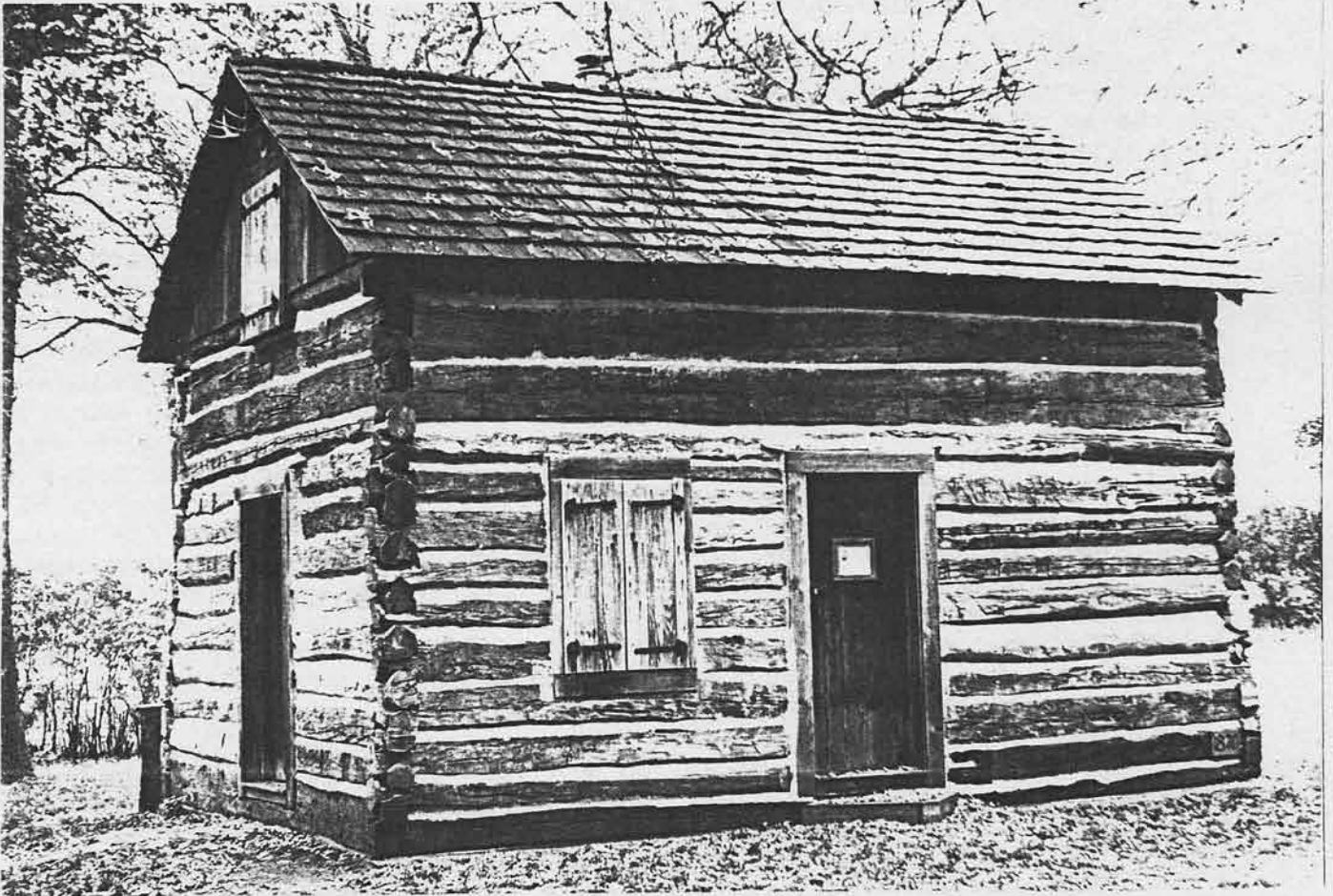


CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

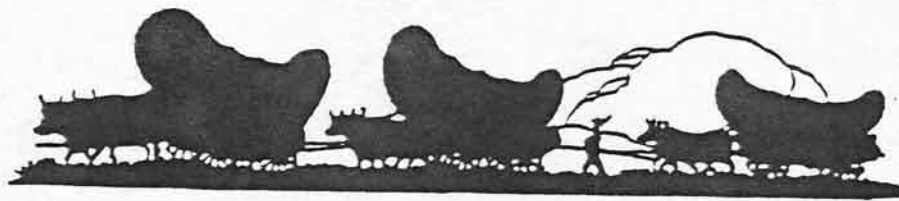
OCTOBER 1989

VOL. XII NO. 5



CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO ACCEPT BERGQUIST CABIN

The Clay County Historical Society may soon possess the John Bergquist Cabin in north Moorhead. The Bergquist Pioneer Cabin Society has restored and owned the log house since 1977. In 1979, the Clay County Historical Society agreed to take over the property if the Cabin Society decided to disband. At their annual meeting,



Bergquist Cabin, cont.....

September 25th, the cabin Society's Board voted to do just that. Details are being worked out before the house officially changes hands.

The cabin is an historic property. The oldest building in Moorhead on its original site, the cabin is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

John G. Bergquist emigrated from Sweden to Minnesota in 1868. In 1870 he homesteaded along the river in what is now north Moorhead and built his home from logs cut in today's Oak Grove Park and skidded across the frozen Red River. Bergquist had very few neighbors. Railroads had not yet arrived in the valley and Moorhead would not be established until the next year. The area was true frontier.

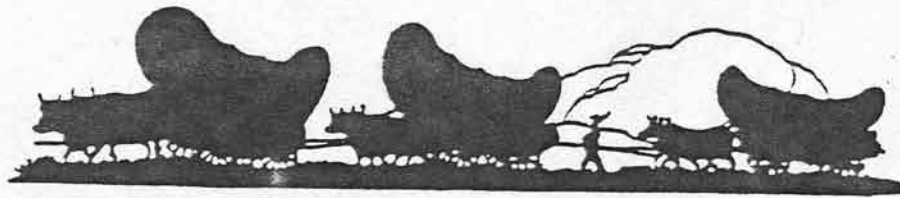
His brother joined him shortly after and the two of them apparently added a second story.

Bergquist farmed, worked for the railroad and sold milk door to door. In 1881 he built the first of two brickyards using local clay. His timing was perfect. The following year Moorhead began a two year building boom. Bergquist's yellow bricks were used in many local buildings including his own Bergquist Block on the corner of 6th Street and Center Avenue.

By the mid-1880s, Bergquist built a frame house at his brickyard east of town, where he died in 1928.

In the 1970s, Dewey Bergquist, noted local television personality and grandson of John, and his wife Tess began researching the house and established the Bergquist Pioneer Cabin Society. In 1977, Clay County farmer, Hank Peterson, donated the cabin and lot to the Society.

The cabin is located on a lovely spot on the Red River surrounded by a vegetable farm. The area has been plotted for streets and development but the cabin's site is secure. The city plans to turn the area west of the cabin to the river as "Pioneer Park" named for Bergquist and his log home.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Board of Directors of the Society met on October 11, 1989. In addition to routine business, the Board discussed a letter which the Society received from the "Bergquist Pioneer Cabin Society". The Cabin Society has offered to donate the restored cabin, the land, numerous artifacts and personal items, and cash assets to CCHS. The property is located on the north side of Moorhead, five blocks south of the new 15th avenue north bridge.

The Society has accepted this offer and we hope to hold our next board meeting at the cabin. If all the details have been worked out, we plan to have an acceptance ceremony prior to our normal business meeting. All CCHS board meetings are open to our members and the public. If you would like to attend this special event, please call the office and we will let you know when we have set the date of the meeting.

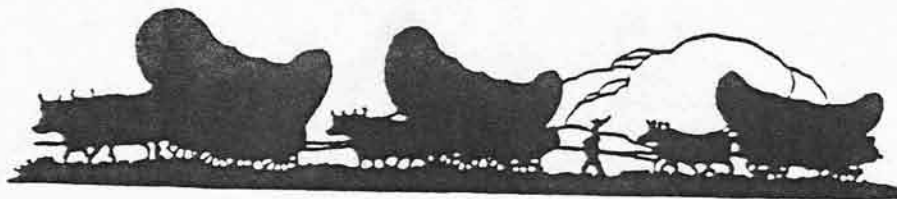
In our last newsletter, I promised to report on new membership progress and the Rollag, "One-Room School Project." New membership growth has been slow at best. The most difficult part of attracting new members is the time and cost that is required to reach each new member. You can help us by asking someone you know to join the Society. With the Christmas season approaching this is the perfect time to give a membership as a gift.

The Rollag, "One-Room School Project" is continuing. We have decided to seek a school within the county to act as a "pilot" school to help us formulate and develop a program and curriculum that will help present an authentic one-room school experience. The goal is to have students in grades 1 through 8 attend classes together. We felt that this experience would allow students to better understand the one-room school experience. We are gathering and seeking information about other areas that have or are working on similar projects. If you have suggestions or would like to help with this project please call the office and let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vernon A. Pederson".

Vernon A. Pederson
CCHS Board President



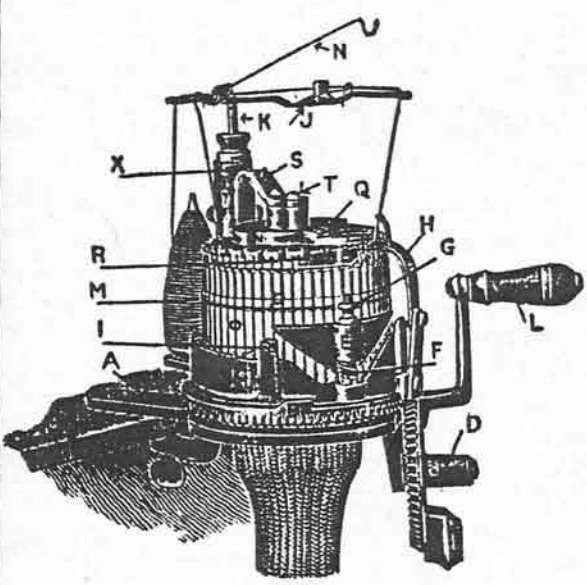
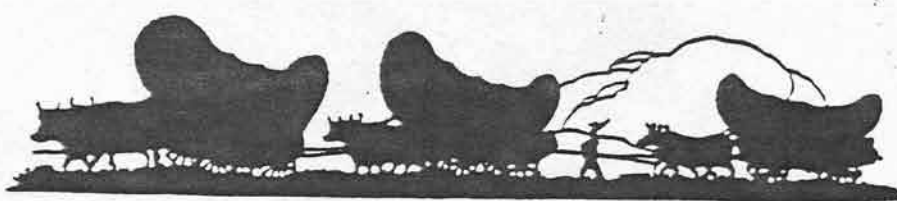
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

This year marks the 400th anniversary of the knitting machine. Because of the recent boom in electronic knitters, many people think the machines are a recent invention of the Japanese. Not so. The home knitting machine is over 100 years old and the industrial knitter was invented during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I of England!

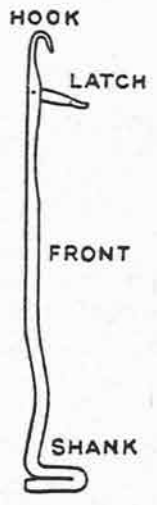
In 1589, the Rev. William Lee of Nottingham, England perfected a stocking knitting machine after three year's labor. He supposedly invented it so his wife (or sweetheart) would not have to spend her evenings knitting. Lee's machine knit a flat web ten times faster than by hand. The selvages still had to be sewn together. The Queen, not impressed anyway because she preferred finely knit silk stockings to Lee's woolen ones, did not grant him a patent because she was afraid the machine would put her hand knitters out of business.

The invention was taken to France where it was accepted and improved. In 1790, some of the technology in the industrial knitter was applied to the Jacquard weaving loom.

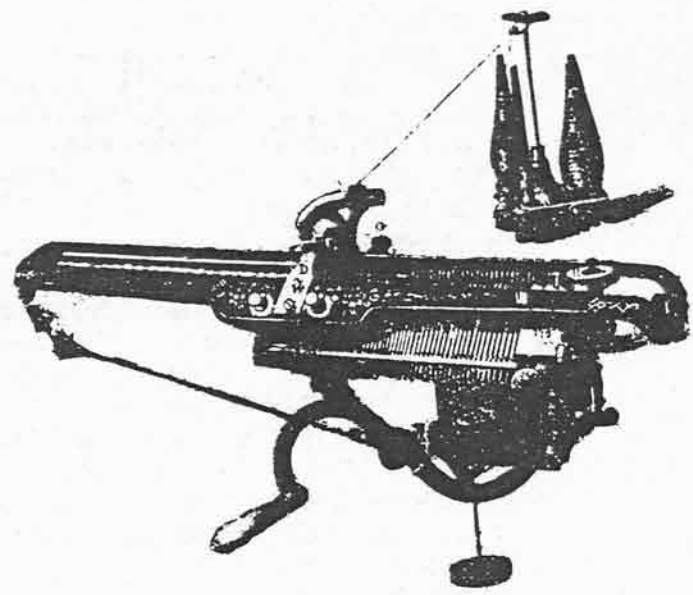
In the 18th century, the industrial knitter was brought to America. In the 1850s, a new machine needle was patented that would make our home knitters feasible. The latch needle, plus refined machining brought a new home industry to the public. Made primarily of cast iron and lead, the knitters were advertised to supplement your income by knitting at home. At least three machines were promoted at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. Many different brands were sold throughout the 1880s and 1890s. In Borghild, Mrs. Henry Melbye of Ulen wrote, "One day in the late nineties a man by the name of Fuglie came around and sold knitting machines. Mamma bought one for \$3.00 It was a great help in keeping us with stockings." When the cost for manufactured stockings was reduced, the need for the machines declined. An increase in sales and yarn was brought about by WW I, but the new flat-bed machines were due to take over the market. Plastic replaced metal and now we have electronic machines that will operate even with no one in the room. The machines will knit lace, have computer printed designs and can be set for some variety in stitches.



Gearhart circular
knitting machine.
1914



Latch needle.
Pat'd 1852.



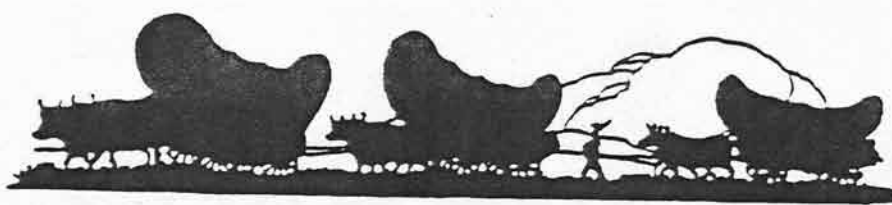
Lamb V-bed knitter.
1870

Happy Anniversary, cont....

Our museum has five machines. The oldest is a Lamb V-bed knitter. Unfortunately, it was involved in a water leak and is rusted beyond use at this time. The other four are all Gearhart circular machines, a popular brand in this area. They date from 1912 to 1926. The circular machines are perfect for making stockings, mittens and scarves. They can be used for sweaters, but it involves dropping stitches and sewing pieces together. The V-bed makes all of the above plus gloves and underwear.

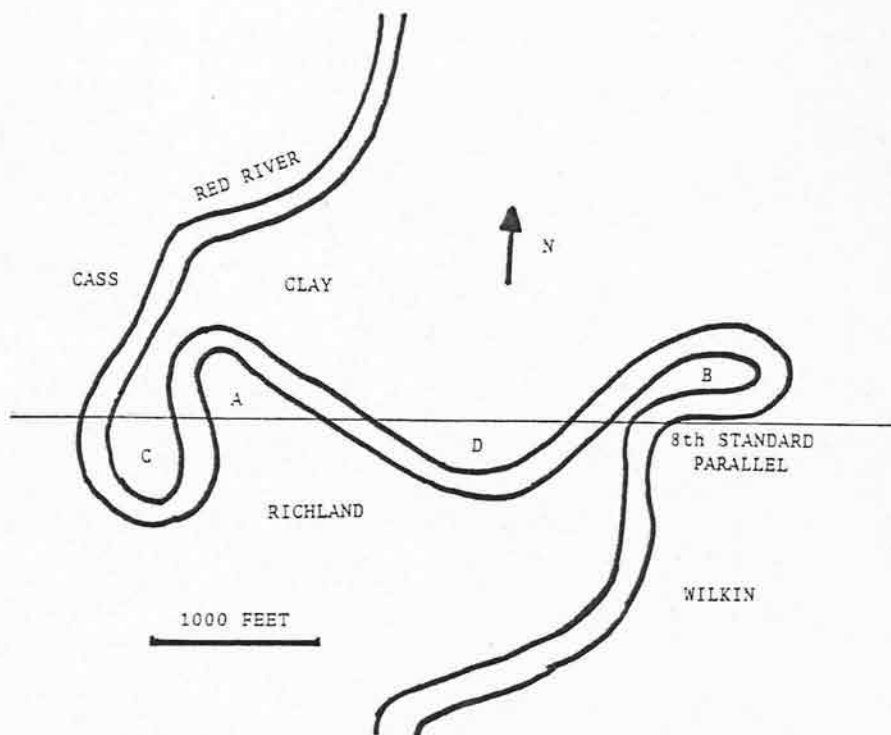
Many of the machines you find at auctions or flea markets show little signs of use. The machine is not complicated, but it does take all of your attention at first and many small things can go wrong. Following the instructions exactly is recommended in the booklet provided with each machine. Once frustration set in, the machine was relegated to the barn or attic. Among those who persevered, knitting the heel on the machine was the next obstacle. Once that was mastered, the rest was easy.

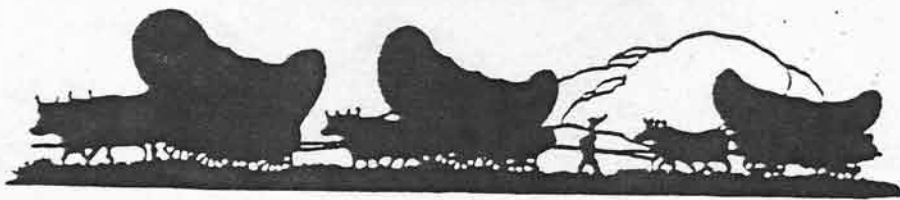
(Pam Burkhardt, the Collections Manager for CCHS, has a small collection of home knitting machines. The oldest is dated 1870).



ISLANDS ON THE STREAM: CLAY COUNTY'S SOUTHWEST BORDER

The CCHS staff's continual search for the unusual and interesting in Clay County recently turned up a rather bizarre situation along the county's extreme southwest border. "Bizarre?" You may ask. "Don't the borders of Clay, Wilkin, Cass and Richland Counties just come together in four corners?" Well, yes, they do but in five places. Let us explain. The Red River became the boundary between Minnesota and Dakota Territory when Minnesota became a state in 1858. Later, as the counties were established, the 8th Standard Parallel was set as the border between Clay and Wilkin Counties in Minnesota and between Cass and Richland Counties on the North Dakota side of the river. Seems simple, but the loopy Red River swings back and forth over the 8th Standard Parallel five times (see map below). This means that four bends are sliced off by the





Islands On The Stream, cont...

Parallel. This is no big deal for Clay and Richland Counties but our neighbors Wilkin and Cass are faced with a different situation. Bends A and B, because they are on the North Dakota side of the river yet north of the 8th Standard Parallel, form two little islands of Cass County separated from the rest of Cass by several hundred yards of Clay County. Likewise, bends C and D, because they are on the Minnesota side yet south of the parallel, are part of Wilkin County.

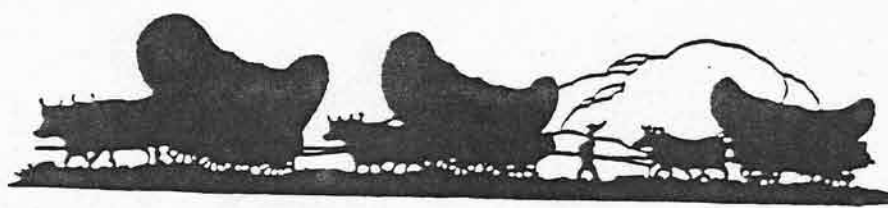
An interesting situation may develop in 50 to 100 years or so as the shifting Red River cuts off bends B and C making them islands in the river and eventually cutting them off completely. It would take an act of Congress (literally) to change the border so it would remain along the old river bed but it would result in a little pocket of Cass County on the east side of the Red and a bit of Wilkin County on the West. Just what we need, something else to worry about!

CCHS GIVES R/UDAT HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

CCHS was able to provide a needed historical background for the recent R/UDAT (Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team) report. The design team's job was to study the Red River between Moorhead and Fargo and to make recommendations as to how the Red might be better utilized by the communities. CCHS' historical information and copies of old photographs play a significant part in the team's final report.

The volunteer team members, architects from across the U.S. and Canada, were all impressed by the beauty and quality of the river and perplexed by resident's negative attitudes toward it. Most Moorheadites and Fargoans (especially those under 50 years old) seem to see the river as dirty, polluted and dangerous; a reputation that R/UDAT says is not justified.

CCHS was able to tell the team that not only was the river critical in Moorhead's development because of steam-boating but that the Red was used extensively for recreation until the late 1950s. Swimming, canoeing, fishing, ice skating and hockey were all extremely popular. Much of the activity occurred around Dommer's boathouse at the east end of Moorhead's 4th Avenue South. The 1959



CCHS Gives R/UDAT Historical Perspective, cont...

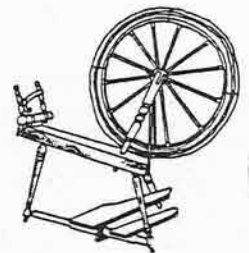
Fargo Flood Control project moved the river, wiped out Dommer's and replaced the old dam with a new and more dangerous dam near St. John's Hospital. (More about the project in the next newsletter.) About eleven people have died at this dam over the last 30 years. Much of the Red's bad reputation may come from this 50 yard stretch of river.

The one specific recommendation made by CCHS may bear fruit. We identified several sites of historical interest along the river that might be appropriate for interpretive markers including the steam-boat landing, old north bridge and "The Point", Moorhead's original residential area. Stay tuned for further developments.

Copies of the report are available at the Moorhead and Fargo City Halls, the Metropolitan Council of Governments office and local libraries.

MINI-WORKSHOP TO BE HELD AT CENTER IN NOVEMBER

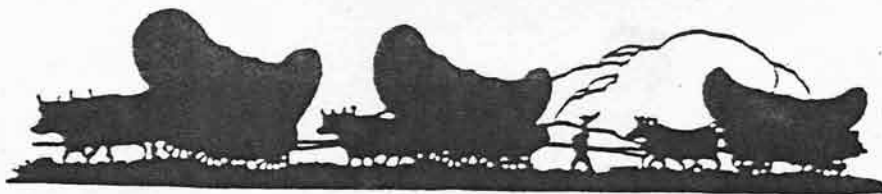
A mini-workshop about spinning wheels will be held at the HHIC on Sunday, Nov. 19, 1989 at 1:30 p.m. Participants will learn the history of spinning, the opportunities for natural dyeing of wool, and the basics of carding and spinning.



This workshop is for people who have an old wheel they would like to use and those who are thinking about getting a new wheel to create their own yarn for weaving and knitting. If you have a spinning wheel that may be safely transported, you may bring it. Everyone who is interested in learning how to spin will be shown how. This is free to the public.

For more information, call Pam at the museum 233-4604.

A similar mini-workshop will also be held in Barnesville this fall. Watch the Barnesville Record Review for date and time.



QUILT DOCUMENTATION DAY

Minnesota Quilt Documentation Day was September 30, 1989 at the Heritage-Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead. The Center, Clay County Historical Society and the North Dakota Quilters' Guild sponsored the event. A total of 43 quilts were documented.

Each quilt received a number at the door. Information on the quilter was recorded. In many cases the quilter was not known. Next, the quilt was spread out on the tables and analyzed physically. The top, back and fill were examined and information recorded, such as: pattern name, quilt type, top fabrics and colors, thread, construction, block set, sashing, borders, general condition, binding and quilting. At this point in the process, workers and owners alike left their interviewing and surrounded the physical analysis tables to marvel at patterns, colors or handwork.

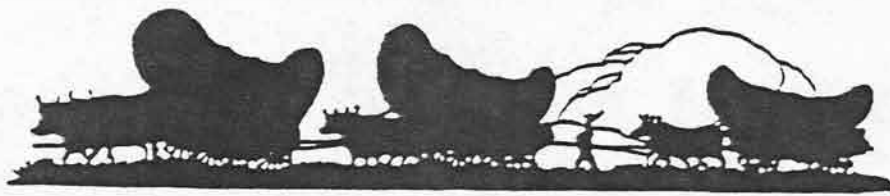
Finally, a temporary sleeve was pinned to the back and the quilt was photographed. This step was the show-stopper. Mounted under the lights, each quilt came alive. All heads came up and work stopped for a moment in appreciation. Log cabin patterns, appliqued flowers, butterflies and crazy quilts lit the room. Visitors to the Center were curious about the activity, and they wandered in to learn about the documentation process and about the care of quilts.

Nine of the museum's quilts were documented that day. Our oldest quilt is a white-on-white dated 1876. One quilt was found to have two backs!

It got to be a long day. We were tired of working, but not of quilts.

FROM THE PAST

A stocking bound on warm from the foot, at night, is good for the sore throat.



GRASSHOPPER TRAP



From Dr. Chase's Recipes, 1902

Fig. 8 - Trap for Locust and Grasshoppers (Invented by a Minnesota farmer's wife). -- A strip of sheet iron 10 to 30 feet long is turned up at each end and one edge, and drawn like a sled over the fields. It is smeared with a thick coat of tar, and is drawn by a heavy wire bent to a right angle, attached to each end. A foot in front of the sheet iron a light chain or wire drags on the ground and disturbs the insects. They hop upon the trap and are caught in the tar. Scrape the locusts from the trap and burn.

FREE GLASSES



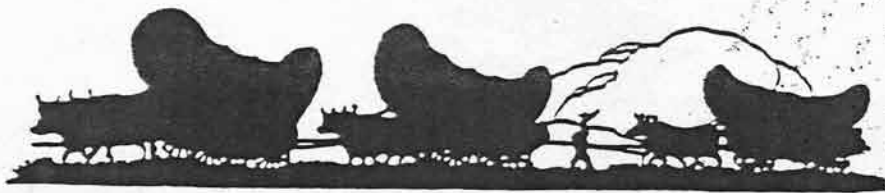
IF YOU CAN SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. Dr. Frazier, eye specialist, of Minneapolis, whose announcement appears elsewhere in this paper, will give away a \$10 pair of glasses to the first person mailing a correct answer to the problem below. Answers are to be addressed to Dr. Frazier at Barnesville, and the glasses will be fitted for any person named by the winner. Here is the problem:

"A farmer weighed his wheat on beam scales, using a forty pound rock on one side of the balance. One day he dropped the rock, breaking it into four pieces, each piece weighing a whole number of pounds, after which he could weigh any number of whole pounds from one pound to forty pounds inclusive. What was the weight of each of the four pieces?"

Dr. Frazier will be at the Central Hotel, Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 24 and 25.

(From Barnesville Record Review, Nov. 19, 1914)

With a little help, we came up with one answer. Can you come up with one? If so, call 233-4604 or stop by and let us know, so we can compare notes. If your answer works we will print it.



OUTREACH DISPLAYS

Viking Manor & Ulen-Hitterdal High School, Ulen	10/27-12/22/89
Moorhead Library & Glyndon Community Center	11/03-12/29/89
Hawley Library & Hitterdal Senior Center	11/01-12/27/89

The display CHRISTMAS CRAFTS will appear at the Moorhead Library, Hawley Library and Glyndon community Center. Each display will have a variety of hand-made Christmas ornaments and instructions to make them. Included will be paper cones, beaded stars, straw stars, spool knit wreaths, Polish stars, Swedish baskets, and others. The CCHS intern Amanda Raetzman is helping with this display.

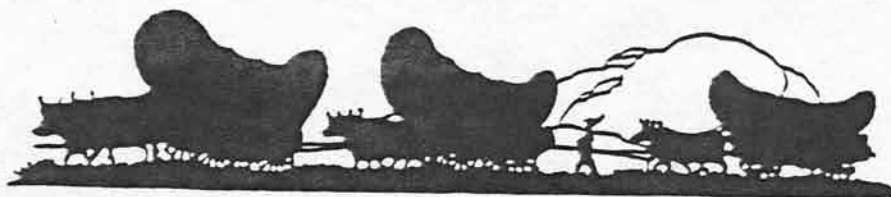
The Hitterdal Senior Center will have CHRISTMAS CALORIES. Many items for baking goodies and serving them will be features. Recipes included!

IN OTHER WORDS will be featured at the Ulen-Hitterdal High School. This is a tricky display that matches words and artifacts. A few of the words are cup, roll, and assault. One of the artifacts is a salt.

In keeping with the season, COFFEE AND COOKIES will appear at Viking Manor. The display, that is, not the goodies. It will feature coffee servers, a coffee mill, cups, cookie cutters, etc.

CCHS ENDOWMENT FUND

A gift to the CCHS endowment fund can help the Society in perpetuity. Only the income from the gift is used for operations, unless directed by the donor's specifications. If you would like more information on tax deductible donations to the endowment fund, please call 233-4604.



HOLIDAY HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Celebrate your ethnic heritage at the Heritage-Hjemkomst Interpretive Center!

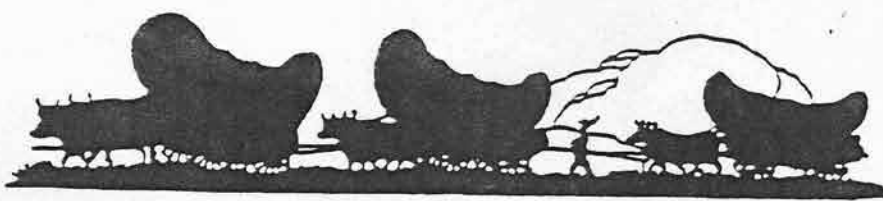
Join us for the 2nd Annual HOLIDAY HERITAGE FESTIVAL honoring the Red River Valley's rich ethnic heritage. During the month of Fargo-Moorhead's Merry Prairie Christmas, the Center's Hjemkomst Hall will be host to displays of the many festive winter holiday season traditions. Plans are being made to exhibit ethnic decorated Christmas trees and other examples of holiday traditions, to host demonstrators of traditional folk arts and folk dancers. A brochure explaining the diverse holiday traditions will be an added feature this year.

The first Annual Holiday Heritage Festival held in 1988 at the Center involved over 12 diverse ethnic groups: Chinese, English, Hispanic, Icelandic, Norwegian, Swedish, German, Italian, French, Polish, Yugoslavian, Romanian and Finnish. It is planned that the festival will feature a variety of folk art programs and evolve to include an increasing number of diverse ethnic groups.

EXPLORING THE PLANETS

The new "Exploring the Planets" exhibit from the Smithsonian Institute is now open in Heritage Hall. So far, visitors are very pleased with the new exhibit. Don't miss the actual moon rock in the month of October! Also, beginning in October, "space creatures" designed by local students will be on display.

Every Thursday evening there is something happening at the Center. Watch for information in the news media! Of special interest are two guest speakers from NASA: Bob Friedman an Aerospace Engineer will speak on October 12th on the Voyager Project including recent findings from the Neptune encounter and Dr. Paul Butterworth, who does archival work with data from NASA missions, will speak on the SETI Program (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence) on November 16. Both lectures will be Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Remember your Clay County Membership Pass admits you in free to these special events.

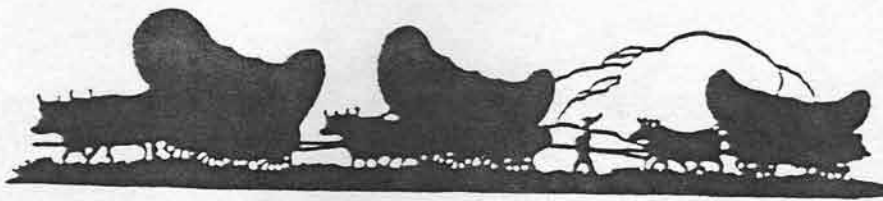


CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct. 1	YoYo Quilting, 1-5 p.m., Hjemkomst Hall
Oct. 2 - Nov. 3	Actual Moon Rock on exhibit
Oct. 5	Skywatch Series #1, "The ABC's of Telescopes" 7-9 p.m., Conf. ABC
Oct. 12	"Through the Eyes of Voyager - Views of the Outer Planets," lecture by Bob Friedman, NASA Aerospace Engineer, 7:30 p.m. Auditorium
Oct. 19	Skywatch Series #2, "Night Sky Viewing," (bring binoculars) 7-9 p.m., Conf. ABC
Oct. 26	Skywatch Series #3, "Night Sky Viewing," (bring binoculars) 7-9 p.m., Conf. ABC
Oct. 28	Children's "Planets" Workshop, 10:30 a.m. & 2:00 p.m., Conf. ABC
Oct. 29	Children's "Planets" Workshop, 2:00 p.m., Conf. ABC
Nov. 2	Skywatch Series #4, "Geography of the Planets," Conf. ABC
Nov. 9	Skywatch Series #5, "Orbits of the Planets," Conf. ABC
Nov. 17	Last day, NASA models in "...Planets"
Nov. 23	THANKSGIVING DAY - CLOSED
Nov. 24 - Dec. 31	Holiday Heritage Festival
Nov. 30	Skywatch Series #6, Cosmology "The Make-up of the Universe," it's a hairy deal! 7-9 p.m.
Dec. 7	Skywatch Series #7, "Comets & Asteroids," 7-9 p.m.
Dec. 14	Skywatch Series #8, "Astronomy for Amateurs," 7-9 p.m.
Dec. 17	Last day "NASA...Photo Collection" CCHS Museum
Dec. 25	CHRISTMAS - CLOSED
Jan. 1	NEW YEAR'S DAY - CLOSED

THROUGH OCTOBER	"A Century of Plastics"	CCHS Museum
THROUGH DECEMBER 3	"King Wheat"	Heritage Hall
THROUGH DECEMBER 29	"Exploring the Planets"	HHIC
OPENING OCTOBER 7	"NASA's 25th Anniv. Photo Collection"	CCHS Museum

KEEP IN MIND! The membership card you have allows you free admittance to all of the Center's activities.



GIFT CERTIFICATES NOW AVAILABLE!

MEMBERSHIP GIFT CERTIFICATES are now available!!! Buy a friend or family member a gift that is unique and caring or if you are looking for a gift that includes the entire family a gift certificate for a family membership would be the thing. Not only will you be solving the problem of finding a gift that is different, but you will be helping support Clay County Historical Society's growth. So order your gift certificates now for Christmas or for any other special occasion and we thank you for your support!!!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Amount Needed: _____ Individual Gift Cert. _____ Family Gift Cert.

Cost: \$15.00 Individual Gift Certificates
 \$35.00 Family Gift Certificates

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Please remit to CCHS at P.O. Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56560.

If you would like us to mail it out directly to recipient, please fill in below. If this is a family gift certificate, please list the names of all family members.

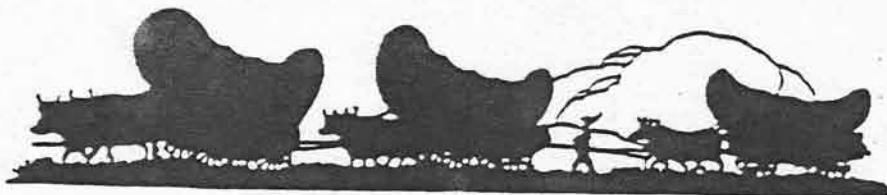
RECIPIENT

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Additional family members names.



NEW MEMBERS

David Larson, Fargo, ND
Mr. & Mrs. Sannes, Fargo, ND
Mrs. Lillian Hagen, Downers Grove, IL
Cecil & Eleanor Johnson, Moorhead, MN
Francella Iverson, Baker, MN
May Bakken, Hawley, MN

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Pamela Burkhardt, Collections Manager
Magdalena Obert, Office Manager

AT THE HERITAGE SHOP

Available Gift Items

- BOOKS
- EDUCATIONAL TOYS
- EXHIBIT RELATED ITEMS
- AREA ARTIFACTS
- ETHNIC GIFTS
- CCHS GIFT CERTIFICATES

(218) 233-5604



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:

- INDIVIDUAL \$15.00
- FAMILY \$35.00



CCHS Membership Benefits

- FREE Admission to the Center
- Bi-monthly newsletter
- 25% discount on photo reproductions
- 10% discount on acid-free materials
- voting privileges
- invitation to the annual meeting/dinner and all CCHS events



Name: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Telephone: _____

Date Purchased: _____

Please list additional family members (family is considered; husband, wife and children now living at home, under the age of 18) for passes.

RETURN TO: Clay County Historical Society
P.O. Box 501
Moorhead, MN 56560
(218) 233-4604

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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BULK RATE
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