



# CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

VOL. XII NO. 2

MINNESOTA MUSEUM WEEK, MAY 14 - 20  
INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY, MAY 18

Open House Scheduled May 16

To celebrate Minnesota Museum Week, the Clay County Historical Society will be hosting an open house for all CCHS members, Tuesday, May 16, 7 - 9 p.m. at the Clay County Museum. The open house will serve as the opening preview for the F. Jay Haynes photo exhibit opening, Wednesday, May 17. Other activities for that week include a Textile Preservation workshop by Pam Burkhardt at the Barnesville High School Gym, Thursday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m.; the Stockwood Fill slide presentation by Mark Peihl at the Hawley High School Library, Thursday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m.; CCHS will also be having a drawing for an Individual and Family membership to the Society. In cooperation with International Museum Day, Thursday, May 18, there will be a 50¢ discount on admission to the Center.

As museums serve the purpose of collection, preservation and dissemination of our history, we recognize their importance. You can help celebrate Minnesota Museum Week by visiting your local museum and showing your support.

## "Viking Ship Park" Development

The Hjemkomst Center is excited about the plans that are being developed for our backyard Viking Ship Park, located in the historic "point" district. The Center received a grant from 'Celebrate Minnesota 1990' to help beautify the Center's backyard. In-kind and matching services are being provided by the Moorhead Parks and Recreation Department, NDSU Landscape Architecture Department, a willing group from the Town and Country Garden Club and numerous other individuals. A long range plan is being developed, as well as a short term plan, which includes the installation of a bike/walking path, grass seeding, and the design and planting of three garden areas incorporating historical sites. Picnic tables and bench will be available for use by mid-summer, 1989.





Dear Member:

The Clay County Historical Society Board of Directors has asked me to serve another year as President. I would like to thank them for their continued confidence and also to thank Norman, John and Nancy who have also agreed to serve as officers for the 1989-90 board year.

Please take careful note of the many activities, events and projects discussed in this newsletter. We really appreciate your support.

The CCHS Board is pleased to announce the revival and renewal of an important project. The "District #3 Rollag County School". This years Board has decided to help develop a program to "provide the opportunity to school children in Clay County to experience an authentic one room school experience."

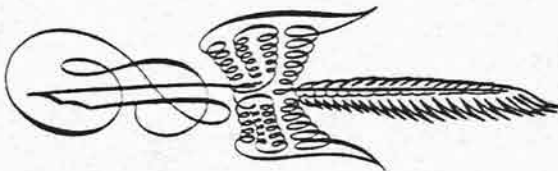
We feel this is a very worthwhile project. The school was renovated several years ago by many volunteers with financial assistance from the Minnesota Historical Society and other private donations. We are very open to ideas and methods on how to accomplish this and we ask that anyone who feels they could help with the project to call the office and leave your name, address and phone number and we will contact you when the date and time for our first task force meeting has been set. We especially invite those who worked on the project before to again help out whenever you can.

If you have comments, questions or suggestions for the Society please let us know. Feel free to call the office or any board member will be happy to hear from you.

Sincerely,



Vernon A. Pederson



CCHS HOLDS  
ANNUAL MEETING/DINNER

Each Board Member was asked to write why they thought it was important to preserve the history of Clay County and why they became a CCHS Board Member. The previous newsletter stated a few responses and below you will find one more.

NORMAN BJORND AHL

We are just past the hundred year of settlement, and if not preserved, then it will be lost for all time. That is my interest in all things of historical past, preserve and to tell the story for generations to come. Therefore, an organization like the Clay County Historical Society is so necessary for a place to keep and display some of the things of present and past history.

APRIL IS VOLUNTEER MONTH

As April is recognized for volunteer month, the Clay County Historical Society would like to thank their volunteers: Edythe Klokseth, Francelia Iverson, Jeff Kroke, Catherine Vandrovec and Jim Nelson. We appreciate your support, time and effort. Your work is very important to the Society, Board of Directors and staff.

*You're The Greatest!!*

The Clay County Historical Society held its Annual Meeting/Dinner on April 3, 1989 at the Heritage-Hjemkomst Interpretive Center in Moorhead, MN. The Society presented its annual report of activity and elected two directors to fill 3 year terms of office. Directors elected for new three year terms were Ms. Nancy Tedros of Moorhead and Ms. Beth Iverson of Barnesville. Other continuing directors are Vernon Pederson, Moorhead; Mercedes Roos, Hawley; Norman Bjorndahl, Hawley; Dan Skolness, Glyndon; John Butze, Glyndon; Lee Richards, Moorhead; Sherwood Peterson, Sabin; Arvid Thompson, Barnesville and Mary Knopfler, Ulen. Dan Skolness was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening and entertainment was provided by Fargo-Moorhead Ambassadors Barber Shop Group. Mercedes Roos, Vice President of the Society, gave an informative talk on preserving your family history and artifacts. Vern Pederson, Board President, introduced special guests: Beverly Woodward, HHIC Director and Ramona Kooren, RRVHS Director; volunteers present Jim Nelson, Edythe Klokseth and Francelia Iverson. Mark Peihl, Archivist, presented an interesting program on "Old Ruby". President Pederson closed the meeting with a special awards ceremony honoring the Society's staff, Karen Meidinger, Mark Peihl and Pam Burkhardt, for superior performance for the past year.

The staff and Claudia Pratt attended the Minnesota Historical Organization annual meeting/conference, May 14, at the Fort Snelling History Center in St. Paul.

Workshops attended were on Fund Raising, Board: Responsibilities and Duties, Long Range Planning and Image Building, and Ethics in Ethnic Interpretation. The staff and Claudia had the opportunity to speak with other museum professionals throughout the state and exchange their thoughts and ideas on various topics and projects.

The conference was well attended and well worth attending. The staff came back with new ideas and motivation.

The Clay County Historical Society recently began an acquisition project that involves the purchasing of the F. Jay Haynes photo collection from the Montana Historical Society. F. Jay Haynes was a Moorhead-Fargo pioneer photographer. The collection includes photos from Moorhead and various photos throughout the county. Once acquired these photos will be available to researchers and eventually put out in the county on display. We would like to thank sponsors of the project:

Eide Helmeke & Co.  
State Bank of Hawley  
Norwest Bank, N.A.  
Archie's Place  
Moorhead Scheels  
Stenerson Lumber  
Tom & Sherri Watt of Glyndon  
1st National Bank of  
Barnesville  
Johnson Oil Co.  
The Rapat Corporation

In order to complete the project, we need an additional \$325.





\*Through July 16, 1989:  
"Railroad Standards: Building Plans 1884-1916". This group of architectural drawings, on loan from the Minnesota Historical Society, is from the engineering files of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific railroads. Rendered in pencil, india ink, and watercolor on starched linen, the blueprints depict everything from locomotives and tool boxes to depots and privies.

\*Through July 30, 1989

- continuing:

"Moorhead: August, 1923"  
features photographs from our Flaten/Wange Collection. These negatives O.E. Flaten shot offer a unique view of what the city looked like that summer; a moment in Moorhead's past, frozen in time.

"An Ending and a Beginning", an exhibit which commemorates the 30th anniversary of the deaths of rock-n-roll stars Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Bopper" Richardson and the beginning of the career of pop star Bobby Vee.

-opening May 16:

"F. Jay Haynes in Clay County"  
20 photographs from the official photographer of the Northern Pacific Railroad and local photographer from 1876 - 1890. The Moorhead and Glyndon scenes range from building and farming operations, to steamboating and a railway depot.

-opening mid-May:

"It's a Plastic World"

This exhibit presents 100 years of the history of plastics, from

the celluloid age beginning in the 1880's to the present plastic age. Fans, buttons, movie film, a serving box to melmac, a bakelite telephone and tupperware, are only a few of the items that will be on display.

## OUTREACH DISPLAYS

The Viking Manor's next display is GOOD THINGS/SMALL PACKAGES featuring our smaller artifacts. Some of these have been small things inside of them. Artifacts include miniature dice in a cup, flower and vegetable seeds, tins, a catalog of bargains and chocolate candy recipes. This display opens April 25 and closes June 27.

STUCK ON YOU will open April 25 at the Ulen-Hitterdal High School Library. This display contains a number of pin-back buttons from several decades. The display will close May 26. Check the next newsletter for the summer schedule.

Moorhead Library's next display is SMILE! featuring cameras, photographic equipment and several different types of photographic images. This display will open May 4 and close July 7.

The new display at the Hitterdal Senior Center is WHAT'S IN STORE, a collection of products available in the good old days. Be sure to note how prices have changed. The display opens May 10 and closes July 12.

GOOD FOR WHAT AILS YOU will open May 10 at the Hawley Library. Artifacts include cupping and bleeding equipment, medicine bottles and a traveling thermometer. This display will close July 12.

In Part I, we identified some of the problems with textiles. If you have identified the fabrics, decorations and problem areas and found everything OK, you are ready to decide what level of cleaning the item needs. Some garments can be made up of many diverse materials or the heirloom is in such delicate condition that washing is not practical.

Do you really need to wash the item at all? Airing the item in a cool, shady place may be enough to remove an odor. Remove surface dirt with a vacuum cleaner on the least powerful setting. Using a plastic screen (a 12" square of plastic canvas or a piece of plastic window screen with rough edges covered) will block the fabric from the stress of direct suction from the vacuum. Do not shake any textile like you would a rug! Shaking puts severe stress on all parts of the item including seams and tears.

The next step is to test all the different materials and embroidery for fastness. Dip a cotton ball in distilled water and press to the cloth or embroidery in an inconspicuous spot on the inside or back of the item. If any color comes off, you probably will not be able to clean the item safely at home. Remove artificial flowers, fur, jewelry and all questionable buttons and stays. Keep notes and drawings of where each item is placed.

If you find holes or tears, reinforce them with patches of unbleached muslin tacked with cotton thread around the damage.

Do not use synthetic thread since it will not "give" if the item becomes stressed. Any repairs made should look different from original work. Keep a record of all work done on the heirloom: what was done, when, by whom as well as a description of the item, its color and size.

When all problem areas are covered, you may proceed. Use distilled water for all washing and rinsing. Tap water and water softeners contain salts and minerals that may cause damage in the future. If you can not use distilled water entirely, at least do your final washing and rinsing in distilled. Water should be at room temperature or comfortably warm on the hands. Hot water may clean faster, but can be harmful. Wool, especially, should not be subjected to changes in water temperature—it is one of the causes of shrinkage. Use mild soap, not detergent. Ivory dish washing liquid may be used. Let the item soak for approximately 10 minutes or agitate with a sponge, pressing down gently. Avoid "smushing" the item up and down, in and out of the water. Never wring it out. If the item is heavy, you may need helpers to lift and turn. In this case, let the water drain away from the textile and press additional water out gently. Lifting a delicate item by an edge could cause shredding or tearing. A small, delicate hankie can be left on a plastic screen throughout the washing and rinsing. Change the wash water several times. Follow the same procedure for rinsing

This May marks the 130th anniversary of steamboat transportation on the Red River. On May 19, 1859, the 'Anson Northup' slid into the Red and began one of the most colorful chapters in the county's history.

In January, 1859, the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce offered a cash reward to anyone who would place a steamboat on the Red River. Merchants in St. Paul had been trading with settlers around Ft. Garry (Winnipeg) for years via the famous Red River carts. A steamboat on the river would cut the long cart trail in half greatly reducing shipping costs.

Anson Northup, a St. Paul contractor, took up the challenge. In 1858, Northup had bought a boat on the upper Mississippi the 'North Star'. He ran it that summer then tied her up on the Crow Wing River and had his crew dismantle her and cut lumber for a new boat to be placed on the Red.

In February, 1859, Northup hired 60 men and 34 teams of oxen to drag the machinery and lumber on sleds to the townsite of Lafayette 4 1/4 miles northwest of Kragnes. It was a truly epic journey - 140 miles through an extremely cold, stormy winter.

On April 1, the first loads arrived at Lafayette and construction began. The boat was built on dry ground held upright on blocks. When completed, she was lifted clear of the blocks with screw jacks, and set down on planks leaping to the waters edge. Then she

was simply slid sideways down the planks to the water.

A St. Paul newspaperman was on hand to describe her launching on May 19: "The boat was built at an elevation of twenty feet above, and about one hundred feet distant from the river, which gave a rather steep inclination to the ways. The ways had been greased and the boat struck the water with such force that if the hull had not been very strong it must have been backed considerably. At 10.45, with everything being in readiness, C.L. Northrup [sic], the captains's oldest son, took a stand upon the bow with a bottle of wine, which had been preserved for the occasion, and the shores were simultaneously struck out. As she righted after striking the water, the bottle was broken over the stem and baptized, amid hearty cheers, as the 'Anson Northrup' [sic].

On the 26th, she started for Ft. Abercrombie. There decks and cabin were added and the stern wheeler headed for Ft. Garry.

A Ft. Garry newspaper described the boat: "The hull of the steamer is 90 feet long...her beam is 24 feet...with a burden of 80 tons her draught would be about 2 1/2 feet, but when running light she draws only 15 inches. There are three decks. On the first are the kitchen and engine room. The second is [called] the boiler deck [although the boiler was below], which...contains the cabin with 24 berths, and four staterooms having accommodation



for 12 ladies, the office forward and the pantry and washroom aft. The pilot house is on the third or hurricane deck."

After reaching Ft. Garry, the 'Anson Northup' returned to Ft. Abercrombie where Northup promptly abandoned her. He had placed and run a steamboat on the Red and now was off to collect his reward. Chided by Russell Blakely of the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce for not running her, Northup replied, "if you want to run her, you will have to buy her." J.C. and H.C. Burbank, St. Paul freighters, did just that. With the HBC as a silent partner they took over the boat for \$8000.

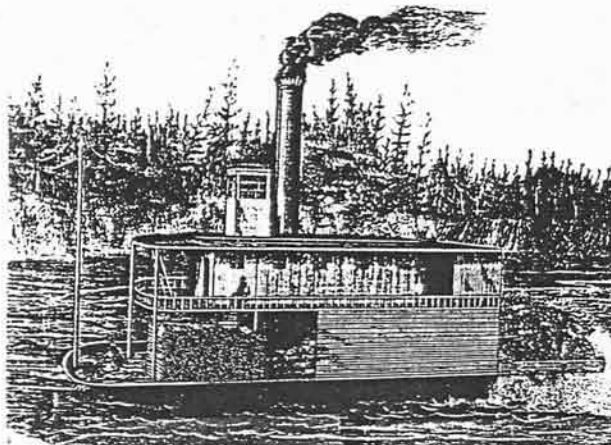
She was no prize. Slapped together out of green pine, she leaked very bad. Her head was cracked and leaked steam. The following winter her boiler was rebuilt. She was repainted and her smoke stack, capstan, steam piping and rigging replaced. By spring, she was rechristened "The Pioneer" but she was still no prize. An early passenger said, "nothing could have been more awkward than that tub of a boat, plunging every now and again head long into the banks despite the frantic exertions of the pilot."

Another said she "was small and over crowded, the funnel [smoke stack] rose through the saloon, rendering that chamber extremely warm" and one of her pilots called her, "a lumbering old pine basket which you have to handle as gingerly as a hamper of eggs."

During her three seasons on the river the 'Anson Northup' had to

be rebuilt twice. She finally met her end when she sank near Lake Winnipeg in spring 1862. Her engine was later raised by the HBC and used in a saw mill.

Although not a huge commercial or engineering success, the 'Anson Northup' led the way for many other boats that piled the Red for nearly fifty years.



Anson Northup



Anson Northup



and be sure to rinse well. You do not want to leave residue to cause trouble in the future.

Place the rinsed item on towels and press gently to remove excess water. A small item may be left on the screen to dry. Larger items will require several changes of towels during drying. Be sure the item is dry before storing or mounting.

#### TO BLEACH OR NOT TO BLEACH!

Not all textiles were white when they were new; therefore, do not expect any older textile to turn out dazzling white now! If you have severe yellowing, you may try sodium perborate. Hydrogen peroxide 3% will be safe for wool and silk as well as cotton and linen. Sodium hypochlorite (chlorine bleach) may only be used on cotton or bast fibers (linen, ramie, etc.). Use a very mild solution of chlorine bleach during the washing process and be sure to wash all residue out. Do not leave a textile to soak in bleach. Try the least damaging process first. It is always safer NOT to bleach at all.

Stains must be considered separately. It is difficult to determine what caused a stain many years ago. If it fades during washing, you may wish to spot wash the stain again or try hydrogen peroxide on it. Unless the components in the stain are actively destroying the fabric, you should probably leave the stain alone.

Unless you plan to wash the textile again before storage, starching (with sugar or commercial stiffeners) is not desirable. It weakens the fibers and attracts insects.

Ironing exposes the fabric to excessive heat and is also not recommended. A hand steamer is preferred over ironing.

Replace all of the buttons, jewelry, etc. as necessary following the notes you made at the beginning.

PART III Storage and display of heirloom textiles.

During the past two years, I have had the pleasure of developing hundreds of contact prints from the Flaten/Wange collection of glass negatives. Pain has come along with this pleasure in more ways than the constant standing on my feet. Mark and I have accumulated hundreds of prints with innumerable people who have yet to be identified.

As has been the case during these two years, and years prior, Dr. V.D. Thysell retired, has done a terrific job at identifying many of the prints. There are other people too numerous to mention, including S.P. Wange's children, that also have helped identify the prints. But the fact remains we need more people to give some of their time to help identify these prints. Anywhere from one-half hour to one-half day is sufficient enough to look through some prints.

This is one situation where the old saying "too many cooks spoil the soup" does not apply. We have too many ingredients, so we eventually need as many cooks as possible. The whole idea of the identification process is somewhat like the domino effect. If we can identify one person in a group, the others can possibly be identified through friendships, high school graduation lists, or even such subtle things as a building in the background.

Most of the prints were taken by S.P. Wange at his Hawley studio. Other prints include street scenes, family gatherings, (e.g. reunions, funerals, weddings,

etc.), houses, farm buildings, etc. non-people scenes such as houses and farmsteads need also to be identified.

The Heritage-Hjemkomst Interpretive Center will be open on Thursday nights until 9:00 p.m. at least through the summer. The CCHS and archives also will stay open at this time.

Thank you from both Mark and myself, Jim Nelson, volunteer.



Can you identify this picture?

FEBRUARY/MARCH/APRIL  
DONORS

Moorhead: Ruth Swanson, Helen Euren, Mr. & Mrs. John Hall, Julie Motschenbacher, Ruby Johnson, Bud Romkey and Marguerite Dutton and Clay County District Court.

Hawley: Jimmy Nelson.

Crookston: Luella Johnson.

Cannon Falls: Mrs. Todd Bremer.

Fargo, ND: Jean A. Nesheim, Mark Peihl and the North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies.

Seattle, WA: Grace Hurd.

"King Wheat" WISH LIST

The CCHS staff is preparing for a major exhibit this summer on the wheat industry in Clay County. Collections Manager, Pam Burkhardt, is hoping to borrow a few items for this exhibit. They include:

millstones  
gang plow  
breaking plow  
binder  
la val cream separator  
grain sacks  
flour sacks  
flail  
dairy equipment

If you have any of these or know where we might be able to borrow them, please contact Pam at 233-4604. We would need the items from June - December 1989.

FEBRUARY/MARCH/APRIL  
ACQUISITIONS

The following are some of the artifacts received by the museum since the last newsletter:

The ballot drum used to select jurors in Clay County from 1880's to Fall 1988; photos of the south bridge, Hawley water plant, Stockwood Fill, N.B. Nelson and Co. K, Battery C.; area tokens and calendars; 1950s clothing; a German Catholic Bible; information of the Comstock family; and the Barnesville centennial raffle quilt.

The Barnesville centennial raffle quilt.

The Barnesville centennial was held in 1982. Luella McDunn Johnson who was born and raised in Barnesville purchased the winning raffle ticket for \$1.00. This queen-sized quilt is brown cotton fabric front and back with tiny orange, yellow, blue and white flowers. Historic scenes are drawn in color on 42 muslin panels on the front. A panel on the back says the quilt was designed and crafted by: Dorothy Christianson, Mary Ann Ernst, Tenie Peet, Donald Sakry, Joy Fisch, Diane Lovejoy, Alice Bach and Mary Ann Martinson. It was quilted by Carolyne Lindberg, Alice Ronningen, Irene Anderson and Hazel Lien. It was donated by Luella Johnson of Crookston in memory of the Edward F. McDunn and Charles Schindler families.

Step back in time with the Center's new exhibit "Dinosaur Mysteries...A Case of Extinction" - a bigger and better dinosaur exhibit than last year's "Dinosaur Daze." Seven all new, half and full scale creatures from Dinamation International Corporation of California have been placed in an innovative set created by the Center's staff, with the theme surrounding the mysterious disappearance of the dinosaurs.

As the detective on the "case of extinction," the Center is polling the visitors to see what the most popular theory is in the region.

To date, a change in climates seems to be the most popular with an extraterrestrial event in the flood second and third respectively.

THERE IS STILL  
A LARGE SELECTION OF  
DINOSAUR ITEMS IN THE  
GIFT SHOP!!



**COME & BUY  
FOR CHRISTMAS!!**

In cooperation with our Adopt-a-Dinosaur Sponsors, the Center has scheduled six \$5 Family Days. Families may consist of one or two adults with their children under 17 years of age. Special exhibits hosted by our sponsors will be displayed in Hjemkomst Hall. The last \$5 Family Days will be held May 12/13.

#### MSU Planetarium

Through May 22 - THE DEATH OF THE DINOSAURS. Sundays at 2, 5, and 7 p.m., Monday evenings at 7 p.m. The show takes a look at some cosmic evidence that may explain why the dinosaur - and half of all other living creatures on earth - became extinct over 64 million years ago. \*25% discount on admission with Center admission ticket. \$2 Adults \$1.50 Children.

#### Shadows of the Past

May 12 at 7:00 p.m. and May 13 at 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Imagine a creature and make it come alive! Explore the characteristics of the dinosaurs through shadow puppetry. Parents are welcome to join their children in this hands-on workshop by Michael Paul Gallo of MSU. Free with admission. Limited entrance.

#### Fossils: Clues to the Past

This National Geographic film shows what fossils can tell us and how scientists determine their age. Every Thursday and Friday evening at 7 and 8 p.m. 23 minutes. Free with admission.



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### MAY

- May 12 & 13 - \$5 Family Days  
May 12 - Shadows of the Past - 7 p.m.  
May 13 - Shadows of the Past - 10:30 a.m. & 2 p.m.  
May 14 - 20 - Minnesota Museum Week  
May 16 - Clay County Historical Society Open House, 7-9 p.m.  
May 17 - July 16 - "F. Jay Haynes in Clay County" Exhibit-  
Clay County Museum  
May 18 - International Museum Day  
May 29 - Last Day! "Dinosaur Mysteries...A Case of Extinction"

### JUNE

- June 13 - Preview Reception, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
June 14 - September 4 - "Prairie Rails" Exhibit - Heritage Hall  
June 22 - 25 - Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival  
June 21 - 24 - Clay County Fair at Barnesville

### JULY

- July 20 - 20th Anniversary of the Moon Landing  
July 22 - December 3 - Clay County's "King Wheat" Exhibit-  
Heritage Hall



## 1989-90 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

Vernon Pederson, President - Moorhead	236-6166
John Butze, Vice President - Glyndon	498-2621
Nancy Tedros, Secretary - Moorhead	236-9034
Norman Bjorndahl, Treasurer - Hawley	937-5428
Arvid Thompson, Commissioner - Barnesville	354-7549
Lee Richards, Director - Moorhead	326-1346
Mercedes Roos, Director - Hawley	483-4233
Sherwood Peterson, Director - Baker	789-7378
Mary Knopfler, Director - Ulen	586-8887
Dan Skolness, Director - Glyndon	233-5050
Beth Iverson, Director - Barnesville	354-7167
Loren Helmeke, Director - Georgetown	233-4315

## CCHS - 1989 Membership Information

### CCHS Membership

I would like to begin/renew my membership in the Clay County Historical Society. Please enter my membership in the category I have checked below:

- ( ) SPECIAL\* \$2.00
- ( ) INDIVIDUAL \$15.00
- ( ) FAMILY \$25.00
- ( ) PATRON \$50.00

\*Persons residing in a nursing/retirement home.

### CCHS Membership With Annual Pass

I would like to begin/renew my membership in the Clay County Historical Society. Please enter my membership in the category I have checked below:

- ( ) INDIVIDUAL \$25.00 Includes One Individual Annual Pass
- ( ) FAMILY \$50.00 Includes One Family Annual Pass
- ( ) PATRON \$75.00 Includes One Individual Annual Pass
- ( ) LIFE \$300.00 Includes One Individual Annual Pass
- ( ) COUPLE LIFE \$500.00 Includes One Family Annual Pass
- ( ) BUSINESS \$100.00 Includes One Individual Annual Pass