miles away from the border, Barnesville's commitment to the Wet cause had little to do with North Dakota being Dry.

Barnesville was Wet more for cultural reasons. The city and surrounding townships were settled heavily by German Catholics with cherished traditions surrounding alcohol.

The rail lines were a factor in the Wet & Dry issue. Railroad towns like Barnesville had a

reputation for being home to thirsty workers.

Peter Engels was a longtime political leader of the Wets in Barnesville. He was a train engineer for the Great Northern when he was elected mayor in 1894, but he became a saloon owner in 1901.

He was forced to convert his saloon into a pool hall during Prohibition. Barnesville never did like Prohibition much and Engels was elected mayor twice more during Prohibition.

Peter Engels had retired by the time Prohibition was repealed, but the brick saloon he built in 1907 was one of the three bars that opened for the day beer returned to Barnesville on April 15, 1933.

Now the Barnesville VFW, Engel's place is the only pre-Prohibition saloon in Clay County that is still serving drinks.

Elected in four different decades and two different centuries for a total of seven terms. Engel was the longest serving mayor of Barnesville at 14 years until his record was tied by current Mayor Gene Prim.

Engel served as mayor from 1894-1903, 1919-1921 and 1923-1925. Mayor Prim served during the years 1986-1991, 2000-2004 and 2014-2018. Prim has matched Engel's record in that he too has been Mayor of Barnesville over four decades and two centuries.

Eight decades after Prohibition's repeal, three large

metal vats for making moonshine remain in the basement of a north Fargo house. The house was apparently built around the moonshining operation. The house belonged to Peter's brother, Frank Engels.

There were certainly Drys active in the town as well, centering around local WCTU

chapters and the Congregational Church.

By 1915, all of the communities in Clay County voted to close their saloons by local option except Moorhead and Barnesville. When a county-wide vote forced all saloons to close, it was a Barnesville saloon that was last to turn out its lights.

Memories From A Bartender's Photo Album



Georgetown, About 1900-1910

Dora Zenk, far left, was one of Georgetown's most sought after beauties. Matt Wambach, second from left with his tongue sticking out, won her heart and they married on November 17, 1903. This photograph is proof that people really did smile and have fun in the "olden days."

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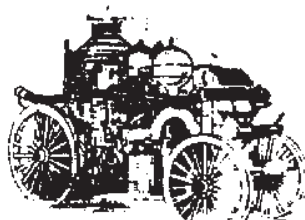
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Sabin Was The Site Of Bank Robbery...

By: Markus Krueger
HCSCC Education
Coordinator

One of the more famous bank robberies in the history of Clay County took place in the relatively obscure location of Sabin. The perpetrators were apprehended and for the most part the case solved but there are still lingering questions surrounding the details of the bank robbery of 1931. Reasons behind the robbery seem to have been a plan to recapture gang boss status for Jake Schumacher, a local rum-runner.

The Crowbar in Sabin is full of history. It is one of Clay County's oldest bars, and it has amazing old woodwork that probably dates all the way back

to when Ali and Stella Wambach turned this building into a tavern in 1937.

The Crowbar is also the scene of one of the most sensational crimes in local history. On December 29, 1931, this bar was the Sabin State Bank, and it was robbed by Jake Schumacher's gang.

Jake thought he had it all figured out, rob a bank, get the money, frame his gangster enemy, and reclaim his title of Moorhead's Beer Baron. He must have been crazy to think it would work.

When Jake betrayed his own gang, they testified against him in court, and it was standing-room-only in the Clay County Courthouse as people watched Moorhead's two gangs destroy

each other from the witness stand.

By combining the accounts and testimonies made by several local criminals, witnesses, law enforcement officials and legal professionals, we get a true story that reads like an exciting 1930s crime caper movie.

The information in this story comes from almost daily articles in the local newspapers following the robbery and subsequent trials mostly from December of 1931 through February of 1932.

It also comes from Jacob Schumacher's prison and parole files obtained from the Minnesota Historical Society.

This article is an attempt to make sense of the conflicting stories, to separate the true confessions from the lies, but this is a difficult task to be sure.

As Sheriff Archie Whaley said of this case, "These fellows have told so many stories that we have found to be lies that we can't believe anything that they say anymore."

To be honest we are not even sure we can trust the sheriff.

THE SCHUMACHERS

Jake Schumacher was born in 1893, the oldest of six sons and three daughters born to Charlie and Anna Schumacher. He was named after his mother's father, Jacob Weidenbacher, a saloon man and liquor wholesaler in Iowa.

As a teenager, Jake learned the family business, meat cutting, from his Bavarian-born father. Jake left home at 18 to work as a meat cutter in Winnipeg, Kansas City, and Saint Paul, getting married to Nina Nelson along the way.

Meanwhile, Clay County voted to outlaw alcohol in 1915, and the whole country followed our lead when the 18th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States went into effect in 1920. Butcher Charlie Schumacher realized he could make more money selling beer than selling beef.

The Schumacher family started what we would now call an "alcohol distribution company," but was then known as "criminal rum-running." In 1924, at the age of 31, Jake moved back to Moorhead and his father taught him the new family business. Jake became a rum-runner.

Prohibition was put in place by people who believed alcohol

was the root of almost all crime, poverty and other social ills. Banning alcohol, they thought, would solve most of the nation's problems.

Prohibition, however, ended up creating a national crime wave. People simply did not stop drinking. People who sipped a beer on a summer afternoon or toasted champagne at a wedding were now criminals.

These scofflaws, a word invented to describe people who ignored Prohibition, bought their booze from bootleggers. They were so named for concealing liquor in their boots.

Scofflaws drank at legitimate businesses that secretly sold alcohol under the table called "Speak Easies" or "Blind Pigs". Both names mean the same thing, but we usually call them Blind Pigs around here.

Many farmers, impoverished by poor crop prices in the 1920s and the Great Depression, made extra money by distilling their own moonshine or turning their buildings into secret booze warehouses.

"Rum runners" like the Schumacher family brought shipments of booze into town to supply the blind piggers and bootleggers. The Schumachers specialized in quality, legally made Canadian whiskey and beer.

Charlie and Anna Schumacher's home at 521 Ninth Street North Moorhead was a place where people went to drink and was also a warehouse for hiding liquor smuggled into town. The Schumachers were not the only rum-runners in the area, far from it! They were important, notorious, and colorful.

Jake's younger sister Celeste, known as Babe Schumacher, was said to have her car outfitted with hidden tanks in the wheel wells for hiding liquor. The Schumacher house was frequently raided, and several family members did short prison terms. But they kept selling liquor as long as there were laws against it.

Jake Schumacher and wife Nina rented their own place at 322 Second Avenue North, Moorhead, which sits about where Park View Terrace apartment complex is today. Jake was part of his family's rum-running operation. Nina drove out to meet booze-filled Canadian airplanes landing in the remote countryside of

northern Minnesota.

But as the years went on, Jake became increasingly involved in other crimes and his home became a center for criminal activity in Fargo-Moorhead. He formed a gang. The members of this gang lived in his house's six apartment rooms. Each man had a key to his own room, and Jake had keys to every room. Gangsterism was spreading across America in the 1930s.

With Jake Schumacher gangsterism was beginning to sprout in Moorhead.

Clay County Commissioner James M. Witherow explained Jake's way of working in a February 13, 1932, article in the Moorhead Daily News. "The methods of Jacob Schumacher were peculiar to the gangster leader who always likes to send somebody else of comparatively innocent experience 'up against the blaze,' while the real planner and originator of the crime remains in the background and rakes in the major share of the profits. It is fundamental that you can not have a school for crime in a neighborhood without graduating some criminals."

Jake Schumacher was at the top of his game in 1930. He bought a brand new Stutz sedan and a \$1,750 diamond ring for his wife Nina. His furniture, he boasted later to a prison psychiatrist, was worth \$8,000, about \$125k in today's money, and he had just as much spending money at home.

But things started going out of control for Jake. As his success grew, so did his crimes. He was always a nervous fellow, and as his crimes increased, he became paranoid, violent, and mentally unhinged. In 1931, Jake Schumacher's personal and professional life all came crashing down.

His troubles started in January when he got busted for his involvement in what prohibition agents called "the biggest U.S. -Canadian liquor smuggling conspiracy uncovered in the north-west in years." (Moorhead Daily News, January 31, 1931).

The crime in question was probably little different than his other smuggling runs, except for the fact that the Feds caught him. It began when John Lanthier of Rainy River, Ontario, crossed into Minnesota with about 300 bottles of Canadian whiskey. Lanthier took the whiskey about

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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The Fall Of Rum-Runner Gangster...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

15 miles through the woods to the farm of Helge Palmquist of Spooner, MN.

Jake Schumacher met Palmquist at Upper Red Lake, bought the whiskey, and sold it to some other guys. Those guys got busted in Minneapolis with three carloads of Canadian whiskey valued at \$50,000. That would be about three quarters of a million dollars today!

Countless trips like this across the border allowed men like Jake Schumacher to keep not just our community but much of the country well supplied with quality, name-brand Canadian whiskey and beer.

While waiting for his trial date, Jake's mother Anna died. Then he found out his wife of 19 years was having an affair with a former cop.

When he saw the man walking down Fourth Street in Moorhead on March 27, Jake ran to his nearby car, grabbed a sawed off shotgun and jabbed it in the ribs of his wife's lover.

The man and another bystander were able to wrestle the gun from Jake. Jake got off with a fine, but his relationship with his wife did not recover and they separated seven months later.

"He states that he was sorry that he didn't kill that guy," wrote the Stillwater prison psychiatrist in Jake's prison file years later.

Jake Schumacher served five months in the Becker County Jail for his involvement in the

Rainy River smuggling case. He had already done 30 days in the Clay County Jail for liquor offenses in both 1924 and 1926. But his incarceration in Detroit Lakes led to a downward spiral in his career, because it was there that he met and befriended fellow inmate Walter McGavin.

The two convicts talked about robbing banks when they got out and passed the time in their jail cells defending themselves in mock trials. When McGavin got out in October, he came to Moorhead because Jake offered him a job. It turns out that the job McGavin had in mind was Jake's.

We don't know the specifics of the struggle for power. All we know is that Walter McGavin took over Jake Schumacher's house on December 1 of 1931. McGavin took Jake's house keys and gave Jake a key to one room. Jake's gang turned into "Mac's Gang."

THE PLAN

After losing leadership in his own gang, Jake Schumacher got to work forming a new gang with the idea of robbing banks in Hawley and Sabin.

Sam Abes (aka "Black Sam," aka "the Fargo Possum"), a shoe shiner and member of Fargo's criminal community, told this story of meeting Jake at his apartment in a kind of job interview. "I shook hands with Schumacher and then he opened a dresser drawer. It was half full of shells, guns and revolvers.



Jake Schumacher's Minnesota State Prison mugshot in 1944. Courtesy Minnesota Historical Society.

Then he opened a closet door and got out a rifle and tried it out. There were lots of other guns in the closet."

Arkansas Bob, in his late 20s, was another member of the gang, as was 21-year-old Zach Lemon from Ponsford, MN.

Like Walter McGavin, Lemon met Jake in the Becker County Jail, where he served some time for getting into a fist fight at a party. The gang's driver was Pat McLeary, who had just arrived in town half-frozen by hopping on a freight train.

Others came and went, some from Jake's old gang. Ed Redman, the final member of the gang, said that Jake recruited his new gang so that nobody knew each other.

They planned to rob the Hawley bank first, and according to Sam Abes, they went out to Hawley between three and five times to do the job but they always had cold feet and came back home. Zach Lemon testified in court that one of the reasons they had cold feet was that some in the gang suspected Jake Schumacher of plotting to betray them. His gang was right.

Testimony in court shows Jake was, for some reason, informing the Sheriff's department about bank robberies. Roy Wicker remembers being a kid in Hawley at this time, seeing police officers

on rooftops looking down at the bank waiting for Jake.

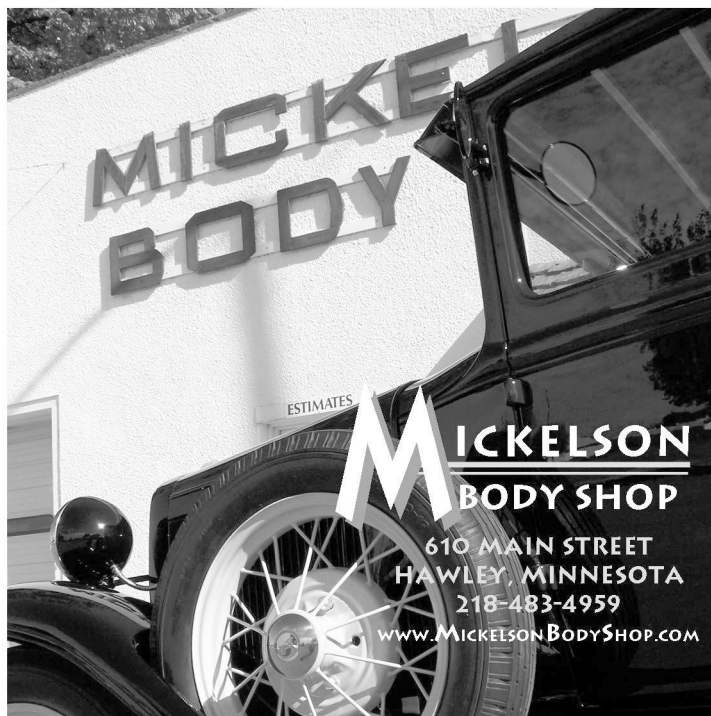
"Every kid in town knew he was coming," Wicker recalled, "and of course he didn't show up." Abes recalled Jake being furious after the robbers came home empty handed once again, telling them, "We have to do everything right. The first false move anybody makes I'm going to plug him. I'm putting this on, paying the gas and oil and we

have to do something." Jake was getting impatient.

On December 21, 1931, the gang drove out to Hawley but once again came home to Moorhead after deciding against the robbery. The gang's driver, Pat McLeary, did not return to Jake's apartment but instead took a girl driving in one of Jake's cars.

Jake ordered Zach Lemon

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38



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Characters Played Part In County History

By: HCSCC Staff

There were several colorful characters that lived in Clay County during it's early years. They were central players in the saga of the late 1800s and the dispute over the area becoming wet or dry.

Before the jail was built, prisoners were kept at Sheriff Jim Blanchard's house. When saloon owner Ed Smith was arrested, he spent a night handcuffed to the sheriff.

The two were locked in the Blanchard home and slept side by side handcuffed together in the sheriff's bed until Smith could pay his fine in the morning.

"Blinky Jack" was a feared and violent killer who lost an eye in a fight. He would walk the streets of Moorhead and force people at gunpoint to buy him drinks in saloons.

County attorney Solomon Comstock was able to put Blinky Jack in jail for injuring a man in a gunfight.

When Blinky Jack got out of prison a year later, he walked up to Solomon Comstock on the street, extended his hand and said to the frightened lawyer "I want to thank you for sending me up last year. If you hadn't I would have been killed out here."

Blinky Jack was a violent drunk who struggled to stay sober. During periods of sobriety, local businessmen would help by giving him a job, but his addiction would always get the better of him.

Sallie McGuire helped her husband Jack O'Neil and his partner Dave Mullen run a saloon, dance hall, gambling house and bordello on Fourth Street in Moorhead.

When the railroad moved west in 1873, the three moved their business to Bismarck, where they would all met grim ends.

Sal's addictions to alcohol and opium made her violent and she reportedly tried to kill Jack four times. In the Bismarck jail for an attempt on Jack's life, Sallie McGuire died of an opium overdose in her cell on May 28, 1874.

Jack O'Neil died in a gunfight a few months later, joining Dave Mullen, who was shot to death in his saloon the year before.

Wild West saloons were no place for ladies! It was not considered proper for women to go into saloons, although women who were not considered respectable could be found there.

Men and women started drinking together in public during Prohibition, when Americans rebelled against previous ideas about alcohol and respectability.

Sheriff Jim Blanchard was a central figure of the time. When a gunfight between Shang Stanton and Slim Jim Shumway left two people shot and two gunmen in need of arrest, 50-year-old merchant Jim Blanchard was chosen to be the first Clay County Sheriff.



Blanchard was a local lawman for the next 40 years, serving into his 90s. He said he arrested over 800 people and only had to draw his gun three times. He never drank alcohol, but he did go into saloons quite a bit to arrest people.

Patrick Sullivan was a Northern Pacific Railway worker who led fellow workers on a strike near Bismarck, Dakota Territory.

On April 26, 1873, he saw Andrew Fallon and Jerry Brennan, section bosses who opposed the strike, in a Moorhead saloon. Sullivan fatally stabbed both men and ran.

Shortly after Sheriff Blanchard began his search for the murderer, Sullivan returned to Hanson's Saloon, sat down, and explained he was drunk and did not know what he was doing. He was sent to the state insane asylum in St. Peter.

Solomon Comstock was a young lawyer who was working

as a laborer for the Northern Pacific Railway in 1871. When work stopped for the winter, he remained in the Moorhead tent town because "there was no road going west. I had no money to go east. So I stayed," Comstock was quoted.

When a lawyer was needed to defend Shang Stanton for the shooting of Slim Jim Shumway that spring, Solomon Comstock was chosen as the first Clay County attorney.

Comstock would go on to become the most influential town father in Moorhead, serving in the Minnesota legislature and the US House of Representatives, and making a fortune in the railroad and real estate industries.

Politically, Comstock was a Wet because his city's chief industry was saloons. But in his personal life, an interviewer said "he is against drinking and smoking on the ground that they do no good and cost money."

Wet and Dry politics played a big role in every election. On November 7, 1876, pioneer farmer Randolph Probstfield, a Wet, wrote in his diary that he was "Handsomely defeated as Sheriff for Clay County" by the Dry incumbent, J. B. Blanchard.

Although it sounds like bribery today, it was expected that 19th century politicians

would treat their voters to drinks and cigars. Probstfield notes his credits from four saloons that day totaling \$3.15. With prices at a nickel a beer, that works out to 63 beers that day.

Meet The
HCSCC Board
Members...



JOHN DOBMEIER

John Dobmeier was raised in Barnesville, MN where he graduated from high school.

After four years active duty with the U.S. Navy, he attended college seeking a degree from the University of Minnesota in Mortuary Science.

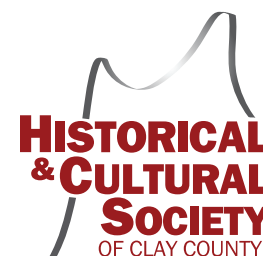
He spent 30 years in the funeral industry, 22 of them as owner/operator of the funeral home in Barnesville, a business he purchased from his father.

John presently teaches AP European History and AP United States History at Moorhead Senior High School, after completing a degree in Social Studies from MSUM in 2005.

He has also been an active member of the Barnesville Area Fire Department, retiring after 25 years of service.

John and his wife, Terry, have two adult children who live in the Fargo-Moorhead area. He enjoys reading, fishing, hunting and time in the BWCAW.

"It is my honor to serve on this board and help support and preserve history in my county," John currently serves as HCS president.



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MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS

HISTORICAL & CULTURAL SOCIETY
OF CLAY COUNTY



MARK ALTENBURG

Mark Altenburg serves as the development director for the Minnesota Community and Technical College known as MN State.

He lives in Moorhead with his wife, Susan, and his two children.

Mark's avid interest in history, particularly of Pierre Bottineau and his role in the development of the Red River Valley brought him to the HCS board.

Les has retired from the board of directors but presently serves as the immediate past president of the organization.

Were Police Bootlegging?



In 1923, Charlie Schumacher traded his fancy new car for 500 quarts of whiskey. The car may have looked similar to the 1923 Model-T Ford pictured. He was arrested soon after and the whiskey was confiscated. Mr. Schumacher appeared before courts in both Fergus Falls and Moorhead for the case, but all charges against him were dropped because police could produce no evidence against him. Apparently, once the police took it, the booze vanished.

Although he was off the hook for the crime,

Charlie was still furious over losing \$7,500 worth of alcohol. "Now I know the three men who sold this liquor at \$15 a bottle, and I am telling you right here that I have the goods on 'em," he told The County Press.

The article suggested this was a common occurrence in the county: "There has been almost hundreds of instances where liquor has been taken away from someone, but witnesses as to the destruction of the liquor appear to be as scarce as hens teeth."

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Before The Hamm's Bear



C. D. Herbert's saloon in Hawley appears to be a "tied house." Tied Houses were owned by a brewery and sold only that brewery's beer. This practice was common in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Theo Hamm's brewery in Saint Paul was Minnesota's largest brewery at the time, and it had quite a presence in Clay County. The brewery owned so many consecutive saloons along Moorhead's south bridge, current Main Avenue, that locals called it Hamm's Row. Hawley, in the county's heavily Scandinavian eastern half, was usually Dry in politics and often hostile to saloons. By 1900, C. D. Herbert had moved from Hawley to Moorhead and operated a saloon near the north bridge.

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MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS

HISTORICAL & CULTURAL SOCIETY
OF CLAY COUNTY



MONICA MILLETTE

Monica Millette was elected to the board at the annual meeting in 2014.

She grew up in Glyndon and now resides in Moorhead so has been a Clay County resident all her life.

Monica is employed at Heartland Trust Company as Vice President--Retirement Services Division Manager. She has served on a number of area boards.

In her spare time, Monica enjoys reading, working out, painting, and spending time with family and friends. She is currently serving as vice president.



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Moonshiners Were Caught, Paid The Price

By: HCSCC Staff

John Hoeftling's farm two miles east of Georgetown was likely the largest moonshining operation in Clay County.

In May of 1931, federal agents raided his farm and found a sophisticated system capable of turning out 120 gallons of moonshine every day.

The Feds caught Hoeftling red handed with 300 gallons of mash, two operating stills, and several barrels of booze in storage. He even made his own cesspool sewer system to keep the distinct odors of moonshining from spreading.

The agents figured his farm had been supplying Fargo-Moorhead with "Minnesota 13" moonshine for about a year.

A year later, in May of 1932, Mr. Hoeftling once again pled guilty to operating an illegal still. Since it was his second offense, he was sentenced to a \$100 fine and two years in federal prison in Leavenworth, Kansas. After

eight months he was released and returned to his small farm, his wife and two daughters.

On April 11, 1932, federal agents raided the Oakport farm of George Anderson. They found 230 bottles of homebrewed beer and 21 gallons of

hard liquor hidden beneath a specially constructed floor in the chicken coop.

Anderson's hired hand, Jacob J. Miller, admitted that he was the brewmaster.

Partners James Kacer and Peter Leiferman kept

their moonshine operation well-hidden on Kacer's Spring Prairie Township farm.

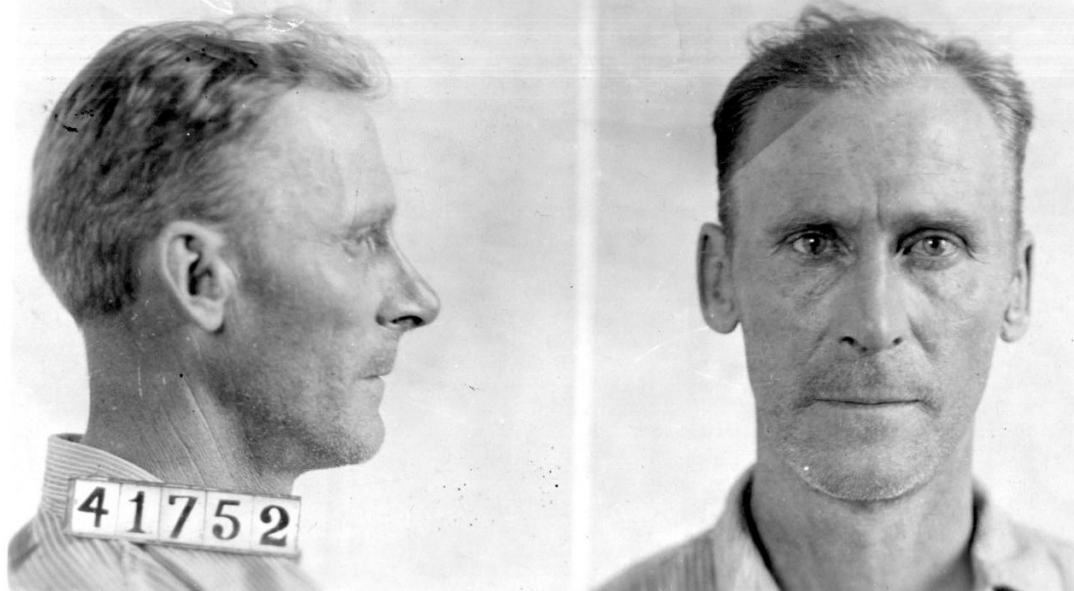
The still and moonshine were in a secret room underneath the barn. The only way into this room was through a trap door at the bottom of a manger filled with cattle feed.

On January 28, 1924, their operation was discovered when police witnessed Kacer deliver a gallon of moonshine to a Moorhead home.

They arrested Kacer after a brief chase, drove to his farm, and found the hidden room filled with a still and 20 gallons of moonshine.

Evidence led the police to the Vassor farm less than a mile away, where they found more cleverly hidden moonshine.

Mr. Vassor had parked his car over the door to a hidden room under the barn where he was keeping his still and 23 gallons of booze.



John Hoeftling of Georgetown paid the price of breaking the law. He was caught with the largest moonshining operation in Clay County. He spent eight months in Leavenworth Federal Prison.

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**HISTORICAL
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SOCIETY**
OF CLAY COUNTY

This exhibit is supported in part by the people of Minnesota through a grant funded by an appropriation to the Minnesota Historical Society from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Area Farmers Made Good Moonshine

By: Karen Carpenter

The economy was down and especially difficult for farmers during the prohibition period from 1920 to 1933. Alcoholic beverages are most often made from fruit, corn or other grain mash.

With the liquor and beer manufactures shut down the demand for farm products went down as well.

As gangsters grabbed the headlines, everyday Minnesotans quietly set up their own mom-'n'-pop stills. Clay and Wilkin County farmers were no exception.

A farm family in Wilkin County, just a few miles south of Barnesville was struggling to put food on the table. "It was a matter of necessity to make the liquor for many families," said Barnesville native, Don Sakry, of his family dabbling in moonshine.

These German Catholic descendants of the Barnesville area have a complicated guarded pride attitude, where the making of moonshine is concerned.

The stories were not always passed down from generation to generation, because people were not exactly proud of the activity although everyone was either making and/or consuming illegal hooch.

Sakry said, "my father was just a teen during the time of the prohibition. He never told us many stories about that time.

"I think he was kind of



Adam Sakry was reputed to have the best bootleg moonshine in Clay and Wilkin County. He is seated on the front lawn of the Stellmach farm with his son, Valentine, in 1954. While moonshine was technically illegal during Prohibition you did what you had to do in order to feed your family and survive the Great Depression.

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apprehensive about it. He had to be careful of being turned in. One had to know who your 'friends' were."

His grandfather had turned to making moonshine in small amounts to supplement the family income.

"Things were really tough during that time," Sakry said. "My grandfather was just trying to keep things afloat and feed his family."

Five families within a five mile radius were known to be making small amounts of moonshine.

People think of the Depression as starting in the 1930s, but it hit farmers a decade earlier according to records. In those days farmers could get paid the same for a calf as a gallon of liquor. So you do the math.

The 18th Amendment

was the only constitutional amendment ever to be repealed. But in those dry 13 years, plenty of very wet products were being brewed right here in the land of 10,000 backwoods stills.

Sakry remembered his father sharing that they used dried fruits like raisins or plums along with sugar and yeast made into a mash.

The mash was stored in large crocks. After the mash was fermented it was strained and then run through a still.

Stills were made of different materials but copper was the preferred container for the local family.

Some moonshiners tried to use galvanized containers to produce their brew. That type of metal in the brewing process can poison the liquor. There were accounts of death from bad moonshine or bath tub gin

all across the United States.

Making alcohol is a two step process fermentation and distillation. Fermentation is a chemical reaction that occurs when the yeast breaks down the sugar.

Distillation is the process of evaporating the alcohol which boils at a lower temperature than water and collecting the steam before condensing it back into liquid form. The local stills used a kerosene stove.

"My dad said that the first time through the still the product was moonshine. If you put the moonshine through the still a second time it became pure alcohol or everclear," commented Sakry.

"Our family apparently produced a pretty good product. People looked up my grandfather because they heard

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

Cures For Alcoholism Were Sought

By: HCSCC Staff

People who suffer from alcoholism usually need help to break the powerful physical and psychological addiction.

Today's most common support group, Alcoholics Anonymous, has helped a huge number of people deal with alcohol addiction, but the program did not emerge until 1935 and did not appear in this area until the mid-1940s. How did people get help before that?

Some found support by joining temperance organizations in their community. The Salvation Army helped people in need. Others, unfortunately, lost money on quack "cures" backed up by questionable claims and bad science.

"CURES"

Just like today, many people in the past sought help from doctors to fight alcohol addiction. But medical science has come a long

way in the last 150 years.

In the 1800s and early 1900s, many so-called experts promised to cure alcohol addictions with medicinal tonics or injections. Although some undoubtedly had good intentions, all too often the "experts" were charlatans their "medicine" was bogus.

Leslie Keeley may have been the first doctor to treat alcoholism as a medical disease instead of a moral failing, but he was still a quack.

The main component of the "Keeley Cure," invented in 1879, was the injection of bi-chloride of gold four times daily for a period of four weeks.

Although the cure was criticized by the medical profession, Keeley expanded his treatment program with a mail-order business and more than 200 branches of the Keeley Institute across the nation and in Europe.

Keeley's gold cure made its appearance in Moorhead in 1892 under the direction of Dr. D. C. Darrow and H. D. Scott, proprietors of the Moorhead Institute for Cure of Drunkenness and Opium Habit. A Keeley Clinic in Fargo operated from 1901 until at least 1917.

The Neal Cure was a vegetable compound that could be taken at home, no needles required. The Neal Institute opened in 1892 in Des Moines, IA, and by 1910 had an office on South Eighth Street in Fargo. The company promised the "drink habit cured in three days."

National Prohibition took its toll on these dubious "cures." By 1922, the Neal Institute had been



Ludvig Hagen and his family, after about six years of sobriety. Flaten/Wange Collection.

reduced from 63 offices across the country to two.

A SUCCESS STORY

Though most of the so called liquor cures were of limited help, the "Murray Cure" may have helped one Hawley man escape the bottle.

Ludvig L. Hagen had a drinking problem for 10 years before he sought help through Edwin Murray's Institute.

Little is known of Murray's procedure. He started in Minneapolis in 1896 and later opened branches in Fargo and Seattle. In 1904 a testimonial letter by Hagen, in Norwegian, appeared in an ad from the Hawley Clay County Herald. A loose translation follows:

To whom it may concern:

I am happy to attest to the good the Murray Cure has done for me.

I drank for over 10 years but now am perfectly cured.

If any are interested, either for yourself or others, then make no mistake and submit your problem to the Murray Cure.

Hagen later opened a soda shop in Hawley with partner Anton Olson. Hagen died, presumably still dry, in Minneapolis in 1947.

Meet The HCSCC Board Members...



GENE PRIM

Gene Prim has been a member of the Heritage and Cultural Society board since the merger. Prior to that he served on the Clay County Historical Society. He is the owner and publisher of area newspapers in Barnesville, Hawley, Ulen, Rothsay, Lake Park, Lakes Area Connection and Clay County Connection.

He has served on numerous civic and business boards. Gene has served on the Barnesville Economic Development Authority Board as a member and past president for 25 years. He has been elected as Barnesville's Mayor for seven terms, 14 years, spread out over the past three decades beginning in 1986.

If he can't be reached at his home or office in Barnesville, he is likely on a hunting trip somewhere in the world.

He lives in Barnesville with Karen, his long-suffering wife of 52 years. They enjoy traveling together in the United States or abroad, particularly Africa.

Every year, shortly after Christmas, he announces his retirement, again and heads for Texas. Before the end of February, however, his Brett Favre type retirement ends and he's back at his desk in the Barnesville newspaper office. There he will remain until the next big game hunting season opens.

Meet The HCSCC Board Members...



HISTORICAL & CULTURAL SOCIETY OF CLAY COUNTY



JIM SAUERESSIG

Jim Sauerssig has been a marketing consultant in the F-M area for 30 years. He has been involved in scouting, sales and marketing executives, FM advertising federation, WE Fest productions, little people coaching and broadcast management.

Jim has been married to his wife, Andrea, for 47 years with four grown sons and eight grandchildren.

His particular interest in is the Red River Valley history exhibit and he currently also volunteers with the Fargo Air Show.

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Breweries, Businesses Prospered In Area

By: HCSCC Staff

In the 1880s, most towns of a few thousand people had a brewery whose horse-drawn delivery carriages served the local populace. The young frontier boom-towns of Moorhead and Fargo were no exception.

Moorhead had a brewery one block east of the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County (HCSCC) and the two breweries in Fargo, Dakota Territory, were directly across the river from the HCSCC building to the north.

The two breweries across the river Aslesen & Hult and the Red River Valley Brewing Company were closed by state law in 1890 along with all of North Dakota's saloons.

The John Erickson Brewery in Moorhead rose and fell with the fortunes of the city. Like all small American breweries, the local brewery struggled to stay competitive as the big regional and national breweries flooded the market with cheaper beer.

A fire on August 30, 1901, burned down Moorhead's brewery, and for most of the next century, local residents drank other people's beer.

John Erickson was a pioneer businessman of the Red River Valley. Within a few years of arriving in the Moorhead tent town, the recent Swedish immigrant was the owner of Erickson's General Store, a meat market, a lumber yard, a blacksmith shop, some farms, saloons and a brewery.

A local newspaper said "He is prepared at all times to buy or sell anything from an elephant down to a cat." He was elected mayor three times.

John Erickson had to ride a turbulent local and national economy in the late 1800s. Like many boomtown businessmen, John Erickson came to the Western frontier with nothing, gained a few fortunes and lost almost as many.

Although he lost his brewery in 1896, he was once again a prosperous man by the time of his death in 1919.

"Let the saloons come," Erickson was once quoted as saying by Moorhead Weekly News on March 1, 1888. "The more the better it will be for us. They pay more in taxes than anyone else. How many temperance people...pay \$500 a year in taxes?"



What's the most expensive part of a beer? It has always been the bottle. Before Prohibition, people buying beer "to go" paid a deposit for the glass bottles and brought them back for a refund the next time they bought beer. The customer bought the beer but only borrowed the bottle.

These men in Hawley are riding a wagon full of empty bottles on their way back to the business that owns them. Many crates are labeled: "THIS BOX AND BOTTLES cannot be sold under Penalty of the law."

RED RIVER VALLEY BREWING COMPANY 1881 - 1890

This forgotten brewery still holds the honor of being the largest brewery in Fargo-Moorhead's history. The brewery could make 25,000 31-gallon barrels of beer per year at full capacity. That's more than 6 million pints of beer!

When North Dakota banned sales of alcohol in 1890, the owners moved their operation to Superior, WI, but continued to use their Fargo buildings to make their malted barley for some years.

Their brewery in Superior became one of the largest in the region, eventually changing its name to Northern Brewing Company.

In 1900, the beer returned home when Northern Brewing Co. built a distribution warehouse in Moorhead.

The brewery survived Prohibition, but, like almost all American breweries, it could not survive the post-WWII era of

mega-brewery domination.

The brewery closed in 1967, but the label was bought by Minnesota's Cold Spring Brewery, which brewed Northern Beer until 1995.

ASLESEN & HULT 1878-1890

The Fargo Brewery was built in 1878 by Joseph Prokos but was soon after taken over by partners Ole Aslesen and Charles Hult.

The brewery sold beer in wooden kegs to the people of Fargo and Moorhead and they shipped to customers within a 100-mile radius by rail. They were put out of business in 1890 when North Dakota outlawed alcohol.

The brewery's buildings were turned into a flour mill for some years before being torn down.

Ole Aslesen ran a saloon in Moorhead. In 1897, Aslesen returned to brewing when he reopened the Moorhead brewery, which had been vacant for a year after John Erickson's brewing business went bankrupt.

Aslesen's Brewery operated from 1897 to August 30, 1901, when a fire burned the building down. He did not rebuild.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO MAKE A BEER

Brewing beer took a lot of work and employed a lot of people. At the brewery itself, a master brewer was in charge, overseeing the other laborers.

A maltster germinated and then fire-dried the barley, turning it into "malt," which was used to make beer. Drivers were needed to deliver the beer to local saloons or to the railway depot for export.

Fargo-Moorhead's three local breweries also supported many other local businesses. The breweries needed to buy thousands of tons of ice from local companies to keep their lager beer cool while it aged.

Coopers were needed to make barrels to store the beer. Bottling beer required a separate bottling house to clean and fill the bottles, or the brewers could contract the job done with a bottling business like Moorhead's Western Bottling Works.

Steamboat crews and railroad workers brought in the raw materials for making beer

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



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Meet The Staff Members At The HCSCC

A Bartender's Photo Album

By: Markus Krueger

Mathias "Matt" Wambach was a bartender, saloon owner, husband and father in Georgetown and Moorhead from the early 1900s until Clay County's Prohibition in 1915.

Matt's great-grandson, Kelly Wambach, is the manager of the historical society's Heritage Gift Shop and Rex Cafe at the Hjemkomst Center. Photos are featured throughout the tabloid.

Identifying the people in these photos has become an obsession of mine, so if readers recognize someone, please let me know by emailing markus.krueger@hcsmuseum.org.



DAVIN WAIT

Davin Wait is the communications coordinator for the Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County.

Born and raised in New York Mills, in the heart of Minnesota's Finnish Triangle, he later attended North Dakota State University (NDSU) and graduated with a degree in English and history. His interests and work experience have been varied since.

After attending graduate school and teaching English at NDSU, he remodeled kitchens, roughnecked in the Bakken, taught North Dakota Governor's School, and worked as an urban lumberjack for Moorhead's own reclaimed lumber mill.

Now Wait is using his teaching experience and his knowledge of the area to help tell stories and reach new audiences at the Hjemkomst Center.

As the communications coordinator Wait works to promote the day-to-day operations of the museum and staff through several channels, including his responsibilities as editor of the HCSCC newsletter, The Hourglass.

Wait is excited to be working in Minnesota history because it's a long, proud tradition and this area has a lot of important and fascinating stories to be told.



MAUREEN KELLY JONASON

Dr. Maureen Kelly Jonason has been executive director of the museum for eight years.

She appreciates the fact that no two days are ever alike and that she has the best staff in the world.

Taking on the Comstock House management was this year's big adventure for HCSCC, and there is more to come.

Jonason lives in Fargo with her husband Martin Jonason.



LYNELLE MARTIN

Lynelle Martin is the newly hired administrative assistant at the Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County.

Lynelle grew up on a farm in Bottineau County and graduated from University of North Dakota with a degree in Computer Science and Geography.

She moved to Los Angeles where she initially worked for a major oil company before becoming a programmer analyst for Continental Airlines.

Lynelle returned to her home state of North Dakota in 2009 so she could enjoy four seasons.



The New Palm Saloon, Moorhead - 1913

The Rex Hotel and Saloon was one of the worst dens of sin in a city known for sin. The building was owned by the Duluth Brewing and Malting Company and named "the Rex" after one of their beers. The Rex was repeatedly busted for being an illegal brothel until the city finally shut the Rex down. The red light district was about a mile east at the southeast corner of Center Ave and 11th Street North.

Around 1913, Matt Wambach was brought in to reopen the closed saloon and take over the hotel. Matt, who is probably the man leaning on the bar, renamed the place the New Palm Saloon and the Wambach Hotel, but the names did not stick. City directories indicate that Matt also remained a bartender at Diemert's.

Under the ownership of Frank Magnuson during Prohibition, the Rex became Moorhead's most frequently busted "blind pig", the local name for "speakeasy". It was the center of an illegal alcohol network that included most of Moorhead's bootleggers and blind piggers. After Prohibition ended, it became the Rex Cafe.

Although the building is long gone and the streets have changed their courses, the Rex Hotel and the Hjemkomst Center happen to share an address, 202 First Avenue North. By coincidence, Matt Wambach and his great-grandson Kelly work at the same address a century apart from each other! These coincidences inspired the naming of the museum's Snack Shack to the Rex Cafe.



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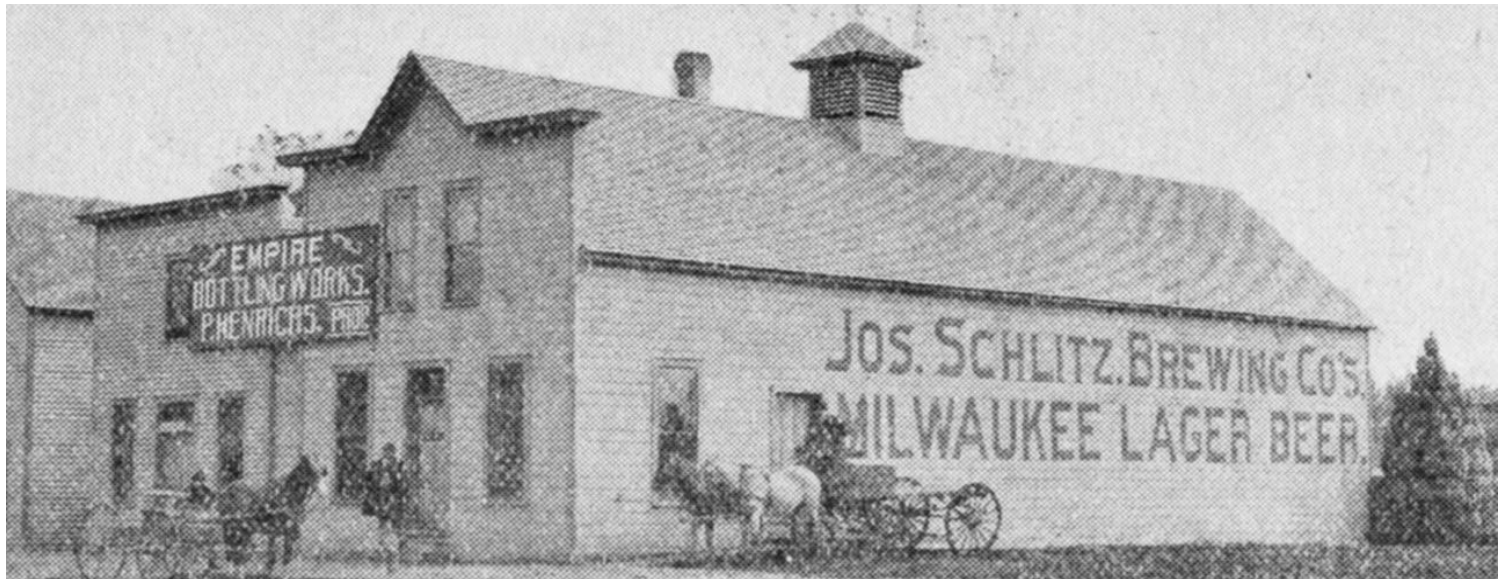
Breweries, Businesses Prospered In Area

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

including barley, hops, and other grains and exported them out again once they were turned into beer.

Breweries gave farmers a local market for specialty crops. An article in the county newspaper announced that the newly-opened brewery in Moorhead needed local farmers to grow barley.

In 1888, the Red River Valley Brewing Company of Fargo bought 55,000 bushels of barley from local farmers. Moorhead brewer John Erickson paid more than a dollar per pound for hops in 1883.



Moorhead's Empire Bottling Works imported barrels of beer from the Joseph Schlitz Brewing Company in Milwaukee and bottled it on their steam-powered bottling line. Henrichs was the wholesale dealer for Schlitz in Moorhead but most of his product went by train into North Dakota, where it was illegal to sell alcohol but still legal to order from Minnesota. In addition to beer, the half dozen workers bottled carbonated beverages and filtered medicinal spring water.

A common practice among brewing companies was to ship barrels rather than bottles. They found this a cheaper method. The Phillip Best Brewing Company would ship barrels of beer from their Milwaukee brewery to the Northwestern Bottling Company in Fargo. Northwestern Bottling Co. would then bottle and label the beer for sale around here. Five years later, Phillip Best's brewery was renamed for his son-in-law, a Great Lakes ship captain and businessman named Frederick Pabst. That is how the popular Pabst Blue Ribbon Beer that exists yet today was born.



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Temperance League Detested Alcohol

The National Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) was founded in Cleveland, Ohio in November of 1874. It grew out of the "Woman's Crusade" of the winter of 1873-1874.

Initial groups in Fredonia, NY as well as Hillsboro and Washington Court House, OH, were moved to a non-violent protest against the dangers of alcohol after listening to a lecture by Dr. Dio Lewis.

Normally quiet housewives dropped to their knees in pray-ins at local saloons and demanded that the sale of liquor be stopped. In three months the women had driven liquor out of 250 communities, and for the first time felt what could be accomplished by standing together.

Temperance reformers sought to limit the consumption of alcohol by Americans. This issue resonated with many women because alcohol consumption often increased the frequency and severity of domestic violence and abuse. In addition, men would sometimes squander limited household finances on

alcohol.

The WCTU was successful in achieving many important temperance measures. By 1901, due to WCTU efforts, every state in the nation had some kind of program to instruct children in public schools about the dangers of alcohol.

However, beginning around 1898 the WCTU lost some of its steam. Leadership of the prohibition movement was taken over by the male-dominated Anti-Saloon League. Still, the WCTU was certainly instrumental in paving the way for the passage of the 18th Amendment in 1919, which prohibited the sale of alcohol nationwide.

The WCTU remains an active organization today.

The Fargo chapter of the WCTU met in a building on the northwest corner of Eighth and Front Streets. It overlooked the western portion of NP Park.

The building is shown in the accompanying photograph from the State Historical Society of North Dakota Museum Collection 0463-02. It is unclear as to the date of the image.



This building located on the northwest corner of Eighth and Front streets in Fargo, ND is where the local Women's Christian Temperance Union met.

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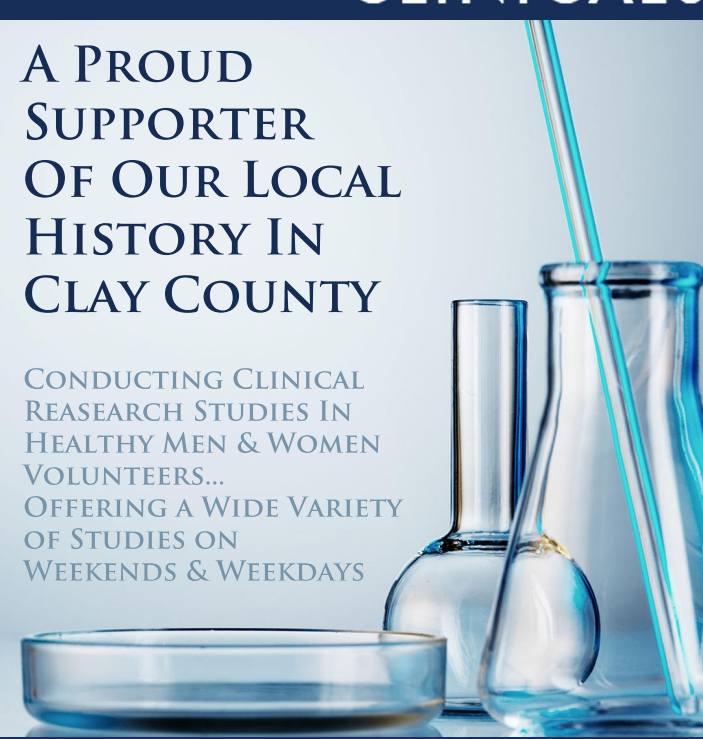


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Alcohol Alliance Formed By Radical Groups

By: Karen Carpenter

The opposition to alcohol united the radical right and the liberal left, the Ku Klux Klan and the Communist Party, our nation's first feminists and conservative Christian fundamentalists.

These groups had little in common, but they all had reasons to work together to fight alcohol's control over the country and their loved ones.

It is puzzling how these seemingly unrelated groups fit together to form the temperance movement.

Women...

Alcohol addiction is devastating to families, especially in the years when a woman could not easily provide a living for her family, herself or leave an abusive husband. Countless women had to endure husbands absent at saloons. Incidentally, where women were not allowed! Husbands were spending the family into poverty, and coming home violently drunk. In the mid-1800s, women began to stand up to protect themselves and their families against alcohol.

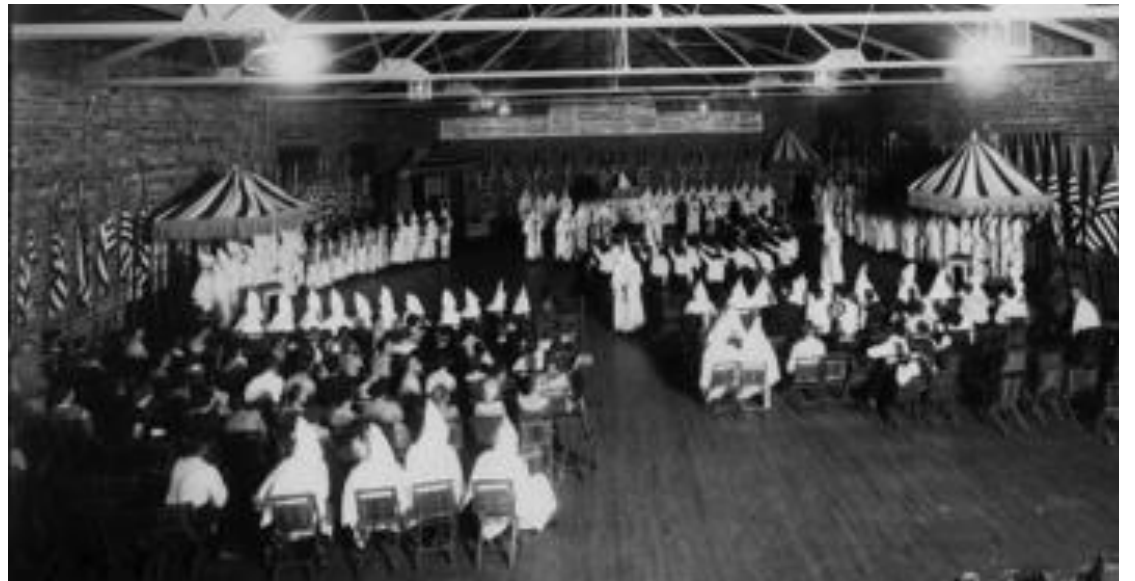
Women became leaders in the Temperance movement. Women organized local chapters of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, gave speeches on temperance lecture tours, and raised money for the temperance cause.

The women's leadership in the Temperance Movement led directly to women demanding a greater voice in American politics. Because of the leadership and support of women, national Prohibition was enacted in 1920 with the 18th Amendment, and the 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote that same year.

Temperance Movement ...

The Temperance Movement was an international social movement that believed people should drink less alcohol or no alcohol at all. Americans drank far more alcohol per capita than is consumed today. Making America sober was a task most thought impossible, but devoted Temperance workers were up to the challenge.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



Ku Klux Klan initiation ceremony in Moorhead about 1925. HCSCC Collections.

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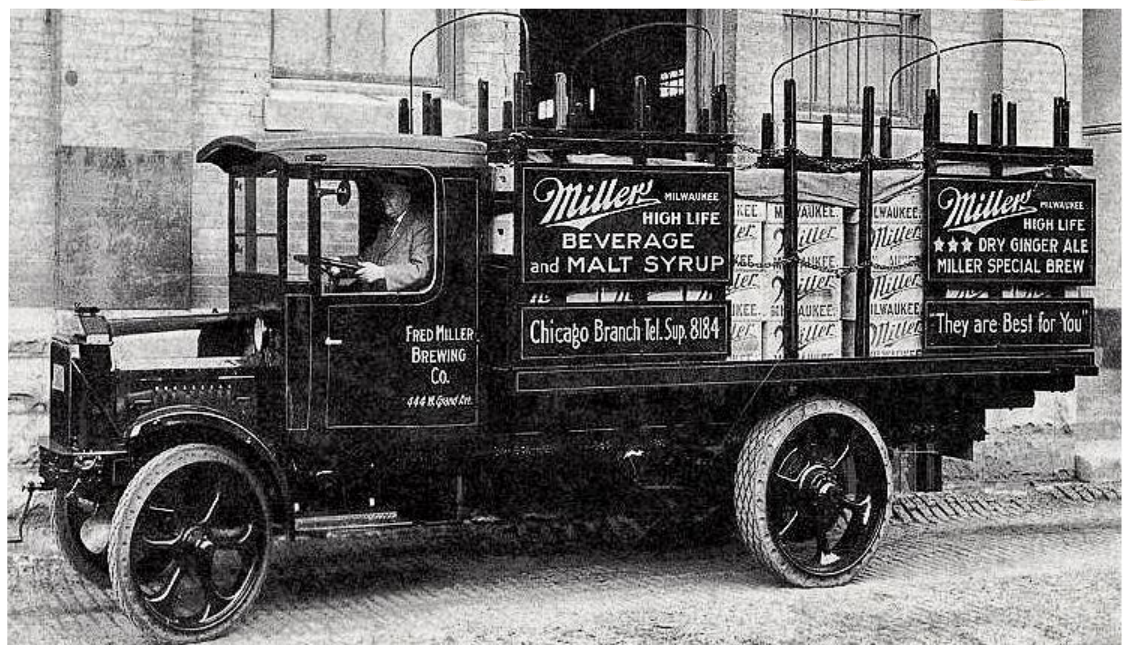
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Mainline Groups Formed Around The Area

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

Temperance was a moral crusade, valuing sobriety, family values and proper conduct. "Teetotalers" made Temperance Pledges to avoid alcohol in favor of Temperance drinks like tea, coffee, soda pop, or just plain water.

For perhaps the first time, women took leading roles in a major American political movement, urging their families and communities to sober up. At the beginning of the 20th century, the thousands of grassroots temperance clubs were brought together under the umbrella leadership of the Anti-Saloon League.

Through the Anti-Saloon League leadership, temperance workers organized effectively to change local and national laws for one purpose: To free America from alcohol's grip, whether Americans wanted them to or not.

Luther Osborn of Glyndon was a Progressive who fought for what he thought was right. During the Civil War he was an officer with the United States Colored Troops, leading African-American soldiers in their fight against the Confederacy and slavery.

When the 13th Amendment ended slavery in America, many Abolitionists like Osborn turned their attention to the Temperance Movement.

Osborn moved to frontier Glyndon in 1878 and spread his Dry beliefs as the publisher of the Red River Valley News. He was

a member of several temperance organizations, but eventually advocated for legal liquor so that revenue raised from expensive licenses could be used to fund schools.

Demorest Essay Competition...

Demorest essay and oratory contests were started in 1886 by William Jennings Demorest, a prohibition activist from New York City, to encourage young people to compose essays in favor of prohibition or to recite lectures of well-known prohibition activists.

Demorest contests were held in communities across the US and were often organized by local chapters of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

Nellie Hopkins, who became a long-time teacher and education leader in Moorhead Public Schools, won silver and gold Demorest Prohibition prize medals in oratory contests held in Moorhead in 1894. She was 19 years old at the time.

Nellie Hopkins grew up to be an elementary school teacher and principal in north Moorhead for almost 30 years. Moorhead's Ellen Hopkins Elementary School is named in her honor.

Nativists...

While America takes pride in being a nation of immigrants, our country is often unwelcoming toward new Americans.

Starting in the mid-1800s, Catholic and Jewish immigrants started coming to America. They were opposed by "Nativists," people who believed America



Women's Union, Moorhead Congregational Church, about 1907. The Ladies Union actively supported temperance. Courtesy of Moorhead United Church of Christ, Congregational Church.

should remain a Protestant country rooted in our British colonial heritage.

Because alcohol played a large role in many new immigrant cultures, Nativists often joined the Temperance cause.

The Ku Klux Klan, which grew in popularity just as national prohibition was enacted, was officially anti-alcohol.

Clay County had very few African American residents in the early 1900s, so the local Klan focused on anti-Catholic activity and intimidating people who they accused of spreading moral vices,

such as having alcohol at a barn dance.

Churches...

Protestant churches were at the forefront of the Temperance cause. The leaders of the national Temperance Movement were often Protestant preachers, especially Methodists and Baptists.

Around Clay County, Scandinavian and German Lutherans joined Yankee Methodists and Congregationalists to urge people to curb their drinking for the sake of society, their family, and their

souls.

Many local Prohibition clubs were organized by clergy and met in churches. Local churches sponsored famous speakers from across the nation to rally temperance supporters.

In February of 1886, Reverend W. H. Kaufman of Barnesville's Congregationalist Church spoke to large crowds in Barnesville and Glyndon. His speeches that railed against saloons, attracted hundreds of people, and resulted in the formation of Prohibition clubs in both towns.

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Many Victims Of Alcoholism Over Time

By: Karen Carpenter

There have been countless victims of alcoholism over the decades. A few are more notable or perhaps remembered longer.

Louis Marsh was born in Michigan in 1855 and came to Moorhead in the 1890s. He married, had four kids and lived a block north of the historical museum.

Marsh was a talented chef, cooked in various saloons and owned a traveling cook house. It was sort of an early 20th-century "food truck."

But he also drank and his addiction to alcohol led him to perpetrate several minor crimes. Locals called him "The Glommer" because he was always glomming on to things that were not his.

In 1911 Marsh was convicted of second-degree grand larceny for stealing chickens and sentenced to Stillwater Penitentiary. His parole file includes numerous letters from local folks, including the judge who sentenced him, the prosecuting attorney and the Clay County Sheriff.

They declare that Marsh was a good provider for his family, likely innocent of many of the charges against him and capable



Louis "The Glommer" Marsh was a Moorhead chef, petty criminal and alcoholic.

of being a good citizen. If only he could have controlled his drinking.

While awaiting the Parole Board's decision, Marsh became ill and died September 11, 1912.

Nellie "Scotch Nelle" Padden was born in Scotland around 1855, was well educated and a talented singer. She came to the US about 1870 and worked as an actress and singer for the nationally known Joseph Murphy traveling theatrical group.

Nellie became an alcoholic

and married a farmer near Langdon, ND. By the 1880s her drinking and subsequent violent behavior were noted in newspapers around the area.

Though some local authorities tried to help Nellie, most simply gave her a train ticket to another town.

In 1898 she smashed a plate glass window in a Moorhead saloon and was given the usual train ticket.

For nearly thirty years she wandered from place to place throughout the Red River Valley.

In 1907 she wound up in Winnipeg where she died in a jail cell from alcoholism.

Minnesota State University Moorhead student Jason Reinhardt was not an alcoholic nor was he a frequent binge drinker.

It only took one night of bad decisions for him to die of alcohol related causes.

On March 15, 2004, Jason participated in a 21st birthday ritual called the "power hour." Jason turned 21 years old at midnight, which gave him one hour before the bars closed to try

to consume 21 drinks.

Jason had about 15 shots before his friends took him home. When they checked on him the next morning, Jason was dead.

The alcohol-related deaths of Jason and other college students around this time convinced local lawmakers to end the power hour tradition.

Today, as far as alcohol is concerned, people in Fargo-Moorhead are not 21 years old until 8:00 a.m. the morning of their birthday.



Nellie Padden was a talented singer, dancer and actress who toured with Joseph Murphy's nationally known traveling theatrical group under the stage name "Annie Tregilgas." Journal of American Drama and Theater, Spring 2013

Winnipeg Junction's Short But Thriving Life



By: HCSCC Staff

Pictured is Winnipeg Junction in about 1905. Little Winnipeg Junction, population 257 in 1905, was home to three saloons through much of its short existence. Located just four miles east of Dry Hawley, the burg provided their neighbors to the west with liquor.

The saloons and the town dried up in 1910 when the Northern Pacific Railway

moved their tracks a mile to the north, establishing Manitoba Junction and Dale. The view is to the southeast.

Information from the Liquor License Form Book, Winnipeg Junction, 1901-1908, states that G. D. Herbert and two other saloon owners each paid an annual license fee of \$510 to the village of Winnipeg Junction. License fees made up most of the town's revenue.



Ole Gol's saloon at Winnipeg Junction is pictured about 1900. Gol's was one of three saloons in the village of 250 residents.

Bartender's Photo Album



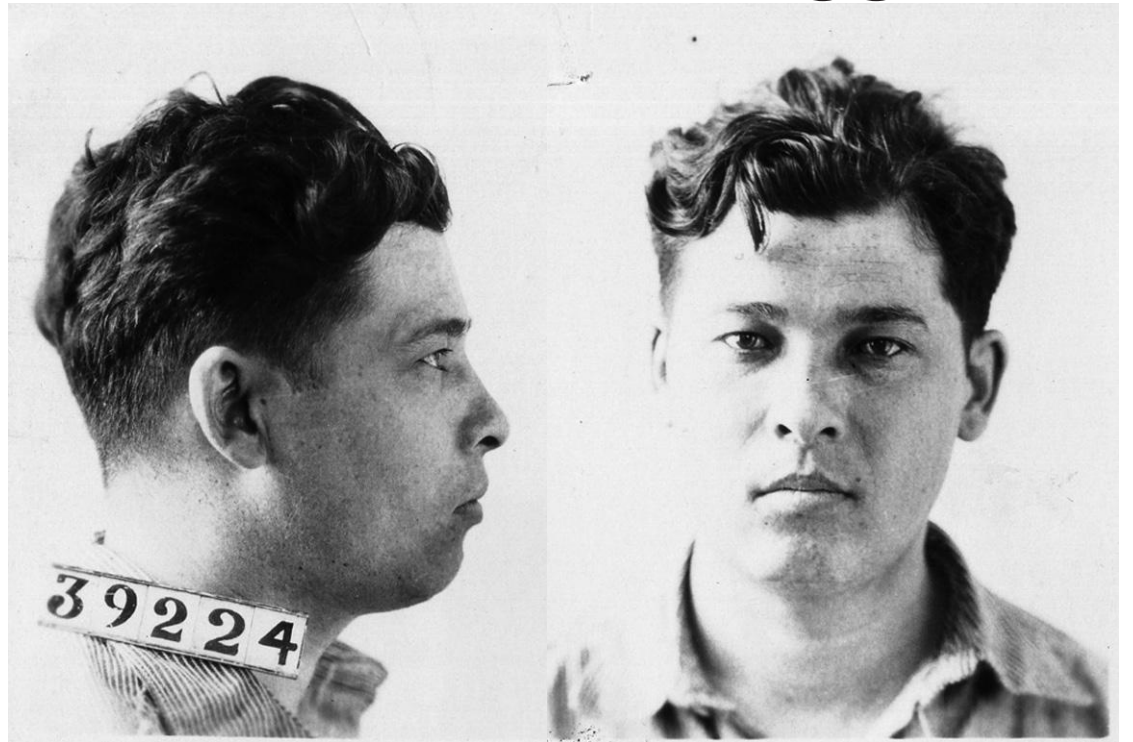
Diemert's Liquor Store, Moorhead, 1933, is Rustica Eatery And Tavern today

Eighteen years after Clay County went Dry, the U. S. Congress took the first step in repealing Prohibition. They voted that on April 7, 1933, beer with 3.2 percent alcohol or less would be legal to sell once again. William H. Diemert quit his job as a wholesale grocery salesman and was one of the recipients of Moorhead's original 30 beer licenses. North Dakota was still Dry, so people flocked to Moorhead on April 7.

Diemert's place is still serving beer today. Diemert's became Kirby's, then John Alexanders, and today it is Rustica Eatery and Tavern.

Matt Wambach died in 1935 but his younger brothers went back into the bar business as soon as alcohol was legal again. Nick Wambach managed Diemert's into the 1950s and Ali Wambach turned the Sabin State Bank building into the Crow Bar in 1937.

Area's Best Bootlegger...



The Hing family, mother Ellen, son Clarence and his wife Vivian, were bootleggers in Barnesville. This entry in the Barnesville Justice Criminal Docket describes a raid on the Hing's home on September 10, 1927, conducted by Police Chief Albert M. Erickson.

Erickson describes obtaining a warrant to search the house but he was unable to seize any incriminating materials except an almost empty half-pint bottle of moonshine.

Ellen Hing emptied another bottle onto the ground before he could grab it from her, and

one bottle of Liquor was broken by Clarence Hing.

Barnesville phone records show several calls from Hings to Moorhead bootlegger Emma Magnuson, linking them to the Myhre-Magnuson blind pig network

The law caught up with Clarence Hing in 1931. He was sentenced to one year and one day in the Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary. Courtesy of National Archives, Leavenworth Penitentiary Inmate Case File 1753, "Clarence Hing."

Hawley Herald

*Clay County
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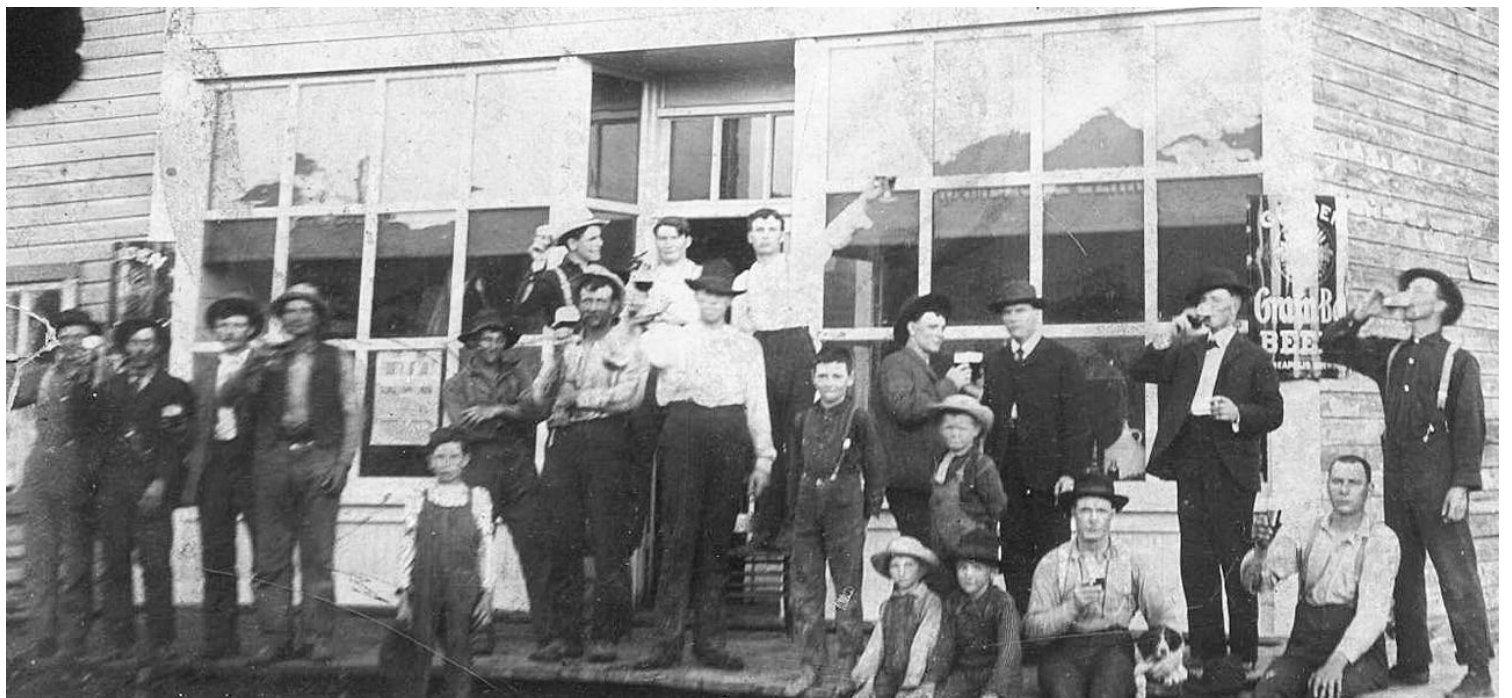
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Exterior Of Palm Saloon, 1904-1910



Exterior Of The Palm Saloon, Georgetown, 1904-10

In the spring of 1904, Mathias Wambach and his brother-in-law Nick Zenk turned an old mechanic shop in Georgetown into the Palm Saloon. The signs on the corners advertise Golden Grain Belt Beer made by the Minneapolis Brewing Company, now brewed in New Ulm by August Schell's Brewing Company. Matt and Dora's first children were born in their apartment above the saloon.



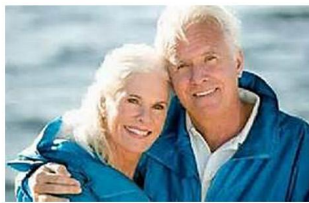
Interior Of The Palm Saloon, Georgetown, 1904-10

Matt Wambach is behind the bar on the left, so the other bartender is probably Nick Zenk. Judging by the appearance of the place, most of the money that Matt and Nick spent converting the mechanic shop into a saloon went into the beautiful wooden bar. The bar from the Palm Saloon survived in a local basement until the Flood of 1997.

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Wambach Shares Prohibition Stories

By: Karen Carpenter

Kelly Wambach of Georgetown has a family history steeped in the alcohol business, legal and illegal.

Wambach is manager of both the gift shop at the HCSCC and the Rex Cafe on the premises. His official title is retail/food services manager.

Part of his day is spent purchasing merchandise, stocking the shelves and waiting on customers of the gift shop. During the other part of his day Wambach whips up delicious lunch items and serves them to the cafe lunch crowd.

Wambach's ancestors owned local saloons and then were involved in a little bootlegging and warehousing during Prohibition.

German born Jacob Wambach

was one of the earliest settlers of the area. He was a great-great-grandfather to Kelly.

Matthew Wambach, a great-grandfather owned the Rex Saloon located in Moorhead and the Palm Saloon in Georgetown. Other members of the Wambach family also owned a bar in Sabin. Kelly's grandfather, Roland, was born above the Palm Saloon.

Rollie joined the old family business. He agreed to let his farm serve as an alcohol warehouse for rum-runners one summer in the mid-1930s. One might call it a "little warehouse on the prairie."

Kelly's dad, Allen Wambach, shared a few memories of that time. His was from the perspective of a youth witnessing the activities of the adults in his family and trying to make sense

of it all.

Allen remembers that the rum runners who worked with his dad came in three Oldsmobile Coupes, stripped down inside to hold 100 gallons of alcohol each.

Couples drove the booze-laden cars straight from Wisconsin to the Wambach farm a mile south of Georgetown.

What Allen does remember is that the women were dressed quite differently than local farm wives. He referred to them as "fancy ladies".

The rum-runners bribed the police for safe passage along the way. It was fellow criminals they had to worry about. "On their front seat they had a German Luger pistol and a sawed-off shotgun. And that was meant not for the law but hijackers," Allen Wambach recalls.



Kelly Wambach was not sure what his father, Allen, meant when he, as a small child, watched "fancy ladies" deliver alcohol. The dress could have been similar to this fashion from the 1930s, popular speakeasy wear.

Illegal alcohol was transported to the Wambach farm and stored there and then would be moved on to other locations to be sold.

Allen was born in 1927 so he was a pretty small boy at the time that he was being a lookout for the law.

Young Allen and his little brother Bob were paid \$5.00 each to keep watch on the front porch and tell the grown-ups if anyone was coming. They were never caught.

Allen is 89 now and lives in Borup, MN. He served in the military, farmed, did some road

construction and worked for the Great Northern Railroad as well as American Crystal Sugar.

Allen still cooks and cans and passed on his culinary love to his son, Kelly.

"My grandfather Rollie Wambach didn't like to talk about things that went on during Prohibition," said Kelly.

Allen shared with Kelly that at one time a painter was on the farm doing some work. He noticed that alcohol was dripping from the ceiling and alerted the family that something was leaking from upstairs.

Apparently a container had broken. Nothing more was said about the situation because it was common for farmers to store liquor or to manufacture moonshine.

In the case of his grandfather Rollie, there was no alcohol being produced just warehoused on the property.

Farm buildings became warehouses for large alcohol shipments smuggled in and out of the area. Metal tins of alcohol were concealed under hay in barns or hidden in compartments under the floors of chicken houses.

Cars came to load up with booze destined for places like Moorhead, western North Dakota, Saint Paul, and beyond.

Kelly Wambach is proud and willingly shares his family history as well as Georgetown's history, loaning some of his personal artifacts to the museum.

Memories From A Bartender's Album



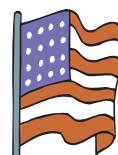
W. H. Diemert And Company Wholesale Liquor and Cigars - 1914-15

A few years before 1915, W. H. Diemert tore down his old saloon and built a bigger new place, where this photo appears to be taken. Judging by the age of Matt's young son, Roland, who is pretending to smoke a cigarette for the camera, this photo was taken about 1914-15. Matt is sitting on the far left, drinking a Rex brand beer. His brother Joseph, who managed the saloon, is sitting in the center. Their brothers Ali and Nick also worked at Diemert's and may be at the table.

The four Wambach brothers were among 18 Moorheadians working at W. H. Diemert & Co. in 1915. Before the year was out, all of them would need new jobs.

The people of Clay County voted to outlaw alcohol, and W. H. Diemert and Company closed along with all of Moorhead's saloons on June 30, 1915. During Prohibition, his building became a cigar shop run by Adolph Skalin, who continued to sell alcohol here during Prohibition.

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What'll Ya Have?!



By: HCSCC Staff

Whiskey was king in American saloons. Many Moorhead saloon owners bought whiskey by the barrel from out of state and bottled it themselves under their own brand names. Jacob Kiefer's brand was Metropolitan, while Peterson Mercantile offered Detroit Lake Rye, Black Buffalo Rye and Good Shot Rye, among others.

Vodka was hardly heard of outside of Eastern Europe at this time. Photographs and price lists of local saloons show that Aquavit, a Scandinavian liquor flavored with anise and other herbs, was common in this area where Scandinavian immigrants made up the majority of the population. Our local love of Aquavit was forgotten during the long years of Prohibition.

Beer grew greatly in popularity in the 1880s. America's beer market was dominated by German-style lagers, especially in states filled with German immigrants like Minnesota and North Dakota. Pilsners and stronger springtime Bocks made by the regional beer giants of Minnesota and Wisconsin, as well as from smaller local breweries, were what was on tap around here.

Treating was an important part of saloon etiquette. Friends, acquaintances or even strangers would offer to buy a fellow patron a drink. Refusing to accept was considered rude.

Even worse would be failing to buy him one in return. Someone in a group would buy a round, and each group member would be expected to reciprocate.

On slow nights the saloon owner might buy a round to get things started. The standard glass of beer cost a nickel and held

only eight ounces. Still, treating often led to over indulgence.



Clay County- Wet Or Dry?

Prohibition In Clay County

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Scandinavian Population Was Split...



In 1900, 86 percent of Clay County residents were immigrants or children of immigrants. Seventy-four percent of those were from Scandinavia. Scandinavians have a long tradition of hard drinking. As a reaction to this, Scandinavia also developed a strong temperance movement.

Lutheran ministers preached abstinence from the pulpit. Special Scandinavian branches of the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Good Templars formed in the area. The Scandinavian Temperance Union at Moorhead's Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead's Skandinavien Total Abstinence Society, Cromwell Township's Viking Temperance Society and others were also active. Organizers of the 1915 vote that made liquor illegal in Clay County picked the Norwegian holiday of Syttende Mai, on May 17, to get out the Norwegian vote.

This is how the Rollag Norwegian Lutheran Church looked in 1925. While many Norwegian immigrants brought their hard-drinking habits with them to the US, many others favored temperance.

Flaten/Wange Collection

MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS

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DALE WHITE

Dale White is a Hitterdal-area native and a retired counselor and registrar at Minnesota State Community and Technical College in Moorhead.

He earned his B.S. and M.S. at North Dakota State, taught English in Minnesota schools for several years, and served as registrar at Dakota College at Bottineau, ND.

Dale has three adult children and is a widower. Dale is a long-time member of Vikingland Kiwanis, and was a former CCHS president and treasurer.

Having served on the board since 2002, Dale will retire from the board in May 2017.

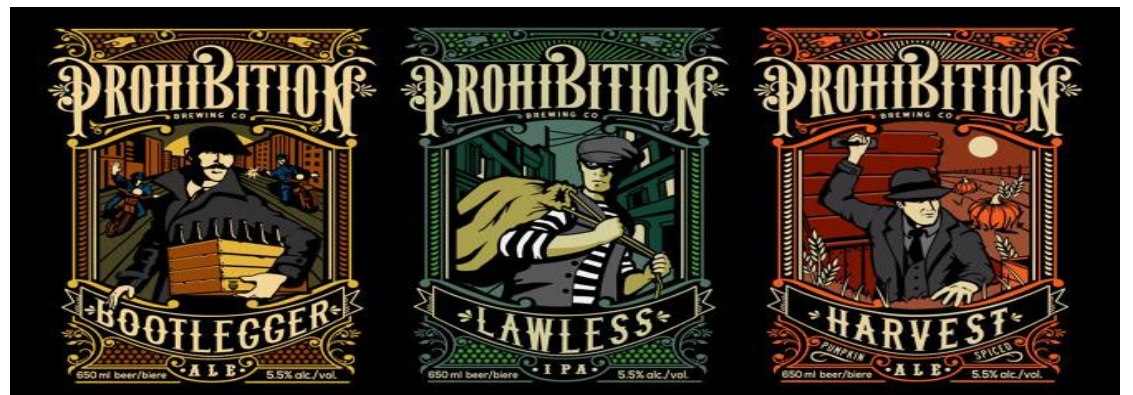


GLORIA LEE

Gloria Lee and her husband, David, reside on the farm Gloria grew up on near Georgetown.

Gloria is involved in community and church activities. She enjoys reading, gardening and spending time with grandchildren. She retired recently as a florist at Hornbacher's --Osgood, Fargo.

Gloria and David have four grown children. Gloria was president of the HCS board for two years and now volunteers in collections work, gives guided tours of the Hopperstad Stave Church, and gardens at Comstock House.



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Dilworth's Summer Festival Had Wine



Our Lady of Monte Carmelo Society, Dilworth, pictured about 1936 was very active in Dilworth where many Catholic Italian Immigrants settled. The society was begun by Italian immigrants in Chicago and spread across the country.

From 1919 until 1940 Italian immigrant families in Dilworth's "Little Italy" neighborhood held a mid-summer festival featuring music, spaghetti, boxing matches, fireworks and red wine. The price of California grapes, which went for as little as \$9.50 per ton before Prohibition skyrocketed to \$375 per ton in 1924! During Prohibition, Little Italy families pooled their money to import grapes by the box car load to make wine.

According to the Verdi family, John Verdi of Dilworth used a wine press to make wine for his family, which was legal, and for other Little Italy families, which was not legal.



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Looking Ahead To WWI Commemoration

By: Karen Carpenter

The Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County (HCSCC) staff spends two years of time planning and preparing items prior to the two year exhibits that are displayed.

The exhibit that is currently on display at the museum is entitled Prohibition In Clay County Wet or Dry?. It deals with the use, abuse, production and abstinence of alcohol across Clay County.

"The exhibit has been quite popular," commented Mark Peihl HCSCC archivist. "It is an interesting topic. It has really drawn people's attention."

Not only did the county have alcohol problems during national Prohibition 1920-1933 but the problem persists today.

The neighbors to the west in North Dakota shut down alcohol from the time they declared statehood in 1889 until 1936. The nation did allow 3.2 beer in 1933.

All those thirsty drinkers in Fargo and the surrounding area of North Dakota just crossed the bridge into Moorhead to wet their whistle.

The cultural and ethnic background of Clay County may play a role in the populace's hard drinking and binge drinking habits that still persist to this day.

"Prohibition drove drinking underground," said Peihl. "That led to people having a drinking regime of drinking fast and getting drunk quickly because one never knew when the next drink would be available."



Private Arthur F. Krueger was from Barnesville, served with the 28th Infantry Division and was killed in action September 29, 1918, one of at least 65 young Clay County men who died in service during the war.

"Instead of using alcohol for pleasant enjoyment, a drink with friends or with dinner, binge drinking developed."

"We learn from our parents

and we teach our own kids. Hard drinking has become part of our culture. It isn't easy to change the culture," continued Peihl.

The Wet or Dry exhibit was

completed early in 2016. In order to make that display available to the public, HCSCC staff spent two years on development.

The first year was spent in research and the second in developing the content of the displays.

The public still has a few more months to catch the Wet or Dry exhibit at the museum. Prohibition In Clay County - Wet or Dry? will close on December 31, 2017.

What will be the next two year exhibit, one may inquire?

The HCSCC staff has already been at work for several months researching material for the upcoming two year exhibit on World War I, "the war to end all wars."

In April 2017 it will have been 100 years since the entrance of the United States in WWI. The country was entangled in the European war for about 18 months until the signing of a peace treaty. At the end of 1918 an armistice was finally agreed upon. The fighting was to end on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, at 11:00 a.m. on November 11, 1918.

Archivist and researchers at HCSCC will rely heavily on newspaper accounts and letters for this exhibit, unlike the WWII exhibit that ended in December 2015.

There were several WWII veterans living in the county willing to give first hand accounts of those years. However, there are no WWI veterans still living

in the county or anywhere else in the US. Over 1,000 young Clay County soldiers, marines and sailors served in the military during WWI.

Many letters from service men writing home to family were published in the papers during the years of US involvement in WWI.

"We have a number of collections of private letters from families in the area. We are actively seeking out collections from other residents of Clay County," said Peihl. "They can be individual letters that were saved from WWI soldiers or a collection of letters."

WWI was not viewed as a threat to our way of life in America as WWII was. So the US held out for a very long time before stepping into the military fray.

"There wasn't much enthusiasm in this part of the country to enter the war," said Peihl. "We were isolated in the Midwest in some respects."

A large portion of the deaths that occurred during the war were not from the conflict of battle but from influenza, pneumonia or just plain unsanitary conditions.

During 2017 HCSCC staff have been researching this subject. The WWI exhibit will be ready for public viewing the first week of January 2018.

The public is encouraged to take an opportunity to view all of the exhibits at the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead. Many hours of labor go into each exhibit.

A Bartender's Photo Album



Exterior Of The Palm Saloon, Georgetown, 1904-10

In the spring of 1904, Mathias Wambach and his brother-in-law Nick Zenk turned an old mechanic shop in Georgetown into the Palm Saloon. The signs on the corners advertise Golden Grain Belt Beer made by the Minneapolis Brewing Company, now brewed in New Ulm by August Schell's Brewing Company. Matt and Dora's first children were born in their apartment above the saloon.

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Meet The Staff Members At The HCSCC



JOSEPH ENGEL

Joseph Engel is a Concordia College graduate in Classical Studies who was hired in February as a part time museum assistant. He works at the admissions desk, in the gift shop, and at whatever task needs to be done.



MARK PEIHL

Mark Peihl, Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County (HCSCC) archivist, grew up in Hunter, ND and attended the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, ND graduating with a Bachelor's degree in history in 1978.

Peihl worked for Rochester Armored Car Company for seven years and began working as a volunteer for HCSCC in 1985.

In 1986 Peihl was hired as HCSCC archivist. As archivist Mark is responsible for HCSCC's corporate records, photo and manuscript collections, books, newspapers and maps, basically anything paper.

He also helps archive patrons with research. Peihl spends a lot of time doing research and writing for the exhibits, programs and publications and speaks to church, civic and student groups on a variety of local history topics.

Mark Peihl enjoys hunting, fishing, canoeing, hiking and camping in his spare time. Mark lives in an 80-plus year old house in north Fargo, ND with his wife Gloria.



KELLY WAMBACH

Kelly Wambach has managed the Heritage Gift shop since May of 2012. In May of 2013 he opened the new Heritage Snack Shack at the Hjemkomst Center. The Snack Shack is now called the Rex Café.

He graduated from Moorhead High School and completed the two- year chef training and restaurant management courses at MAVTI.

Just a few of his restaurant experiences in the Moorhead and Fargo area include the Northwood Chalet, owner, the Tree Top, executive chef, the Viking Oaks, executive chef and the Doublewood Inn, executive chef.

Wambach also worked for Baer's House of Quality and Conlin's Furniture in sales and as a design consultant.

From 1994 to 2004 he co-owned the Old Market Antique Shop in Moorhead.

Wambach spends most of his free time gardening and resurrecting his 125-year-old rural-Sabin farmstead.



LISA VEDAA

Lisa Vedaa is the Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County collections curator, taking care of the HCSCC's collection of thousands of historical objects that tell the story of Clay County.

Talk to Lisa if you have items that you would like to donate to the HCSCC! Lisa also works with the exhibit team to research and create future exhibits.

Vedaa started working for the HCSCC in 2002. Prior to taking that position she had been the curator/assistant director at the Codington County Historical Society in Watertown, SD since 1999.

She has a BA in public history with a minor in anthropology from North Dakota State University, and worked on an MA in public history at St. Cloud State.

Vedaa was raised on a family farm near Ruso, ND, southeast of Minot. She lives in Fargo with her husband, Rob, and their three boys.

Vedaa feels honored to have the task of preserving historical objects that tell the history of Clay County and its people.



MATT EIDEM

Matt Eidem is the Director of Museum Operations at the Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County as well as the site manager for the Solomon G. Comstock House.

Eidem is a graduate of Concordia College with a degree in history and economics. He also holds a master's degree in library and information science, and a second undergraduate degree in information science and technology from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee.

Eidem comes to the Historical Society after three years working as an archivist in the Louisville, KY area.

As director of operations Matt is mostly concerned with the day-to-day operations of the museum. As the Comstock House site manager Eidem does everything from developing new programming to running the boiler in the basement.



MARKUS KRUEGER

Markus Krueger is the programming director at the Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County.

Markus first came to the Hjemkomst Center as a volunteer stave church tour guide while studying history and art history at Minnesota State University Moorhead. After three years of volunteering he was hired in 2007.

Today, Markus' job focuses on planning festivals and events, organizing group tours, hanging travelling exhibits and doing whatever else needs to be done. He is part of the team that puts together our own local history exhibits.

A favorite part of the job for Krueger is obsessing about local history and finding fun ways to share it with people.

Markus Krueger and his wife, Moorhead librarian Megan Sorenson Krueger, are proud Spuds and proud Dragons. They live in Moorhead with their three cats.

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Area Farmers Made Good Moonshine

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15
he made good moonshine.”

Small bottles were taken to barn dances or other gatherings by thirsty locals and bootleggers. The moonshine would be sold upon request.

One had to be very careful who you sold to. It was always a risk that someone witnessing a moonshine sale could turn in the producer. In those years people looked for Federal Agents around every corner.

An oddity of the Volstead Act that started prohibition did not make consumption of liquor illegal. It just made it illegal to sell it.

In the beginning fines

were not very high. As more moonshine producers entered the competition, fines went up and a term in Leavenworth Federal Prison was a risk.

“As I was told, the local law enforcement weren’t trying all that hard to catch small time farm moonshiners. But when a Federal Agent was in the area, then more people were scrutinized,” said Sakry.

As more competitors set up stills, the price that one could charge for the liquor went down.

When Sakry’s grandfather first made moonshine, he could get \$8.00 a quart. Later the selling price dropped to \$2.00 a quart and it didn’t pay to make the moonshine anymore.

“It took a lot of mash, about 30 gallons to make two gallons of moonshine,” said Sakry of his grandfathers still.

The still on the local farm was housed in the upper story of a grainery. Apparently the empty grainery caught on fire one day. No one could explain the cause since there was no electricity to

the building nor had there been a lightening strike. Hmm!

Area records claim stills were hidden in milking rooms, silos, and even in manure piles. Since cooking moonshine or home brewing gave off an unmistakable smell, hiding the equipment with another strong odors had multiple benefits.

“My father tells of a time when he was watching the still and looked out of the upper story window of the grainery. He saw a Wilkin County Sheriff’s car in the yard,” recalls Sakry. “Dad said he was really scared, turned off the burner and headed to the barn as fast as he could.”

The sheriff, as it turned out, was just visiting and probably left with a sample or two.

Sakry remembers being told that the family stored their moonshine that was ready for sale in a crawl space under an atrium or sunporch of their home.

Other innovative ideas came out of the prohibition period.

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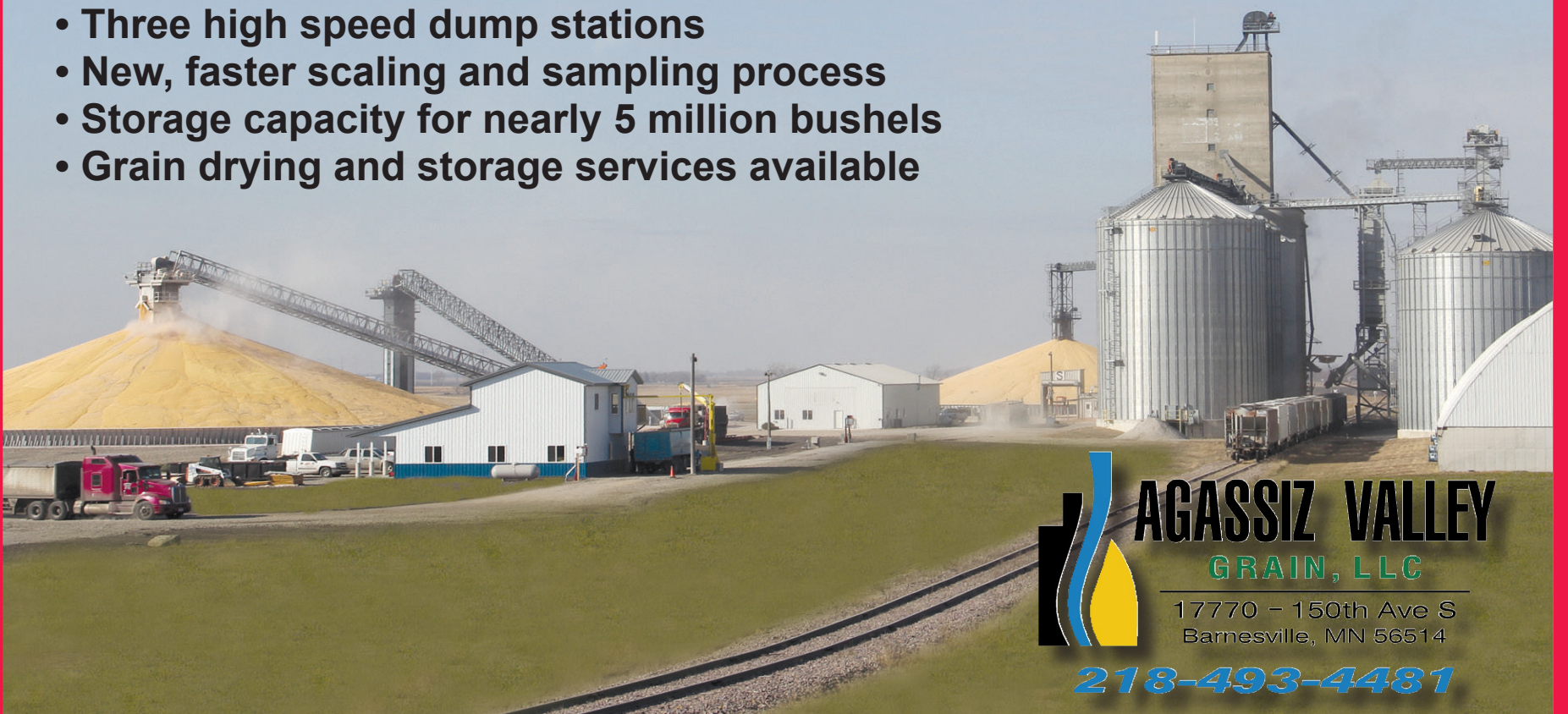


Donald Sakry, lifelong Barnesville area resident, shared his family story of making do and getting by during the Prohibition Era and the Great Depression.



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Sakry Family Has History In Moonshine



To make ends meet during the Prohibition Era, Adam Sakry on the left, ran off a few gallons a year of some top shelf moonshine. Adam is pictured here with his son, Val, on the family farm in the 1940s. By that time Prohibition was over but Adam still ran off small batches for family and friends.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

The Ford Motor company put out the flathead V8 motor in their 1932 model.

"I remember my dad saying that the V8 could go so fast that those still in the business of trafficking illegal liquor could more easily outrun the Feds. Those cars were used by the rum-runners mostly in southern states" said Sakry.

"Anything my family made would be delivered maybe in a quart jar using their old jalopie."

Producing a small amount of moonshine is part of Clay County and the surrounding area's history. Making contraband homemade booze and selling it was not confined to the south. Some stories have become local family legends.

Even after two generations of being law abiding citizens, the notoriety of ancestors dabbling in moonshine production, and living just a little outside the law remains. But it is kind of fun to remember that Grandpa was, at one time, a moonshiner.



Donald Sakry, right, is pictured in the back yard at their farm in 1952 with his father, Valentine. The occasion was Donald's eighth grade graduation from Assumption Catholic School in Barnesville.

Memories From A Bartender's Album



Exterior of Diemert & Murphy Family Liquor Store, Moorhead - 1906

When North Dakota outlawed alcohol in 1890, all Fargo's saloon business went across the river into Moorhead. Getting North Dakotans drunk became the principal business of Moorhead, and the county seat gained a reputation for being a corrupt and wicked city. When bartender William H. Diemert opened his own place in 1900, he had one of about 45 saloons in a town of less than 4,000 people.

That same year, Katherine Diemert, William's sister, married Joseph Wambach, Matt Wambach's brother. Joseph Wambach would become Billy Diemert's business manager, eventually bringing his brothers into the business with him. This photo taken by Moorhead photographer Ole Flaten appeared as an advertisement in a 1906 plat map of Cass County, ND, when W. H. Diemert was in a partnership with Thomas Murphey.

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Interesting Exhibits On Display For Short Time

By: Karen Carpenter

There are several smaller exhibits that the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County (HCSCC) puts on display each year at the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead.

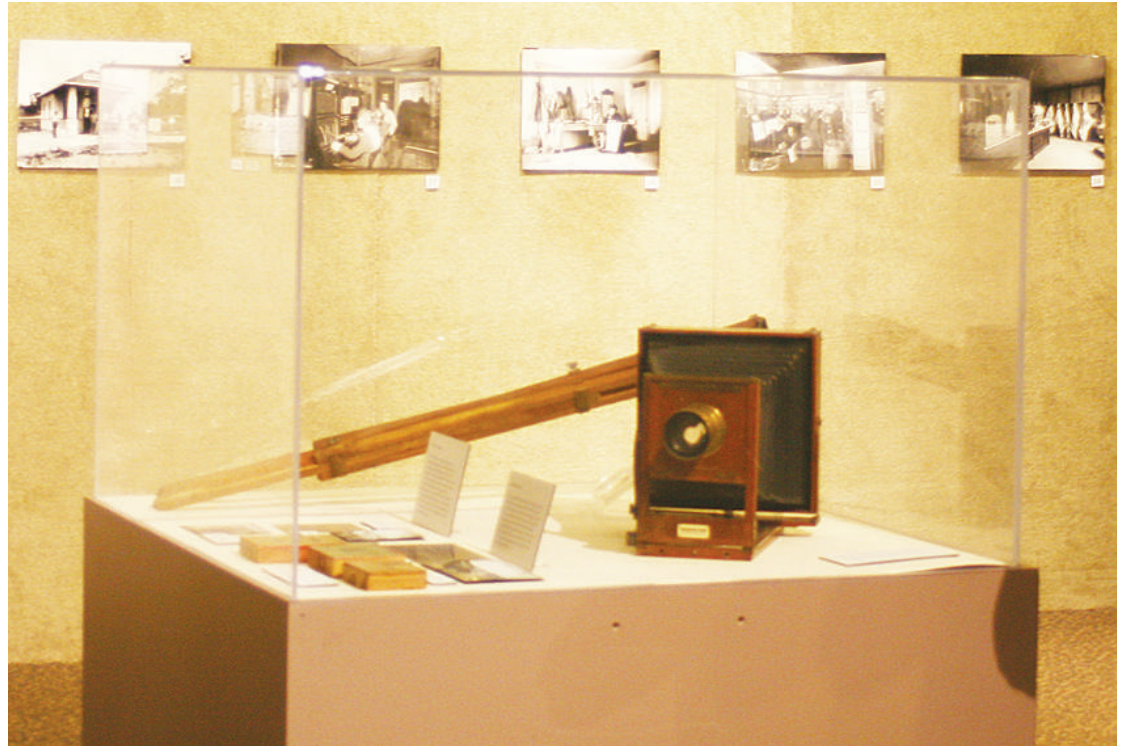
One such exhibit will feature the photographic works of Ole Flaten of Moorhead and S.P. Wange of Hawley. Both were Clay County

professional photographers whose works span the years of 1879 to 1950. Both men were Norwegian immigrants.

The HCSCC has a collection of negatives from both of these well-known photographic artists.

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“Ole Flaten was meticulous in his work,” commented Mark Peihl, HCSCC archivist. “Flaten had to sensitize his



Photos taken by Ole Flaten and S.P. Wange, Clay County Photographers are displayed at the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County. Their work spanned the years from 1879 to 1950. Early cameras and photographic processes are explored by the exhibit.

own glass plates for making negatives. That may be why his composition was so carefully arranged.”

Flaten’s career spanned 50 years from 1879 to 1929. S.P. Wange began his photographic works in 1893 until early 1950s.

“Wange was much more free wheeling. He was not as good or polished as Flaten but the subject matter was a lot more fun,” observed Peihl.

Flaten, it is reported, had 126,000 negatives but many were disposed of for the silver

content. Only 800 remain.

The rest of the 15,500 negative collection held by HCSCC are Wange’s negatives.

Along that same vein another exhibit which is on display at the museum examines a variety of photographic techniques.

Ken Anderson, local expert on the subject, will display a dozen different photographic processes dating back to the 19th century.

Displays will outline and explain the various processes

used in the art of photography.

The albumen process was the most common photographic printing process developed in 1847 and popular through the 1890s. Several other processes were used as techniques expanded and developed.

Ken Anderson also builds exquisite handcrafted furniture, some of which will be on display as well.

Be sure not to miss these exhibits which will be featured as well as the many other displays at the museum.

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Speak Easies, Blind Pigs During Prohibition

By: HCSCC Staff

Prohibition did not stop people from selling alcohol. It just made it illegal. Places where you could go to buy booze were called "Speak easies" or "Blind Tigers" depending on which part of the country they are found. Around here they were usually called "Blind Pigs."

Some Blind Pigs were in private homes but a surprising number of businesses had moonshine for sale if you knew how to ask for it and the clerk trusted you.

Blind Pigs could be places where you bought your booze and left, or they could be secret saloons where music was played and people drank on site.

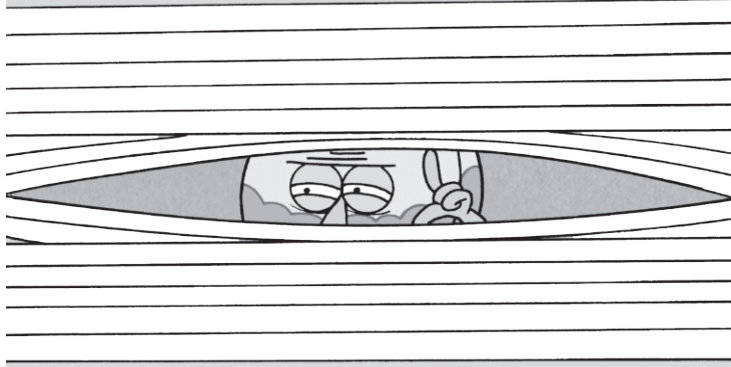
Many Blind Piggers were former saloon owners who kept selling alcohol out of new businesses like soda shops and cigar stores.

Unlike pre-Prohibition saloons where women were rarely seen, the Blind Pigs and Speak easies of the '20s and '30s were places where men and women drank, danced, and romanced together.

On Valentine's Day, 1924, city and county police raided the Rex Cigar Store owned by Frank Magnuson. Police looked everywhere but could not find any alcohol. They were walking out when an officer thought the basement stairs felt funny. They lifted up the stair treads and found 5 and a half gallons of illegal alcohol and several empty bottles.

In the falls of 1929 Adolph Erickson of the Rex Hotel, was arrested when 17 Miceys, which are half-pint bottles, full of alcohol were found in one of his rooms. They were hidden behind a dresser in a hole in the wall.

Erickson claimed they belonged



to someone who rented the room and had left town. Erickson was found not guilty.

When alcohol was legal, saloons were for men only. But when Prohibition made all public drinking illegal, the law had the unintended consequence of bringing women into bars.

The 1920s was a time of youthful rebellion, flaunting authority, and sexual liberation. Anyone entering a speakeasy was already breaking the law and social conventions, so why not break gender rules, too?

The speak easies, barn dances, and house parties of Prohibition were places where men and women socialized together, drank together, danced together, and changed society's traditions of courtship and romance.

Dilworth was home to at least three well-attended speak easies during Prohibition. Leo Oliver's restaurant, Venice Gardens in the Little Italy neighborhood and the Spanish Villa on the town's northern outskirts.

In March of 1933, responding to noise complaints from the neighbors, Deputy Sheriff John Whaley raided the three places. He closed the doors

and kicked out 30 guests at Oliver's restaurant and 65 at Venice Gardens.

The co-ed nature of speak easies was still shocking to many, and the Fargo Forum described the night as an "orgy" on March 13, 1933. "Members of both sexes, many of them extremely youthful, were lurching about drunkenly, talking in loud voices, and otherwise acting in a disgraceful manner when he entered, the deputy said. In both places, orchestras were playing and the merriment was at high pitch."

Sugary soda sales soared when alcohol was made illegal. For millions of Americans, pop became the refreshing drink that replaced beer or hard cider on a hot day.

While most American breweries went bankrupt during Prohibition, those that survived often kept their companies afloat by making soda-pop.

Soda shops were also notorious Blind Pigs. Of the seven Moorhead

soda shops operating in 1928, six of the owners had previous convictions for bootlegging.

Pop benefited from the illegal liquor trade because of the growing popularity of the "cocktail." Although mixed drinks certainly

existed before Prohibition, most pre-Prohibition drinks were served "straight-up" just the booze.

Drinkers found that sweet sodas did a wonderful job of masking the taste of bad bootleg liquor.

MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS



LES BAKKE

Les Bakke retired Computer Director from Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM), has a long interest in history and genealogy. Les started at MSUM as a history major, changed to mathematics and then to computer science receiving his Bachelor's degree in 1972. Les also has a Master's degree in Counseling.

Les is active on several boards including Heritage Education Commission and Moorhead Community Access TV. Les also manages web sites for several non-profit organizations.

Les has lived in Moorhead since returning from service in the US Air Force in 1968. He is serving on HCS's board ex officio as past president until May.

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Bootlegging allowed Emma Magnuson to raise her two adopted children on her own after her husband abandoned the family. Emma's brother-in-law, Frank Magnuson, was at the center of the Rex Blind Pig network in Moorhead. Emma's daughter Clara joined the family business, marrying bootlegger Lloyd Junkin in 1924. Emma's son Warren Magnuson moved to Seattle and became a powerful United States Senator. Nellie Hopkins Collection

Progressives Played Part In Temperance Movement

By: HCSCC Staff

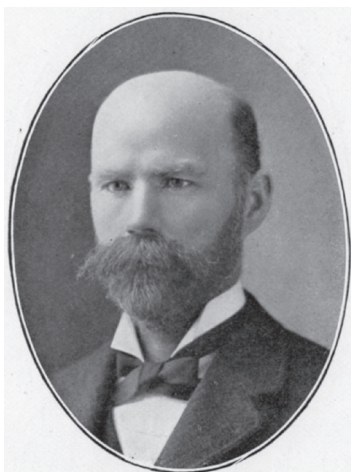
The 1890s-1920s is often called the Progressive Era. Progressives believed that government could be a force of good to solve society's problems.

They successfully fought to give women the right to vote. They fought for child labor laws. They worked hard against political corruption.

Progressive populists were in both parties, including Republicans like Teddy Roosevelt and Democrats like Woodrow Wilson.

In their zeal to change America, Progressives often thought they knew better than everyone else and they used the law to make people do things their way.

Temperance was a common cause among many Progressives who saw alcohol to be the greatest cause of crime, poverty, and political corruption in America.



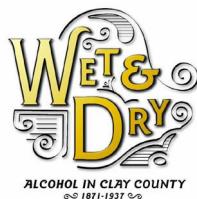
State Senator Frank H. Peterson supported women's right to vote, the initiative and referendum and temperance. The Progressive Republican from Moorhead led the fight for the County Option law which resulted in Clay County going dry.



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Sabin Was The Site Of Bank Robbery...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

to drive him around town to search for his missing man in his missing car. Jake spotted McLeary around 11th Street and First Avenue North in Moorhead. Schumacher took out his pistol and pumped five shots into the car being driven by McLeary, causing him to lose control and plow into a snowbank.

Jake Schumacher leapt from his car, ran up to McLeary, and beat his face bloody with the butt of his revolver while calling him a "double crosser." McLeary went to the hospital and Jake was arrested for second degree

assault.

As Jake paid his \$1,000 bond to get out of jail, he was bold enough to tell the court commissioner, "Any man who works for me has to have a penitentiary record so if anything happens he will take the rap."

Jake told the police that McLeary stole his car, and his actions were justified to get it back. Lemon, Jake's driver in his search that day, later told the authorities that Jake assaulted McLeary as a message to the rest of the gang that they better stop having cold feet and start robbing banks.



The scene of the crime! The Crowbar was the Sabin State Bank in 1931.

Three days before the Sabin State Bank robbery, they recruited one last member, a 48-year-old boilermaker from Saint Paul named Ed Redman.

His arrest record went back 20 years and included grand larceny, burglary and carrying concealed weapons.

"Jake mentioned a bank holdup and said he wanted four

or five men. I told him I didn't like that kind of thing," Redman would testify, although he was lying about one part of that statement. He had just robbed the Park River Bank a month before.

"Jake kept insisting that I go with them. He said I was a good man for the job. Then he got us all drunk. Jake said, 'the man who backs out now knows too much and he'll either get slugged or I'll give him what McLeary got.' I didn't want to get killed so I went with them. Jake furnished the gas, car, guns and everything."

The gang was assembled and the plan was set. Sam Abes, Ed Redman and Arkansas Bob would rob the bank while Zach Lemon stayed behind the wheel in the getaway car. When they got the money, they would speed away to meet Jake Schumacher on a country road southeast of Sabin.

They would ditch the old car, get into Jake's car, and all go back to Moorhead together to divide the loot.

According to Redman, on the night of December 28, Jake told them, "Boys, I guess we're all set. Let's do the job. We've got to do the job. You don't have to worry about the law around here.

I am the law. We'll stay in this room tonight. Nobody is going out of here."

THE ROBBERY

At about 2:30 p.m. on December 29, 1931 Ed Redman, Arkansas Bob, and Sam Abes entered the Sabin State Bank. They forced cashier George Carlson into the vault at gunpoint, stuffed \$2,500 in bills, silver, and bonds into a flour sack, and locked Carlson inside.

Across the street, farmer Richard Johnk saw the men come out of the bank, their faces covered by their jacket collars, and get into a stolen Chrysler with Zach Lemon behind the wheel.

Arkansas Bob jumped in the front seat. "Drive like Hell!", he told Lemon. Redman knocked out the back window with his gun and threw tacks on the road behind them to puncture the tires of anyone who followed. As Redman threw the tacks, Abes secretly reached his hand into the flour sack and snatched a few hundred bucks.

Witness Richard Johnk ran into the Scheel's hardware store (yes, the original Scheel's store in Sabin), yelled out that the bank was being robbed, and asked the

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The Fall Of Rum-Runner Gangster...

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clerk for a gun. Too late. The car was gone, but Johnk wrote down the license plate number.

The bandits sped a mile south and a mile and a half east to rendezvous with Jake Schumacher, but he wasn't there. They waited impatiently until they realized Jake wasn't coming. "Drive north," Arkansas Bob furiously ordered Lemon. "Cross the highway the first chance you get, they'll be watching it."

The four abandoned the car at the Obert Tween farm and walked along the Buffalo River towards Moorhead. Arkansas Bob punched a hole in the ice with the butt of his rifle and threw his jacket into the river to prevent any witnesses from identifying him.

Abes testified later that Redman wanted to kill Lemon and hide his body under the ice, too. Did he want a bigger share of the loot? Was he afraid of the kid talking? Somehow Redman was persuaded against killing the kid. Arkansas Bob and Redman took turns holding the money. Cold, confused, and betrayed, Arkansas Bob said that when they got back into town he was going to find Jake Schumacher and kill him.

All four men made their way west through the snow to Moorhead that night. Abes went home to Fargo, but the other three, Arkansas Bob, Redman, and Lemon, arrived at Eva

Trio Held in Sabin Bank Robbery



The picture and caption are from a local newspaper account at the time of the bank robbery.

The three men shown above are in the Clay County Jail, charged with robbery of the Sabin State Bank in which \$2,500 loot was taken. The fourth man is still at liberty. Those above are, left to right: Zach Lemon, Moorhead, said to have been riding with Jake Schumacher when the latter fired at Patrick W. McLeary on a city street corner recently; Sam Abes, Fargo shoe shinner and Ed Redman, the latter arrested in a southside "hideout".

Manypenny's boarding house at 19 Fourth Avenue South around 11:00 p.m.

Even though the robbery did not go according to plan, and no one knew what Jake Schumacher was up to, the three did still have a lot of money and they were in a mood to celebrate.

Eva Manypenny's boarders,

George Rea, Joe Rueda, and Joe Martinez, came downstairs to find a drinking party. The robbers gave Rea and Martinez \$500 in liberty bonds. The two men later told the court that they burned the bonds as soon as they realized they were involved in the bank robbery.

Where was Jake Schumacher the day of the robbery?

He was driving around Sabin in Walter McGavin's car. He waved to Deputy Sheriff John Whaley as he passed him on the road.

THE MANHUNT AFTER THE SABIN BANK ROBBERY

The Sheriff's Department heard about the robbery around 2:30 p.m. that day, and Deputies Verne Terryll and John Whaley grabbed their guns and drove south at high speed (which at this time was a quaint 35-40 mph). Along the way they saw Jake Schumacher driving north toward Moorhead, away from Sabin. Jake was driving a car belonging to Walter McGavin, a rival gangster who recently dethroned Jake as Moorhead's Prohibition "Beer Baron." Jake honked a hello to Deputy Whaley.

John Whaley followed leads

involving the robbery all day and into the night. The next morning, Jake Schumacher met Deputy Whaley in Moorhead's city park which is now Memorial Park. Jake told the deputy that he would find a stolen 1928 Ford Coach filled with illegal alcohol in a garage controlled by Walter McGavin.

Jake said the man who stole the car was Art Presnall, Walter McGavin's cousin, and that Presnall would be leaving that morning for Detroit Lakes by train.

John Whaley had known Jake Schumacher for a long time. It must have been a complicated relationship. It was common knowledge that the Schumacher family, parents Charlie and the recently deceased Anna, and their adult children, were prominent rum runners supplying the Fargo-Moorhead area with illegal alcohol. It was common knowledge that Jake Schumacher, the family's 38-year-old eldest son, was something more than just a bootlegger.

Deputy Sheriff John Whaley and his father, Sheriff Archie Whaley, would arrest members of the Schumacher family from time to time, but they were also using Jake as an informant

against other criminals. Since Jake was at the center of Fargo-Moorhead's criminal underworld, he knew quite a bit.

It was up to John and Archie Whaley to determine what tips from Jake were real while keeping in mind that Jake was using the Sheriff's Department as a tool to further his own plans. But just because Jake was up to something didn't mean he wasn't giving them true information.

John Whaley went to the depot and arrested Art Presnall before he got on the train, with Jake Schumacher by his side to identify the suspect.

As Walter McGavin approached his house at 322 Second Avenue North that evening, he could see that the police were waiting for him. He asked Jake Schumacher on the sidewalk outside if their house was "pinched." It had been, and Jake was the rat. Walter McGavin and his gang members Dick Lamb, Allen Emerson and Adolph Howe were arrested that night.

According to the Moorhead Daily News, the police seemed to think they were raiding Jake Schumacher's headquarters. They found that although Jake

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Sabin Was The Site Of Bank Robbery...

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Schumacher still lived in one room, Jake's house and the leadership of his gang had been taken over by Walter McGavin as of December 1.

The gang used the house as a headquarters "but on that date the "business" was taken over by 'Mac,'" the paper reported, "and Schumacher since has become but a cog in the underworld machine." It appeared that Jake intended to go from cog back to kingpin, and he just got his rival thrown in jail.

Mac's Gang was charged with selling, transporting and handling intoxicating liquor and concealing a stolen car. But Mac suspected correctly that Jake Schumacher was behind their arrest, and they were being set up to take the fall for the Sabin State Bank robbery.

While the members of Mac's Gang were no angels, they did have one important fact to protect them against the charges, they didn't rob the bank. When they were brought before George Carlson, the cashier at the Sabin State Bank, Carlson told the authorities that these men were not the bandits.

Walter McGavin told the police that he saw four men matching the description of the bank robbers in Jake Schumacher's room the day before the robbery.

Deputy John Whaley and Moorhead police officers Sam Zenk and Jalmer Erickson talked to Jake Schumacher about the stolen car and about the members and activities of Walter McGavin's gang.

But something did not seem right to John Whaley. What, he asked Jake, was he doing driving Walter McGavin's car back from Sabin at the time of the robbery? Jake told the deputy to come back alone and he would talk.

When Whaley returned later, Jake said he had been delivering a gallon of moonshine to somebody south of town the day of the robbery. Then John asked Jake if he thought anybody hanging around his house, which was a center for criminal activity, could have been in on the robbery. Jake said that, from the whispers and quiet around the house, he suspected five men of being involved somehow, they included Arkansas Bob, Zach Lemon, "Black Sam" Abes, Ed Redman, and Hungry Slim.

Jake provided the Sheriff's Department with detailed descriptions to identify these men and also gave his best guess as to where to find them. Jake was ratting out the men he commanded to rob the bank.

They arrested Sam Abes at his apartment in the Broadway Hotel in Fargo. On Jake's tip, the Whaley's drove up to Ponsford and arrested 21-year-old Zach Lemon at the post office. Arkansas Bob, Jake said, was "plenty tough" and he might be found at Leo Kossick's card room.

Jake did not know it, but Bob had hopped a freight train out of town. He was never apprehended.

Although Ed Vandiver, alias "Hungry Slim," was not involved in the Sabin bank robbery, Jake knew him to be a bank robber and a murderer and seemed to want him out of the way, too.

A year after these events, Jake Schumacher would help authorities in a murder case against Vandiver. But the police could not immediately find Ed Redman.

They called Eva Manypenny's boarding house at 19 Fourth Avenue South, Moorhead, "The Hole" because it was tucked into a hole in the hill in what is now Woodlawn Park. That's where bank robber Ed Redman had been hiding out ever since he, Lemon and Arkansas Bob returned to Moorhead after robbing the bank.

Ed "St. Paul Blackie" Redman was a career criminal who had spent much of the previous 20 years at the state prison in Stillwater for grand larceny, carrying a concealed weapon, robbery, burglary and larceny. Ever since Jake abandoned them during the robbery, Ed had been fuming and laying low. He still had a rifle used in the robbery.

The Sheriff and his deputies kept going to Jake Schumacher's house for more information as the case progressed. Jake had a loaded 12 gauge automatic within reach and sat in front of the window so he could see anyone approaching his house. Jake told the police that he was getting phone calls from both Ed Redman and Hungry Slim telling him that they were going to "bump him off."

Jake had made a lot of enemies after betraying the McGavin Gang and his own

crew of robbers. Some people who wanted to kill him were still at large. On New Year's Eve or Day, Jake asked to be brought into jail for his own protection.

Responding to another tip, John and Archie Whaley apprehended Ed Redman in a room upstairs at Eva Manypenny's boarding house. Redman matched the description Jake gave to them. The gun from the robbery was hidden behind her shed. From the serial number, they knew the gun belonged to Jake Schumacher. As more information arose, the Whaleys started to suspect Jake Schumacher was more than a witness giving helpful tips.

THE TRIALS

About 40 people were questioned, 16 were arrested, and 23 witnesses were sworn in for the trials that resulted from the Sabin bank robbery. The exciting trials dominated local news and front page stories included word-for-word testimony that exposed Moorhead's secret criminal underbelly.

First to go on trial were Walter McGavin and his gang on January 8, 1932. Walter McGavin added to the excitement by acting as his own attorney.

Thanks to a tip from Jake Schumacher the morning after the robbery, police found a stolen car in a garage said to be controlled by McGavin, and also found the plates on McGavin's car were from a different stolen car.

Among the most interesting witnesses brought in to testify was Deputy Sheriff John Whaley. Whaley dropped a bombshell when he admitted that the previous April, Jake Schumacher was talking to him about bank robberies. "He was going to play stool pigeon for me," Whaley said, by getting in with a gang and acting as an informant against them. But Jake was arrested on alcohol smuggling charges and put in the Detroit Lakes jail shortly after they talked. McGavin's questioning of the Deputy revealed a pattern of strange behavior in Jake Schumacher.

Walter McGavin: "Did Jake Schumacher at one time report to you that a car was coming down from the Canadian border, you were in your office, with liquor in it and that you could head them off at a certain place?"

Deputy Sheriff John Whaley: "Yes; he did."

McGavin: "Did you investigate later, and did your investigation tend to show that liquor belonged to him?"

Whaley: "Yes; it belonged to him, at least our investigation tended to show that it did."

McGavin: "In other words he would and did go into a thing part way and turn around and make a complaint against himself?"

Whaley: "That was what it appeared. There was nothing definite. That was the conclusion we drew."

Although they were happy to get the tips, not even the Sheriff's Department seemed to understand why Jake would rat out his own liquor shipments and his own bank robberies to the police. "You don't have to worry about the law around here," Jake told his gang the night before robbing the Sabin Bank, "I am the Law."

Was Jake lying to his crew or did he really believe he had the Sheriff's Department wrapped around his finger?

Clay County Attorney Henry Steining mentioned in Jake's trial that "there has been a lot of talk in the city and out through the country to the effect that the authorities didn't dare go through with this prosecution of Jake Schumacher, that it would tear the lid off of something."

If that was Jake's thinking, he miscalculated his relationship with the Whaleys. Sheriff Archie Whaley put out a warrant

to arrest Jake Schumacher for his involvement in the robbery of the Sabin State Bank, and both he and his son, Deputy John Whaley, testified against Jake in court.

After three weeks of waiting impatiently in jail, gang leader Walter McGavin finally got a chance to grill Jake Schumacher on the witness stand. McGavin was angry at Jake for getting him arrested for car theft and for trying to frame him for the Sabin bank robbery.

Prosecuting Attorney James M. Witherow used his legal skills to frustrate McGavin and prevent Jake Schumacher from saying anything. Many of McGavin's questions were aimed at linking Jake to the bank robbery, but since McGavin and his gang were not on trial for robbing the bank, his pointed questions about the robbery were all overruled before Jake could answer them.

As Mac released details on his and Jake's criminal operation, the judge warned McGavin that he was digging his own grave. As Jake stepped down from the witness stand, McGavin directed his frustration at opposing counsel saying, "Mr. Witherow, I don't know what you are doing to call in a witness to give perjured testimony."

The judge warned McGavin that another statement like that and he would be charged with contempt of court. The

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The Fall Of Rum-Runner Gangster...

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fate of the McGavin gang was postponed until after the bank robbery trials.

On January 16, 1932, Jake Schumacher and robbers Sam Abes, Ed Redman and Zach Lemon were arraigned before a judge on the charges of robbing the Sabin Bank. Bank robbery at this time carried a penalty of life in prison. Sam Abes and Ed Redman were handcuffed when they were brought in, but they were surprised to see young Zach Lemon come into the room without handcuffs.

The Moorhead Daily News painted the picture: "Redman, with the appearance of a hardened criminal, sat in his chair snarling and staring with a wicked gleam in his eyes at those around him. When the indictment was read and Lemon's name appeared as one of the witnesses who testified before the grand jury, Redman sat upright and glared at Lemon."

Each of the four suspects apprehended for the bank robbery were given separate trials beginning on February 1. County Attorney Henry C. Steining told the court that unless Abes and Redman confessed, the prosecution would not have sufficient evidence to link Jake Schumacher to the crime. Hearing that, Sam Abes quickly turned to Sheriff Whaley and said "I want to plead guilty. Is it too late?"

Seeing that fellow-bandit Zach Lemon already confessed against them, and wanting to get back at Jake for betraying them, both Sam Abes and Ed Redman pled guilty and testified against Jake Schumacher. Their testimony and that of Zach Lemon and the other witnesses have been woven together to make this article about the robbery.

Both Abes and Redman were sentenced to five to 40 years in Stillwater prison, a sentence they received, according to the Moorhead Daily News, "calmly and even cheerfully, apparently pleased to get off so easily."

Zach Lemon got a light sentence of five years in the state reformatory in Saint Cloud because of his testimony before the Grand Jury and because all sides saw him as being a good kid who fell into bad company.

"The courtroom was filled to

overflowing as the Schumacher case opened," reported the Moorhead Daily News on February 2, 1932, "it being necessary to open the doors to allow the overflow crowd to stand in the corridors."

People brought their own lunches to court so they would not lose their spots during the noon recess. After Abes and Redman told their stories, it was getaway driver Zach Lemon's turn to speak against Jake. Schumacher's attorney, James A. Garrity, tried to discredit Lemon's testimony by claiming Lemon and McGavin were together trying to frame Jake Schumacher for the robbery.

"Where did you steal the Chrysler?" "Who are you trying to protect here, anybody?" "You fellows had this all framed, didn't you, but you are accusing this man, pointing at Schumacher, of being the leader of this gang?"

Zach Lemon kept denying the accusations and people believed him. Jake's arsenal of weapons and ammunition, taken from his apartment, were laid before the jury as evidence.

Several people testified against Jake over a four day trial, from former gang members to the farmer who found the abandoned getaway car. Jake's former housekeeper said she overheard Jake's plans for robbing half a dozen banks from Grafton to Lake Park the previous spring. Walter McGavin was able to have his say against Jake, too.

In their closing statements, County Attorney Henry Steining made the case a referendum on allowing known criminals like Jake to operate in Moorhead. "Jake got the confidence of these men by telling them that he was above the police, more powerful than the city council. This man has laid the foundation of gangdom, which is migrating from the large cities, in Moorhead. Are we going to root out the seeds of gangdom from the city of Moorhead?"

Jake's defense attorney, James Garrity, loaded his closing statement with buckshot-like claims in an attempt to raise a shadow of a doubt in any juror. Maybe it was Arkansas Bob who was behind the plan, he said, or a frame-up by Lemon and McGavin.

"From the mouths of 14 criminals comes the testimony on which the state would send

this man up for life, not the testimony of respected citizens, but the testimony of convicted criminals. Would you crucify him, nail him to the cross because he gave to the sheriff of Clay County the names and descriptions of these bank robbers?"

Garrity went on "Jake was never in the Sabin Bank. He never received a red cent from that bank. Would we send him to jail for his associates? He even came to Sheriff Whaley asking for protection. Does that sound like he was the brains of the gang? Brains! Look at him and see if he has an ounce of them."

It took the jury 45 minutes to come back with a guilty verdict in the case of the State of Minnesota vs. Jake Schumacher.

Judge Nye turned to Jake Schumacher and sentenced him to "be confined at the state prison at Stillwater, Minnesota, at hard labor for the balance of your natural life."

McGavin pled guilty to having illegal alcohol but the car theft charges were quietly dropped against McGavin and his gang and they were released from jail over the next month.

All except Art Presnall, that is. He was sentenced to a year in a Saint Cloud prison, not for stealing the car, those charges were dropped, but for breaking out of the Clay County jail.

On February 9, Presnall picked a lock, sawed through an iron bar, and escaped into a waiting car. He was apprehended by authorities in Pembina two days later as he tried to sneak across the Canadian border. Had he waited a few more days, Presnall would have been released from jail with the rest of the McGavin Gang.

Only Jake Schumacher will ever truly know what he was thinking when he planned the Sabin bank robbery. Was Jake planning on betraying his bank robbers from the start or did he only turn them in after the charges did not stick to McGavin and his gang? Did he think the Whaleys would protect him?

If you think he was crazy for planning a bank robbery and setting it up to fail from the start, you would be in agreement with the state prison psychiatrist.

A year after arriving at the Minnesota State Prison in Stillwater, Jake Schumacher was found to be delusional and

paranoid and he spent the next seven years in the Asylum for the Dangerous Insane in Saint Peter.

Feeling no need to protect anyone, Jake was happy to denounce everyone, but it is hard to tell which stories were true, which were lies, and which were delusions. Jake denied his guilt to the end, telling the parole board in 1944 that "I had sold my joint for \$1,000 to McGavin and Arkansas Bob. I was going to Kansas City where I had bought a meat shop. The bank stick-up was to get the \$1,000 to pay me."

In June of 1944, Jake Schumacher was let out of prison and returned to Moorhead. The reports of his parole officer tell much about his life outside after 12 years in prison. His estranged wife, Nina, wanted nothing to do with him. He stayed with a sister for a while but Jake had alienated his family. Employers told his parole officer that he was a hard worker but he did not keep jobs for long.

Jake was good at being a bootlegger, but Prohibition was over. He was a butcher before being a bootlegger, but he complained to his parole officer that machines had taken the art out of meat cutting. Cabbies reported that whenever Jake passed the police station he talked about wanting to blow it up. Jake died in 1948.

In Jake Schumacher, we see our community follow a pattern common throughout the country. As the years of Prohibition went

by, more money was pumped into criminal alcohol operations, those criminals became more organized, and crime as a whole became more common and more violent.

Alcohol money allowed thugs like Meyer Lansky and Lucky Luciano to organize small neighborhood gangs into a nation-wide network that what we now call the Mafia. Al Capone controlled Chicago because liquor money bought him police and politicians and influence.

Jake Schumacher was certainly no Al Capone, but by the early 1930s Jake was also no mere bootlegger. Americans tolerated bootleggers, how else could they get a drink during Prohibition?

But, ignoring the bootlegger's crimes allowed criminal activity to take root in town, and at least one Moorhead bootlegger graduated into a gangster. It appears Jake Schumacher did not have the cunning necessary to run a criminal empire. In robbing the Sabin Bank, Jake went too far and the people did as the prosecuting attorney asked, they rooted out the seeds of gangdom in Moorhead.

Well, mostly rooted out, at least. Moorheadians still had to get a drink somewhere.



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Order Of Good Templars Established In Clay County



By: HCSCC Staff

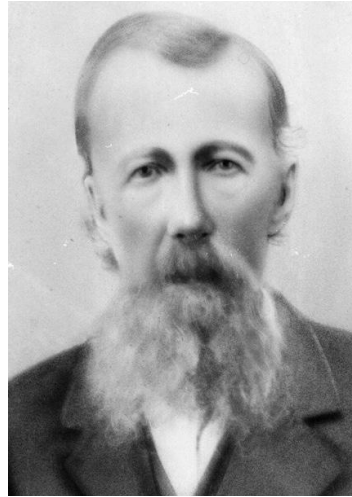
The Tansem Township Good Templar Lodge as pictured in 1980 was a place for men to congregate other than saloons. The International Order of Good Templars (IOGT) is a fraternal organization that was formed to give men the brotherhood and comradery that they would find in a saloon. But it was done without the alcohol.

Their meetings had rituals and pageantry inspired by other fraternal orders like the Freemasons. It was a

truly an international organization with lodges all across the world.

A Good Templar lodge was formed in Moorhead in 1878 and others were formed in Rollag, Barnesville, and Fargo around the same time.

A separate Norwegian Good Templar Lodge in Fargo catered to the sizable Scandinavian immigrant population in 1884. The IOGT still promotes lifestyles free of alcohol and other drugs from their local chapters around the globe.



Nils Herbanson, founder of the Tansem Good Templars. Courtesy of Dennis Herbanson

Meet The HCSCC Board Members...



JON EVERT

Jon Evert served as Clay County Commissioner for 20 years and was appointed to the HCS board to represent the County 2006-2014.

After taking two years off, Jon has returned to fill a recently vacated term that runs until May 2020.

Jon lives with his wife, Phyllis, on their family farm near Comstock which they have farmed for 27 years.

Jon was a long time member of the Red River Valley Heritage Society where he served as president for many years. He worked as coordinator of Rural Life Outreach for 20 years and serves on the boards of many other local organizations.

Phyllis and Jon are the parents of four grown children and have eight grandchildren.

Wets Work To Repeal Prohibition Laws

By: HCSCC Staff

As soon as the Drys succeeded in making alcohol illegal in America, Wets went to work trying to repeal or overturn Prohibition.

The Repeal movement gained support as the American public saw that Prohibition was not working.

Prohibition was never widely popular among Americans, and enforcement of alcohol laws varied from state to state, town to town and cop to cop.

The Repeal Movement really gained steam during the Great Depression. With unemployment soaring, many saw that reviving the alcohol industry would put people back to work and bring needed revenue to the government through alcohol taxes.

In the 1932 presidential race, candidate Franklin Delano Roosevelt promised to repeal Prohibition if elected. Political Wets won in a landslide, gaining the presidency and filling congress with Wets.

On April 7, 1933, a month after President Roosevelt was sworn in, Congress amended

the Volstead Act to make beer with up to 3.2 percent alcohol legal again.

On December 5, 1933, the 21st Amendment to the Constitution completely repealed national Prohibition. The federal government turned over liquor regulation to local governments, resulting in a complicated web of state and local laws that regulate alcohol up to this day.

Although many Clay County communities allowed 3.2 beer in April of 1933, the county did not legalize hard liquor and strong beer until 1937.

A quote from Moorhead Daily News in a letter to the editor, April 5, 1933 said this:

"The W.C.T.U. is well meaning but short-sighted. The drys had a chance for 13 years to enforce Prohibition. Have they done it? No, but these slack methods of enforcement have turned thousands to become blindpiggers, gangsters and criminals, while the so-called enforcement has cost the nation billions of dollars. Let us do away with hypocrisy, and out of two evils choose the least."

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Ada Comstock And The Wickersham Commission



Ada Comstock was president of Radcliffe College when asked to serve on the Wickersham Commission.

Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

By: HCSCC Staff

In 1929, President Herbert Hoover appointed the Wickersham Commission, 11 of the finest minds in America, to study why Prohibition was not working. One of those minds belonged to Moorhead native

Ada Comstock.

Ada Comstock was born in frontier Moorhead in 1876 to teacher Sarah Ball Comstock and Solomon Comstock, Moorhead's most powerful and respected town father.

Ada became a pioneer of



Illegal liquor was produced and transported in various types of containers.

women's education, and was the president of Radcliffe College when chosen to be the only woman on the Wickersham Commission on Prohibition.

Ada Comstock and the commission gathered a mountain of information detailing the problems that made enforcing Prohibition so difficult. They noted police corruption and the rise of organized crime.

In spite of all the difficulties, the commission recommended against repealing the Eighteenth

Amendment and urged all levels of government to spend more money and effort on enforcement.

The Wickersham Commission's recommendations were ignored, and national Prohibition ended two years after their report was published.

Every state submitted a report to the Wickersham Commission. In Minnesota's county-by-county report on Prohibition enforcement, Clay County's entry simply says Moorhead was "bad" and calls Sheriff Archie Whaley's performance "fair."



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Rum Running Was A Dangerous Business

By: HCSCC Staff

Rum running was dangerous. Roads and automobiles were not as good as they are today. On top of that, rum runners were being pursued by trigger-happy cops and ruthless hijackers trying to steal their liquor.

Some law enforcement could be bribed for safe passage, but rum runners carried guns for protection and bought fast cars to outrun their pursuers.

Once they loaded the liquor into hidden compartments in their cars, rum runners drove through the night to until they reached their warehouse often the barn of a farmer working with them.

Rum runners brought illegal alcohol into this area from many sources. The highest quality came from Canada, where liquor was still legally made and imported from overseas.

Of lesser quality was "denatured" alcohol made in the U.S. for industrial purposes, like perfume or rubbing alcohol, but with poison added by law to prevent people from drinking it.

Gangsters would obtain denatured alcohol by the trainload, distill the poisons out of it and send it our way through Saint Paul.

Rum runners also hauled shipments of moonshine, either made locally or by moonshiners in central Minnesota or Wisconsin.



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Tent Cities Were Norm Along Railroad Line

Only a handful of people lived along the Red River before the Northern Pacific Railway arrived in 1871. Over the next 20 years, thousands of settlers streamed into Clay County, claiming land for new farms and creating new villages.

As each new community formed, a debate began between those who would ban alcohol, called the Drys, those who welcomed alcohol, the Wets and everybody in between.

The land was settled chiefly by Northern European immigrants and New England Yankees. Each culture had long and complicated relationships with alcohol. Each person had their own opinions, shaped by their own experiences.

Some cherished traditions surrounding alcohol. Some feared its power over people.

Yankee and English settlers founded Glyndon as a temperance colony where alcohol was strongly discouraged. German Catholics settling around Barnesville made sure they could enjoy a beer in town.

As the Northern Pacific Railway built west from Duluth, Wild West tent towns popped



Many tent communities sprang up along the railroad line. Settlers came by wagon across the prairie. Many buildings were first just tents. Later if the community survived, wooden structures were constructed.

up around the railroad builders. The NP reached the Red River in the fall of 1871 and stopped construction for the winter.

Hundreds of settlers, liquor dealers, prostitutes, gamblers and criminals flocked to the end of the line community during the winter of 1871-1872, creating the towns of Moorhead, MN and Fargo, Dakota Territory.

There was no real established

government or law enforcement. Clay County was the raw edge of the frontier. Liquor flowed freely resulting in numerous violent incidents.

A shooting the following spring forced residents to form a government to impose order. With warmer weather, track construction resumed west. Most of the criminals followed the railroad west and Moorhead started to settle down. But for a while, the community was a real Wild West town.

It is hard to imagine living in a tent through a Red River Valley winter, but that is exactly what the Wild West pioneers of the Northern Pacific Railway

towns did! Moorhead began as about 400 people living in tents, shopping in tent stores and spending their days in tent saloons.

Buildings in frontier boomtowns were built in stages. They often began as simple white canvas tents. When lumber could be bought, the owner would build first a wooden frame, then walls of wood.

Photographs from the mid-1870s show that some buildings had not yet completed the final stage which was replacing the canvas roof with wooden trusses, boards, and shingles. The tents were heated with a cast iron

wood stove, whose pipe jugged out of a hole in the canvas.



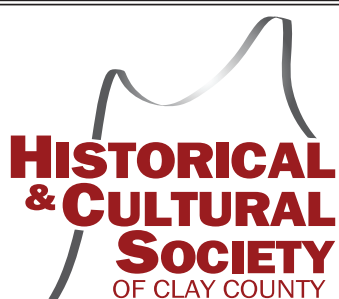
DR. VIJAY GABA

Dr. Vijay Gaba is an Anesthesiologist with Sanford Health Systems. Originally from India, Dr. Gaba has called Fargo his home since 2004.

He is very active in the community, volunteering as a 4-H leader, teaching wood working and pottery, and serving as an officer of the Indian American Association of the Great Plains and a board member of the Prairie Nordic Skiing club.

Dr. Gaba enjoys spending time with his wife and two daughters, running marathons and traveling. His family participates actively in the annual Pangea—Cultivate Our Cultures festival produced by HCS each November.

MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS



JADE ROSENFELDT

Jade Rosenfeldt serves as HCS's secretary. Jade grew up in Moorhead, graduated from Concordia College and then graduated from the University of

North Dakota School of Law.

Jade currently works as an attorney for the Vogel Law Firm in Moorhead, MN. She works primarily in the areas of criminal defense, guardianship/conservatorships, and liquor license law.

Jade is very active in the community. She currently serves on the Clay County Law Library Board and the Advisory Council to Lutheran Social Services Youth Court.

Jade and her husband, Steve, along with their sons, Weston and Henrik, reside in Moorhead. For relaxation, Jade enjoys spending time at the lake with her family.

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Sabin "Blind Pig" Smashed

By: HCSCC Staff

On the evening of February 27, 1901, a number of women wielding hatchets attacked J.W. Harris' tonic shop in Sabin.

They believed the shop was a "Blind Pig," which is what they called a business that illegally sold alcohol.

The Moorhead Weekly News reported the next day that "Every window in the building was smashed and every bottle and glass in the shop shared the same fate."

The women were inspired by the antics of Carry Nation,

the infamous saloon smasher of Kansas. Carry Nation became a strong supporter of the temperance movement after her first husband died of alcoholism. She gained national notoriety by vandalizing saloons.

Nation's first saloon raid was June 7, 1900 in Kiowa, Kansas. She was arrested more than 30 times between 1901 and 1910.

Carry Nation was a sought-after temperance lecturer and even made a visit to Fargo in April of 1910. She died a year later at the age of 64.



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Some Alcohol Was Still Legally Available

By: HCSCC Staff

Though banned in some areas by local laws and nationwide through Prohibition, alcohol could still be legally acquired through various ways.

Doctors prescribed pints of whiskey for medicinal use.

Churches bought sacramental wine and farmers made “naturally fermented” hard ciders and fruit wines.

Pharmacies and mail order catalogs sold tonics and “patent medicines” whose contents included large amounts of

alcohol. All of it was perfectly legal.

People have used alcohol to treat disease for hundreds of years with varying degrees of success. When Prohibition threatened doctors’ ability to prescribe it for their patients, the American Medical Association managed to get a medical exemption.

Doctors filled out federally approved prescription blanks allowing patients up to a pint of whiskey every 10 days for the relief of tuberculosis, anemia and other ailments.

Licensed pharmacists filled the prescriptions then marked them cancelled so they couldn’t be refilled. Medicinal liquor provided a large share of some pharmacists’ incomes.

Until the late 1800s nearly all Christian churches used alcoholic wine as a sacrament. In 1869 Thomas Bramwell Welch figured out how to pasteurize grape juice to keep it from fermenting.

Many Protestant churches opposed alcohol and quickly adopted Welch’s grape juice for use in communion. However, Lutheran, Episcopalian and

Roman Catholic churches continued to use alcoholic wine throughout Prohibition.

Federal law required priests, ministers and higher church authorities to apply for

permission “to procure wine for sacramental purposes.”

Federally approved forms tracked the quantities acquired and transported from licensed wineries.



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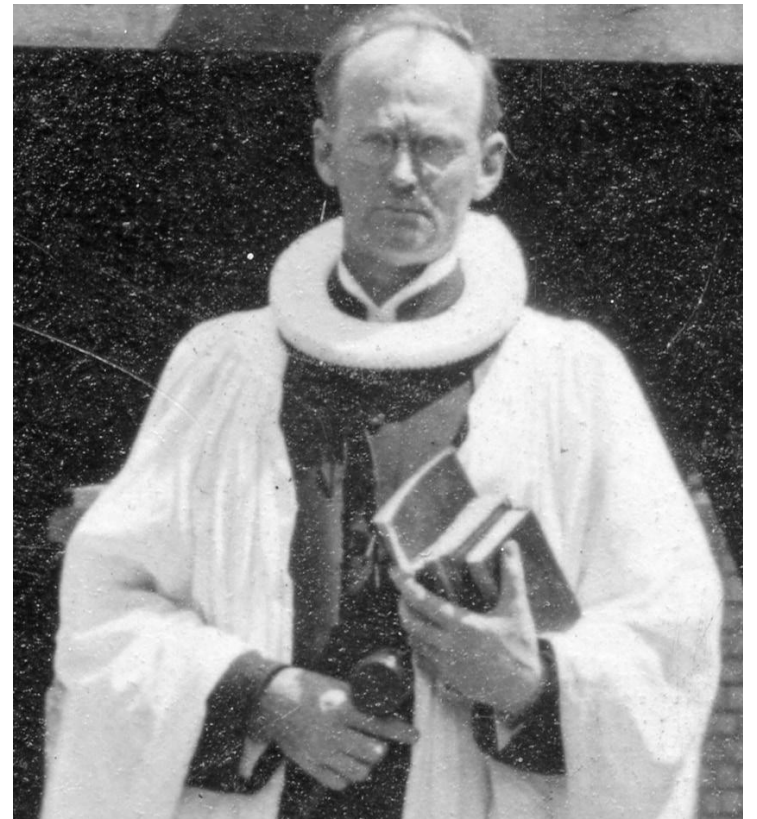


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The Pike Saloon Was Near The Bridge In Moorhead



August J. Rustad’s saloon and restaurant stood at 210 Main Avenue in Moorhead, near the bridge over the Red River to Fargo. It is known that the photo was taken in 1908 from the poster in the window. The policeman at right is Jalmer B. Erickson. Erickson was later Moorhead’s Chief of Police.



Rev. Martin Anderson, Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead is pictured in 1915. Even Reverend Anderson, a fierce opponent of liquor, used alcoholic wine for Communion in Moorhead’s Trinity Lutheran Church during Prohibition.

MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS



FRANK GROSS

Frank Gross was elected to the Clay County Commission in 2013 and a second term in 2016 for District 2. He is chair of the Commission and serves on 20 committees. Frank serves as the liaison for the county board to

the historical society.

Raised on a farm by Napoleon, ND, Frank received his high school education in a private Catholic school at the Assumption Abbey in Richardton, ND.

He attended Interstate Business College in Fargo and then served in the US Army in 1963 to 1965.

Frank worked for the US Postal Service for 36-1/2 years mostly in human resources and address management retiring in 2003.

Frank and his wife, LaVonne reside in Dilworth where he served on the Dilworth City Council from 1991 to 1999. The couple has two sons and one daughter, Kevin, Julie, Jason and four grandchildren. They are members of St. Elizabeth Catholic Church.



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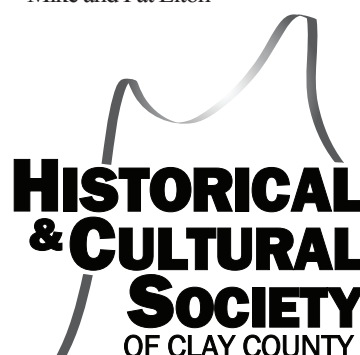
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Liquor Distributors Took Many Business Forms



Pederson Mercantile business office in the year 1912. Pederson Merc was a wholesale distributor of beers and liquors with customers all over the upper Midwest.

Crime Against Criminals

By: HCSCC Staff

One danger with a career in crime is that you cannot go to the police for help. People who dealt in illegal alcohol were always in danger of other criminals stealing their booze or their money. These crimes also affected the innocent.

In December of 1920, Glyndon-area farmer E. E. Thuney was held at gunpoint by six men. The robbers ordered Thuney to lead them to 400 quarts of whiskey they knew were hidden in his cellar and his barn. Thuney had no whiskey. The hijackers had the wrong address.

In June of 1927, Dilworth bootlegger Rosa Stella's car was approached by three men claiming to be police officers. The men forced their way into his car and demanded he take them to "get a load of liquor" from his supply.

Stella drove a few blocks before jumping out of his moving car and running to safety in the Comstock Hotel. The hijackers were arrested a half hour later. Police arrested Stella for moonshining a few months after

that.

In August of 1932, Cass County bootlegger Frank Kaiser was kidnapped by armed gunmen, blindfolded, and kept in an outhouse for two days until Kaiser arranged to pay a ransom of \$2,500.

The county sheriff believed the three kidnappers were gangsters from Illinois.

Fearing for his life, Kaiser urged the sheriff to drop the manhunt for the gangsters, saying he "considered himself lucky to get off as easily as he did."

"The name 'bootlegger' was attached to mean a 'business man' in the county.

There were no elaborate neon signs to attract customers in the early days of the 'speakeasy.' In fact the most dilapidated structure sometimes housed the most prosperous 'legger.'

The profits were large and those who feared not the occasional visit of the law and a 'vacation' of ninety days at the county jail, did right well by themselves." - The Country Press, March 11, 1937.



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Detail: *Wisdom Woman*, Donald Jackson, Copyright 2006,
The Saint John's Bible, Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, USA.

Chinese Exclusion Act (1882): Brief Overview

By: Dr. Maureen Kelly Jonason

"The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was the first significant law that restricted immigration into the United States of an ethnic working group."

The history of immigration to the United States and the contribution of immigrants and successive generations of American-born ethnic groups are important and essential factors in the history of the United States and the study of American social, economic, political, and cultural life.

Between 1870 and 1900, for example, nearly 12 million immigrants arrived in the United States for a range of economic, political, and social reasons. During the 1870s and 1880s, the majority came mainly from Northern Europe (Germany, Ireland, and England), followed by a mass immigration from Southern Europe between 1880-1920's.

For example, during the period of 1880-1924 over 4 million Italians (mostly from Southern Italy) alone emigrated from Italy to the U.S. Also, a massive wave of Chinese immigrants arrived in the U.S., mainly on the West coast. By 1870, the Chinese were 8.6 % of the total population of California and constituted 25% of the labor force.

Chinese immigrants arrived on U.S. shores between the start of the California gold rush in 1849 and 1882, until the U.S. Congress enacted federal law in 1882 designed to prevent Chinese immigrants from entering or remaining in the U.S.

In 1882 the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed by the U.S. Congress and signed by President Chester A. Arthur. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was the first significant law that restricted immigration into the United States of an ethnic working group. It also was the first in a series of legislative, executive, and judicial acts by the U.S. Government in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries setting official immigration policies that many

historians, scholars, and average citizens consider as racist.

The Chinese Exclusion Act was followed by official U.S. government policy that excluded or limited by quota immigration by Japanese, Filipinos, and the whole range of peoples from Asian nations. After decades of massive immigration into the U.S. by Italians, Poles, Hungarians, and a wide range of European-based national, religious, and ethnic groups, the National Origins Act of 1924 enacted discriminatory quota restrictions against European immigrants to America. Immigration quotas based on ethnicity and race were not "officially" abolished until the revision of U.S. immigration statutes in 1965.

Immigration issues and immigration laws, however, continue (especially in the post-9/11 America) to be the center of current political, cultural, and social debates.

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the first major ethnic group immigration exclusion policy in the U.S., provided a 10-year moratorium on Chinese labor immigration.

The Act states that "in the opinion of the Government of the United States the coming of Chinese laborers to this country endangers the good order of certain localities within the territory . . .

Therefore, Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the expiration of ninety days next after the passage of this act, and until the expiration of ten years next after the passage of this act, the coming of Chinese laborers to the United States be, and the same is hereby, suspended; and during such suspension it shall not be lawful for any Chinese laborer to come, or, having so come after the expiration of said ninety days, to remain within the United States."

The Chinese Exclusion Act also required Chinese "non-laborers" in China who desired to enter the U.S. to obtain

certification from the Chinese government that declared that they were qualified to immigrate. This group, however, faced difficulty legally proving that they were not laborers because the exclusion act defined excludable as "skilled and unskilled laborers and Chinese employed in mining." By this "definition" very few Chinese could enter the country under the 1882 law.

The Chinese already in the U.S. also faced new requirements under the 1882 act. The Act states that if they left the United States, they needed to obtain re-entry certification. Congress also refused State and Federal courts the right to grant citizenship to Chinese resident aliens. These courts, however, still had the legal power to deport Chinese from the U.S.

The exclusion act expired in 1892, but through the Geary Act, Congress extended it for 10 years. This extension (made permanent by a Congressional action in 1902) added restrictions by the requirement of the registration of every Chinese resident in the U.S. and the need for a certificate of residency to avoid legal action resulting in deportation. The Chinese Exclusion Act was the law of the land until Congress finally repealed it in 1943.

The "Anti-Chinese Movement and Exclusion" theme section in the Chinese in California: 1850-1925 web site (item 65) contains (starting on page 6) the text of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act (called "Treaty Concerning the Immigration of Chinese"): <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award99/cubhtml/themes.html>

Historical Pay Dirt Found

By: Jeff Swenson

The Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County historians visited Barnesville's Old City Jail during the summer of 2015 to research for an upcoming exhibit focused on cops and criminals, wets and dries. They found more than they were expecting!

Mark Piehl, archivist at the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County (HCSCC) and Jeff Swenson, employed by HCSCC at the time, scoured through the dusty files.

Barnesville as a rail head center for the Great Northern, has a colorful past when it comes to

wet or dry issues. When it came right down to it, Barnesvillians usually favored wet.

The trip to Barnesville was a success beyond any expectations. Piehl and Swenson explained their mission to city officials which was to gather evidence of early city history surrounding crime and law enforcement in Barnesville.

First they visited and photographed the Old City Jail and then went and spoke with the Chief of Police Dean Ernst. They saw the old opera house on the top floor of the Old City

CONTINUED TO PAGE 54



While gathering evidence of early city history surrounding crime and law enforcement in Barnesville, Historian Mark Piehl examines bound volumes located in the basement of the Old City Hall.



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Business in Moorhead's saloons was extremely seasonal. Harvest hands were the bread and butter of the industry. In August thousands of mostly unmarried, young men poured into the Red River Valley to help harvest wheat.

Many cut timber in northern Minnesota lumber camps in winter. Others were the sons of area farmers looking for extra money.

On paydays, rainy days or just about any other time, they thronged to Moorhead's bars. Sometimes they drank to excess and wound up in the city's jail. By November, when harvest was done, they were gone.



Farm hands take a break from harvest on Anton Hagen's Eglon Township farm. Hagen sprang for a keg of beer for the crew.

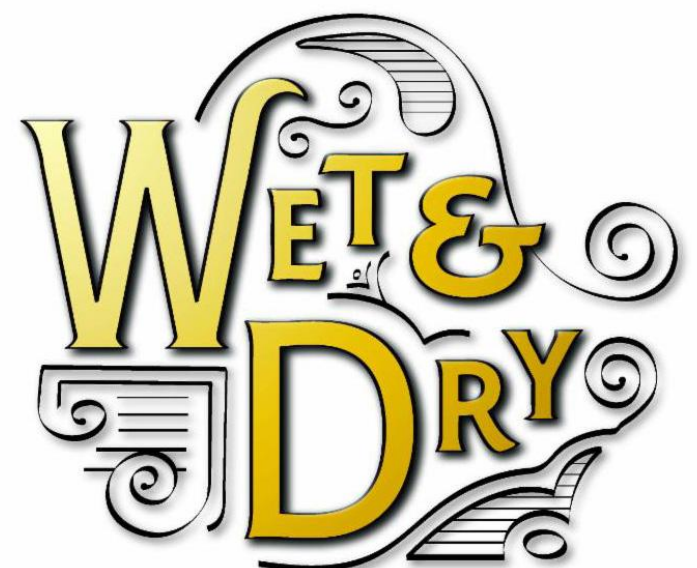
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Historical Pay Dirt Found Beneath Old City Hall

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 52

Hall building. That space is now occupied by Stoneridge Software.

After that the men requested to see documents that might be extant regarding their mission. Piehl and Swenson were told there might be something in the Old City Hall basement.

City Administrator Mike Rietz took the two historians through the police station, located on the first floor of the Old City Hall building, on the way to the basement.

Passing through each room of the police station seemed to tear back layers in time as the old building showed its age the farther the two traversed.

Guided by Reitz Piehl and Swenson reached a staircase and descended into darkness. After turning on the lights, the illumination revealed a long forgotten basement with a very low ceiling and a dirt floor.

Not just any dirt but the kind that has sat so long, undisturbed, that it has turned to a fine dust. With each silent step the dust plumed around their feet as the three men meandered back into the depths of Old City Hall.

Old office supplies lined the base of the stairs including computer monitors, chairs, shelving, everything office workers no longer need and



Mark Piehl archivist at the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County records the documents located in the basement of Old City Hall.

don't know what to do with.

Nearing the back of the basement, Rietz pointed out the stack of 15 or so seemingly water-logged boxes. Swenson started examining their contents as his colleagues continued to find various areas of interest throughout the basement.

Swenson quickly realized that he was mostly digging through the accounting documents for the municipally owned Barnesville Liquor Store. Finding dust covered accounting journals from the 1990s, Swenson continued searching until he came across journals from the 1930s. Kind of excited at this point, Swenson noticed his colleagues had disappeared.

Walking back around the corner Swenson found everyone gathered in a small closet-sized room behind an open metal door in the partition the group had come through only a few minutes earlier.

There was little talking as all three men were enthralled by their discovery and intently concentrated on the materials at hand. Swenson noticed immediately "this was it."

The room was maybe 10 feet deep and six feet wide with two rows of shelving lining its entirety.

"This is a perfect storage area for records," said Piehl. "Since the building has stayed intact all of these years and there was no

need to move the boxes, they are in good shape. The cool, dry and dark atmosphere of the old city hall basement was an excellent repository for records."

The shelves were packed with books and boxes, all very old but better kept than some of the other boxes that were explored. Looking up at the book on the end of the shelf the group realized that it was labeled Justice Court Docket.

After taking the book down and inspecting it Piehl and Swenson realized that there were 10 more books of the same sort right next to it. They found a box that was full of handwritten criminal complaints. The first one opened was from 1939. Swenson and Piehl were ecstatic!

Even Mike Rietz, according to Swenson seemed reluctant to bring the men down to the basement initially, was beaming with excitement.

Piehl and Swenson spent another 30 minutes delving into the contents of the room.

Barnesville is unique in that the city owns and operates the telephone and utility services. All of the records had been saved. There was a wealth of information in the telephone records alone.

Every long distance phone call made is listed along with who the call was made to and the

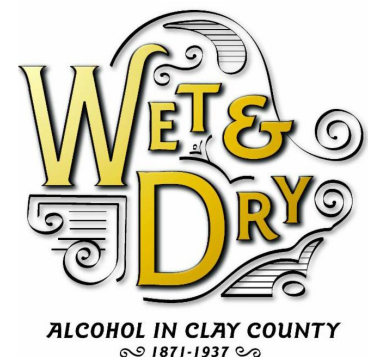
length of the call.

"A local resident was arrested for bootlegging," commented Piehl. "That same day the person called an attorney and a known bootlegger in Moorhead. A connection was established between the two."

Piehl spent two days in the old city hall basement. He did an inventory of the records cataloging and dating each box. "The next time we go back for information it will be easier to find the information we need," concluded Piehl.

"We realized that half a lifetime could easily be spent researching and cataloging these materials," said Swenson. "We reluctantly left with whispered promises to return one day."

In regard to the exhibit built at HCSSC as well as the somewhat little known history of Barnesville, a gold mine was uncovered. It was like finding buried treasure.

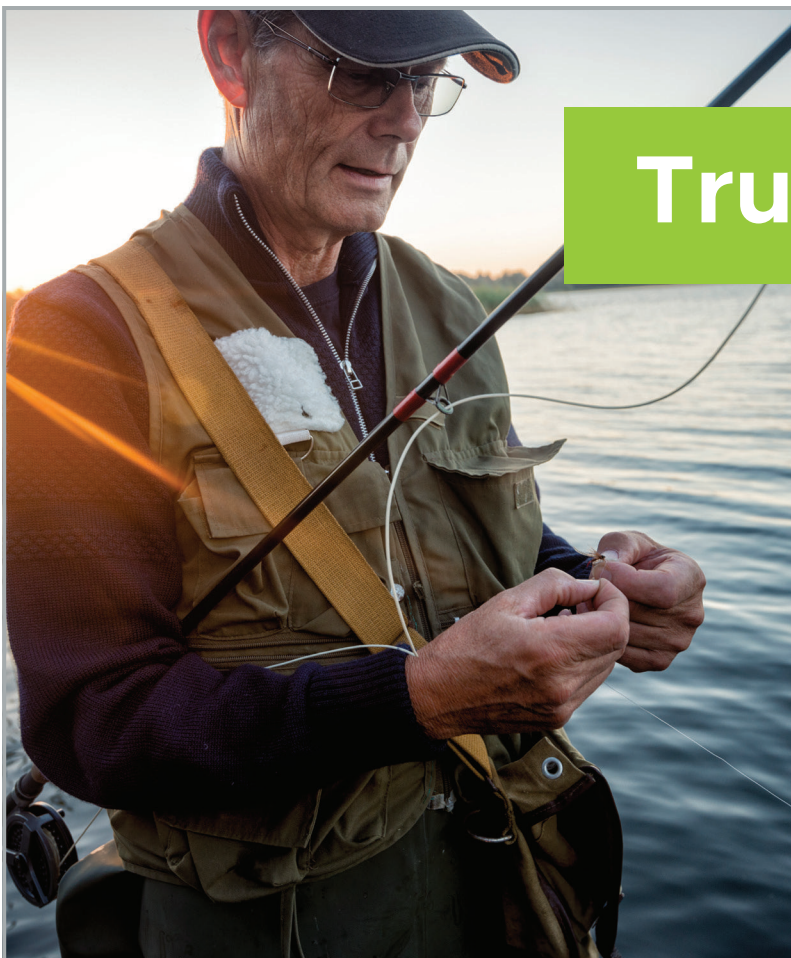


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