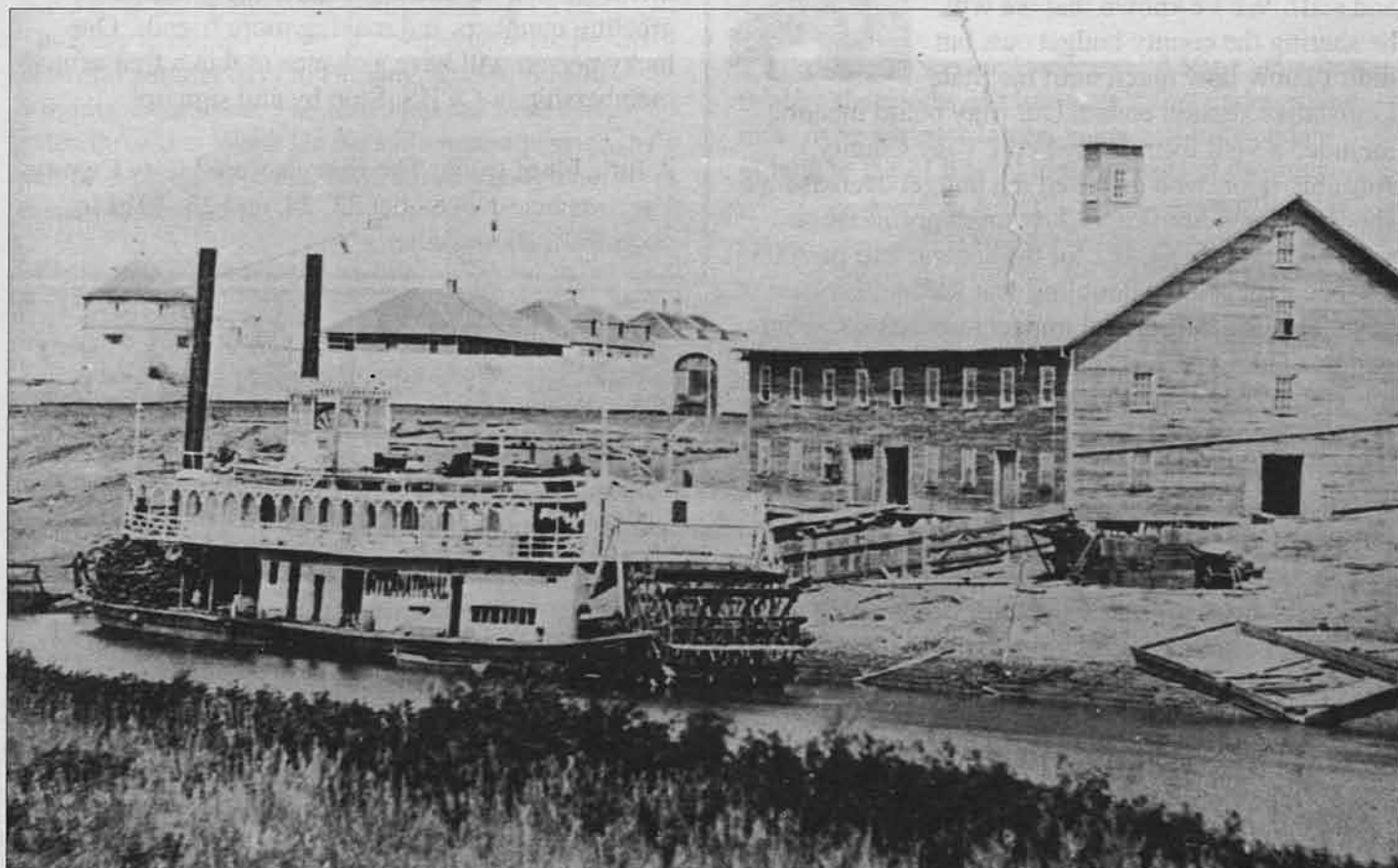


# Clay County Historical Society

Clay County Historical Society Newsletter

July/August 2003

Volume XXVI No. 4



Steamboat *International* unloading goods at Fort Garry (Winnipeg) in the early 1870s. Roy P. Johnson Collection, CCHS.



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## President's Column

By CCHS President, Donna Voxland



This past month has been a question and answer time for the CCHS Board and staff. We've known that we will be sharing the county budget cuts but didn't know how much until the State Legislative session ended. Our May board meeting included a visit from Vijay Sethi, Clay County Administrator, who unveiled the budget decrease we should expect. Starting in July, our appropriation will decrease by \$4,422 for the second half of 2003. We can expect a cut doubling that amount for next year. This is a substantial impact to our already tight budget. The CCHS Executive Committee met with our staff to come up with the best solution for the next six months. We targeted four areas of expenses where we will trim approximately \$3,000. The rest will need to be taken from our reserves. We will also push hard to increase our membership revenues in order to prepare for next year when the solution will be much harder to find. The entire board voted to adopt the committee's recommendation.

More questions and answers are being raised by our Long-range Planning Committee which began working in June. It will take several meetings to first figure out the questions to ask and then find the answers, but we are determined to end with a plan that will bring us through these difficult times to an even stronger, vital society for the next five years.

## Donations and Memorials

### May & June 2003

Fargo Moorhead Home Economists, Fargo

Swedish Cultural Heritage Society of the Red River Valley, Fargo, to Bergquist Cabin Fund

Golden Age Senior Citizens Club, Arthur, ND

## Meet us at the Fair! Clay County Fair, July 10-13

It's that time again for the Clay County Fair in Barnesville! This year's fair will run from Thursday, July 10, to Sunday, July 13. CCHS Board and staff members will be stationed under the grandstand, greeting members and making more friends. One lucky person will have a chance to win a free annual membership in CCHS. Stop by and sign up!

A little bit of trivia: The first chartered Clay County Fair was held November 23, 24, and 25, 1914 in downtown Barnesville.



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## "Mines & Pines" Tour set for September 18 & 19

CCHS' annual history tour is headed to the Iron Range for 2003! "Mines & Pines" accurately depicts this tour of one of Minnesota's most historic mining and lumbering regions, at a time of year when fall foliage could be quite colorful. The Red River Trails bus will leave from the Hjemkomst Center parking lot early Thursday morning (7:30 a.m.), September 18, for two beautiful autumn days in Hibbing, Chisholm, and Virginia, Minnesota. The Iron Trail has been designated through a White House Millennium program as part of the American Pathways Route through north-eastern Minnesota.

Sites that will be explored on this tour include the Hill Annex Mine, Ironworld Discovery Center, the Soudan Underground Mine, and the Virginia Heritage Museum. Other sites under consideration are the Judy Garland birthplace in Grand Rapids and the Paulucci Space Theater and Greyhound Bus Museum, both in Hibbing.

As the Minnesota iron mining industry exploded at the turn of the 20th century, people seeking economic prosperity and freedom immigrated to northern Minnesota from nations around the globe. These immigrants brought few material goods on their journey, but carried with them the rich traditions and customs of their homelands. Ironworld Discovery Center preserves this important period of American history by interpreting the story of the life, the work, the place and the people of the Iron Range. The interpretive museum features exhibits that tell the stories of iron miners, loggers, railroaders and immigrants.

The Hill Annex Mine is an historic, intact open-pit natural iron ore mine. A bus tour of the mine will give us an up-close look at the historic equipment and buildings, as well as the story of the mine's operation and the immigrants who worked the mine. Mine tours are led by interpreters with mining backgrounds who explain how this National Historic Site played an important role in state, national, and world history. In its years of operation, 1913-1978, the mine produced 63 million tons of ore and was the sixth largest produc-

ing mine in the state. Over its 60 years of operation, mining technology changed from horse-drawn power to steam, and then to electrical power. When the mine shut down, the open pit re-filled with water and now has frequent visits from osprey, eagles, hawks, and loons.

Visitors to the Soudan Underground Mine State Park explore the depths of Minnesota's first underground mine as an elevator lowers you a half-mile underground to the 27th level into the heart of the mine. A 3/4-mile electric train ride brings visitors to the last and deepest area mined. All visitors are given a hard hat to wear, and guests should bring a sweater or jacket as the year-round temperature of the mine is a constant 52 degrees. Visitors have the option of declining the underground portion of the tour. Former miners act as tour guides and interpreters. Above ground, visitors can explore the drill shop, crusher house, dry house, engine house, movie theatre and visitor center, where they can learn about the mine's history and unusual story.

The Virginia Heritage Museum complex, located in beautiful Olcott Park, consists of the former park superintendent's residence, a Finnish homesteader's log house built in 1910, and a depression-era tourist cabin. Permanent exhibits depict the giant Virginia and Rainy Lake sawmill and logging era, Virginia's two devastating fires, and the interurban electrical line which tied towns together on the Iron Range until 1927.

Guests on CCHS' 2003 "Mines & Pines" Tour will have a comfortable night's stay at the Chisholm Inn & Suites, with in-room coffee, a free continental breakfast, indoor heated pool, whirlpool, and sauna. The hotel is a Country Inn & Suites, located directly across from Ironworld Discovery Center.

Cost of the tour is \$160 per person, based on double occupancy. Tour participants must be members of CCHS, but family memberships are just \$35. Deadline for registration is August 15, but sign up soon, because it's first-come, first-served, and seats will fill up fast!



Hill Annex Mine. *Iron Trail Vacation Guide*, 2003.

## Outreach Displays

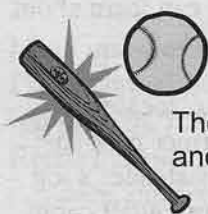
	<u>Open</u>	<u>Close</u>
Hawley Public Library	July	October
Moorhead Public Library	July	October
Barnesville Public Library	July	October
Fargo CVB	July	October



The photo display RURAL SCHOOL DAYS debuted at the Clay County Fair July 11 and is now touring the county. Its next stop is at the Hawley Public Library. This look at rural schools includes a repeat visit from Dick and Jane.

Moorhead Public Library travels back in time with *more THEN & NOW* photos. This display pairs old photographs of Clay County sites with more recent photos taken in the same place.

The Barnesville Public Library presents WHAT IS IT? WHEN WAS IT? This display tests the knowledge of young and old alike. If you are stumped by these items, you are in the right place to look them up!



Visitors at the Fargo Convention and Visitors' Bureau along I-94 will have FUN IN THE SUN! this summer. The display highlights fishing, swimming and baseball. Watch out for those pesky mosquitoes!

## TEMPORARY DISPLAYS AT CCHS

The CCHS hall case hosts the Norway display as part of the Scandinavian Festival June 27-29, 2003. Norway is the featured country this year. The display closes August 3. An exhibit by the Red River Valley Woodcarvers opens in the hall case in August.

CCHS set up a special display of exquisite, hand-decorated china in the lobby area. These items were painted by Beulah Forness who is teaching a class in china painting in the building on Tuesday mornings.

A small case promoting our EATING OUT IN CLAY COUNTY is on view in the lobby in the Hjemkomst Center. We hope this "appetizer" whets your appetite for the "main course" in the CCHS museum just down the stairs.

## Artifacts & Donors

May/June 2003

### Donors include:

Moorhead: Moorhead Area Public Schools; Dorothy Carey; Bob Backman; Jean Evenson; H. Yvonne Johnson; Alice Bartels; Merle Skatvold; Maureen Reed; Donna McMaster  
Eden Prairie: Marion Dane Bauer  
Fargo, ND: Stan Skogen; Helen Rudie  
Appleton, WI: Apryl Tostenson Brand  
Merriam, KS: Gene Chubb

Artifacts include: report: *School Naming Task Force Recommendation Report*, Moorhead Area Public Schools, May 12, 2003; (2) books: *They Called Me Teacher: Stories of Minnesota Country School Teachers and Students* from 1915 to 1960, sb, ©1997 by Tom Melchoir, and *Gopher Tales: Stories from the History of Minnesota*, hb, c1932/1957 written by Antoinette E. Ford; photocopy of Elementary Diploma for Bessie W. Olson, Minnesota State Normal Schools, 23rd July 1915; photo, "KGFK, Moorhead, Minnesota September 26th 1932" interior shot of radio equipment & Christmas card with photo, "Greetings, Gleason Kistler, KGFK" radio; (9) photo prints of CB Hill & Family; (4) photo sheets containing 15 photos of the Krag-nes Grain elevator, Moorhead, MN which was torn down in May 2003; (5) envelopes materials relating to MSUM Multicultural Studies Inter-views; placemat from the "Gopher Grill, Moorhead, Minnesota" with gopher graphic and a map of Moorhead landmarks; (3) Dutch Maid ice cream containers; 2-piece black dress; 5 Act Puppet Set in box; stapler from old Moorhead City Hall utilizing a spool of brass wire manufactured by The Bates Mfg. Co., patent date 1933; matchbook advertising Foss Drug, Moorhead; (2) postcards, souvenirs of Glyndon, Minnesota.



# The Multicultural Midwest:

## *An Oral History Project*

By Dr. Maureen Reed, Assistant Professor of American Studies, Minnesota State University-Moorhead

The history of Clay County has always been a history of cultural and ethnic diversity, beginning from the days when Anishinabe and Dakota people first encountered French traders along the banks of the Red River and continuing through the times of intensive immigration from Germany and Scandinavia. Throughout the twentieth century, Latino migrant workers helped to make Red River Valley Farms prosperous; today, a growing number of Latinos make Clay County their home. In recent years, Clay County has continued to become a home to refugees and immigrants from around the world.

But in 2001, the Minnesota Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights called attention to the fact that Clay County has not always been as welcoming a home as it could be. Both outright prejudice and institutional discrimination are, unfortunately, part of our community's heritage. Citizens who were concerned by the Commission's findings formed a Study Circle to respond to the report and issue suggestions for improving race relations in the area. Participants in this process suggested that museums like the Clay County Historical Society prioritize exhibitions regarding "the multicultural history and contributions of people of color in this region."

When I learned of this goal, I realized that students enrolled in my American Studies classes at Minnesota State University-Moorhead could contribute to these efforts. In particular, I wanted students in my "Midwest" class to think about ways of defining the region that disputed myths of cultural homogeneity. Thanks to a grant from the Dille Fund for Excellence, I was able to initiate an oral history project, "The Multicultural Midwest," through which students have interviewed area residents about the recent history of diversity in Clay County. We have targeted people who have played leadership roles in celebrating our community's diversity and in assisting people who have come here searching for a better home.

Last year, students enrolled in the "Midwest" interviewed six such leaders, and this past spring, students conducted

five more interviews. Students also designed a web site ([www.mnstate.edu/mcmdwest](http://www.mnstate.edu/mcmdwest)) featuring photographs, recordings and transcripts of the interviews as well as biographical information about each of the participants. (Last year's participants are on display now, and this year's participants will be added this summer.) The materials collected by the students will become part of the Clay County Historical Society Archives, so that future researchers can learn more about the full history of our community, and future exhibits can draw from these rich sources. Sadly, the students and I received a somber reminder of why this important work cannot be delayed when Minh Tran, the longtime leader of Lutheran Social Services in Moorhead, passed away earlier this year; he was one of our 2002 interviewees.



Abner Arauza and Minh Tran

Please visit the website to learn more about the accomplishments of our interviewees, as well as the continuing history of diversity in the Red River Valley. With continuing support from groups like the MSUM Alumni Foundation (and perhaps a donor or two among you!), we should be able to continue the project for at least one more year, and we welcome your suggestions for our work.

The Multicultural Midwest Website:  
[www.mnstate.edu/mcmdwest](http://www.mnstate.edu/mcmdwest)

**2002 Interviewees:** Abner Arauza, Dzenan Becic, Sandi Berlin, Yoke Sim Gunaratne, Suvad Palavra, Minh Tran

**2003 Interviewees:** Yahya Frederickson, Josie Gonzales, Sonia Hohnadel, Alex Lodu Kenyi, Walter McDuffy

## CCHS' Summer Intern

### Kara Mjones

My name is Kara Mjones. I graduated from Moorhead Senior High in 2000. I am a student at Minnesota State University Moorhead, and my major is Cultural Anthropology. My main areas of interest and study are in ancient history, specifically the Middle East and Southern Europe. I focus on *why* things were done. For example, the religious reasons why the Pyramids were built, all the way to the functional rationalizations of being nomadic, to why taboos act as social leveling devices. I loved watching the *History Channel* and the *Discovery Channel* when I was growing up. I have one brother Zachary who is 18 and will be attending Concordia this fall, and one sister Rachel who will be starting eighth grade in the fall. I work at Eventide in Moorhead. I am currently interning at the Clay County Historical Society to learn how a museum works. My main interests are design and display setup. Along with that, I hope to gain experience in cataloging, preservation, and purchasing/renting artifacts. I want to get a job at the Minneapolis Institute of Art when I am done with school. My dream would involve working with a curator on designing/setting up displays and acquiring artifacts.

## Monthly Results of the Favorite Restaurant poll

In CCHS' current exhibit, *Eating Out in Clay County*, visitors can vote for their favorite Clay County restaurant, past or present! These are the results for May—June:

Eddie's Café - 2  
 Speak Easy - 2  
 Coach's - 1  
 Highway Host in Center Mall - 1  
 Hot Dog Hut - 1  
 Mick's Office - 1  
 Perkins - 1  
 Red Bear - 1  
 Sarello's - 1  
 Times Café - 1  
 New Village Inn - 1

If you don't see your favorite restaurant here, come in to the museum, bring your friends, and VOTE!



## Jane Renner—Experience Works!

Jane Renner began working at CCHS through the Experience Works program (formerly Green Thumb) in July of 2002. She is currently entering data from the 1905 State of Minnesota Census into a searchable database, which will be a useful tool for genealogists.

Hi! I am Kathryn Jane Renner, but please call me Jane. I am a retired teacher who graduated from Moorhead State with a BS in Elementary Education and a minor in History. I went on to graduate work in Special Education in the areas of Learning Disabilities, Emotional Behavioral Disorders and educating the mentally handicapped. I taught special ed for 25 years in small rural towns in Minnesota, grades K-12 and loved it. I retired when my health gave out. I then returned to the Fargo-Moorhead area, as it is as much my hometown as any place.

I have always loved history and read books about history when I have time. I did not major in history, as I wanted to teach young children. Teaching is and always has been my first love. I also enjoy reading, especially mysteries, sewing, embroidery, handiwork, quilts, and

crafts. I have discovered a talent for mechanics late in life that lead to a hobby in woodworking when I have the tools and the space. I also love cooking.

Using computer skills with a love of history makes working in a museum a natural course of events, and I am thankful to both Experience Works and the Clay County Historical Society for the opportunity to work here and get paid for it as a bonus.





# A Whistle Blows: for the first time in 120 years!

By Pam Burkhardt

On this particular, sunny June afternoon a crowd of about twenty waited patiently. Between the trees to the north sunlight sparkled on greenish water. A light breeze from the south blended dust kicked up by the crowd with black smoke from a coal fire. Everyone was waiting to hear the Red River steamboat *International's* whistle . . . any time now. And . . . there it was . . . high, bright and clear!

This description was not taken from a pioneer recollection. The date was June 14, 2003. The crowd assembled just south of Gunderson Lake on the Western Minnesota Steam Threshers' Reunion (WMSTR) grounds at Rollag and not on the bank of the Red River 30 miles to the west. The event was the testing of the whistle from the steamboat *International* that ran on the Red River over 125 years ago.

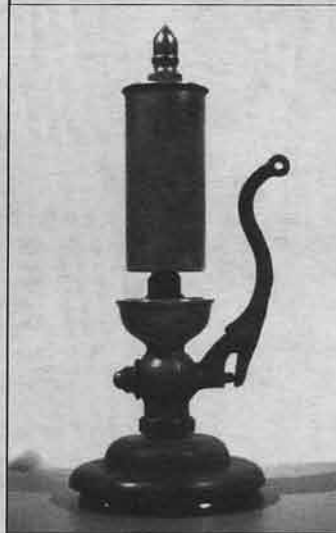
The *International's* whistle was one of the items in the Probstfield collection donated two years ago. It has been on display in the Red River Valley exhibit in the Hjemkomst Center. CCHS staff first mentioned testing the whistle to Tom Hall, one of the instructors at the University of Rollag. Tom Hall and Gerald Parker teach a class to prospective steam engineers at the WMSTR grounds on Father's Day weekend each June. Hall said the weekend was perfect because steam engines were running for hands-on training for students.

The whistle needed to be checked for any flaw that would make testing it impossible. Hall suggested the WMSTR whistle expert, Jerry Christiansen. Christiansen and the crew working in the Pabst engine building were happy to look it over. It didn't take much for them to become excited about this project. The "whistle team" immediately adopted this mission and ran with it! They found a willing engine operator, threaded a pipe to lift the whistle above the cab and fixed a chain to the lever so any photos would look more authentic. The whistle did not need much preparation beyond a spring borrowed temporarily from something else.

After some adjustments and rethreading of the pipe,

all was ready. Earlier, Tom Hall made an announcement at steam school about this once-in-a-lifetime experience. The resulting crowd numbered about twenty and included steam engineers, students,

whistle lovers and history buffs. After the first blast of steam, Christiansen tuned whistle by lowering the bell. Then, over the subtle hiss of the steam engine, the voice of the *International* was heard after decades of silence. . . high, bright and clear. The test lasted about fifteen minutes; two tape recorders documented the event.



The *International* whistle!

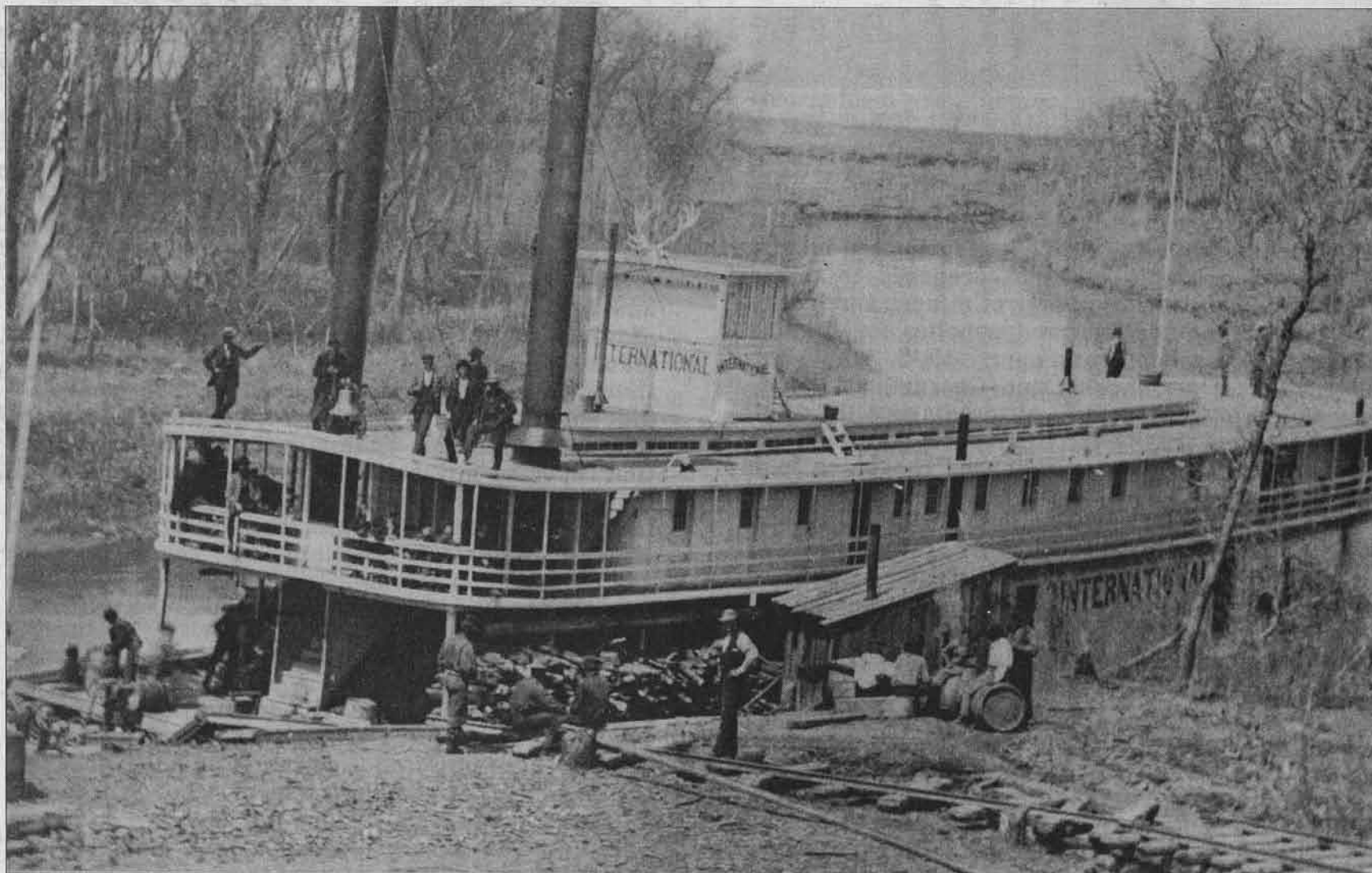
After demounting and while the whistle cooled, the whistle team agreed this had

been fun, but offered one suggestion: we really should have recorded this on videotape. Hm-m-m. Well, the whistle is in great shape. We recorded about 10 minutes of audio, but there *were* some background noises on both tapes. We could round up better sound equipment, a video camera and set up under more controlled conditions. Yes, I think we could do this just one more time.

A push-and-play device will be installed by the whistle in the Red River Valley Exhibit or whenever it is on display, and a sound bite from this whistle test will be added to the CCHS web site.

## Many thanks to the "whistle team"

CCHS would like to thank the members of WMSTR who took time from their other tasks to work on this project: WMSTR workers & steam engineers, John Cross, Marlin Drewlow, Tom Hall, Steve & Shari Nelson, Nick Olson, and the rest who waited so patiently to hear this voice from the past. A special thanks to Jerry Christiansen, Casselton, ND, for taking the lead, and Peter Kiefer (WMSTR Board President) for the use of his Advance Rumley steam engine.



International at Moorhead: Steamboat International at the Moorhead levee, early 1870s. The Fargo-Moorhead waterfront was located about where the Moorhead end of the Center Avenue bridge now sits. *Roy Johnson's Red River Valley, 1982.*



# Steamboat a 'Comin'!

By Mark Peihl, Archivist

Regular newsletter readers will recall that in 2001, Probstfield family donated a huge and very important collection of artifacts to CCHS. Randolph and Catherine Probstfield were among the county's earliest residents, Randolph arriving in 1859. My personal favorite artifact in the lot is a nondescript-looking steam whistle which, according to Probstfield family legend, came from the Red River steamboat, *International*.

River steamers used whistles to announce their arrival at ports and to communicate with each other. They are pretty simple devices (see illustration on page 10). Standing at the wheel of the boat, the pilot stepped on a treadle pulling a cord attached to the whistles handle. This released steam from the boat's boiler through a valve into the open bowl at the whistle's base. The steam escaped upward through the steam slot, a gap between the upper edge of the bowl and the covering "languid plate." The thin sheet or "vail" of steam struck the lower edge of the tube or "bell." Steam entering the bell made the pressure inside the bell rise above the atmospheric pressure of the air outside. This forced the following steam to vent outside the bell, quickly creating a relative vacuum inside the bell. More steam flowed back into the bell. This cycle would then repeat over and over, several hundred times per second. The oscillations of this "reed" of steam create the sound. The size of the bell determined the speed of the cycle and the whistle's pitch.

Our whistle is a plain bell whistle, sometimes called a "hooter" for the sound they make. It sounds only one note. Some Red River boats had multiple whistles mounted on the end of the steam manifold, each sounding a different note creating a more impressive chord. In 1877, the U.S. government issued the first patent for a multi-note, single bell whistle. Partitions divided the bell into three different sized sections, each making a different tone. Some later Red River steamers may have carried this

type.

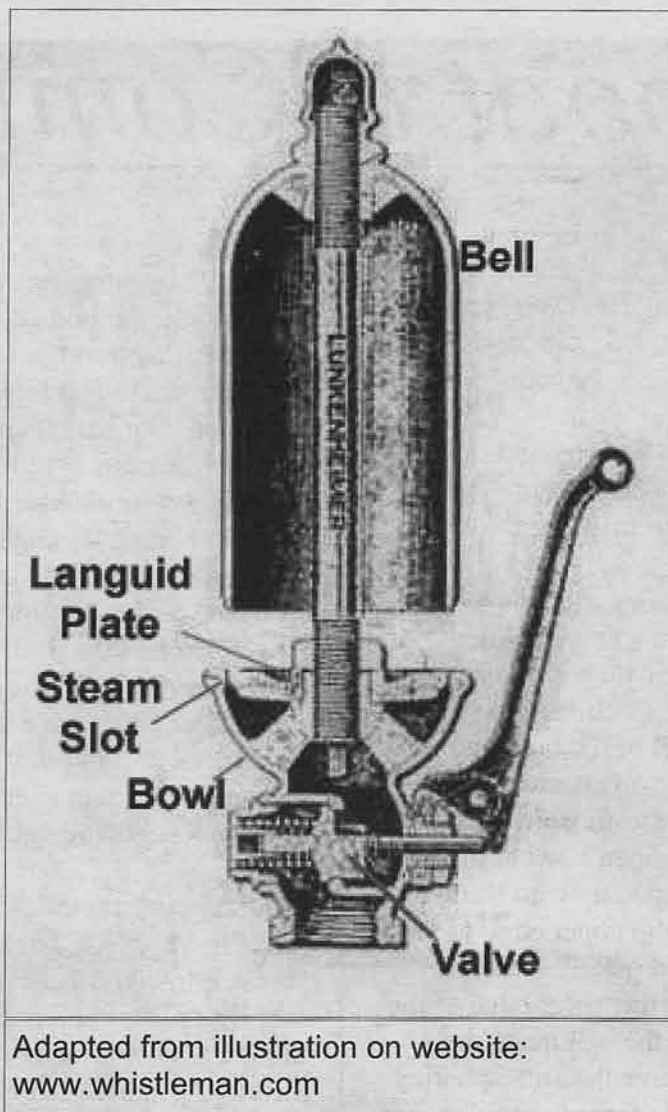
In the 19<sup>th</sup> century steam engines and boilers were expensive commodities. Many sets of machinery were recycled through several boats and used for other purposes. The *International's* insides were no exception. Our readers may recall the story of steamboating's genesis ("130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Steamboating," *CCHS Newsletter*, March/April 1989). In 1858 St. Paul merchants, eager to increase the Red River cart-borne trade with Fort Garry (Winnipeg) offered a cash reward to whomever would build and operate a steamboat on the Red. That winter, Anson Northup dismantled his boat, the *North Star*, on the Mississippi River and hauled the pieces overland to a point on the Red northwest of Kragnes. There he reconstructed the boat, named it after himself and quickly left to pocket the reward.

But there was another, less successful attempt at the prize. In May 1859, steamboat captain John B. Davis, piloted his boat the *Freighter* up the Minnesota River from St. Paul. He hoped to steam into Big Stone Lake, cross the (presumably) flooded continental divide between Big Stone and Lake Traverse and continue down the Bois de Sioux River to the Red. He never made it to Big Stone. The *Freighter* ran aground about nine miles short of the lake. Davis abandoned the boat; its rotting remains were still visible some 20-30 years later.

Meanwhile, the St. Paul freighting and stagecoach company, Burbank Brothers, had purchased the *Anson Northup* in secret partnership with the British owned Hudson's Bay Company. The Burbanks contracted to haul the HBC's trade goods and furs between St. Paul and the fur company's steamboat terminal at Georgetown. But the *Anson Northup* was never a particularly good boat. Though rebuilt and renamed the *Pioneer*, it still had its shortcomings. In the winter of 1860/1861, the Burbank company and the HBC bought the *Freighter* at a sheriff's sale and hauled its engine and boiler to Georgetown. There

through 1861, the Burbanks used the unlucky vessel's machinery to cut oak from the banks of the Red and Buffalo Rivers into lumber for a new steamboat, the *International*. (The move was none too soon. In December 1861 the troubled *Pioneer* sank at Cook's Creek, on the Red near Lake Winnipeg. She was apparently never raised.)

The *International* was an impressive boat. At 136 feet long, 26 feet wide and with a hold four feet deep, she was the largest steamer to ever navigate the U.S. portion of the narrow, twisty Red. She could carry 140 tons, over twice the cargo as her predecessor, the *Pioneer*. Launched May 20, 1862, on her maiden voyage to Fort Garry she carried HBC goods and scores of prospectors bound for the gold fields of British Columbia. She had a pretty good start to her first season, but then spent the next 20 months tied to the bank. In August 1862, the *International* was moored at Georgetown, loaded with supplies for Fort Garry when news of the Dakota War arrived. Dozens of white settlers hurried to Georgetown for protection. Authorities decided to make a run to Fort Garry and safety. Heavily loaded, she hung up on the Goose River Rapids, between present-day Shelly and Nielsville, Minnesota. The settlers headed on foot south to Fort Abercrombie (which was soon besieged by the Dakota) and the supplies freighted north. Lighter, she returned to Georgetown. The next spring, under U.S. Army escort, her crew took her to Fort Abercrombie where she remained until 1864 when trade and traffic resumed. She was the only boat on the river through the rest of the decade and stayed busy for the next



16 years.

The steamboating era was a storied time and many of the river's most colorful stories revolve around the *International*. When her crew brought her to Fort Abercrombie in 1863, she remained pointed south. In 1864, they found the river there too narrow for her to turn around. Her pilot had to back her up around innumerable bends until she reached the mouth of the Wild Rice River some 6 miles south of present day Moorhead before finding a enough water for her. Another time, the *International*'s pilot turned her out of the river channel and took a short cut across the flooded prairies to meet a Custom Service deadline at the border. In a plot worthy of an Agatha Christie novel, a man was murdered on the *International* in 1871, presumably by one of the passengers or crew. However, Agatha was not on board and the mystery remains unsolved to this day.

One famous story involves the *International*'s whistle directly. In 1875, merchants in Moorhead, chafing under the monopolistic shipping rates set by the *International*'s owners, formed their own steamboat company, the Merchants' Line. On June 4, about 11:00 PM, one of the Merchants' Line two steamers, the *Manitoba*, was rammed and sunk by the *International* near LeMay's Mill, about 25 miles south of Winnipeg. Though local sympathy clearly lay with the Merchants' Line, blame for the incident is still difficult to access. According to an account published in a Moorhead paper, Captain Seegar, of the *International*, claimed his boat was heading downstream. This gave him the right to choose



whether to pass the other boat on the right or the left. He chose the left and signaled the *Manitoba* by blowing his whistle twice. The *Manitoba* responded by whistling once for the right. With both boats heading for the same spot on the river, Seegar reversed his engines and again whistled for the left. By then it was too late. The *International*'s bow struck the *Manitoba* on the starboard side and sliced into her about 10 feet. She sank in less than a minute in 20 feet of water. There were some injuries but no fatalities. The stricken vessel was raised and back in service within six weeks.

In the late 1870s rail service reached Grand Forks, Winnipeg, and other river points. Steamers were on their way out. According to a 1916 account by former *International* clerk Frank Painter, printed in the *Fargo Courier*, workmen dismantled the old boat at Grand Forks in 1880. Her hull boards became the floor of a livery stable and her engine and boiler may have gone into a local lumber mill. "The machinery was sold to the South Park Foundry, St. Paul, in 1891 and resold to parties in Prescott, Wis. While the team was crossing Lake St. Croix at Prescott the horses broke through the ice and the machinery and bob sleds went down in thirty feet of water. It was never recovered."

So, is our steam whistle really from the *International*? A study of the two fuzzy photos we have of the *International* proved inconclusive but I'm inclined to believe the Probstfields. Randolph watched the boat being built in 1862; met it regularly at Georgetown while working for her owners, the HBC, and had a son, Edmund, living at East Grand Forks in 1880 and 1891. The whistle is stamped "Buckeye Brass Works, Dayton O." According to the Dayton and Montgomery County Public Library, Buckeye Brass works opened in 1849 and could very well have made the machinery for the *Freighter*. We'll be researching this further. Meanwhile, you can hear the old whistle on our web site, [www.info.co.clay.mn.us/history](http://www.info.co.clay.mn.us/history). (See Pam's whistle blowing story on page 7). Check it out and give it a toot!

## Woodland School Open House, Aug. 30

CCHS will host an Open House at the Woodland in rural Clay County from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 30, in conjunction with the Western Minnesota Steam Thresher's Reunion near Rollag, Minnesota. The school is located on Section 27 in Parke Township, one mile east of Rollag.

The Woodland School was the first and last rural Clay County school. It resisted consolidation and closure until 1961, when the board voted to close the school and send the students to Hawley. The school then became the property of the Clay County Historical Society. School reunions are still held at the school house.

The first school classes in Parke Township were held in 1872, in the Union Church log cabin. Parke was designated the third school district in Clay County in 1873, the first rural school district in the county. Erick Hanson, a Norwegian carpenter, constructed the first school building in 1874. That building was replaced in 1882 at a cost of \$300, and the present school building was erected in 1895, at a cost of \$670.

Also planned with the Open House is a guided tour of the Parke Township Cemetery, just down the road from the school. CCHS Archivist Mark Peihl will lead the tour of the cemetery, also known as "Yankee" Cemetery for the earliest Parke Township settlers and Civil War Union veterans buried there. Dr. William Sill established the cemetery in 1878, and a Mr. Mense Merry was the first Clay County resident to occupy the cemetery. There are about 30 known occupants buried in the cemetery.

Everyone is welcome!





These are the boxes for some of the fishing lures on display in the outreach exhibit case at the Fargo Moorhead Convention & Visitors Bureau on South 45th Street in Fargo. The round

Sportland label at right belongs to an unused roll of fishing line. Take a look at your tackle box this summer and see what treasures you can find!



## New CCHS Memberships & Renewals

CCHS extends a special thank you to the following individuals who renewed their memberships or became new members in May and June:

### NEW MEMBERS

Jim & Portia Danielson, Moorhead  
Mac's, Inc., Moorhead

### RENEWALS

Kelly & Marjorie Aakre, Moorhead  
Marlene Ames, Fargo  
Dr. Don & Dorothy Bentley, Hawley  
Beth Brunelle, Fargo  
Irene Burkhardt, Fargo  
John Caron, Arlington, VA  
Gene & Betty Christensen, Glyndon  
Edward & Elizabeth Clark, Moorhead  
Patrick Colliton, Fargo  
Dorothy Dodds, Moorhead  
Carroll & Joan Engelhardt, Moorhead  
Jim Fay, Moorhead  
Maurice & Garnet Floberg, Moorhead  
Dorothy Garven, Los Angeles, CA  
Pat Gilbertson, Audubon, MN

Raymond & Joan Grefsrud, Hawley  
Juanita Griebel, El Cajon, CA  
Burton & Catherine Grover, Bellingham, WA  
Pearl Grover, Moorhead  
Rose Gytri, Fargo  
Bette Haring, Lake Park  
Paul Harris, Moorhead  
Joyce & Gustav Haug, Hawley  
Rae Haynes, Durango, CO  
Loren & Londa Ingebretsen, Felton, MN  
John Jenkins, Sun City, AZ  
Doug Johnson, Bemidji, MN  
Vera Knapp, Moorhead  
Albert Knutson, Moorhead  
Lee Kollé, Borup, MN  
Ramona Kooren, Hawley  
Margret Kragnes, Moorhead  
Morrie & Ruthie Lanning, Moorhead  
Bob & Joslyn Larson, Moorhead  
Neil Larson, Harwood, ND  
Pat Lynde-Hemmah, Glyndon  
Dorothy Martell, Fargo  
Moorhead Area Retired Educators Association

Donna Nix, Moorhead  
Robert & JoAnn Nyquist, Moorhead  
Sherwood Peterson, Jr., Rochester  
Sara Pudas, White Bear Lake, MN  
Maureen Reed & Patrick Walsh, Moorhead  
Paul Rustad, Fargo  
Dean Sather, Fargo  
Matt Scheibe, Eugene, OR  
Donald & Carol Schoff, Hawley  
Lois Selberg, Moorhead  
Milton & Ardis Severson, Detroit Lakes  
Terry Shoptaugh & Deborah Janzen, Mhd  
Marilyn Smith, Moorhead  
Teri Smith, Valley City, ND  
Andrew & Patricia Svenkeson, Forest Lake, MN  
Justine Swanson, Fargo  
Irene Swenson, Moorhead  
Al & Janet Traaseth, Moorhead  
Ron & Deanna Ulven, Hawley  
Wells Fargo Bank MN, N. A., Moorhead  
Evert Wiisanen, Moorhead  
Dave & Lauri Winterfeldt-Shanks, Mhd  
Susan Woodstrom & Karen Helfand, Mpls, MN





# *Mines & Pines*



## CCHS Fall History Tour, September 18 & 19

Join us as we tour the historic mining and lumbering communities of Hibbing, Chisholm and Virginia, Minnesota!

### Thursday, Sept. 18

Hill Annex Mine  
Ironworld Discovery Center  
Paulucci Space Theater  
Stay at Chisholm Inn & Suites

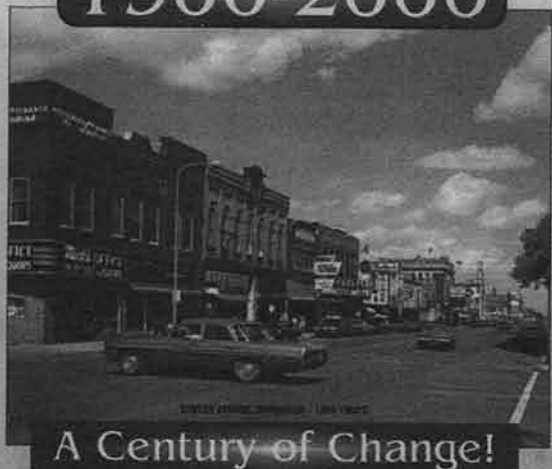
### Friday, Sept. 19

Greyhound Bus Museum  
Virginia Heritage Museum  
Soudan Underground Mine  
Judy Garland Birthplace

\$160 per person, based on double occupancy. Must be a CCHS member. Call 218-299-5520 for more information or to register. **Reserve your seat now!**

## The Last One Hundred Years in **MOORHEAD** MINNESOTA

### 1900-2000



Published by Heritage Publications in collaboration  
with the Clay County Historical Society

## ***A Great Souvenir for Summer Guests***

*Moorhead, 1900-2000: A Century of Change* is full of historic photographs and stories that provide the story of Moorhead. See how much Moorhead has changed!

*Fargo, ND, From Frontier Village to All America City, 1875-2000* is a unique collection of photos and stories chronicling Fargo's first 125 years.

These high-quality, paper cover books, published by Heritage Publications of Hendrum, MN, are fundraisers for the Clay and Cass County Historical Societies.

Pick up your copies today at the Clay County Museum & Archives in the Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Avenue North, Moorhead, or send your check or money order for \$23.00 to CCHS, PO Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561.

Call CCHS at 218-299-5520 for more information.

## Calendar

July 4 Independence Day, museum closed

July 10-13 Clay County Fair, Barnesville

August 30 Woodland School Open House

August Woodcarver's Club Display Opens in hall case

Sept. 1 Labor Day, museum closed

Sept. 18 & 19 CCHS Annual History Tour  
"Mines & Pines" - Hibbing, Virginia & Grand Rapids

Sept. 26 Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums Fall Conference, Hjemkomst Center

Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Day, museum closed

December CCHS Holiday Open House  
CCHS Holiday Volunteer Party

Dec. 25 Christmas Day, museum closed

Schedule subject to change

## Sponsor, Patron, Sustaining and Supporting Memberships

Please help us thank these members for supporting the Clay County Historical Society by patronizing their businesses:

### SPONSOR (\$500+)

Join Now!

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

Thibedeau & Co. & Richtman's  
Printing  
Mac's, Inc.

### SUSTAINING (\$100-\$199)

Chamber of Commerce of Fargo  
Moorhead  
City of Hawley  
CM Associates, Richard T.  
McMurray, Annandale, VA  
Dilworth/Glyndon/Felton ISD  
First National Bank of Hawley  
Hawley Public Schools  
Korsmo Funeral Service  
Moorhead Area Public Schools  
Moorhead Drug Company  
Moorhead Kiwanis  
Rigels, Inc., Appliances-TV  
Sellin Brothers, Inc.  
State Bank of Hawley  
State Bank of Moorhead  
Vikingland Kiwanis

### SUPPORTING (\$50-\$99)

Bentley & Bentley, DDS  
Cass-Clay Creamery, Inc.  
City of Barnesville  
Eventide  
Greater Fargo Moorhead CVB  
Lutheran Brotherhood, East Clay  
County Branch 8430  
McLarnan, Hannaher &  
Skatvold, P.L.L.P.  
Moorhead Area Retired  
Educators Association  
Moorhead Midday-Central Lions  
Stenerson Lumber  
Ward Muscatell Automotive  
Wells Fargo Bank MN, N A, Mhd  
Wright Funeral Home

Thank you also to these individuals in the Patron, Sustaining, and Supporting membership levels:

### Individual Patron (\$200-\$499)

Ronald & Katherine Mentjes

### Individual Sustaining (\$100-\$199)

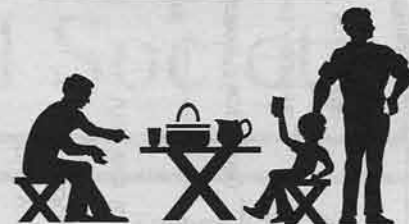
John Caron  
Esther Olson  
Lloyd & Bev Paulson  
Elsie Pitsenbarger  
Bill & Evelette Snyder

### Individual Supporting (\$50-\$99)

Kelly & Marjorie Aakre  
Rod & Audrey Angstman  
Roland & Carolyn Barden  
Dr. Yvonne Condell  
Jim & Portia Danielson  
Dorothy Dodds  
Paul & Joyce Eidbo  
Carroll & Joan Engelhardt  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael France  
Burton & Catherine Grover  
John & Beverly Hest  
Audrey Jones  
Don & Alvina Lein  
Darren & Jane Leno  
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Davis & Hazel Scott  
Terry Shoptaugh & Deborah Janzen  
Jim & Chris Stenerson  
Bruce N. Thorson  
Phyllis Thysell  
Ron & Deanna Ulven  
Mark & Donna Voxland  
Arthur & Marie Wenner



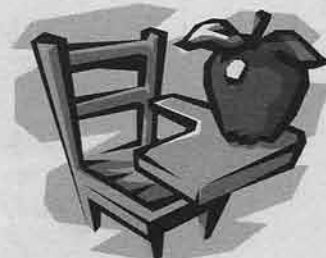
# Bring your family and friends to the Clay County Museum



## EATING OUT IN CLAY COUNTY

Our tastiest exhibit!

From restaurants and picnics to hospital food and school lunch—menus, lunch boxes, photos, luncheon sets, church dinners, archaeological saloon remains, and more—Every way that residents of Clay County eat—out!



Vote for your favorite Clay County restaurant and menu item, or email or send your choice to us!

[lisa.hanson@ci.moorhead.mn.us](mailto:lisa.hanson@ci.moorhead.mn.us)

### Coming in August:



Exquisite carvings  
of whimsical and  
realistic subjects by  
the Red River  
Valley Woodcarvers  
Club in the CCHS  
hallway display

Thank you to the businesses, organizations & individuals who donated or lent time & materials for this exhibit!

Auto Salvage, Inc., City of Moorhead, Clay County Social Services WIC Program, Fry'n Pan Restaurant, Heglund Lutheran Church, McDonald's, MeritCare Clinical Nutrition Services, MeritCare Food Service, MeritCare Material Services, Perkins Family Restaurant, Red Bear Grill & Tavern, Speak Easy Restaurant

Clay County Museum Hours: 10-5 Monday-Saturday, 10-9 Tuesday, 12-5 Sunday  
Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Avenue North, Moorhead, MN ♦ FREE ADMISSION



# CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

- ☐ Individual\* \$20 minimum    ☐ Sustaining \$100 minimum  
☐ Family\* \$35 minimum    ☐ Patron \$200 minimum  
☐ Supporting \$50 minimum    ☐ Sponsor \$500 minimum

\*Businesses are not eligible for Individual and Family membership levels

### CCHS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- ◆ Support preservation of your heritage
- ◆ Bi-monthly newsletter
- ◆ Discount on Acid-Free Preservation supplies
- ◆ Discount on photo reproductions from archives
- ◆ \$1 off admission to Hjemkomst Center Exhibits
- ◆ Invitation to all CCHS events
- ◆ Access to all CCHS Tours
- ◆ Voting Privileges

In addition to the great benefits listed above, Supporting, Sustaining, Patron and Sponsor members a certificate ready to frame and display, and a listing in all CCHS bi-monthly newsletters.

To become a CCHS Member please complete and return this form or a copy of this form to:

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
PO Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561-0501  
218-299-5520

Visit our website! [www.info.co.clay.mn.us/history](http://www.info.co.clay.mn.us/history)

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We're on the web!  
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