

# CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



CCHS Newsletter

January/February 1996

Vol. XIX. No. 1



Concordia Lutheran Church Ladies' Aid, Moland Township, early 1890s. (See Page 8 for story.)

## President's Report

By Gary H. Olson



The year 1995 is history! CCHS had quite a year with the media attention concerning the possible relocation of the museum due to the sizable increase in rents by the City of Moorhead. After much discussion and many meetings the matter was resolved in the best interests of all. CCHS now has a 10-year lease and looks forward to continued cooperation and communication between all factions involved.

A Facilities Board consisting of one member from the Clay County Commission, the CCHS President, the HHIC President, a City of Moorhead Council member and the City of Moorhead City Manager has replaced the Buildings and Grounds Committee. One of the first tasks for the Facilities Board will be to examine better signage for CCHS and HHIC, both inside and outside the building (including on area highways).

Because of a tax crunch, the County appropriation for CCHS in 1996 had to be frozen at last year's figure. Consequently the CCHS Membership Committee began a Business Membership Drive to make up the shortfall. To date, about half of the deficit has been realized. Members of the Membership Committee include Carol Ekre, Mercedes Roos, Dorothy Dodds and Margaret Ristvedt. Business memberships are available beginning at \$50. (See Pages 8 and 9 for a listing of current business members and information on how to become a business member.) If you own a farm business or if your business was not contacted in the first mailing, please contact us at Clay County Historical Society, Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561-0501 or call 233-4604.

Stop in at the Clay County Museum and Archives, both free and open to the public. The CCHS staff can help you with a research project, reproduce a photograph out of our extensive photographic collections or assist you in viewing the many interesting exhibits in our museum.

We look forward to serving you in 1996 and for many years to come.

## ISSN - We have one, but what is it?

The phenomenal growth of serials in recent years have prompted the development of a standard for the identification of serials: the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), an eight digit number which identifies a title regardless of language or country in which published. Serials are defined as including magazines, newspapers, annuals, journals, newsletters, etc.

ISSN is internationally coordinated with each country responsible for registration within its own borders. In the United States the National Serials Data Program within the Library of Congress handles registrations, numbering, and promoting the use of ISSNs.

Advantages include easier access for scholars, researchers, abstracters and librarians. As a standard numeric identification code, the ISSN is eminently suitable for computer use.

This and all future CCHS Newsletters will include our ISSN #1086-2307.

## CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



202 1st Avenue North, Box 501  
Moorhead, Minnesota 56560  
Phone 233-4604

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Margaret Ristvedt, Editor/Publisher  
Pam Burkhardt, Contributor  
Mark Peihl, Contributor



# Markers along river tell area's history

By Mark Peihl

A new series of interpretive markers describing historic sites along the Red River in Moorhead and Fargo is now in place. The signs are a project of River Keepers (a local advocacy group for the Red). CCHS worked closely with them providing photos, information and suggestions. (This spring we won River Keepers' Education Award, in part for our help with this project.) The results provide a neat way for folks to learn more about our local history.

Two of the five markers are along the Moorhead bike trail between the Center Avenue and 1st Avenue North bridges. They describe the local steamboat industry and Moorhead's notorious turn-of-the-century North Bridge saloon district.

Two others, on Fargo's South 4th Street across from the F-M Community Theater and next to the Dike West warming house, concern the Fargo Flood Control Dike and the recreation area that existed on the site before the river was moved to accommodate the dike.

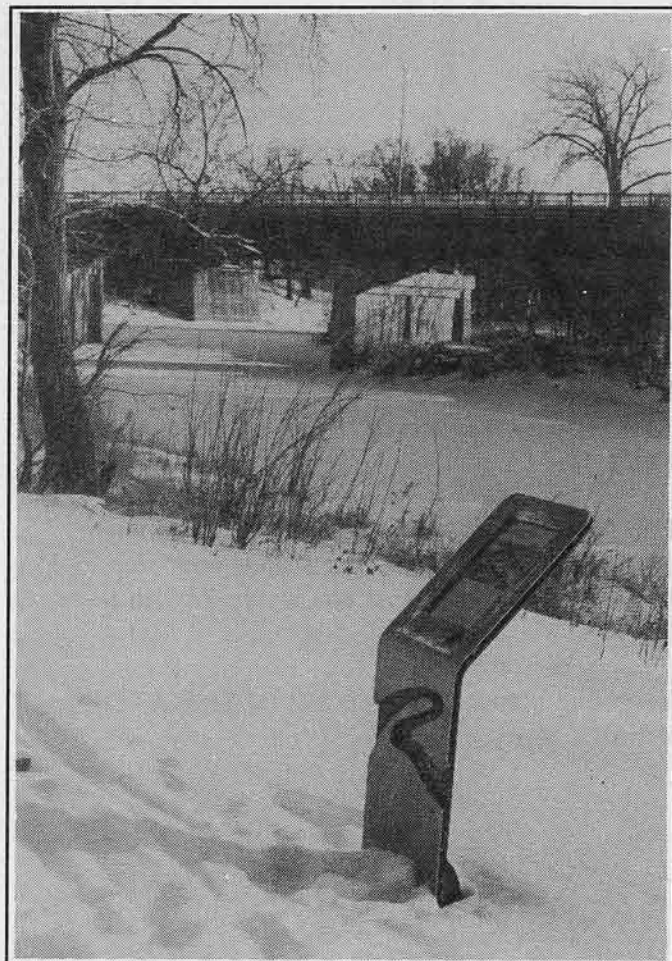
The fifth marker stands at the entrance to Fargo's Oak Grove Park. Sponsored by the Lubka family, it serves as a memorial to bicycling enthusiast Hank Lubka who died in a tragic auto-bike accident June 28, 1991. Dakota-Heartland and Meritcare sponsored the other markers.

Future signs are planned. Possible topics include the former street car bridge, the ox-bow bend at Gooseberry Park and "The Point" - Moorhead's original residential district and the Hjemkomst Center's backyard.

For further information, call the museum at 233-4604 or River Keepers at 235-2895. And give the markers a look. They're pretty darn interesting!

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The interpretive marker pictured at right is located on the Moorhead bike trail behind American Crystal Sugar looking south. The Center Avenue bridge is in the background of the upper photo.



## Outreach Displays

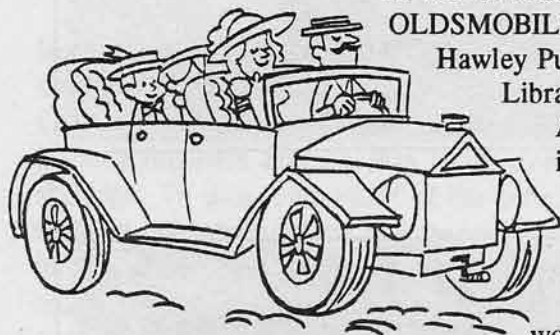
	Opens	Closes
Hitterdal Senior Center	Jan. 29	April 1
Ulen-Hitterdal High School	Jan. 29	April 1
Viking Manor, Ulen	Jan. 29	April 1
Hawley Public Library	Jan. 29	April 1
Glyndon Community Center	Jan. 31	April 3
Moorhead Public Library		
Barnesville Public Library	Jan. 31	April 3

The Hitterdal Senior Center opens a display of HITTERDAL (area) PHOTOS recently acquired by CCHS.

THIS OLD HOUSE is in the Ulen-Hitterdal High School library featuring a frog-shaped door stop, old linoleum, 1930s wall paper and lovely English floor tiles.

The Viking Manor in Ulen is UP IN THE ATTIC to see what's there.

IN MY MERRY  
OLDSMOBILE is in the  
Hawley Public  
Library.



Artifacts  
include a  
wooden  
license  
plate, road  
maps and a  
wooden gas  
gauge.

NATURAL & UNNATURAL HISTORY features items from our natural history collections. See this display at the Glyndon Community Center.

\*\*\*\*

Moorhead Public Library has arranged its own exhibit of exquisite hand-crafted porcelain dolls.

\*\*\*\*

QUILTS will keep the Barnesville Public Library warm (figuratively speaking). The display includes quilts blocks, a pieced quilt top, a doll quilt and photos and information on eight fascinating quilts in the CCHS collections.

## Artifacts & Donors

November/December 1995

### Donors include:

Moorhead: Dr. Carroll Engelhardt, Charlotte Onstine, Helen Euren, Eva Felde, Moorhead Fire Dept., Helen Hedelund, Alvin Swanson  
Glyndon: Omar & Mavis Osmundson, Doris Jones  
Hawley: Zenas Baer  
Fargo, ND: John R. Borland, June Probstfield Dobervich, Beatrice Lewis  
Afton: Afton Minnesota Press  
Bloomington: Mary Spencer Twedt  
Hastings: Janet Marten  
St. Paul: Joyce Fevig Pishek  
Ft Meyers, FL: Elaine Duhn Horn  
Deer Park, TX: Carol V. Mays

**Artifacts include:** (2) MSTC *Praeceptor* 1936 & 1937; (6) Moorhead High School *The Spud* 1923 & 1924; (6) Moorhead High School *Cho-Kio* 1922, 1923, 1925, 1927, 1928 & 1933; Moorhead High School reunion booklets; Hitterdal area photos; Oakmound Cemetery receipt book; Bowman pool photos; F. Jay Haynes stereoviews; postcards of Brown Hall at Concordia College and Morningside Mo-Ho-Tel, Moorhead; photographs and related items of local/area fires, firemen, equipment etc.; *Concordia and the Jazz Age: Norwegian-American Lutheran College Experience in the 1920s*; video cassette tape, *Probstfield Living History Farm*; cassette tape *Hawley Community Celebration*; photo album w/some area photos; books, *Minnesota Gardens* by Susan Davis Price and *The Uffda Trial* by Gerald Anderson; baptismal and marriage certificates for Joyce Fevig (Mrs. Ernest Pishek); Goose Prairie Dist. 43 school souvenir card for Fall Term 1898; (12) needlework booklets 1933-1963; wedding dress, shoes; woman's fall dress with petticoat; nurse's caps; baby coat & caps, hand made slip with crocheted edging; (2) Clay County centennial plates; replica souvenir Red River cart; Moorhead Public Library commemorative bowl; and a bowl made of clay from the Red River.

### Answering machine installed

CCHS now has an answering machine. If you wish to know our hours or current exhibits you may call any time. Our number is 233-4604.



# WHAT IS IT? UPDATE

By Pam Burkhardt

In the 1988 January/February newsletter, we wrote about a tool that had been brought in for identification many years ago. In 1964, Contractor Herman Magnusson found this item in the walls of a house he razed in the flood district in Moorhead. He was interested in finding out what it was. The *Forum* printed a story on it in January 1965 seeking a name or use for the tool. CCHS displayed it at the Clay County Fair and it was featured in several of our What is it? displays. None of the guesses submitted seemed consistent with its construction or condition, ie lemon squeezer, nut cracker.

A while ago a college student from Iran gave us an answer. He identified it as a charcoal crusher still used in Iran. The tool would break larger chunks into smaller ones for tiny stoves and heaters. This is consistent with its construction and condition: the interior of the opening shows heat discoloration and the handles are heat-dissipating (similar to sad iron handles). A charcoal crusher would be used in this area in the charcoal-heated foot warmers used in the winter in sleighs and wagons. If anyone can come up with a better answer, let us know.

## Donations

### November/December

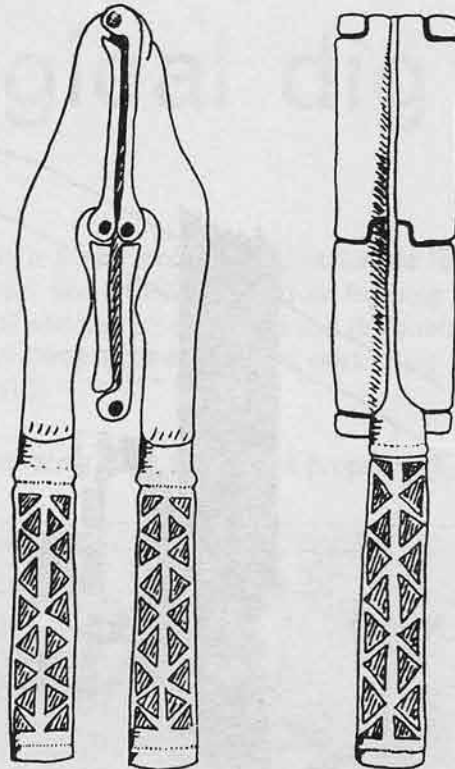
Many thanks to the following organization for their monetary gift to the 1936 Buffalo Fire Truck Fund. Their generosity is greatly appreciated.

Moorhead Fire Department Recreation Association

## Words of Wisdom

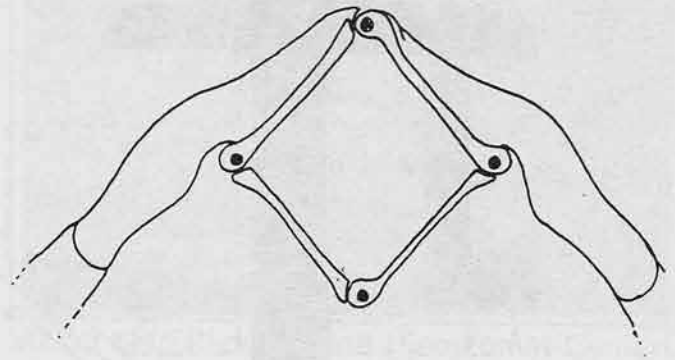
"The ancients understood the principle of sympathy between muscle and mind. This is proved by their calling their schools 'Gymnasia,' in accordance with this fundamental principle, that promoting bodily strength promotes mental vigor."

Bernarr MacFadden, *The Power and Beauty of Superb Womanhood*, 1901.



Top View

Side View



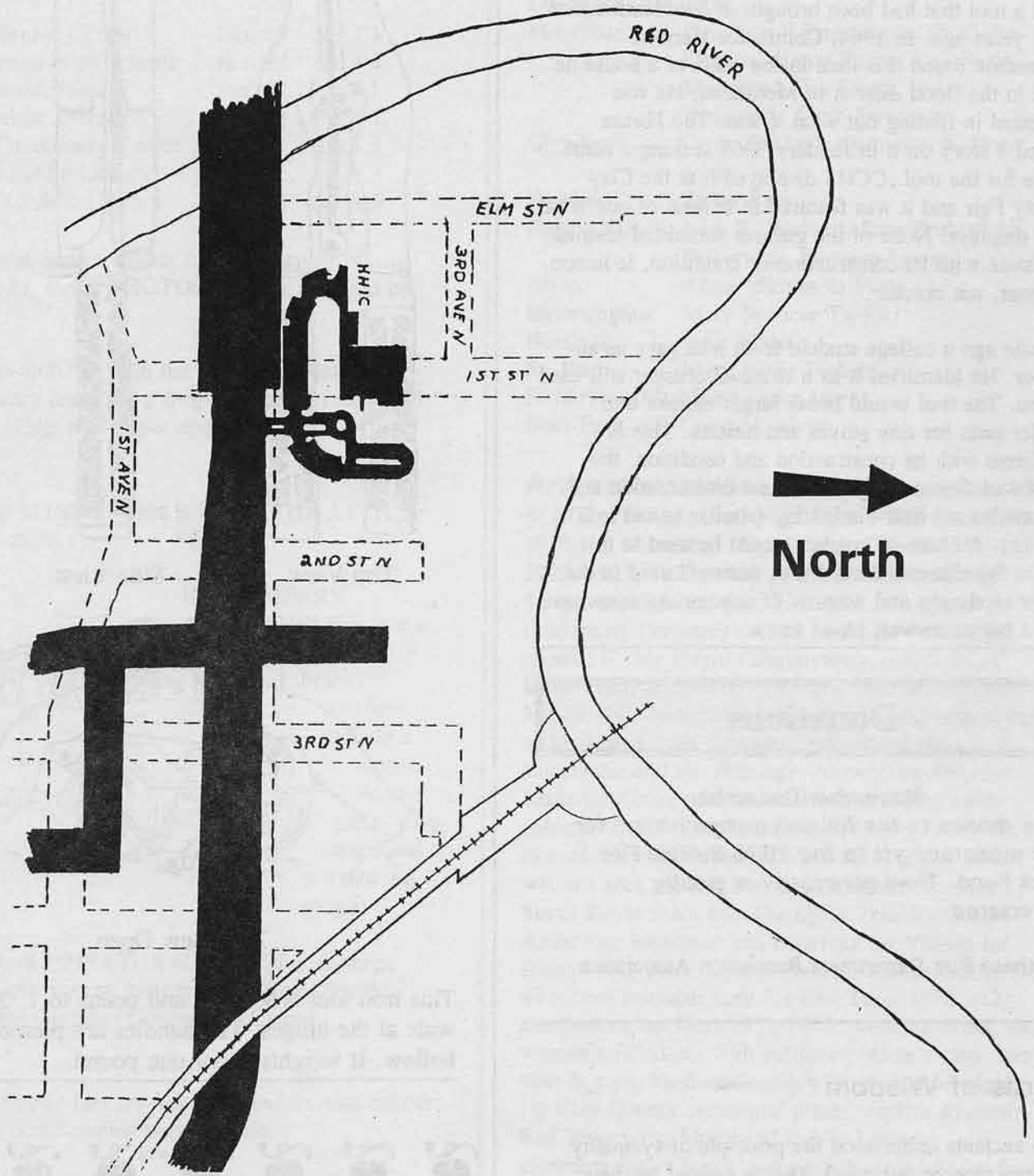
Top View Open

This iron tool is 9" long and opens to 1 3/8" wide at the hinges. The handles are pierced and hollow. It weights about one pound.



*Happy  
Valentine's Day*

## "The Point," 1957 and today.



The Hjemkomst Center and current streets are shown in black. Streets on "The Point" as they appeared in 1957 are shown dotted. The digging will probably occur on old Elm Street and old 3rd Avenue North.

# "The Point" to be site of archeological dig

By Mark Peihl

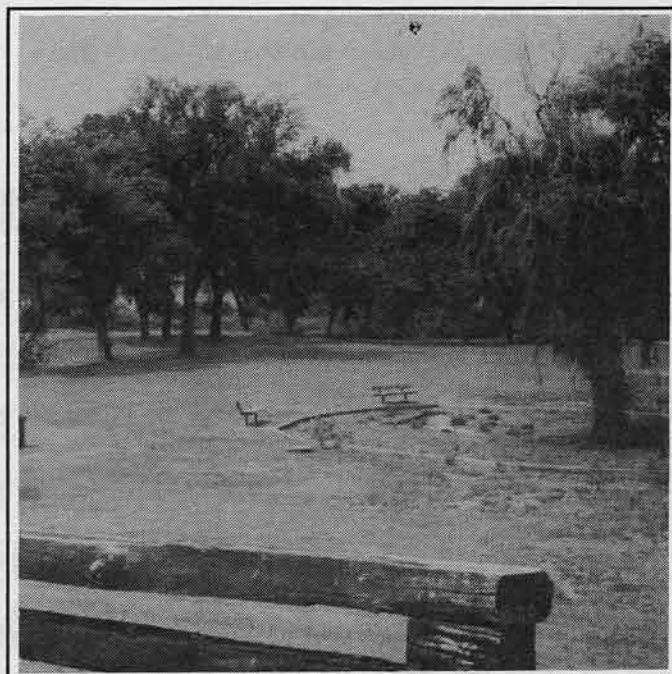
This spring, dirt will fly in the Hjemkomst Center's backyard as archaeologists study Moorhead's original residential district. This will be the area's first urban archeological dig. In recent years Moorhead State University's Dr. Michael Michlovic and others have learned much about Native Americans in the Red River Valley before white settlement. This project will use the tools and methods of archeology to better understand life in Moorhead in the late 1800s.

Michlovic and urban archeologist Dean Sather will guide MSU field school students in an exploratory search for remnants of the 19th Century "Point." After Moorhead was established in 1872, most residents built their homes in the timber-fringed bend in the Red River just northwest of downtown. "The Point" remained a residential neighborhood until urban renewal leveled the houses around 1970. Today it is Moorhead's Viking Ship Park.

The archaeologists will search CCHS' maps, photos, city directories and other sources to pinpoint the former locations of four or five homes. This spring, a one by two meter test hole will be carefully dug at each site to see what artifacts, foundations and other clues might be found. If enough significant materials are located, a more extensive dig may follow.

This is a very exciting project for the Hjemkomst Center and CCHS. Aside from learning more about local history, area students and the public will be able to observe archaeologists at work. Stay tuned for more details!

(See facing page for map of proposed dig area.)



Viking Ship Park (behind Hjemkomst Center).



"The Point," view to the north showing 2nd Street (at left) and 3rd Street, 1880. Moorhead's earliest residents built their homes in the river bend which they called "The Point." Wealthier people occupied the higher, drier sections in the middle of the bend. Less affluent folks lived along the flood-prone riverbanks.

Flaten/Wange Collection.



## Wish list from the dusty ol' curator

The Clay County Historical Society is looking for a working steam iron, folding ironing board and small shop vac with attachments. The curator has been ironing banners, lining materials etc. on a carpeted floor. Please help her get on her feet again. A small shop vac with a variety of attachments is needed to keep the dust down behind the scenes at the museum and to take to the cabin and school for cleaning walls, floors, ceilings and general cracks and crevices.



This photo is part of the "Votes for Women" exhibit now showing in the Clay County Museum. The exhibit goes beyond woman suffrage to explore voting privileges throughout the history of the United States.

Be sure to check out this thought provoking exhibit.

## CCHS hosts hotdog fundraiser at Wal-Mart

As a direct response to last Fall's Business Membership drive, CCHS was contacted by the Dilworth Wal-Mart concerning a hotdog/Pepsi fundraiser for matching funds.

The Board's decision to sell hotdogs on Saturday, Dec. 16 appears to have been a good one. Four hundred hotdogs and buns were purchased and 400 hotdogs were sold in a little over five hours. We appreciate the opportunity and all the assistance from Wal-Mart, especially the matching funds which made our hotdog feed very profitable.

A great big thank you to all the volunteers who made the fund raiser possible and especially to the following who took time out from their busy Christmas preparations to "hawk" hotdogs for the Clay County Museum and Archives. They are: Dorothy Dodds, Irene Hogan, Mercedes and Norman Roos, Larry and Elsie Quam, Bob and Carol Kennedy, Kenny Fox, Diane Haugen and Paul Harris. Our hats go off to these dedicated volunteers!!!

## Cover Photo

Like many women's groups, the Concordia Ladies' Aid of Moland Township, pictured in the early 1890s was established to improve the spiritual and home life of women and their families. In the 1890s many such groups moved their activities outside of the home, to make improvements in their communities. Through these clubs, some literary and some religious, women learned organizational skills and formed vital networks that would help them in the struggle for suffrage.

## CCHS Business Membership

- |                          |                 |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$ 50 to \$99   | Supporting Member     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$ 100 to \$199 | Sustaining Member     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$ 200 to \$499 | Patron                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$ 500 and up   | Major Exhibit Sponsor |

As a CCHS Business Member you will receive a certificate ready to frame and display, complimentary passes to the Hjemkomst Center's exhibits and a listing in the CCHS bi-monthly Newsletter. (See Page 9) . The Clay County Museum and Archives are free and open to the public. To become a CCHS Business Member please return this form or a facsimile to CCHS, Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561-0501 or call 233-4604.

Business: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



# A vital component of the CCHS budgeting plan

## Business Memberships

Last Fall CCHS was notified that their budget appropriation from the county would need to be frozen at last year's level due to limited tax dollars. Since CCHS gets most of its budget from Clay County, well above the average for Minnesota, this created a considerable shortage of funds to operate the programs and services that CCHS currently provides.

The Board of Directors, in order to make up the shortfall created by the freeze, began soliciting

Business Memberships. To date 14 Business Memberships have been purchased. These businesses and organizations support the Clay County Historical Societies' Museum and Archives through their memberships. They make it possible for us to fulfill our mission to collect, preserve and disseminate knowledge of the history of Clay County.

To all our Business Members we say ----

**Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!**

### **Business Memberships include:**

**American Bank, Moorhead**  
**Korsmo Funeral Service, Moorhead**  
**Case Corporation, Fargo**  
**Sellin Brothers, Hawley**  
**Cass-Clay Creamery, Inc., Fargo**  
**Hornbachers Foods, Moorhead**  
**Ward Muscatell Auto, Moorhead**  
**Wright Funeral Home, Moorhead**  
**Bentley & Bentley, DDS, Hawley**  
**Fargo Forum, Fargo**  
**Moorhead Kiwanis, Moorhead**  
**Altrusa International Club, Moorhead**  
**Mid-Day Lions, Moorhead**  
**United Electric Service & Supply, Inc., Fargo**

(See Page 8 for information on how to become a business member.)

# Words of wisdom from bygone days!!

## "Pollution: The Old Story"

"The abundance of God's gifts of fuel has brought about one of the weakest elements in Western character - the indifference to the filth and squalor of a smoke-laden atmosphere. The first condition of health and decency is cleanliness, and nobody can keep clean in any Western city. As a question of mere money-making and money-saving, the people of the Mississippi Valley show themselves incompetent and barbarous, for the extra profits from the unrestricted

use of soft coal are more than counterbalanced by the expense of necessary renewals of soap, clothing, wallpaper, furniture, and paint, to say nothing of breathing the sulphur fumes and rubbing the grime into the countenances of the people and their children. Not always will factory chimneys spread their pall upon the sky."

*Albert Bushnell Hart*, in *Harper Encyclopedia of United States History*, 1905.

## CCHS Life Memberships

CCHS would like to recognize the following Life Members.

Dr. & Mrs. Verlyn Anderson  
James Andvik  
Randy Bakken  
Dewey Bergquist  
Pamela Burkhardt  
Dr. & Mrs. K.W. Covey  
Doris Eastman  
Mrs. H.K. Eklund  
Helen Euren  
Mr. & Mrs. Jon Evert

Dr. & Mrs. Clarence Glasrud  
Gary Goodrich  
David & Paula Grosz  
M.J. & E.C. Hannaher  
Willis & LaVerne Kingsbury  
Ariel & Myrtle Sellie Molldrem  
Vincent & Kathie Murphy  
James O'Rourke  
Lloyd & Bev Paulson  
Ronald L.M. Ramsey

Benton & Minnie Rindahl  
Mercedes & Norman Roos  
Dr. & Mrs. David Rostad  
Clayton & Patricia Sandeen  
John Schermeister  
Charles D. Shamel  
Dr. Kenneth R. Skjegstad  
Dan & Sandy Skolness  
Dr. & Mrs. Warren Smerud  
Mrs. Russel Wahl  
Edgar Wright

## CCHS Memberships - New and Renewals

### November/December 1996

CCHS extends a very special thank you to the following individuals who have renewed their membership for another year.

Zona Mathison, Moorhead  
Denis Holen, Hawley  
Doris & Clayton Jorgenson, Hawley  
Davis & Hazel Scott, Moorhead  
Ellen Butenhoff, Moorhead  
Marv & Shirley Dauner, Hawley  
John Young Jr., Hawley  
Fred Larson, Moorhead  
Ardis VanRoey, Gretna, LA  
John Elton, Hawley

John P. Woods, Fargo  
William Prieb, Moorhead  
Lynn M. Slater, Fargo  
Jackie Packer, Barnesville  
Leona & Arnold Anderson, Hawley  
Bob & Carol Kennedy, Moorhead  
Thelma Wegner, Moorhead  
Helen M. Anton, West Fargo  
Tom Hall, Moorhead  
Bev Woodward, Fargo  
Wayne Gudmundson, Moorhead  
Vincent & Shirley Haugen, Moorhead  
Darlene M. Rustad, West Fargo  
Byrum Cartwright, Fargo  
Catherine Olson, Moorhead

Bernice Peihl, Hunter  
Paul & Mardeth Dovre, Moorhead  
Elvira M. Johnson, Moorhead

CCHS welcomes the following new members:

William H. Nelson, Spring Valley, OH  
Scott P. Onstine, Tempe, AZ  
Eleanor Payton, Moorhead  
Allan Evernham, Moorhead  
Robert Olson, Moorhead  
Dewey Olson, Moorhead  
Dan Zimmerman, Sergeant Bluff, IA



# CLAY COUNTY MUSEUM

 features

## "Votes for Women"

### WHO CAN VOTE?

Seventy-five years ago Woman Suffrage became the law of the land. How did it happen? Who made it happen? What issues played a role in who could vote, when they could vote and what they could vote for? When and what was the most recent change in American voting laws? This is an exhibit you won't want to miss.

Showing through April.



### Also Showing:

#### "Moorhead, August 1923"

A unique view of what Moorhead looked like in 1923, frozen forever in O.E. Flaten's photographs.  
and

#### "Old Ruby: Red River of the North"

Topics include: steamboating & recreation



The Clay County Museum PERMANENT EXHIBIT includes unique characterizations of one facet of the history of towns in the county. Together they form a chapter in the overall history of Clay County.

Hours are: 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 9-9 Thurs. 12-5 Sun.  
Lower level of Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Ave. N., Mhd.



# CCHS - 1996 MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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
- ☐ DONATION \_\_\_\_\_

## CCHS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- \*\* Support preservation of our heritage
- \*\* Bi-Monthly Newsletter
- \*\* FREE Admission to Clay County Museum & Archives and two complimentary passes to the Center's Exhibits
- \*\* 25% Discount on Photo Reproductions
- \*\* 10% Discount on Acid-Free Materials
- \*\* Voting Privileges
- \*\* Invitation to all CCHS Events

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Family memberships, please list family members.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Husband

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wife

\_\_\_\_\_  
Children (under the age of 18)

Return to: Clay County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 501  
Moorhead, MN 56561-0501  
(218) 233-4604

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CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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Address Correction Requested