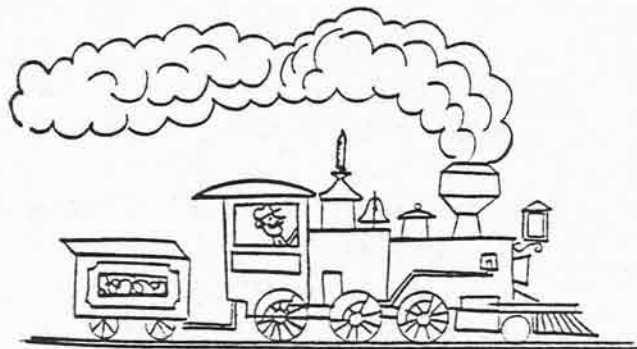


## CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### LINENS AND LACE

The Clay County Museum's summer exhibit examines what it took to look good in the good old days. The exhibit was designed and produced by the CCHS staff for their temporary exhibit hall. Items on exhibit include clothing and accessories dating from 1845 to World War I. Featured in the exhibit is Wash Day, Barber Shop and Home Sewing.

The Linens and Lace exhibit will be held over until January; therefore you will have another chance to come in and enjoy this exciting exhibit!!



### *AALLL AA BOARD!!!*

The Clay County Historical Society is sponsoring a nostalgic scenic train ride to Fergus Falls via the Otter Tail Valley Express, Saturday, October 22, for anyone interested. The train will leave Moorhead at 11:00 a.m. and arrive in Fergus Falls at 1:00 p.m. While in Fergus Falls, you will be touring the Otter Tail County Museum. The train will leave Fergus Falls at 4:30 p.m. and arrive in Moorhead at 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$20.00 per person which includes the ticket, transportation in Fergus Falls, a box lunch on the train to Fergus Falls and hors d'oeuvres with a drink back to Moorhead.

The deadline for registration is September 21, 1988. For more information please call (218) 233-4604 or write: Clay County Historical Society, Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56560.



## CCHS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Member:

You will note a slightly new look in this newsletter. Let us know if you like it.

We have had a busy summer and plan on a very active fall. Be sure to review the list of upcoming events.

We are hoping for a good response to our "train trip to Fergus" which will include a visit to the Otter Tail County Museum. Please make your reservations early.

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce a membership program for residents of nursing homes or care centers in Clay County. The cost of membership is only \$2.00 per year and provides the full benefits of membership in the Society.

The Board of Directors would like to publicly thank our staff, Pam, Mark and Karen for maximum effort and a superb attitude. We are very pleased with their work, cooperation and attitude it makes the efforts of volunteers worthwhile. We also have been very pleased with the work of Mr. Steve Bremer, who is on temporary contract to do outreach work for the Society. He has been very instrumental in arranging, suggesting and planning many of our external activities. Good job Steve!!

In my last message, I mentioned our relationship with the Heritage Center and our goal of reaching a workable arrangement with them. We have accomplished a general agreement and we will be formalizing this agreement in the days ahead. In the spirit of this agreement, we were able to offer critical assistance to the Center during the last several weeks. We feel it is very important to the community and the Clay County Historical Society that the Center remain in operation and that we will do our best, within our means to do our full share. Any assistance you can give to the Society or the Center is very much needed and appreciated.



## Closing comments and requests:

1. Sign up for the train to "Fergus".
2. Let us hear your ideas on how we can improve the Clay County Historical Society.
3. We need volunteers for many upcoming projects:
  - a. Grant writing
  - b. Describing artifacts and typing up cards for them
  - c. Cutting and threading pipe for clothing racks
  - d. Building wooden storage shelving
  - e. Indexing books
  - f. Cleaning glass negatives
4. We need members. Ask a friend to become a member.
5. We still have a vacancy on our Board of Directors.
6. Our Board of Directors-If you have a question call:

|               |          |                   |          |
|---------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| Vern Pederson | 236-6166 | Norman Bjorndahl  | 937-5428 |
| Mercedes Roos | 482-4233 | Sherwood Peterson | 789-7378 |
| Dan Skolness  | 233-5050 | Loren Helmeke     | 233-4315 |
| Beth Iverson  | 354-7167 | John Butze        | 498-2621 |
| Mary Knopfler | 596-8887 | Lee Richards      | 236-1346 |

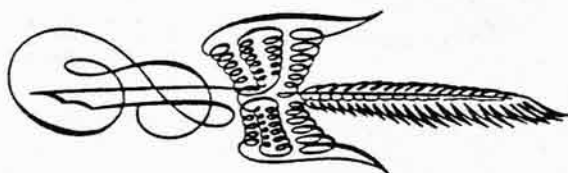
## STAFF

Pam Burkhardt, Collections Manager  
Mark Peihl, Archivist  
Karen K. Meidinger, Office Manager/Sec.  
Steve Bremer, Contracted Outreach  
Claudia Pratt, Contracted Programming assistance

See you on the train!!!

Sincerely,

Vernon A. Pederson



## UPCOMING EVENTS

August 22 - CCHS Outreach Reception at HHIC 7:00-9:00 p.m.

August 23 - Business After Hours

August 27 - Dilworth "Loco" Days:  
Parade will feature CCHS 1936 Buffalo Fire Engine.

August 30 - CCHS Board of Directors meeting at the Log Cabin Museum at Rollag, 9:00 a.m. All members and the public are welcome.

September 8 - CCHS will be sponsoring stage coach rides for Valley Fest kick-off ceremonies to be held at the Heritage-Hjemkomst Interpretive Center.

September 10 - Valley Fest parade in Moorhead will feature CCHS 1936 Buffalo Fire Engine.

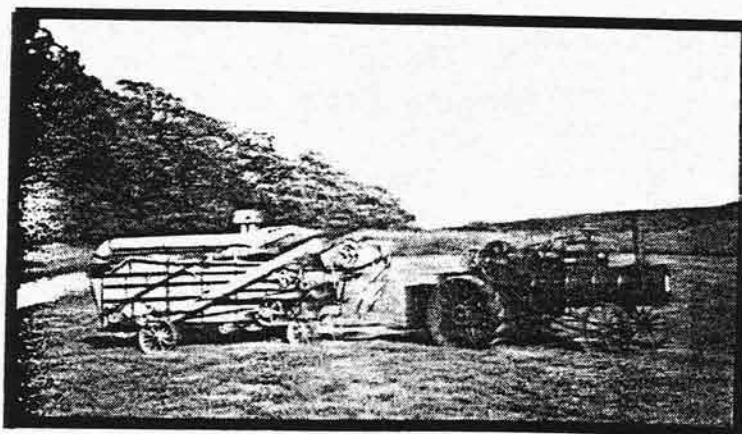
October 8 - MSU Homecoming parade will feature CCHS 1936 Buffalo Fire Engine.

October 22 - CCHS will sponsor a train ride to Fergus Falls via the Otter Tail Valley Express.

November 5 - Preservation seminar at HHIC. To cover textile and photo preservation. General public is invited and a small fee will be charged in advance.

## NEW EXHIBIT ADDED

In honor of the Annual Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion, the Center is currently exhibiting 1/3 scale models of a 1912 20 HP Steam Engine & 1910 Avery Yellow Fellow Threshing Machine. These were constructed by Norman B. Nelson of Hawley, Minnesota who hand made and cast the parts for the scale models. They are on loan to the Center through September 20.



## REMINDERS

The CCHS staff has many programs to offer. Programs include slide shows, videos, demonstrations. For a list of programs available call (218) 233-4604.

As always, we are looking for volunteers at the museum. If you are interested, please give us a call. There are a number of interesting jobs waiting for you!!!

## CCHS ATTENDS FAIR

The Clay County Historical Society board members and staff manned a booth at the Clay County Fair in Barnesville June 22-25. It was a great opportunity to meet people and show folks some of the programs CCHS has to offer. The booth featured artifacts and photographs from the PAST Program's "Good Old Days" trunk. Various videos from the PAST trunks were also shown and generated a lot of interest.

## CCHS OUTREACH RECEPTION

The Clay County Historical Society will be hosting an outreach reception, August 22 at 7:00 p.m. for interested county museums, activities/program directors, adult education directors, etc.

A tour of the building will be given as well as a textile preservation demonstration. The PAST Trunks Project will also be on display at this time.

## 5TH ANNUAL VALLEY FEST SEPTEMBER 8,9,10,11

This years celebration will begin Thursday, September 8, and will be known as the kick-off event. The site for the kick-off is the Heritage-Hjemkomst Interpretive Center in Moorhead where many family activities have been planned including a barbecue. In conjunction, the Clay County Historical Society will be sponsoring stagecoach rides for anyone interested. We will also be featuring our 1936 Buffalo Fire Engine in the Valley Fest Parade, Saturday, September 10. Plan to attend!! For more information call 233-4604.





## BARNESVILLE COAL "FIELD"

by Mark Peihl, Archivist

Coal Mines in Clay County? Some people thought it a possibility when coal was discovered near Barnesville in October, 1902. While digging for water on the C.E. Stoa Farm, five miles east of Barnesville, workmen ran into coal 73 feet down.

The find made headline in local papers. Within a month, prospectors were sinking test holes, Stoa was turning down offers on his land and Duluth business men were securing mineral leases on Humbolt Township farms. Coal fever spread rapidly. By spring, finds were reported near Twin Valley, Ada and Wahpeton.

Some newspaper accounts suggested that the coal being dug was anthracite, "equal to any in Pennsylvania" or "cascade anthracite - a coal found in the west". This was probably the result of wishful thinking. The coal was more likely lignite.

According to Dr. Ken Harris of the North Dakota Geological Survey, lignite is not that uncommon in the glacial deposits of the Red River Valley. Coal was formed when plant materials in ancient swamps were covered with sediments of sand and clay. Over millions of years, heat and pressure from these layers changed the plants into coal. The closest known coal fields (in western North Dakota) began forming over 1 1/2 million years ago.

The sand and gravel that the Barnesville well diggers found their coal in was left here by ice age glaciers much later.

How did coal wind up in these newer deposits?

The most likely explanation is that glaciers, as they scraped across western North Dakota, broke off and carried away lignite. Eventually, these glaciers made their way to this area. As the ice melted, they left the coal along with other rocks and sand here in Clay County. The well diggers ran into a pocket of this well traveled lignite.

Prospecting in the county was still going on in August, 1903, when disaster struck.

Peter Anduholm, an engineer employed by Arbogast Brothers of Duluth, was nearly killed at a test hole site two miles southeast of Barnesville. An old steam threshing engine was being used to pump water from the shaft. According to the Barnesville Review, the boiler exploded and a "stream of scolding water, steam and fire...struck [Anduholm] full in the face. He was rendered unconscious by the shock and his companions, thinking him dead, all ran in various ways for assistance. Anduholm recovered and in his agonies, rolled about on the ground, pulling his saturated clothes from his body. When the air struck the wounds the pain was intensified and divesting himself of every article of wearing apparel, he ran screaming for the house, a half mile away. The only person at the house was a young lady who is employed as a domestic and the sight of the naked man, covered with blood and dirt, screaming at the top of his voice and throwing his arms wildly about, nearly frightened her into hysterics. Indeed, she has not yet recovered from the

## TEXTILE CONFERENCE

shock. The suffering man shouted for kerosene and the terrified girl set the kerosene can on the porch and then locked herself in the house.

"...John Hill and a companion...seeing the man running across the prairie...at once gave chase, thinking him demented...he was carried to Dr. Patterson's office. After his wounds were dressed he seemed much easier...His chances for [are] very good although he may be frightfully scared."

This disaster probably ended coal prospecting in the area. It is unlikely that mining the small deposits would have paid off anyway, but one cannot blame the Barnesville residents for their excitement at a possible new economic alternative.

## SUMMER SCHOOL

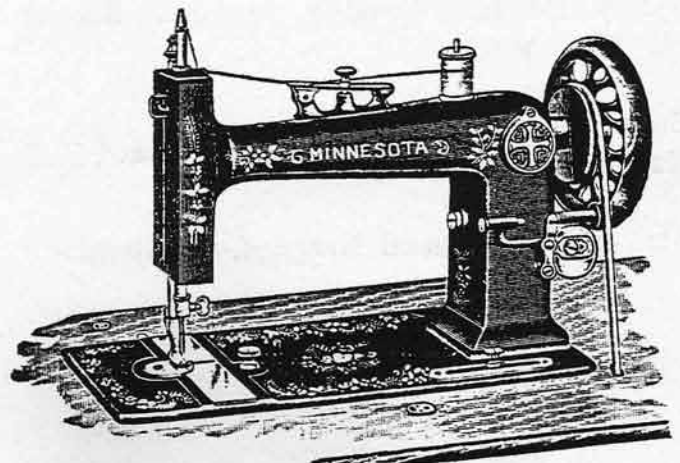
Pam was teaching classes again this year for the Moorhead Adult Senior Community Education Program. There were three classes held at Fairmont: spinning, wool dyeing and care of heirloom textiles. Attendance was up this year with a total of 62 for the three classes. To round out the series of classes, a tour of the CCHS exhibits and operations was given.

The audience enjoyed the spinning as always. The dyeing class produced odd smells as well as skeins of colored yarns. The textile class was impressed most by the crumbling wedding dress. We keep a few "good" examples of textiles damaged by insects, water, light and poor storage for classes like these.

The Sixth Annual Conference on Textiles was held June 24-26 at the North Dakota State University in Fargo. Pam Burkhardt was asked to present a paper titled "Knitting: Cast Iron and Lead. The History and Use of the Home Knitting Machine in the United States". Mark Peihl provided slides on Pam's machines and accessories which helped illustrate the study. The talk was well received and Pam was encouraged to submit her paper to the publication Ars Textrina, a magazine "dedicated to the dissemination of all forms of knowledge about textiles".

Other topics involved were North Dakota historic costume, ancient Greek textiles and looms, Indiana coverlets, Han Dynasty gauzes, clothing of the James J. Hill family, preparation of flax for spinning, and North Dakota vestments.

Participants came from England, Hawaii, Texas, New York and Ontario as well as the surrounding states. Pam said she learned a great deal and enjoyed herself as well. A highlight of the conference came Sunday afternoon when the participants toured the Heritage-Hjemkomst Interpretive Center which included the Clay County Museum summer exhibit "Linens and Lace".



## OUTREACH UPDATE: JULY

by Steven C. Bremer

June was exciting and July has been rewarding! To get the month off to a super start the outreach program received a donation from the Ulen V.F.W. for the purchase of a traveling display case to be located in the Viking Manor, Ulen. Activities director, Shirley Holen, is interested in being trained in the proper handling of artifacts and will assume the responsibility of changing the display at the Viking Manor.

On a similar note, Ann Fredine, Lake Agassiz Regional Library, has agreed to donate the use of existing display case's in the public libraries in Moorhead, Hawley, and Barnesville. Also Norman Roos, Hawley, is searching for cases to be donated to the outreach program. When secured they will be located in the Hawley Senior Citizen Center and Hawley Manor.

Bev Nelson, Clay-Wilkin Opportunity Council, and I have been discussing the possible uses of the outreach program in conjunction with her program. Areas of interest include placing traveling display cases in the seven senior citizen centers she works with, in addition, she can see a use for our presentations and demonstrations. As always the possibility for new volunteers exists.

I have also visited with Mary Redlin, Senior Citizens Program, Community Education, about expanding our involvement in her program. Mary has made use of our programs in the past and expects to expand her usage of the presentations and demonstrations offered by CCHS.

Any suggestions? Call Karen or Steve, we appreciate any and all input.

### MAY/JUNE/JULY DONORS

Mabel Olson, Marlon Anderson, Betty DeKrey, Pearl Naugle, Rose Asp, Thea Gullings Estate, Willard Knapp, Marian Sibley, Theresa Lundby, Marie J. Bueide all Moorhead.

Steve Bremer, Beth Iverson, of Barnesville.

Mr. & Mrs. Russell Kragnes, of Glyndon.

Harold Hanson, Elsie Welter, Tom Tollefson, of Fargo.

Dorothy Doucette, of Little Falls, MN

Conrad Olson, of Pelican Rapids, MN

Edgar B. Peterson of Burbank, CA



## HHIC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As president of the Heritage-Hjemkomst Interpretive Center Board of Directors, I would like to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on "what's happening" at the Center.

A "Blue Ribbon" task force committee has been recently organized by area community leaders and the community support has been tremendous. With the combination of these individuals talents and energies I know you will be seeing even more great things happen at the Center.

Speaking of great things! Our next exhibit "America's Uncommon Places: The Blessings of Liberty" which celebrates 200 years of cultural diversity in America under the United States Constitution will be here September 29 - January 15, 1989. Then watch out, because the dinosaurs are back in February of '89. You will want to be sure both of these exhibits are marked on your calendar.

We are excited about the future of the Center and we know you will be too. On behalf of those here at the Center we send a special thanks to the Clay County Historical Society and the Red River Valley Heritage Society who not only call the Center home, but who also have given their unselfish support to the Center. Last, but not least, thanks to all of you who have been with us from the beginning and welcome to those who may want to be a part of a wonderful, vital asset of the Red River Valley Community--the Heritage-Hjemkomst Interpretive Center.

If you should have any questions, thoughts or ideas please feel free to call us at 233-5604.

Brian Arett

President, Heritage-Hjemkomst Interpretive Center Board of Directors



## HHIC FALL EXHIBIT:

### "AMERICA'S UNCOMMON PLACES: *The Blessing of Liberty*"

The Center has been chosen as one of the initial 8 exhibition sites for a National photography exhibit entitled "America's Uncommon Places: The Blessings of Liberty".

It was produced in celebration of the bicentennial of the United States Constitution. The project was jointly sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation supported by Eastman Kodak Company.

The national exhibit focuses on 16 culturally distinctive sites from across the United States that were photographed by 17 artists and some of their students. A local artist, Wayne Gudmundson, photographed the Embarrass, Minnesota site.

The Center has responded to this unique opportunity of bringing together a National show and a local artist's show by developing a photography exhibit specifically on the Embarrass, Minnesota site. The exhibit will focus on work of Wayne Gudmundson and his students: Ron Frannea, Christ Ricard and Judy Ruliffson.

In order to join the two separate exhibits into a larger theme, the Center is planning an exhibition September 29, 1989 to January 15, 1989.

## EVENTS HELD THROUGHOUT EXHIBIT:

September 29-October 2: Grand Opening Weekend

October 20-23: Embarrass Weekend (sauna will be built at this time)

November 25-Christmas: Merry Prairie Christmas (Ethnic decorated Christmas Trees will be featured!)

January 14, 1989: Auction

Watch for other upcoming events!!!

## INVEST IN THE FUTURE!!

The Heritage-Hjemkomst Interpretive Center needs your support to continue the quality and educational programming so important to those who live in the Red River Valley.

Please clip this coupon and send your donation today, to the Heritage-Hjemkomst Interpretive Center, 202 1st Ave. N., Moorhead, MN 56560

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
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PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

LOOK FOR DINOSAUR DAZE II IN FEBRUARY '89!



KEEP THE DREAM  
ALIVE!!!

## THE TWELVE MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where are you? The Historical Society offices and museum are in the lower level of the Heritage-Hjemkomst Interpretive Center, 202 1st Avenue North in Moorhead.

Why do we have to pay to get in? The museum was one of the last in the area to charge admission. The funds support the HHIC building, which also houses the Asp Viking Ship, and changing exhibits on the upper level. There is no admission charge for people with business in the CCHS office or archives.

Why should I join? Members of the Society receive a bi-monthly newsletter, and can vote on issues and officers at an annual meeting. Members also receive discounts on photo sales. But, most important, by joining you show that you are interested in helping preserve the history of our county.

Where does your funding come from? We are funded primarily by the Clay County Commission. Additional funds come from memberships, donations, grants, and photograph sales and rentals.

Where is all the stuff that was in the depot? Every item from the previous location is now in the new museum. Because constant exposure to handling and light damages artifacts, items not on display are in storage. Most things will be shown in future exhibits.

Why do the exhibits look so empty? The permanent exhibits were designed to tell about Clay County, so artifacts and pictures were chosen to illustrate the story line. A room full of plows would tell a visitor nothing about our county or our people.

Where is the bowl my dad gave you? If you wish to see a specific item which is not on display, ask a CCHS staff member for assistance.

Why isn't dad's name on the thing he gave you? In some places, thieves have taken donor's names from museums and then burglarized the donor's homes. So, not printing donor's names is a safety measure.

Can you come talk to our group? Yes. Schedules permitting, the CCHS staff is happy to talk to local schools and groups.

Can we still tour the museum? Yes! For tour information and group rate information, call 233-5604.

How much is my old watch worth? Because we are not in the business of buying and selling antiques, we cannot give appraisals on any property.

Why don't you want my parlor organ? At times we are offered items we can not accept. A piece may have never been used in Clay County; it may duplicate something we already have; or, it may, like a family Bible, be something the family should keep. We do want things which have played even a small part in the history of Clay County, but if we can not take your item we can help find a museum which will.



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## CCHS - 1988 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