

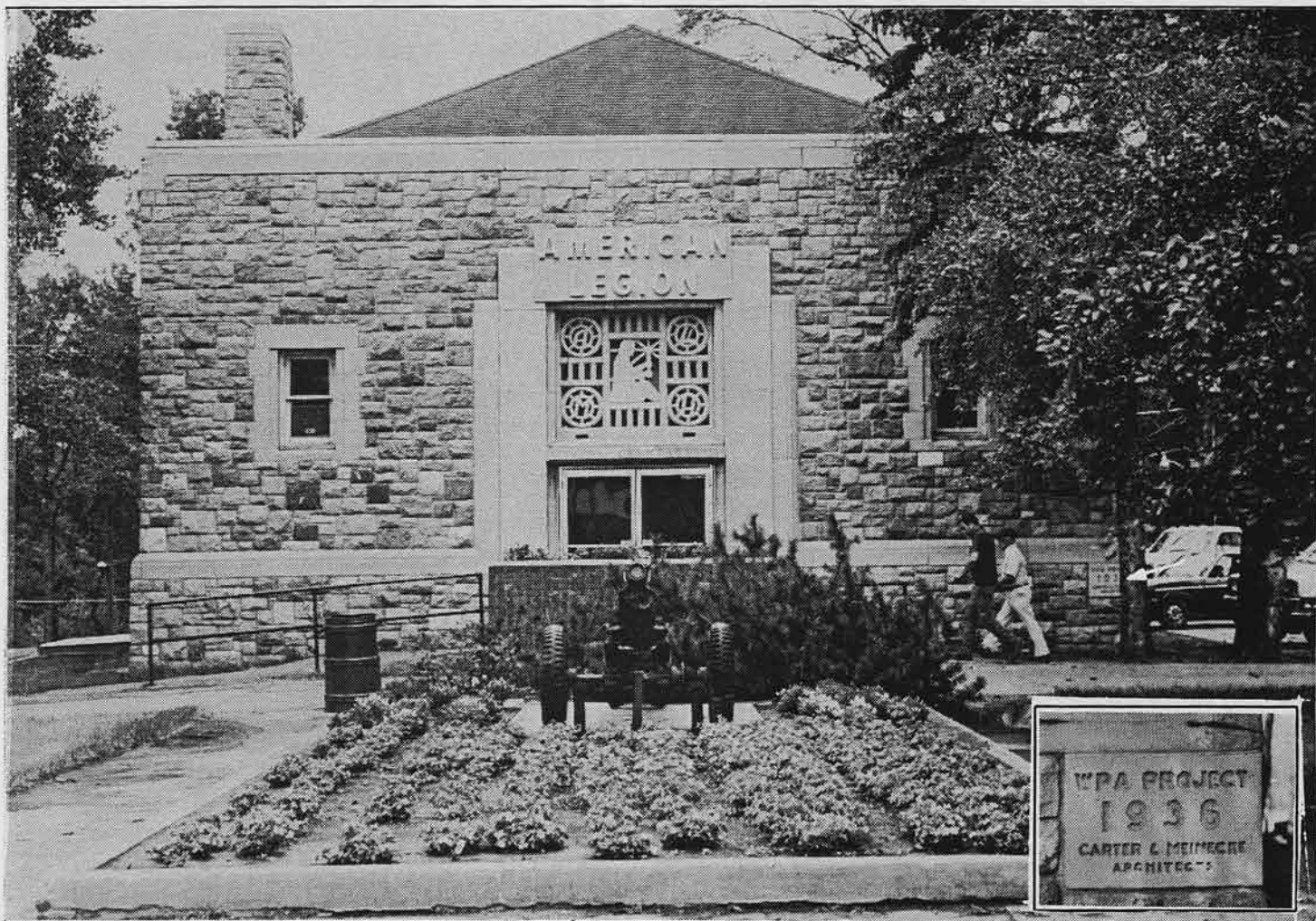
# CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



CCHS Newsletter

July/August 2001

Vol. XXIV. No. 4

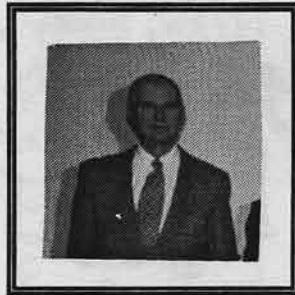


The Melvin E. Hearl American Legion Post 21 building in Moorhead in 1988. The howitzer and flower garden replaced a reflecting pond that was thought to be a hazard. The cornerstone and time capsule were put in place on May 13, 1936. (see arrow) Inset is a close up of the cornerstone. See stories on Pages 3, 5, and 14.

## President's Column

By President Norm Roos

The Clay County Historical Society (CCHS) is elated to announce that many artifacts from the Probstfield family collection will soon be transferred to the CCHS Museum in the Hjemkomst Center for proper storage and display.



The name Randolph M. Probstfield has always been important to people interested in the early history of Clay County. He and Edwin Hutchinson and Adam Stein are considered the first three permanent settlers in the Moorhead area. The historians have focused most attention on R.M. Probstfield because of the many interesting stories and historical facts he recorded in his well-kept diaries.

Minnesota achieved statehood in 1858 largely because of its increasing population in the southern part of the state. But in Clay County there was no settlement by the European immigrants at this time.

Probstfield arrived here in 1859 and lived at Georgetown where his first child was born in 1862. He was the Georgetown postmaster and managed the Hudson's Bay Co. facility there from 1865 to 1868.

In 1868 Probstfield built a house in what we now call north Moorhead. He was prominent in many civic affairs as public assessor, County Clerk, school board member, State Senator and member of the county's first Board of Commissioners.

CCHS will provide our membership with continued information on this important acquisition of vital historical property as the story unfolds, and the artifacts are acquired and catalogued at our museum.

### Bergquist Cabin winner

Marjorie Lentis of Big Stone City, SD was the winner of a Swedish doll door prize during the Bergquist Cabin open house in June. Over 150 guests attended the open house including almost 100 who rode the shuttle bus from the Hjemkomst Center. Featured were ethnic treats, music and craft demonstrations. The event was co-hosted by CCHS and the Swedish Cultural Heritage Society.

## Monetary Donations

Norman County Historical Society, Ada  
 Shriner's Widows Club, Fargo  
 Roberta Tatro, Bethel MN  
 Gary Blomquist, Hibbing  
 Dorothy Dodds, Moorhead  
 Galen & Sharon Vaa, Moorhead  
 Arthur Lions Project Acct., Arthur  
 Eileen P. Michels, St. Paul  
 HJZ Tours, Rock Rapids IA

### CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Ave. N., PO Box 501  
 Moorhead, Minnesota 56561-0501  
 Phone: 218-299-5520/Fax: 218-299-5525

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Norm Roos, President, Hawley  
 Donna Voxland, Vice Pres., Moorhead  
 Joyce Haug, Secretary, Hawley  
 Rodney Erickson, Treasurer, Moorhead  
 Marion Gee, Moorhead  
 Arvid Thompson, Barnesville  
 Merlyn Valan, Moorhead  
 Lee Kolle, Borup  
 Ben Brunsvold, Cnty Rep., Moorhead  
 Helen Rudie, Moorhead  
 Steve Aakre, Hawley  
 Alvin Swanson, Moorhead

#### STAFF

Pam Burkhardt, Collections Manager  
 Mark Peihl, Archivist  
 Margaret Ristvedt, Office Manager  
 Alvera Murch, Bookkeeper  
 Janet Nelson, Volunteer Coordinator

#### NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION

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

#### New e-mail addresses:

margaret.ristvedt@ci.moorhead.mn.us  
 mark.peihl@ci.moorhead.mn.us  
 pam.burkhardt@ci.moorhead.mn.us



# Time Capsule opened at American Legion

by Pam Burkhardt

*On May 13, 1936, WPA officials and local dignitaries lowered a corner stone and time capsule in place.*

[Am. Legion Building article this issue]

On the afternoon of May 14, 2001, Dave Bucholz, City Manager's Office; Ed Woodward, Commander of the American Legion Post; contractor Roger Erickson and Pam Burkhardt, CCHS Collections' Manager met in the basement of the Legion building on 1st Ave. North. The focus of the discussion was a hole near the ceiling in the southwest corner. The back of the cornerstone was just visible from the floor. A scaffold and ladder were needed for a closer look. Firmly cemented into a hollow in the stone was a sealed copper box about 12" x 8." [See photo] What had been hidden for 55 years was within reach - at least, for a short period of time.

Several issues were raised and discussed. First, the time capsule could not be accessed without clearing more interior brick away - that wouldn't damage the structure, but would add to the cost. Second, because framing was scheduled for that corner, any decision had to be made soon. Third, should the box be opened? That issue was left up to the City and the Legion. Later, the decision was made to open the box.

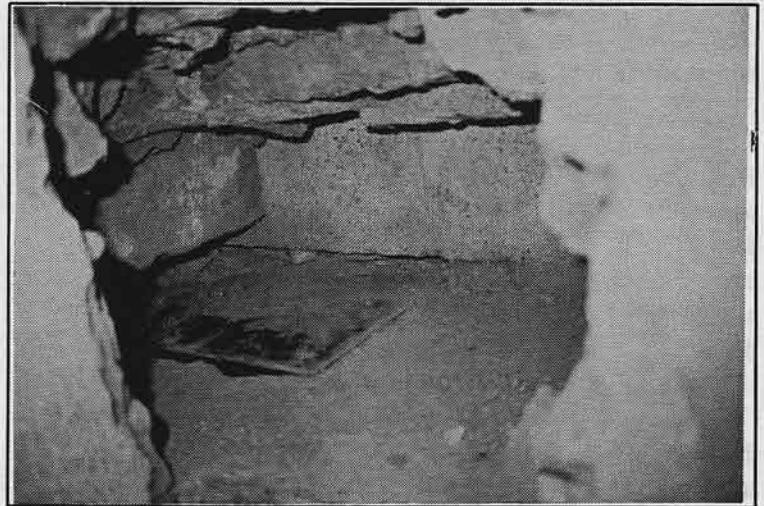
On May 30, 2001 Legion officials, local dignitaries, Mark Peihl and Pam Burkhardt from CCHS and the

press gathered in the small, front room in the basement of the Legion building. Because of its location, only two or three people could share the scaffold while the rest waited on the floor in anticipation.

The time capsule had been prepared before the event by making an L-shaped cut in the top.

Having had the most hands-on experience with the recovery of "objects," I got to do the honors. I carefully bent the flap up - just enough to get at the contents and make resealing possible. The first look at the contents was reassuring. We had a recovery kit with us just in case, but everything looked OK - no water had gotten in. As I lifted each layer out, I gave it to Archivist Mark Peihl who transferred it to a table in front of the audience. Layer by layer the contents were laid out on paper toweling. Empty, the box proved to be only about 6" deep.

Peihl had researched the 1936 event, so we knew what items we might expect. Now, each piece of paper was unfolded as each layer was explored. The original order was preserved throughout the process. One setback occurred when a rubber band securing a bundle of items had degraded and fused itself onto the objects. It would take some time to ease them apart. Only one photo had been found up to that point. Two others were concealed inside the bundle. No 3-dimensional items were mentioned in the 1936 account and none were found. With the capsule empty and the items on view, the media asked questions and we answered. We took the contents back to the museum and eased the rubber band away



*A hole was made in the interior wall near the ceiling in the southeast corner of the basement to reveal the top and back of the cornerstone. The copper box, measuring about 12" x 8" x 6," kept its contents hidden for 55 years. When the decision was made to open the box, more of interior wall had to be removed.*

from the bundle. Two more photos were revealed. Peihl inventoried, then he copied the contents before they were returned.

What was in the time capsule? See the list on Page 14 in this newsletter. The contents were straightforward - nothing extra added such as coins, pencils or "joke" objects. Where are the contents now? The items were turned over to Commander Woodward of the American Legion.

## Outreach Displays

	Open	Close
Barnesville Public Library	July	Sept.
Hawley Public Library	July	Sept.
Moorhead Public Library	July	Sept.
Fargo Moorhead CVB	July	Sept.

SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED is assembled at the Moorhead Public Library. You might even be tempted to dig out an old jigsaw puzzle or two. Do you remember what you built with *your* Erector set, Lincoln logs, Legos or Tinker Toys? We don't want to *bug* you, but check out the game in this display. It was invented in Minnesota!

Simple toys with NO BATTERIES NEEDED are on view at the Barnesville Public Library. Look for your favorite toys amongst the marbles, crayons, dollhouse and sandbox toys. Do you still have all your marbles?

The Fargo Convention and Visitors' Bureau along I-94 is ROLLIN' ON THE RED this summer. Visitors to our area view a photo display highlighting steamboats on the Red River. The two-dimensional model of the largest catfish caught in the Red near Drayton, ND in 1991 amazes both children and adults. The catfish weighted 33lb, 4 oz. Of course, we encourage everyone to check out the Hjemkomst Center exhibits and activities.

Two special displays went up in the CCHS hall case for the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival June 21-24. A display on the Swedish singer Jenny Lind occupies the east end of the case. The Swedish-American Institute in Minneapolis provided and erected this display.

The second was organized and erected by the local Swedish Society and occupies the rest of the hall case. Thirty-six contributors brought items of Swedish heritage to share with our visitors. Included is a special case called The Finn Connection. Both the Swedish-American Institute and the Swedish Society have graciously allowed these fine displays to remain up for two months. If you missed the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival activities, you can still get a "taste" of Sweden!

The popular outreach display CHOCOLATE CENTERED is on display in the lobby at the Hjemkomst Center for July and August. This "sweet" display was intern Lisa Hanson's project back in 1997. Lisa is now the Administrative Assistant at the Coddington Co. Historical Society in Watertown, SD.

The Hawley Public Library is also ROLLIN' ON THE RED! Fascinating photos take you back to steamboat travel on the Red River as well as activities along the banks. Admire an early 1930s swimsuit from Hawley's Andrew Johnson store. Check out artifacts including remains of lunches eaten at early Moorhead saloons!

## Artifacts and Donors

### Donors include:

Ulen: Maybelle Dinsmore, St. Paul: In Memory of Walter & Agnes Manning (Dilworth area)  
 Fargo: Jan Nelson, Elizabeth Lorshbough, Donovan Nelson  
 Sandpoint, Idaho: Keith Booth  
 Rossmoor, CA: Richard Pederson

**Artifacts include:** (photocopies) of the contents of the time capsule \* from the Am. Legion Building, Moorhead; (1) vol. Moorhead Horseshoe League 1969-2001 and (1) vol. Clay County Safety Council 1990-2000 both compiled by donor; pen & ink sketch on drawing paper by Moorhead artist Walfred Karlstrom and a photo postcard of Walfred Karlstrom, his sister Eunice and friend; photo postcard of "The Fairmont Old Timers" and a stereo view of the Bruns & Finkle Block, 480-4th St. Moorhead by F. Jay Haynes, Moorhead, MN [1876-1879]; photo of Nelmer Nelson, Clay Co Deputy Sheriff and Nelmer's Colt 32 caliber automatic pistol w/black leather holster;

*Forum InfoGuide* 2001 magazine supplement to *The Forum*; tape measure "Compliments of Higgins, Aske Co. Moorhead [about 1915]; copies of two price lists for Pederson Mercantile Co. Moorhead for Fall 1898-Spring 1899 and 1907 plus photos of the Pederson Family; songbook, *Songs from the North* 1895 published in memory of Jenny Lind; small clear glass measure from Northside Off Sale Inc. Moorhead, Minn. with measurement labels for "hogs, men & ladies" on the back and a bright red, soft plastic coin purse with advertisement for "HA MacDonald, Poultry, Feed, Eggs, Hawley;" blotter, w/ad for OJ Mortenson, realtor, Moorhead, Minn. [1958-1961]; infant's white dress, worn by Amy L Beckstrom b. 7-26-13; instruction book *Domestic Sewing Handbook* 1947 for the Domestic Sewing Machine; envelope [first day cover, 5 cent airmail] celebrating the anniversary of Moorhead incorporation 1881-1931, with a graphic "Spud Capitol of the Northwest;" sticker for Johnson's big top roller rink Dilworth;

(Continued on Page 5)



# Old Moorhead, American Legion Hall

The following was taken from the May/June 1990 CCHS newsletter. In light of the opening of the American Legion building's time capsule in May, we are reprinting part that feature story. In 1990, the building was scheduled for demolition to make way for a proposed Moorhead Hotel and Conference Center. It didn't happen.

[American Legion] Legion Hall slated for demolition  
by Mark Peihl

Although the hall is subject to spring flooding, the building has historical significance – not just to Moorhead, but also to the entire state. In August 1935 the Federal Government offered to fund several depression relief projects in Clay County including one for a city auditorium in Moorhead.

The Melvin Hearl American Legion Post agreed to provide some or all of the local matching funds in return for a long-term lease on the building for use as a clubhouse. The project was approved and that fall local men paid by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) began digging the basement.

Two young Moorhead architects, George Carter and Allen Meinecke, were selected to design the Hall. The WPA mandated that the project put as many men to work as possible and that building materials cost be kept to a minimum. The architects came up with an ingenious idea that influenced WPA structures all over the state. They convinced several Sabin area farmers to donate many tons of fieldstone, which they had cleaned from their fields. Carter and Meinecke taught workers how to cut the stones into blocks and set them in place to build the walls. The idea worked brilliantly. The WPA officials were so impressed that they hired the young men to design similar buildings all over the state.

The Federal government provided a blacksmith and a forge as well as goggles for eye protection. The smith was kept busy making and sharpening chisels. He made the chisels from discarded automobile axles that provided the hardest steel available.

According to newspaper accounts, the workers cut the fieldstone in bee hive-like enclosures to protect each other from flying chips. It took about an hour to cut each stone. The stones were trimmed in the random

Ashlar style, meaning cut with squared edges in a variety of sizes. The blocks were then set in random order resulting in a multi-colored wall with a striking pattern.

On May 13, 1936, WPA officials and local dignitaries lowered a corner stone and time capsule in place. The capsule contains a transcript of the Post's history, the names of the building committee and WPA workers who built the hall, photographs and some newspaper clippings.

By November, the Legion Auxiliary began meeting in the basement and the official dedication was held February 4, 1937. Festivities included a banquet and dance, which was also a fundraiser for clubhouse furnishings.

---

## Artifacts & Donations (cont. from Page 4)

pin back button for Moorhead HS *Go Big Orange*; trade token for George J Dahm, Tobacco/Cigars, Barnesville; a World's Centennial Exhibition envelope with a Comstock cancellation dated 1893; Walter Manning's WW I Army uniform (two shirts, trousers, garrison cap, helmet, turtleneck, sweater, two undershirts, drawers, mitts and two pair of leggings) plus three ammo pouches (empty), a pocket mirror with case, a humidor made from artillery shell "Argonne battle 1918" containing six cigars, a container made from German artillery shell "4-9-19;" an ashtray made from German artillery shell, three pieces of brown canvas with the insignia "Engineer Corps. US Army, Twenty-ninth Engineers AEF," Manning's 3-piece wedding suit and Comstock baseball team shirt, pants and stockings.

\*See "Legion Time Capsule" article on Page 14.



## Kirsten doll raffle

A Kirsten *American Girl*™ doll was donated to CCHS for a raffle to help offset costs of producing a pioneer play for the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival. To obtain tickets stop in at the CCHS Office or send \$1 per ticket to CCHS, PO Box 501, Moorhead MN 56561. Only orders of 10 or more will receive mailed receipts.



Mama and Papa reflect on their long tiring journey from Sweden to America and then to Minnesota.



The look on Kirsten's face tells it all - Marta is really sick. Mama and Papa sympathize, but as hardy pioneers they will move on and encourage their children to do the same.

## An all star Cast.....

presented "Home is Where the Heart is" to a full house during the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival in June. The all volunteer cast and director pictured at right are (back row, l to r) Brianne Melle as Marta, Greta Krier as Kirsten, and Director Vicki Paulsen; middle row (l to r) Hannah Chapman as Mama and Michael Champ as Papa, and in front (l to r) Amy Vitalis Hoffman as Anna and Annaliese Kallod as Lisbeth. The cast all received well deserved accolades and flowers following the Saturday performance.



See Page 5 for information on getting a "Kirsten" *American Girl* doll raffle ticket. The raffle drawing will be held at the opening of our new exhibit on Oct. 20.



Dress rehearsal and the strawberries were dee..licious



# A bird's-eye view of Moorhead in 1882

By Mark Peihl

I love aerial photos. The view from above can show so much detailed information about a farm or town at a particular point in time. We have a fair and growing collection of aerial views at CCHS but the earliest aerial photography dates from the 1920s. I've often wished I could scope out Moorhead or Barnesville or other Clay County locales from the air in the 1880s or '90s. The next best thing, however, are panoramic maps.

In the late 1800s draftsmen traveled the country drawing accurate views of cities as they might appear from hundreds of feet up. Local boosters, city officials and real estate agents used these lithograph prints as promotional tools to lure settlers and businesses to town. Because they were destined for a local market, the maps had to be accurate - buyers would not appreciate their home or business incorrectly drawn. This makes them wonderful historical research tools. Like aerial photos, they contain huge amounts of information.

Lithographers produced at least two panoramic maps of Moorhead. One, dated 1880 appears in the book *Roy Johnson's Red River Valley* (Soc Glasrud, ed.; Red River Valley Historical Society, Moorhead:1982). The print reproduced apparently came from a newspaper clipping. The dot pattern makes details in the image hard to pick out. I've never been able to track down an original litho. In our collections is an 1880 bird's eye view of Fargo apparently created at the same time. The Minnesota Historical Society has a print of Moorhead done in 1882. For our exhibit Inside, Outside, Upside Down, we had MHS create a full size color photo of the map. We've reproduced it for this article and blew up some details we'd like to point out.

W. H. Frisbie drafted the map during a real boom year for Moorhead. After years of slow growth, local residents anticipated huge developments in the next few years. Few materialized, but the map is a good reflector of this civic boosterism. The view is to the northwest from about 1000 feet above today's Romkey Park neighborhood. Fargo appears in the distance. It shows a prosperous, growing city. Although the buildings are accurately rendered and located, the scale is misleading. Tiny citizens crowd streets lined with huge buildings. This makes the city appear larger than it was. Four improbably elegant steamboats ply the Red River and if you look closely,

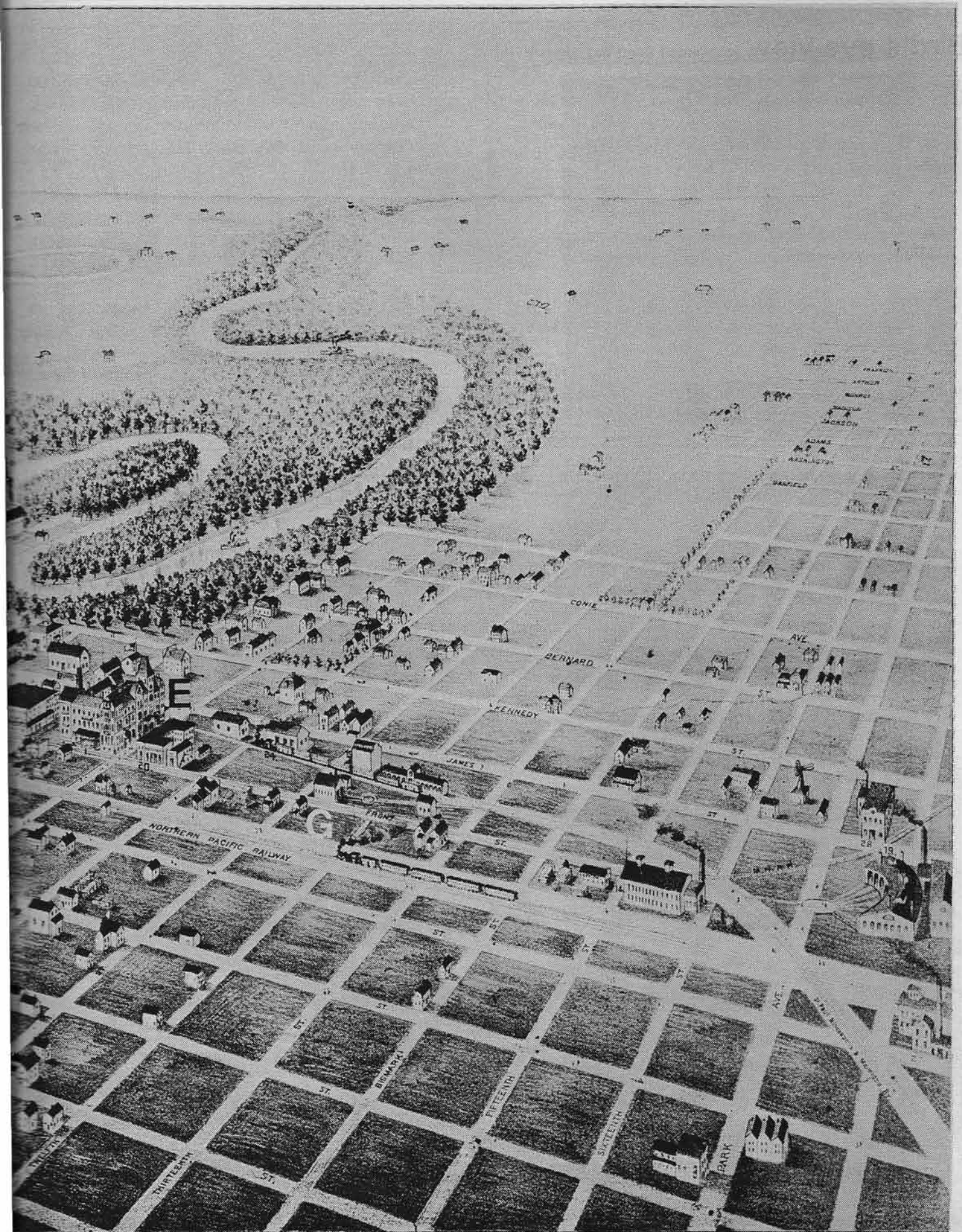
you'll notice two trains rushing along the Northern Pacific Railway - on a collision course straight toward each other!

- A. Only a couple of buildings shown on the map still stand. The house on the left is 111 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, located just south of Kirby's Bar. This building dates from at least 1876 and is remarkably unchanged to this day. The right arrow indicates the present location of 420 Main Avenue, an 1879 vintage structure. However, the map does not show the building - it was moved to the spot later. Today it's the home of YHR Partners architectural firm. Also shown is Solomon Comstock's house. Brand new in 1882, it's shown in the lower left corner on 8<sup>th</sup> Street surrounded by trees. [By the white "A"]
- B. Draftsman W. H. Frisbie jumped the gun a bit when he added the Main Avenue Bridge to his view. Though under discussion in 1882, squabbling between Fargo and Moorhead delayed its completion until 1884. Also shown here are H. A. Bruns' "Belle of Moorhead" flour mill, at right, and the city's first water works, just behind the mill.
- C. Wishful thinking is also evident here as Frisbie has added a (rather blurry) horse-drawn streetcar on Front Street (Center Avenue). Fargo had such an operation in 1882 but it went belly up that fall. The tracks (shown here running across the mythical Main Avenue bridge, then north on 5<sup>th</sup> Street to Center Avenue then east to the edge of town) were never built to Moorhead.
- D. What's not shown is also interesting. The "D" marks the location of the Hjemkomst Center today. In 1882 this was part of "The Point," Moorhead's original residential area. But the folks who lived along Western Avenue (hidden in the trees along the river) were among Moorhead's less affluent citizens. Their modest homes may have been an embarrassment to the city's boosters. Frisbie left them off his map. Also conveniently missing is Prairie Home Cemetery. It would be just off the lower left corner of the map. Its location was controversial in the early 1880s. Prairie surrounded the cemetery when it was established in the mid 1870s. But as the city grew south, concerns about unhealthy "miasmatic vapors" rising from the graves and an unfashionable graveyard close to downtown made some people suggest moving the deceased. It didn't happen but Frisbie carefully left it off the map just the same.

(Continued on Page 11)







No. 14. Red River Valley Map Co.

No. 21. Plamse Mill.

## Bird's-eye view (continued from Page 7)

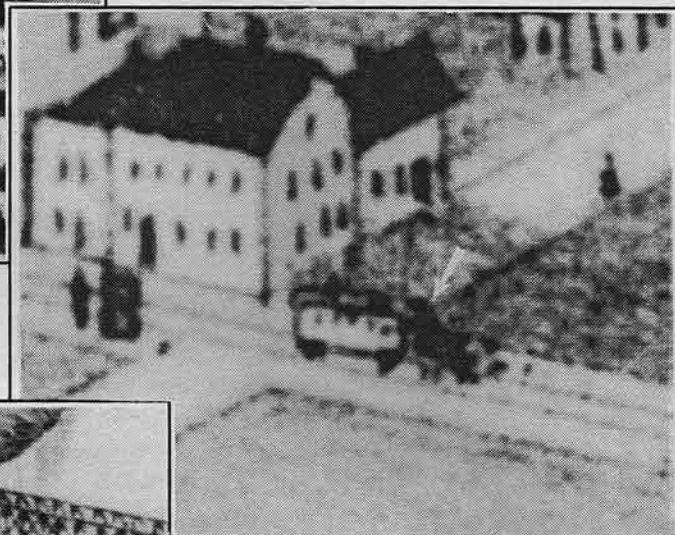
- E. Here the palatial Grand Pacific Hotel looms over the east end of town like a medieval castle. Built in 1881 by H. A. Bruns for an astounding \$160,000, it featured 140 rooms, each linked to the main desk by an electric bell. Twelve were suites with a parlor and private bath. It was the biggest hotel between Minneapolis and Spokane, Washington - too big for Moorhead. It lost money for fifteen years before being demolished by Great Northern Railway magnate James J. Hill in 1896.
- F. Belching black smoke, John Erickson's Brewery sits beside the river just north of the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Manitoba (Great Northern) Railway tracks. Began in 1875 by two Canadian brothers named Larkin, Erickson's operation cranked out 1835

barrels of brew in 1881. That's equivalent to 25,000 24-can cases. The brewery burned in 1902. Though an institution in Moorhead for over 25 years, we have no decent photos of the place. This is the best image we have.

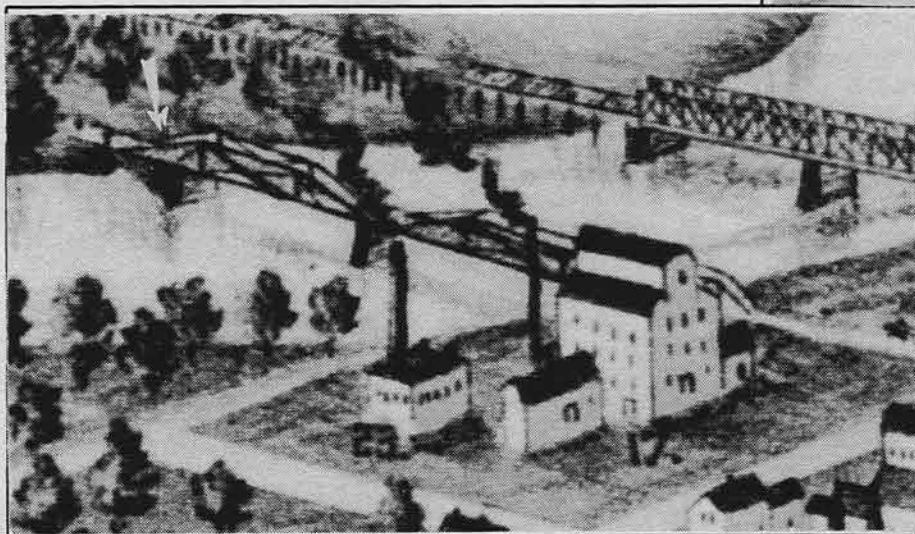
- G. Moorhead's Red Light District is another photo-deficient area. From Moorhead's earliest years, the houses were segregated out on the east side of town. The notorious Madame Kittie Raymond later owned this house on the southeast corner of Front Street (Center Avenue) and Pembina (11th Street). She ran it for nearly 20 years. In the 1890s three more houses popped up on this block. Reformers leveled the buildings around 1906. We have no photos of the area.



A

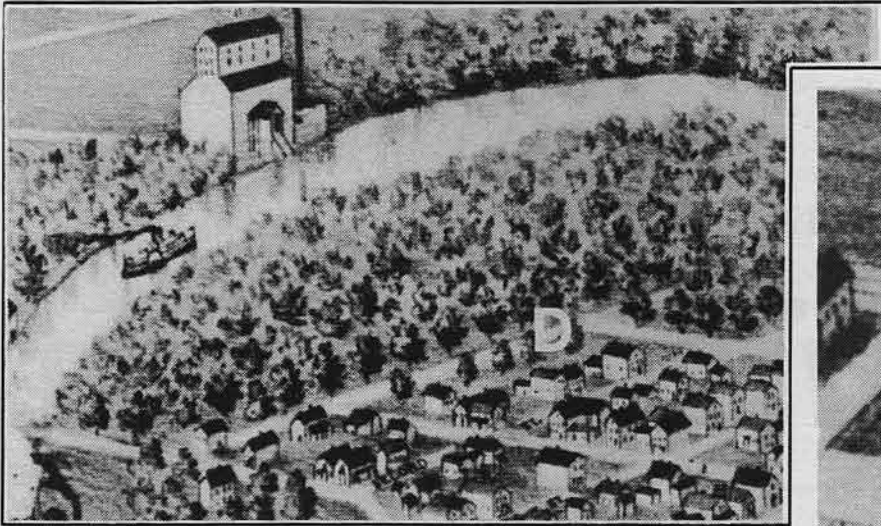


C

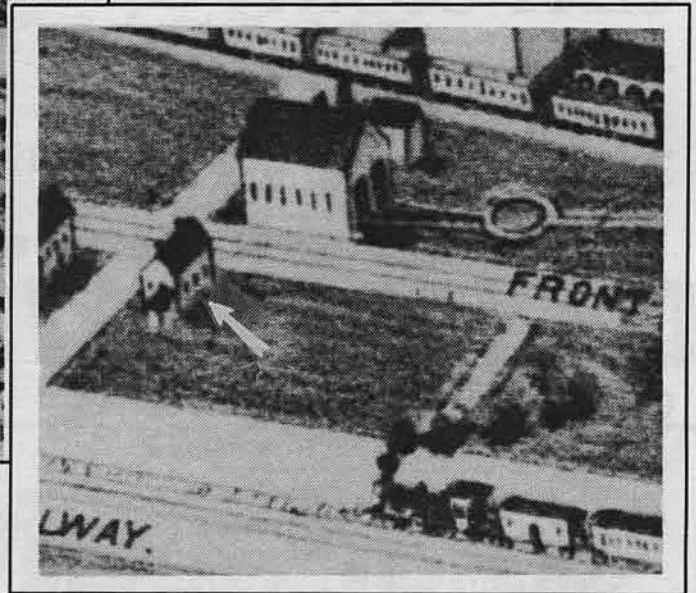


B

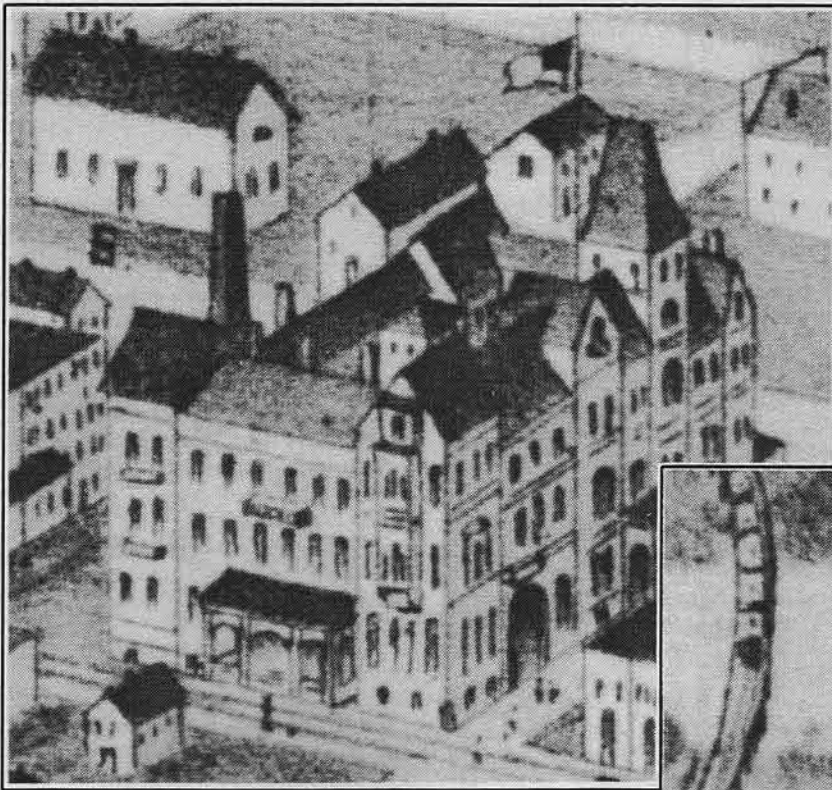




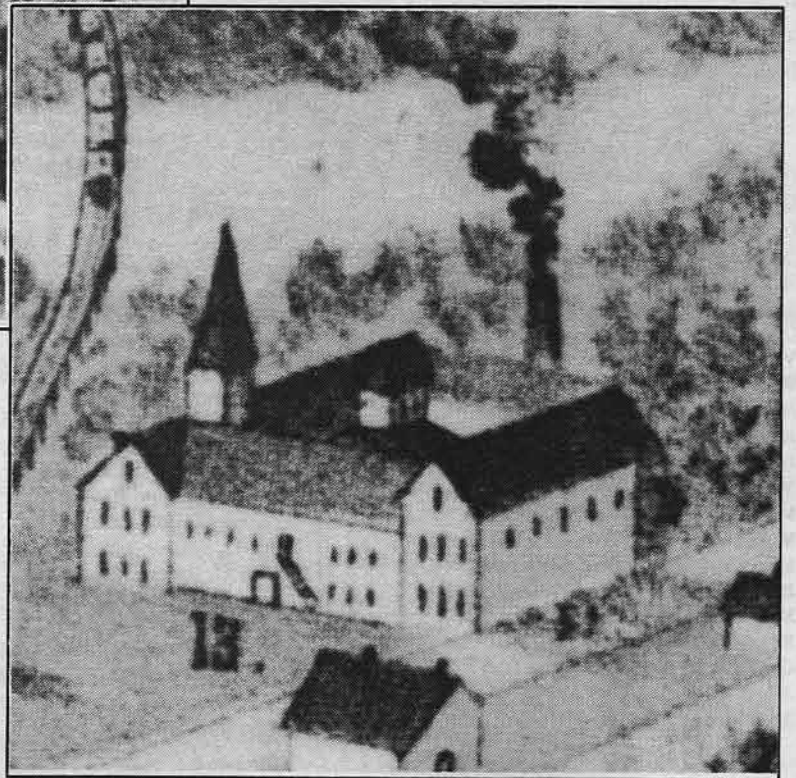
D



G



E



F

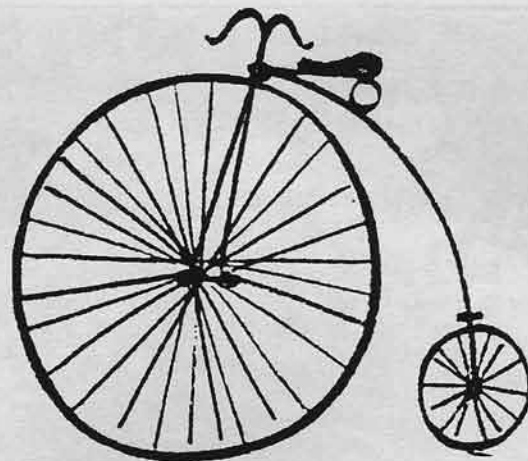
# CLAY COUNTY MUSEUM

• • • Showing • • •

## *"Stitches in Time"*

Clay County's Handmade Textiles

**"WHEN THE WEATHER GOES BAD"**  
(featuring a 1957 tornado video)



*"A Century of Cycling"*  
(From the high wheels of the 1880s  
to the mountain bikes of today.)

Hours are: 10-5 Mon.-Sat., 10-9 Thurs., 12-5 Sun.  
Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Ave. N., Mhd, MN

**FREE ADMISSION**

## CCHS Memberships - New and Renewals

### May/June 2001

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

#### RENEWALS

Marion Bjorndahl, Hawley  
Dorothy L. Martell, Fargo  
Olive Andvik, Moorhead  
Helen M. Danielson, Moorhead  
Jerry & Dona Lein, Moorhead  
O.J. & Ruth Storvick, Moorhead  
Vilera Rood, Moorhead  
Vera Knapp, Moorhead  
Norman Akesson, Davis CA  
Jim Fay, Moorhead  
John Holten, Moorhead  
Maurice & Garnet Floberg, Moorhead  
Milo Moyano, Moorhead  
Moorhead Area Retired Educators, Moorhead  
Marjorie & Kelly Aakre, Moorhead  
Irene B. Swenson, Moorhead  
Mary Bolstad, Moorhead  
Patrick Colliton, Fargo  
Carroll & Jo Engelhardt, Moorhead  
Albert Knutson, Moorhead  
Rose M. Gytri, Fargo

Margret Kragnes, Glyndon  
Evert A. Wiisanen, Moorhead  
Paul Harris, Moorhead  
John M. Jenkins, Fargo  
Mary Ellen Thompson, Fargo  
Paul & Irene Burkhardt, Fargo  
Marionette Crume, Glyndon  
Marilyn Smith, Moorhead  
Greater FM Convention  
& Visitors Bureau, Fargo  
Rex E. Wood, Moorhead  
DBA Moorhead Drug Co, Moorhead  
Beth Brummelle, Fargo  
M/M Loren Ingebretsen, Felton  
Douglas Johnson, Bemidji  
Matt Scheibe, Eugene OR  
Edward & Elizabeth Clark, Moorhead  
Sara Pudas, Brooklyn Park  
Lauri Winterfeldt-Shanks, Moorhead  
Mel Ristvedt, Hawley  
Lee Kolle, Borup  
Gary H. & Becky Olson, Moorhead  
Alfred Rieniets, Moorhead  
Ramona Kooren, Hawley  
Dorothy Dodds, Moorhead  
Pearl I. Grover, Moorhead  
Clair O. Haugen, Moorhead  
Steven B. Olson, Moorhead  
Dana C. Powers, Rochert  
Edwin J. Stillmach, Missoula MT  
Galen & Sharon Vaa, Moorhead  
Harold Helmeke, Moorhead  
Paul O. Skatvold, Moorhead

James C. & Clara Wilkins, Fargo  
Raymond & Joan Grefsrud, Hawley  
Robert & JoAnn Nyquist, Moorhead  
Gustav & Joyce Haug, Hawley  
Neil H. Larson, Harwood ND  
Gate City Bank, Fargo  
Virginia Klenk, Moorhead  
Ardis & Milton Severson, Detroit Lakes  
Marlene Ames, Fargo  
Ione Diirro, Moorhead  
Sanford Steen, Moorhead  
Ruth & Morris Lanning, Moorhead  
Rae P. Haynes, Durango CO  
Justine Swanson, Fargo

CCHS welcomes the following  
new members:

#### NEW MEMBERS

Rodney Erickson, Moorhead  
Lutheran Brotherhood East Clay County,  
Branch 8431, Moorhead  
Ralph & Ethel Hest, Moorhead  
Michelle Healy, Onalaska WA  
Susan Woodstrom, Minneapolis  
John Caron, Arlington VA



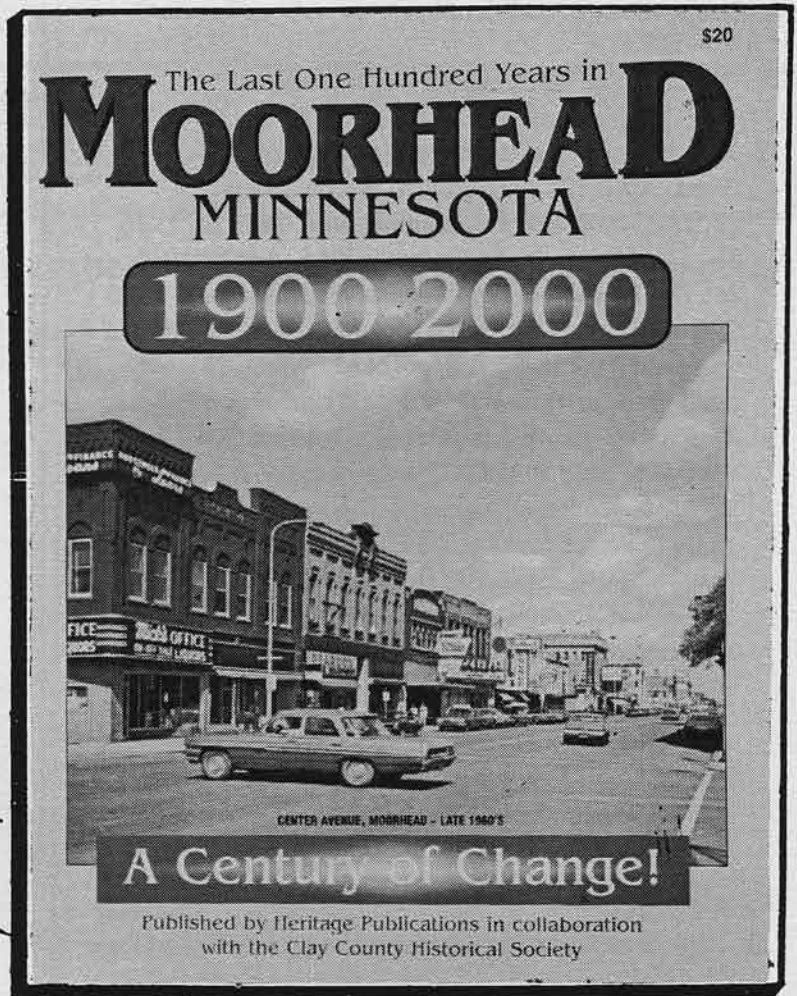
# A Great new Book

*(You'll need two - one to read and one to give away)*

## THE 20TH CENTURY IN MOORHEAD

Heritage Publications, in collaboration with the Clay County Historical Society, is proud to announce this unique 184 page book that takes a year by year, decade by decade look at the past century in Moorhead. This book, which is full of historic photographs, provides a glimpse at the last ten decades with major news events of the day as well as several first-hand recollections by people from our community that lived through them.

There is a limited printing. Pick up your copy today at the Clay County Museum and Archives in the Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Avenue North in Moorhead or send in the form below. Call 218-299-5520 for more information.



Only  
**\$20 PER BOOK**  
 Plus \$3 postage, handling  
 and Minnesota sales tax.

THIS IS A LIMITED RUN - BE SURE TO ORDER YOUR COPY BEFORE THEY ARE GONE

Send To:

CCHS MOORHEAD BOOK - P.O. BOX 501 - MOORHEAD, MN 56560 - 218-299-5520

### MOORHEAD, MN 1900-2000: "A CENTURY OF CHANGE"

#1) Name \_\_\_\_\_

#1) Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\$23 FOR EACH BOOK MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER

# Time capsule contents

by Mark Peihl & Pam Burkhardt

*The capsule contains a transcript of the Post's history, the names of the building committee and WPA workers who built the hall, photographs and some newspaper clippings.*

[Am. Legion Building article Page 5]

What was in the time capsule? Here is a list of the contents from the top layer down. The last entry has the only spontaneous addition.

1. Typed list of workmen for the building.  
[See list below.]
2. One issue of *The Minnesota Legionnaire*  
Wed. April 13, 1936 [folded with contents]
  - 2a. *The Minnesota Legionnaire* Wed. Jan. 15, 1936
  - 2b. *The Minnesota Legionnaire* Wed. Apr 8, 1936
  - 2c. *The Minnesota Legionnaire* Wed, April 22, 1936
3. Typed six-page list of the membership of the Melvin E. Hearl Post No. 21, Moorhead, Minn. [folded with contents and secured with a rubber band]
  - 3a. Program for the presentation of Verdi's Opera *Aida* at MSTC April 30, May 1-2, 1936. [contents inserted in this program]
    - 3a1. Poster for Grand Prize Dance July 4, 1936 sponsored by the Post with architect's rendering of the future Post and advertising the four-door Lincoln Zepher to be given away.
    - 3a2. Brochure, *Facts About The American Legion* revised May 1934. [inserted brochure]

Gust I. Hicks  
Rudolph Larson  
Adolph Nelson  
Clifton Williams  
George Hogenson  
Clifford Peterson  
George Johnson  
Frank Anderson  
Oscar Bostrom  
Fritz Folden  
Herbert C. Bassitt  
Clarence Durling  
Nels J. Peterson  
Thorvald Thompson  
Albert Eggum

A.J. Carpenter  
Ferdinand Rose  
Frank Halstrom  
Edgar N. Mickelson  
Alvin Olson  
Lindquist Peter  
Ralph J. Mader  
William Miller  
John Eckman  
Otto Buge  
Alton F. Monson  
Iver O. Johnson  
Alfred Abrahamson  
Frank Zebley  
Frank Payseno  
Oscar B. Greenwood

- 3a2a. Newspaper clipping, *Minneapolis Journal* Sunday Supplement Jan. 8, 1928 about the "Moorhead, Municipal Christmas Tree"
- 3a2b Undated clipping, probably from *The Minnesota Legionnaire* with photo of Rev. Frederick Errington, Chaplain of the Moorhead Post
- 3a2c-d. Two snapshots, apparently taken in Prairie Home Cemetery on Memorial Day, 1924.
4. Undated brochure, "Continue to Serve: Join the American Legion."
5. Booklet, "Constitution of The American Legion Department of Minnesota," revised Dec. 1, 1932.
6. Program for the Cornerstone Ceremony, May 13, 1936.
7. Pages 7 and 8 of *The Minneapolis Journal*, Sunday, April 19, 1936, with an article on the new Legion Building.
8. Typed list of "Charter Membership Roll of The American Legion Melvin E. Hearl Post No. 21, Department of Minnesota," with handwritten list dated May 13, 1936

A typed list of building workmen was the first item seen and removed from the time capsule on May 30, 2001. The paper is titled: "Worker on Community Building Hole's Park, Moorhead, Minnesota, 1936. WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION of Minnesota.

Names included on the list are:

Einor K. Folden  
John Anderson  
Edmund A. Arre  
Albert M. Nelson  
John Conrad  
Nels P. Ostman  
Kenneth Hanson  
Adolph Wang  
John D. Watt  
Ernest V. Rutledge  
Louis Frimanslund  
H.O. Halvorson  
Elmer A. Anderson  
Superintendent Nels Melvey  
Timekeeper-Stewart A. Johnson



## Family History workshop to feature military research

*Military on Parade: A Salute to Our Veterans* is the theme for the Family History Workshop XXVI to be held at Minnesota State University Moorhead on Saturday, Sept. 29. Researching military records and incorporating veterans' memories into your family history are the highlights of this year's workshop. The workshop features a variety of classes for beginning and experienced genealogists.

Workshop session topics include: getting started; researching military records; interviewing veterans; document and photo preservation techniques; using computers and the Internet in genealogy research; planning family reunions; area genealogy resources;

using LDS Family History Center resources; Minnesota, German and Scandinavian research.

Mr. Jon Hovde, recipient of the Purple Heart for his service during the Vietnam War and author of *Wings on Fire*, is the luncheon speaker. Hovde's presentation is titled *Making a Difference*.

The Heritage Education Commission sponsors the workshop. Registration deadline is Sept. 10. For more information visit the web site at [www.mnstate.edu/heritage/xxvi.htm](http://www.mnstate.edu/heritage/xxvi.htm), contact Continuing Studies, Box 401, MSUM, Moorhead MN 56563, or call (218) 236-2182.

### Clay County Historical Society Business, Individual and Organization Support (BIOS) Members

#### Thank you to these special BIOS Members of Clay County Historical Society

##### PATRON (\$200 - \$499)

Grosz Studio, Moorhead

##### SUSTAINING MEMBERS (\$100 to \$199)

Bev & Lloyd Paulson, Moorhead

Brian Dentinger,

Edward D. Jones & Co., Moorhead

Chamber of Commerce of Fargo Moorhead

City of Hawley, Hawley

Dilworth/Glyndon/Felton Schools

First National Bank, Hawley

Hawley Public Schools, Hawley

Korsmo Funeral Service, Moorhead

Lutheran Brotherhood,

Lake Agassiz Branch 8430, Moorhead

Moorhead Area Public Schools, Moorhead

Moorhead Drug Company, Moorhead

Moorhead Kiwanis, Moorhead

Rigels, Inc., Appliances-TV, Moorhead

Scheels All Sports, Moorhead

Sellin Brothers, Hawley

Vikingland Kiwanis, Moorhead

##### SUPPORTING MEMBER (\$50 to \$99)

Bentley & Bentley, DDS, Hawley

Cass-Clay Creamery, Inc., Fargo

City of Barnesville, Barnesville

Richard T. McMurray,

C.M. Associates, Annandale, VA

Eventide, Moorhead

Gate City Bank, Fargo

Greater Fargo Moorhead

Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.

Gunhus, Grinnell, Klinger, Swenson and

Guy, Ltd, Moorhead

Lutheran Brotherhood,

East Clay Cnty Branch 8431, Moorhead

McLarn, Hannaher & Skatvold,

Attorneys, Moorhead

Melberg Christian Book & Gift, Moorhead

Mid-Day Central Lions, Moorhead

Moorhead Area Retired Education Asso.

National Sojourners Inc., Moorhead

Petermann Seed Farm, Hawley

State Bank of Hawley, Hawley

State Bank of Moorhead, Moorhead

Stenerson Lumber, Moorhead

Veteran's of Foreign Wars, Moorhead

Ward Muscatell Auto, Moorhead

Wells Fargo Bank MN, N.A., Moorhead

Wright Funeral Home, Moorhead

# CCHS BIOS Memberships

- \$ 50 to \$99 Supporting Member
- \$ 100 to \$199 Sustaining Member
- \$ 200 to \$499 Patron
- \$ 500 and up Major Exhibit Sponsor

As a CCHS BIOS (Business, Individual, Organization Support) Member you will receive all benefits of an individual and/or family membership plus a certificate ready to frame and display, extra complimentary passes to visit the Viking Ship, the Stave church, traveling exhibits in the building, and a listing in all CCHS bi-monthly Newsletters. To become a CCHS BIOS Member please return this form or a facsimile to CCHS, Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561-0501 or call 299-5520.

Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

## CCHS Membership Application

I would like to become a member of Clay County Historical Society.

- INDIVIDUAL \$20.00     FAMILY \$35.00     Donation

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- \* Support preservation of our heritage
- \* Bi-monthly newsletter
- \* Discount on Acid-Free Materials
- \* FREE Admission to Clay County Museum & Archives and two complimentary passes to the Stave Church, Viking Ship and Traveling Exhibits.
- \* Discount on Photo Reproduction
- \* Voting Privileges
- \* Invitation to all CCHS Social Events
- \* Access to all CCHS Tours

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

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

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

**NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**MOORHEAD, MN 56561**  
**PERMIT NO. 494**

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



HJEMKOMST CENTER, 202 1ST AVENUE NORTH

P.O. BOX 501

MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA 56561-0501

Address Service Requested