

# Clay County Historical Society

Volume XXX No. 4

Clay County Historical Society Newsletter

July/August 2007



*Celebrating*  
**75**  
  
**Clay  
 County  
 Historical  
 Society**  
**1932-2007**

Dilworth roundhouse and car repair shops about 1910. The Northern Pacific Railway's move of their Division Headquarters from Fargo to the railroad siding of Dilworth gave birth to Clay County's second largest city. The view is to the west from the top of the NP's coal dock. Note the rapidly growing village in the distance at right.

## In This Issue:

### Pg Article

- 2 President's Message
- 3 Spelling Bee and Clay County History Tour
- 5 October 5, 75th Gala & New Exhibit Nov. 6
- 6 Outreach Displays and Recent Acquisitions
- 7 Special Collections in Hall Cases

### Pg Article

- 8 Dilworth's Genesis
- 12 Heritage Members
- 13 75th Ann. Sponsors
- 14 New & Renewed Memberships
- 15 Jubilee Fund Drive Form

## CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Avenue North  
PO Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561-0501  
Phone: 218-299-5520  
www.info.co.clay.mn.us/history

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Darren Leno, President, Moorhead  
Rose Bergan, Vice President, Hawley  
Dale White, Treasurer, Moorhead  
John Elton, Secretary, Hawley  
Carolyn Barden, Moorhead  
Jon Evert, County Rep., Moorhead  
Gloria Lee, Georgetown  
James Odegaard, Hawley  
Gene Prim, Barnesville  
Pearl Quinild, Barnesville  
Duane Walker, Moorhead  
Kelly Wambach, Moorhead

### STAFF

Lisa Vedaa, Director  
lisa.vedaa@ci.moorhead.mn.us  
Pam Burkhardt, Collections Manager  
pam.burkhardt@ci.moorhead.mn.us  
Mark Peihl, Archivist  
mark.peihl@ci.moorhead.mn.us  
Janet Nelson, Volunteer Coordinator  
Claudia M. Pratt, 75th Project Director  
Eileen Colton, Experience Works

### NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION

Lisa Vedaa, Editor  
Pam Burkhardt, Contributor  
Mark Peihl, Contributor

### CLAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ben Brunsvold, District 1  
Jerry Waller, District 2  
Jon Evert, District 3  
Kevin Campbell, District 4  
Mike McCarthy, District 5

## President's Message

By Darren Leno, CCHS President



### What does it mean to be non-Profit?

Having served on several boards of non-profit organizations, I frequently encounter the aphorism that non-profit organizations would be better off if they were "run as a business." Usually, what is being suggested is that the non-profit should seek to develop a profit center by creating something of value and then selling it for more than it cost to create.

Of course, one of the reasons that non-profit organizations are able to be classified as such by the IRS is because most of them lack the ability to generate a financial profit. If they had that ability, then they should probably be classified as a business. CCHS is no exception: the work we do is very important, but not profitable.

Non-profit tax exempt organizations exist primarily to turn a social profit, by providing benefits directly to the communities they serve rather than shareholders. In our case, our shareholders are our members, the people of Clay County, and anyone anywhere in the world who is interested in some aspect of Clay County's rich history.

For example, the value of our artifact collection is virtually priceless, yet we can never capitalize on the increasing value of certain artifacts because they will never be offered for sale. We are sworn to protect and interpret these artifacts, forever! They are much more important to the work we do for their historical value, but the cost of caring for them will only increase.

Yet, even without a distinct center for self-generating a profit, CCHS has managed to carry out its mission for 75 years, largely because caring people who value what we do have stepped up to assist us at critical moments, as leaders, volunteers or as patrons of the society. I'll include the Clay County Commission in the patrons category, as they have been our most reliable funder. Without the support of the Commissioners, and by association the citizens of Clay County, CCHS would not exist in its current form. The next time you see a county commissioner, please thank them for their commitment to CCHS.

While the structure of non-profits and for-profit organizations are inherently different, there are aspects of a business that non-profits should seek to emulate: planning, regularly evaluating the goals of the organization, fiscal responsibility, employee productivity, measured risk taking, customer satisfaction surveys, and

making certain that the "product" they produce is relevant and of interest to the community it serves. Indeed, there is much the non-profit world can learn from the for-profit world.

As the board starts to plan for our fiscal year 2008, we will continue to work at being good stewards of the financial resources that our members have entrusted us with. We will strive to improve and expand the services that we are able to deliver, while understanding our unique social contract with our constituents. We will consider all of our revenue sources and try to set goals to improve our cash flow. We will try to balance the need to be frugal against the need to remain accessible. With the monies that we anticipate receiving, we will work hard to find ways to pay a social dividend to our members and to the good people of Clay County for their generous support of CCHS.

Thank you very much for being part of CCHS. Without you, we wouldn't be here.

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

## Spelling Bee at District 3 School Reunion, August 26

In connection with their annual reunion, the alumni association of the District 3 School, located about one mile northeast of Rollag, has graciously allowed CCHS to host an old-fashioned Spelling Bee! The spelling bee will begin at approximately 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 26, after the alumni association meeting.

All ages are welcome, and don't expect too serious a competition! We are just out for fun. Words will be chosen from an 1879 McGuffey's Reader, an 1895 book used in Hitterdal School, Clay County place names, and other period school books. Prizes will be awarded.

Coffee and lemonade will be served (outside, weather permitting), and a porta potty will be available. Pamphlets for self-guided tours of the Yankee

Cemetery, about one mile north of the school, will also be available.

The District 3 School was the first and last rural school district in Clay County.

It began in a log cabin in 1873. It closed in 1961 and was donated to the historical society the same year.



Children examine art work created by students in days-gone-by at the School Open House last year.

## See the sites! Historic Clay County sites on September 15 History Tour

Join us for our fall history tour! CCHS Archivist Mark Peihl will lead the tour of fascinating historic sites in Clay County on Saturday, Sept. 15.

The tour will leave from the Hjemkomst Center at 8:00 a.m., stop in the Hawley area for lunch, and in Georgetown for a coffee break in the afternoon, hosted by the Georgetown Community Affairs Committee. A morning coffee break in Comstock is also tentatively planned.

Sites we will visit include several sites in Moorhead, "paper" town sites along the Red River, such as Lafayette, as well as ghost towns like Catton. Other sites will include the Probstfield Farm, the Hudson's Bay Company post, and the Gantz Reservoir. The reservoir was developed to provide a source of water for steam locomotives and the City of Dilworth.



CCHS Archivist Mark Peihl points out a historic site on the 2005 County History Tour.

We will also visit the new Viking Sword Museum in Ulen! The historical society in Ulen and Ulen residents have worked hard to accomplish the construction of a new building for their collection documenting the history of that area.

The cost of the tour is \$35 per person, and includes bus fare

and lunch. Registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 7. To register, call 218-299-5520 or send your check with your name, address and phone number to CCHS, PO Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561. Schedule subject to change.



## September/October Newsletter will be Keepsake Edition

A special keepsake tabloid in honor of CCHS' 75th Anniversary will be printed by the Clay County Connection, owner of the *Barnesville Record-Review* and *Hawley Herald* newspapers. CCHS will use this tabloid as its September/October newsletter, and the keepsake will also be inserted in issues of the *Record-Review* and *Herald*, and the *Clay County Union* newspaper in September.

The special 40-page issue will contain historic photos and articles about the history of all areas in Clay County, as well as information about upcoming CCHS events and ongoing programming. The edition will be in newsprint format, 13-1/2 inches tall by 11 inches wide. CCHS and the Clay County Connection are proud to provide this memento of Clay County's history and the 75th Anniversary of CCHS!

## Address Changes— Please let us know



We don't want to think about it, but winter is coming. Even if you are not a "snow bird" and just moving to a different address, please include us in your change of address notifications.

Our newsletter is sent at a non-profit bulk rate, and cannot be forwarded,

nor can it be held when you are temporarily away.

You might have noticed a line above your address label that says "Address Service Requested." This is a service provided by the P.O. that helps us keep track of you if you move, but it is costly.

Please help the historical society reserve our funds for educational exhibits and programs, and assure that you get your CCHS newsletters, by notifying us of your new or winter address or letting us know to suspend mailing your newsletter if you are going to be away for a long period. Your help is greatly appreciated!

## Win a Framed Art Print! Help Build CCHS Membership to 750

(No purchase necessary)

### 75th Anniversary Membership Challenge

You could win a framed art print just for introducing a friend or family member to the Clay County Historical Society!

CCHS has set a goal to increase our membership from 500 to 750 in honor of our 75th Anniversary in 2007. This means we would like to greet 250 new individuals, families and business to the Clay County Historical Society. We are coming very close to that goal now, with over 650 members!

To meet this goal, the historical society is entering the names of all new members from May 2006 through December 2007 in a drawing for a framed art print! The print is *Complete Serenity*, by artist Jim Hansel. It is a tranquil scene of ducks

flying over a lakeside cabin at dusk. View it at Hansel's website: [www.jimhanselart.com](http://www.jimhanselart.com)

Current members also have the opportunity to be entered for this fabulous prize! Any CCHS member who recruits a new member will also have their name entered for each new member registered by them. Just make sure that your name is included with the registration of each new member you introduce to CCHS.

We know you will want to help CCHS achieve this goal of increasing our membership and being better able to preserve Clay County's history. Start now with the membership form on page 15 of this newsletter!

## You're invited to our Birthday Party! Oct. 5

### Celebrate CCHS' 75th Anniversary in style!

Our gala event will be held Friday, October 5, at the Hjemkomst Center. Begin the evening at 6:00 p.m. with fabulous food catered from John Alexander's American Classics Restaurant & Bar, a new establishment opening soon in the historic Kassenborg Block on Main Avenue in Moorhead, by the owners of the Juano's Restaurants in Fargo and Moorhead. Enjoy gourmet grazing as you have fun outbidding your friends and neighbors on fantastic must-have items on the silent auction!

Wonderful items are being added to the silent auction list weekly! We will have more than 75 pieces for you to choose from.

Birthday cake will be served after auction bidding ends at 7:30, and an entertaining program, yet to be announced, will follow. Winning tickets for the \$750 and \$75 cash prizes in the Diamond Jubilee Raffle will be drawn at the conclusion of the evening, about 8:30, and silent auction winners may begin picking up their prizes.

Tickets are \$25 in advance, and \$30 after October 1. Buy yours at the CCHS Office Monday through Friday, or mail your check to CCHS, PO Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561. We will see you at the Birthday Party!

### Silent Auction Items

Here is a sampling of the great items being given for the silent auction at our Birthday Blast, Friday, October 5! Bidders will have a chance at the items listed below that have been promised and/or already donated, plus many other valuable items that we will keep you posted on.

- 75th Anniversary Jubilee Quilt, Mighty Red Quilt and North Star State Quilt and matching pillows
- 1883 *Harper's Weekly* print, "Mining Life in Colorado"
- 2008 Season passes to Straw Hat Players Theatre at MSUM
- 7-foot, lighted Christmas Tree
- Handmade glass tile and glass snowflake
- Handmade wood duck houses
- Carved wooden bowl with Norwegian design trim by Guy Paulson
- Carved items from members of the Red River Valley Woodcarvers' club
- Set of dolls in traditional costume from the Czech Republic
- Carved wooden bowl with gold metal inlay rim design and carved eggs from Czech Republic
- Handmade bobbin lace by Pam Burkhardt
- Mary Kay cosmetic products and gift packages

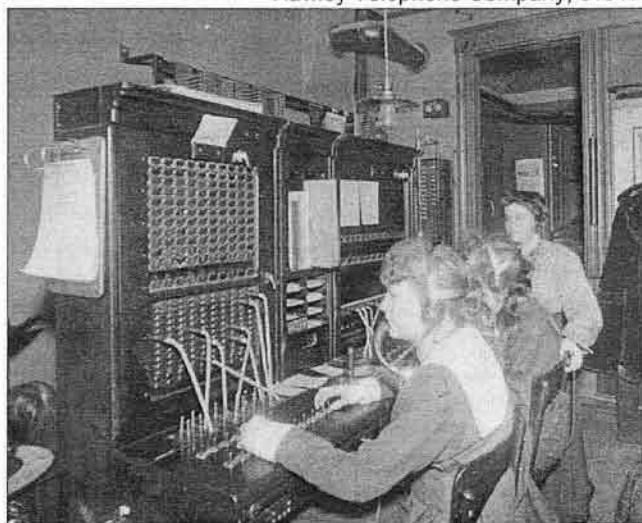
## Keeping In Touch Exhibit opens November 6

Hawley Telephone Company, c1917

CCHS staff is working on a new exhibit that will open with a Grand Opening reception the evening of Tuesday, November 6. The exhibit is entitled *Keeping In Touch In Clay County* and will chronicle the evolution and use of communications technology in Clay County, from word-of-mouth to the iPhone™.

Communication is an integral part of everyday life. As new technologies have emerged, they have been added to existing methods of communication. We still use most methods of communication: mail, telephone, radio, television, etc., and they have come full circle to be enveloped in one device.

Come to the reception Tuesday, Nov. 6 to be the first to see this "telling" exhibit!

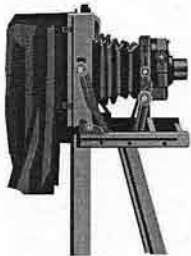
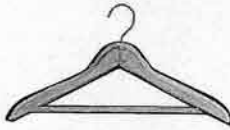


## Outreach Displays

	<u>Open</u>	<u>Close</u>
Barnesville Public Library	August	November
Hawley Public Library	August	November
Moorhead Public Library	August	November
Fargo CVB	May	October

**BOOST FOR BARNESVILLE** is a special display at the Barnesville Public Library honoring the city's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Artifacts include a Barnesville baseball jersey, souvenir plates from the 1950s, store tokens and personal items. Businesses, the high school and churches are represented.

The coat hanger comes "out of the closet" at Hawley Public Library! Get the inside story in **COAT HANGERS: THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE REASONS**. Learn the history of the wire hanger, find out what constitutes a "good" hanger for heirloom garments and view a selection of the "bad guys."



The Moorhead Public Library's photo display **MOORHEAD 1923** features Moorhead photographer O.E. Flaten. Flaten photographed the exterior of buildings in downtown Moorhead in July and August of that year. You might be familiar with these images. Flaten used a number of these on postcards.

Tourists will have **FUN IN THE SUN** at the CVB (Convention and Visitors' Bureau) in Fargo this spring and summer. Area visitors can attend ballgames, visit parks, fish and swim. The options are endless. Dogs are not forgotten!



## IN-HOUSE DISPLAYS

The CCHS hall case features some of our special collections as part of our "Celebrating 75 Years of Collecting" exhibit. From the second week in August through the first week in September, we will feature the Manning, Lee and Welter Collections. Read more about these collections on page 7.

The last three weeks in September you will be able to preview the many items we will offer at our October 5<sup>th</sup> Silent Auction in the hall cases!

## Artifacts & Donors

### May and June 2007

#### Donors:

Moorhead: Ruth Johnson, Verne and Carol Wik [Given in Memory of mother Jeannette Carlson Iverson, grandparents, John and Caroline Carlson, and great-grandparents Mr. & Mrs. Martin Mobakken], Dean Atchison, Joe and Karen Schneider

Barnesville: *Barnesville Record-Review*

Fargo, ND: Bill Snyder, Celeste Johnson, Helen Rudie  
Wahpeton, ND: Paul West

**Artifacts:** (19) issues Moorhead High School newspaper *The Spud* 1966-1971; programs, Minnesota State High School Basketball Championship Tournament ca 1956-1971, Minnesota Region 6 High School Basketball Tournaments ca 1959-1976, Minnesota District 23 High School Basketball Tournaments ca 1961-1976; pamphlet, *Moorhead . . . You're ahead in Moorhead* with map of city ca 1945; booklets: Moorhead High School reunions: 1983 *Class Reunions of Moorhead High School* 50<sup>th</sup>, 49<sup>th</sup> & 48<sup>th</sup> and booklet with 1934-1959 class list and other Moorhead Senior High items; book, *Fifty Years of Bethlehem Lutheran Congregation, Ulen Minnesota, 1876-1926*; (1 copy) *Bill Snyder Films - a Sample Reel* put together by Bill Snyder from films produced by Bill Snyder Films of Fargo, ca 1954-1978 including two Walt Disney Mickey Mouse Club TV Newsreels from 1954-1956 and about 20 commercial ads for local sponsors and presented at a Cass County Historical Society annual meeting in the 1990s; VHS video cassette *History on the Hill: John Deere Expo*, WMSTR 1994; CD-rom disks with photos taken by and for the *Barnesville Record Review*, beginning April 2007; two jackets owned by Dean Atchison: \* one *Shorty's Shoe Shop*, one *Shorty's 1951 North Dakota State SB Champs*; child's cotton hankie with printed poem and figures of children; insert used with a mop and standard pail from Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Moorhead; leather tool pouch; (5) boxes containing medical tools: otoscope and attachments, "pressometer," hemacytometer and probes used by Drs. Felde and Schneider.

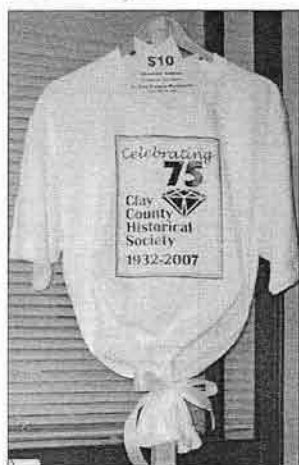
\* Dean Atchison died July 5, 2007. He was a member of Shorty's [Kondos] Shoe Shop softball team for many years. In 1951, he was inducted into the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame.



## Secure your chance at \$750! Buy a \$10 Jubilee Raffle ticket

### Win \$750!

You could win the Grand Prize of \$750 in the Diamond Jubilee Raffle, one of the fundraisers for the 75th Anniversary Fund Drive! Raffle tickets are \$10 each, available at the CCHS Office, from CCHS Board Members, at CCHS-sponsored events (District 3 School Reunion and Clay County History Tour), and at CCHS booths at summertime community events. We will have a booth at the Ulen Turkey Days and Barnesville Potato Days. You can even send in a check for your entry and we will mail you the ticket stub. Ten \$75 prizes will also be awarded. Who can't use crisp, green cash?! Only 1,000 tickets will be sold - Buy yours now! (Must be 18 to enter)



### Anniversary T-shirts

Help spread the word about our Diamond Jubilee and promote the Clay County Historical Society with this attractive, 100% cotton white t-shirt! In four sizes: M, L, XL, and XXL. The front design is a rich purple and gold screen print, and the back of the shirt sports our catch phrase, "What Is It?" Only \$10!

### Wear a 75th Anniversary Button

Another way to help us celebrate our 75th Birthday and spread the word, is by wearing a 75th Anniversary button! The buttons are an attractive 1-3/4" x 2-3/4" rectangle shape with the diamond design and rich purple and gold colors of our anniversary. The buttons are available free at the Clay County Museum.



## Hall Displays give another peak at CCHS Collections

Continued from page 6...

As part of the "Celebrating 75 Years of Collecting" 75th Anniversary exhibit, CCHS is showcasing whole collections donated to us by families and individuals. It's a way to show a snapshot of a period of time in someone's life, as with the Manning Collection of World War I items, or a collection with a focused interest, such as the Lee and Welter Collections.

WWI military items from the **Walter & Agnes Manning Collection** (2001). Walter J. Manning (1894-1986) worked for the Northern Pacific Railway in Dilworth. He was the son of Edward and Bertha (Arnold) Manning born near Arcadia, Wisconsin. He married Agnes Stai (1899-1994) of Hillsboro, North Dakota. In September 1917, Manning enlisted in the Army and served with the 29<sup>th</sup> Engineers in France. He saved more interesting things than you can imagine.

The **Ralph & Elsie Lee Collection** (1998) has small seating barrels (pre-1947) from the MSTC Campus School library, girls' toys, a collection of tallies saved during years of playing bridge as well as a small collection of paperclips. Elsie began collecting paperclips in 1945 while she worked in the Registrar's Office at the University of Minnesota. Elsie also started a scrapbook in 1941 adding items to subsequent scrapbooks (36 in all) until only a few months before her death in 2001.

**Elsie Welter Collection:** Elsie made and wore her own hats. The collection includes some of her millinery supplies.

Schedule subject to change

# *Dilworth's Genesis*

By Mark Peihl, CCHS Archivist

Much of the information in this article comes from a great story by Gary Tarbox in the summer 2005 issue of *The Mainstreeter*, the publication of the Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association. Our thanks go to Gary for letting us use his info and to James Dick, who dug up much of the information in the Minnesota Historical Society's Northern Pacific Railway Records and Duane Durr for his assistance in getting us copies of the NP papers. For further information about the Northern Pacific Railway Association, see their website, [www.nprha.org](http://www.nprha.org). Thanks!!

Railroads built this County. The Northern Pacific and Great Northern roads not only made it possible for settlers to reach this area but, more importantly, provided a means to ship surplus crops to distant markets and to bring in manufactured items for local use from all over the country. They built sidings about every six miles or so with grain storage facilities for farmers to sell their crops. The railroads also decided which of these sidings would develop into towns. They acquired property around the sidings, surveyed and platted the land into blocks and lots and sold the real estate to merchants, laborers and others who provided support facilities for the area farmers. Every platted town in Clay County was established on a railroad line.

One town, however, began somewhat differently, even more dependent on a railroad. This year marks the centenary of the beginning of Dilworth's dramatic rise from sleepy siding with a lone grain elevator into what is now the county's second largest city.

In 1883, 12 years after the Northern Pacific Railway

built their mainline west from Duluth to Moorhead, they placed a railroad siding about 4 miles east of the Red River. The NP named it Richardson, probably for Samuel Richardson, a local land owner. The next year, the railroad renamed it Dilworth for coffee importer and member of the NP's Board of Directors, Joseph Dilworth. The station seemed destined to be just another obscure siding, like Tenney or Nada or Witherow.

The railroads could only expect their steam locomotives to travel so far before being refitted, refueled and inspected. They established Division Headquarters about every one-hundred miles along their lines. Here the engines had the fires knocked out of them, had repairs made and were prepared for their return trip. The NP had Division HQs at Staples, Fargo, Jamestown, Mandan and so on, west. The Staples to Fargo section was called the "Minnesota Division," Fargo to Jamestown the "Fargo Division." In the late 1890s, the Fargo Division's facilities sat west of today's University Drive. (The car repair shops and roundhouse still stand. Classic Roadsters occupied the car shops in the 1980s.) West of the HQ was a water body, variously called Big Slough or Long Lake (today it's Cass County Drain number 3). Though it provided a water source for the thirsty steam locomotives, it blocked the NP from expanding their facility to the west. Hemmed in by new businesses on the other sides, the NP decided in spring 1906 to move everything (car repair shops, roundhouse, the whole shebang) out to this railroad siding east of Moorhead, Dilworth. There they would have ample room to expand. A massive building operation soon followed.

It really was a mammoth undertaking. By July 1906, the NP had purchased nearly 500 acres of land around their siding. The new HQ required several different facilities. A main feature was the





Beginning in summer 1907 businesses and homes popped up in Dilworth like mushrooms. This view looks east on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South from Main Street about 1910. The village grew from practically zero population in mid-1907 to nearly 500 by spring 1910. Haakon Bjornaas Collection, Courtesy of the Northwestern Minnesota Historical Center, MSUM.

roundhouse, a huge building shaped like a donut with a bite out of it. In the center of the donut's hole was a turntable, like a big Lazy Susan. A locomotive was driven onto the turntable which rotated the engine toward one of 45 stalls. In the stall the locomotive was repaired and refitted. Then the engine backed out onto the turntable and spun about to pull another train back the other direction.

Yards were necessary for the building of trains. Cars loaded with goods for a delivery to particular points had to be placed in trains in proper order in an elaborate choreography. This meant shuttling cars about on a number of parallel tracks. The NP constructed yards for building eastbound freights southwest of the roundhouse and westbound freights to the northeast.

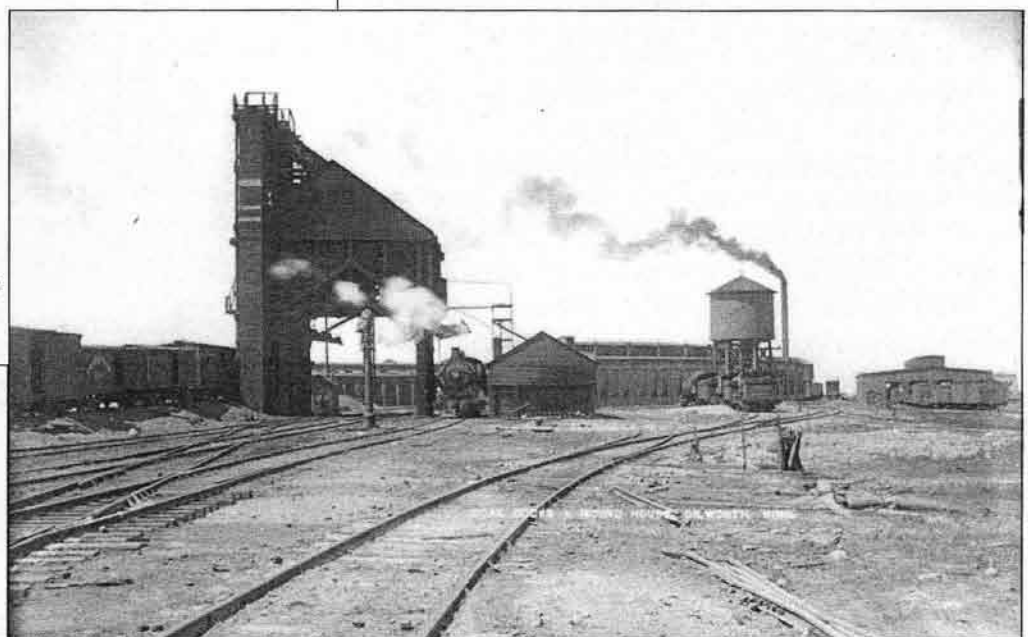
That meant leveling the ground to create a flat surface. Earth for filling low spots came from another part of the project, the Gantz Reservoir. The NP needed a new source of water for its engines and the community which would

grow up around the site. They dug a 2,000 by 600 foot reservoir along their tracks at Gantz siding just west of the South Branch of the Buffalo River. (We told the story of that problem-plagued project in our *Newsletter* of September/October 1994. The NP's hole in the ground would not hold water – it ran out through a layer of sand like water from a leaky bucket. A second reservoir on the east side of the river proved more successful. Pipes carried water to Dilworth until the late 1950s. Today the east lake is home to the North Dakota Retriever Club. The now dry west reservoir is choked with trees.)

Two water towers, a huge coal dock for loading engine tenders with fuel, and ice houses for

Continued next page...

Dilworth coal dock, Dilworth yards, about 1910. The NP's Dilworth construction was a mammoth undertaking. Note the roundhouse in the distance and the car repair shops at right. The view is to the west. Haakon Bjornaas Collection, Courtesy of the Northwestern Minnesota Historical Center, MSUM.



### Dilworth's Genesis, cont. from page 9



Dilworth School, about 1910. The student population of Dilworth's District 81 grew from 8 in 1896 to 93 in 1908. In 1909 the District built this new school in the quickly growing townsite. Haakon Bjornas Collection, Courtesy of the Northwestern Minnesota Historical Center, MSUM.

refrigerator cars were also necessary. A new small depot for passengers went up in 1906. The NP replaced it three years later with a 30 by 78 foot building. Part of that structure now stands in Dilworth's Whistle Stop Park next to a restored NP switch engine and caboose.

The NP needed new offices once the Fargo Division HQ was officially transferred to the Dilworth location. In 1908, they built a two-story office building north of the roundhouse. The yard offices occupied the first floor. The second floor housed the Division Superintendent's staff and operations.

The NP faced major challenges in the construction, including finding laborers. In 1906, the economy was booming, farmers paid good wages, Moorhead and Glyndon were building major sewer projects and Fargo's new Great Northern depot was under construction. That fall the NP brought in a number of Italian laborers from the Twin Cities and the east. Italians had worked for the NP locally for years. Many lived near the Big Slough facilities west of Fargo. A number wound up living in the new community.

In addition to those who worked in the roundhouse and repair shops, the NP needed housing at the new facility for the train crews who stayed overnight.

The railroad built a 33-room hotel on what's now the corner of Main and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South.

Many NP employees were not thrilled with the new plans. Hundreds lived in Fargo-Moorhead and were not enthusiastic about the prospective 45 minute commute to and from the new site.

The NP established a townsite for their employees. The railroad's subsidiary, the Northwestern Improvement Company (NWIC), bought land and platted Dilworth Original Townsite on September 1, 1906. They arranged for married employees to buy lots at attractive rates and offered to advance them up to \$1,500 for the building of a home. The first houses went up in fall 1907. Many more were constructed the following spring.

The NP hoped to tightly control the townsite, but their plans foundered. In November 1906, NP Land Commissioner Thomas Cooper proposed that the NP sell residential lots only to its workers, but acknowledged that the railroad could not "prevent subsequent transfer of the property to the hands of non-employees." Likewise, plans to make Dilworth a dry town fell through. Cooper's efforts to acquire a saloon-free property "buffer" around the townsite failed when neighboring land owners held out for more money.

The Original Townsite included the area now bounded by Center Avenue (US Highway 10) on the north, 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South on the south, 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW on the west and 7<sup>th</sup> Street SE on the east. The plat placed most business lots on the north side of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South. But very few sold. The new town's commercial district wound up two blocks north on Center Avenue, then the "County Road." The Northwestern Improvement Company soon filed other plats north and west of the Original Townsite.

The Moorhead business community was ecstatic over the railroad's move. In June 1906, the *Moorhead Independent* gushed that "Moorhead is about to receive the biggest boost in her history this summer by the Northern Pacific... the works to be erected are of great magnitude and will be the best advertisement that Moorhead could possibly get."

Continued next page...

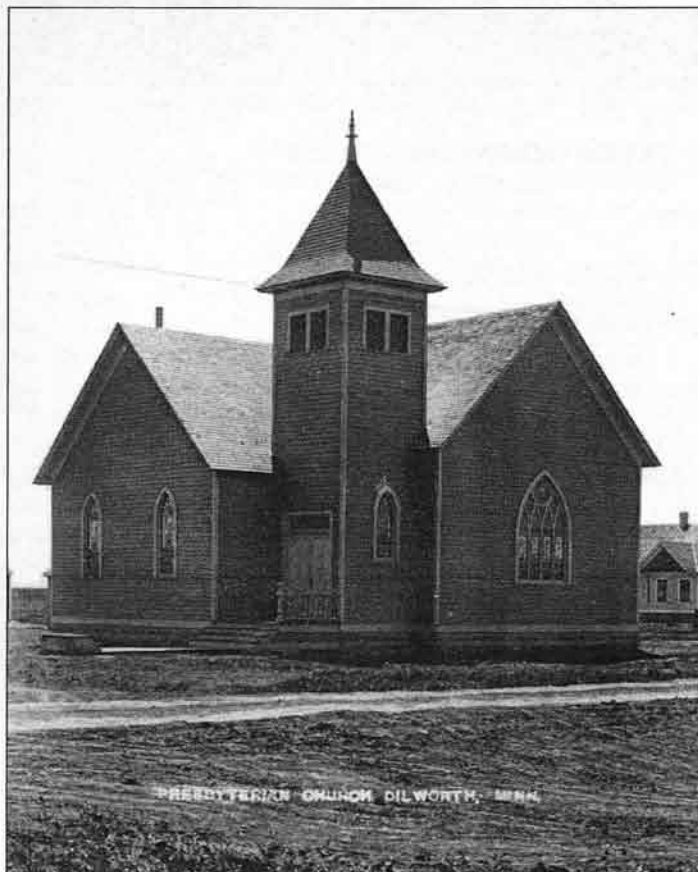
**Dilworth's Genesis, cont. from page 10**

When the NWIC's negotiations with John S. Shapland for the Original Townsite broke down, the NP began looking at land a half-mile to the east, further from Moorhead. Mayor C. A. Nye and several Councilmen quickly intervened and worked out a compromise. The *Independent* commented, "Bringing this townsite nearer to this city will be of inestimable value. It will mean that a large number of railroad men will build near the city [Moorhead] and make their home there in order to give their children the benefit of educational advantages to be derived in this city. This means a larger population for the city and a good thing all around."

Indeed, Dilworth's rapid growth did challenge its school system. The Clay County Commission approved of School District 81 on March 3, 1896. This encompassed the northeastern quarter of Moorhead Township, home to eight school-age children. In 1905, District 81 built a new one-room school a half-mile south of today's Dilworth Community Center. But by 1908, the school's population had ballooned to 93! The District built a new, much larger school just south of the present Dilworth Elementary.

One of the earliest institutions in the new village was the Dilworth Presbyterian Church. Through the efforts of Moorhead Presbyterian minister Dugald McIntyre, the church broke ground May 15, 1907. Their very active ladies aid society raised money through a series of bake sales and socials. When the church was dedicated August 11, the congregation was free of debt. The church still stands. It's likely Dilworth's oldest building.

St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church was slower in coming. According to a typescript history from the church, in 1907, Father Charles Cannon of Moorhead's St. Joseph's parish visited the townsite to take a survey of Dilworth's Catholics and "to determine local interest in forming a mission church." The effort had limited success, but over the next few years Father Gerard Speilman of St. Joseph's celebrated mass in private homes. In July 1910, new efforts to form a church began. Less than two months later, the community dedicated a new 35



Dilworth Presbyterian Church, about 1910. Dedicated August 1907, the Presbyterian Church is probably Dilworth's oldest standing building. Haakon Bjornaas Collection, Courtesy of the Northwestern Minnesota Historical Center, MSUM.

by 51 foot concrete block church. It served the St. Elizabeth's congregation until the present church went up in 1964.

Businesses quickly sprang up during summer 1907. In late July, Moorhead's Ballord-Trimble Lumber Company opened a yard at the rapidly growing village. A few days later Olaus Anderson opened a general store on the corner of today's Center Avenue and Main Street. Two weeks after that, Rasmus Haugsted opened another general store half a block north. In mid-August Haugsted became Dilworth's first Post Master and ran the Post Office from his store. By 1910, Dilworth was also home to a bank, two hotels, a grocery, a dairy, a meat market, a bakery, at least two restaurants and a barbershop. Some 498 people lived there. Nearly 70% worked for the railroad.

Just as the NWIC was buying up land for their

Continued on page 13...



## Heritage Members and Sponsors

Please help us thank these business members for supporting the Clay County Historical Society by patronizing them with your business:

### **Patriarch (\$500+)**

City of Barnesville  
CM Associates, Richard T. McMurray,  
Annandale, VA  
State Bank of Moorhead (Sponsor)

### **Settler (\$200-\$499)**

Eventide  
First National Bank of Hawley  
Mac's, Inc.

### **Trailblazer (\$100-\$199)**

Dilworth/Glyndon/Felton ISD  
Don's Car Wash, Inc.  
Harmon Glass Doctor of Moorhead  
City of Hawley  
Korsmo Funeral Service  
Moorhead Antique Mall  
Moorhead Area Public Schools  
Moorhead Drug Company  
Moorhead Midday-Central Lions  
Moorhead Vikingland Kiwanis  
Muffler Man, Inc. (Sponsor)  
Rigels, Inc.  
Scheels Moorhead  
Sellin Brothers, Inc.  
State Bank of Hawley  
Wright Funeral Home  
YHR Partners, Ltd.

### **Explorer (\$50-\$99)**

Bentley & Bentley, DDS  
Moorhead Area Retired Educators  
Richtman's Press Club  
Stenerson Lumber

The number of members in the following categories continues to grow! Thank you to all of our wonderful members for your tremendous support.

### **Individual Patriarch (\$500+)**

Jon & Phyllis Evert, Moorhead (Sponsor)  
Darren & Jane Leno, Moorhead  
Lynne M. Olson, Fargo  
Elsie Pitsenbarger, Fargo

### **Individual Settler (\$200-\$499)**

David R. Alme, Kennewick, WA

Jim & Chris Stenerson, Moorhead

### **Individual Trailblazer (\$100-199)**

Robert & Selma Anderson  
Rod & Audrey Angstman  
Carl L. & June Bailey  
Roland & Carolyn Barden  
Jim Bergquist & Jane Eastes  
Al & Meredith Bloomquist  
Kevin & Kristy Campbell  
Dr. Yvonne Condell  
Paul & Joyce Eidbo  
John & Audrey Elton  
Rodney Erickson  
Graham & Madrene Goeson  
Burton Grover  
Delmar & Rhoda Hansen  
Andre & Emily Houghlum  
Hal F. Janneck  
Ardee & Eunice Johnson  
Richard & Sharon Krabbenhoft  
James H. Landblom  
Patricia Lynde-Hemmah  
Robert & JoAnn Nyquist  
E. Robert & Donna Olson  
Esther O. Olson  
Charlotte Onstine  
Elaine G. Oss  
Lloyd & Bev Paulson  
James & Dorothy Powers  
Donna M. Richards  
Karol Kay Peterson Rood  
Bev & John Rowell  
Steve & Lucia Schroeder  
Hazel & Davis A. Scott  
William Snyder  
Ruth & Olin Storvick  
Phyllis W. Thysell  
Ron & Deanna Ulven  
Mark & Donna Voxland  
Marguerite A. Wardeberg  
Tom & Sherry Watt  
Ron & Loretta Welch  
Eldon Wollmann

### **Individual Explorer (\$50-\$99)**

Marjorie Aakre  
Howard Anderson & Pat Hinze  
Sharon Benzel  
Gary & Rose Bergan  
Richard & June Chenoweth  
Helen Danielson  
Jim & Portia Danielson  
Leland & Dorothy Delger

Roland & Beth Dille  
Maybelle Dinsmore  
Dorothy A. Dodds  
Paul & Mardeth Dovre  
Gordon & Carol Ekre  
Jerome C. & Pamela Ekre  
Carroll & Joan Engelhardt  
Katherine Erickson  
Michael J. & Kathy Farrell  
Howard R. Geng  
Janet Gorman  
Patty Gulsvig  
Lloyd Gunderson  
Ann P. Gytri  
Ethel & Ralph Hest  
Herman & Gail Holland  
Gail D. Jordahl  
Paul E. & Florence Korsmo  
Lois L. Kundert  
David & Anne Larson  
Neil H. Larson  
Gloria Lee  
John David Lee  
Don & Alvina Lein  
Jay & Rebecca Leitch  
Bob & Phyllis Litherland  
Janet K. Martin  
Ethel R. Medalen  
Kathy & Ron Mentjes  
Dan & Faith Meurrens  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan B. Murphy  
Larry & Jan Nelson  
Gisela S. Nobel  
Bev Nokken  
Richard & Helen Pemble  
Sherwood, Jr. & Wendy Peterson  
L. Diane Pickett  
Lloyd G. & Earlyce Pladson  
Paul Pratt  
Eugene & Karen Prim  
Elsie Quam  
John Reber  
Mel & Margaret Ristvedt  
Terry Shoptaugh & Deborah Janzen  
Marge Stoa  
Ray & Erma Stordahl  
Alvin & Diane Swanson  
Bob & Linda Swanson  
Bruce M. Thorson  
Chris & Ellen Velline  
Howard & Marcell Wergeland  
Dale D. White  
James & Marilyn Zank  
Dick & Kathy Zaylskie  
Dave & Carol Zielinski

## 75th Anniversary Sponsors

### \$1,000 Donors

Arnie Ellingson  
Paul Pratt

### 75th Anniversary Exhibit Sponsors

CCHS Heritage Members  
Kay Mahar

### Buffalo Fire Engine Sponsors

Darren & Jane Leno  
Charlotte Onstine  
Donna M. Richards  
Hazel & Davis Scott

### Bergquist Cabin Open House

State Bank of Moorhead

### Harry Rinker Events Sponsors

KFGO 790-AM  
Strand & Marcy Insurance Agency  
AmericInn Lodge & Suites of  
Moorhead  
Don and Alvina Lein  
Hornbacher's Foods  
Lynn Brakke Farms  
Moorhead Antique Mall  
Mikkelson Insurance  
Johnson & Johnson Insurance  
Summit Financial Services  
Lichtsinn, Anderson Insurance  
Gio's at the AmericInn  
Speakeasy Restaurant  
Snap Dragon Restaurant  
Village Inn Restaurant

### Clay County Fair Ice Cream Social

Jon and Phyllis Evert

### Diamond Jubilee Birthday Blast

Juan and Annele Mondragon, owners of Juano's Restaurants, Juano's Latin Bar and coming soon, John Alexander's American Classics Restaurant and Bar

### General 75th Anniversary Sponsors

Jerry Dow  
Gate City Bank  
Janice & Erling Linde  
Mark & Donna Voxland

### Dilworth's Genesis, cont. from page 11

townsite, area farmer Carl Bean was buying land on the other side of the tracks. He filed a plat on Bean's First Addition just south of the roundhouse in November 1907. On January 8, 1910 he sold his first 5 lots to Italian immigrant Rosina Boit. Mrs. Boit promptly sold them to five other Italians. Other Italian railroad laborers quickly bought lots. By April, Bean's Addition was home to 12 Italian families. The neighborhood soon became known as "Little Italy."

Italians faced discrimination in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in Clay County. The *Moorhead Daily News*' first reference to Italians, in July 1907, was a disparaging remark about the immigrants' work ethic. Through the next ten years the *News* regularly referred to Italians as "Dagoes" and worse. The immigrants were routinely given the hardest, dirtiest jobs on the railroad, often toiling for years in the roundhouse and icehouses before being allowed better paying road jobs. Newspapers called the daily shop train between Fargo and Dilworth the "Dago Express."

In April 1917, the U.S. entered World War I on the side of Entente Powers, including Italy. With Italy a trusty ally, discrimination lessened. President Woodrow Wilson declared May 24, 1918 as "Italy

Day" to commemorate the alliance. Dilworth held a flag raising, band concert and other activities. The following August, Dilworth Italians invited area residents to help them celebrate the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. Large numbers of curious folks from Moorhead and Fargo attended the festivities. Arches, banners, flags and bunting decorated Little Italy's streets. A shrine to the Virgin stood on the neighborhood's main thoroughfare, "beautifully decorated with lace and needlework done by the women of the colony." A concert by the Moorhead Municipal Band and a display of locally produced fireworks followed.

Like most Italian immigrants, Little Italy's residents were primarily from southern Italy, a stronghold of the Carmelite Order. Dilworth Italians formed the Our Lady of Monte Carmelo Society. With the success of the August 1918 event, Society members continued and expanded the festival. By the 1930s it was a huge celebration, with thousands of locals coming to experience music, boxing matches, games and exotic foods, like spaghetti and red wine. The annual fest ended after 1940 when Italy entered World War II on the side of the Axis Powers. St. Elizabeth's semi-annual spaghetti dinners are a reminder of the event.

Continued next page...

## New and Renewed Memberships

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

### NEW MEMBERS

\*Pam Aakre, Hawley  
 Marisa Benson, Atlanta, GA  
 \*Jean E. Carver, Barnesville  
 \*Paulette Davis, Barnesville  
 \*Kelli Froslic, Barnesville  
 Joyce M. Gosnell, Moorhead  
 \*Stacy & Char Grosz, Barnesville  
 \*Ashley Johnk, Fargo  
 \*Lynae Schenck, Hawley  
 Kelly J. Wambach, Moorhead  
 Renee Weddell, Yorba Linda, CA  
 \*Denotes gift memberships

### UPGRADES

Linda Fleming, Pine Valley, CA  
 Neil H. Larson, Harwood, ND  
 Patricia Lynde-Hemmah, Glyndon  
 Karen & Orris Myran, Hawley  
 Lynne M. Olson, Fargo  
 James & Marilyn Zank (formerly Marilyn White), Moorhead

### RENEWALS

Marjorie Aakre, Moorhead  
 Olive Andvik, Moorhead  
 Arlie L. Barrett, Brownsville, TX  
 Jolene Beckman, Moorhead  
 Mrs. Helen D. Benson, Moorhead  
 Beth Brunelle, Fargo  
 Kevin & Kristy Campbell, Moorhead  
 Florene Culp, Audubon, MN  
 Ione Diiro, Moorhead  
 Dorothy A. Dodds, Moorhead  
 June Adele Dolva, Moorhead  
 Delores Eiler, Fargo  
 Carroll & Joan Engelhardt, Moorhead  
 Daniel & Dorothy Fandrich, Moorhead  
 Jim Fay, Moorhead  
 Maurice Floberg, Moorhead  
 Dorothy Garven, Los Angeles, CA  
 Mae Gee, Moorhead  
 James Gilbery, Yakima, WA  
 Raymond & Joan Grefsrud, Hawley  
 Burton Grover, Bellingham, WA  
 Ann P. Gytri, Felton, MN  
 Bette & Fred Haring, Lake Park, MN  
 Paul Harris & LuAnn Hagel, Mhd  
 Douglas P. Johnson, Bemidji, MN  
 Noma M. Kane (Rygg), Tucson, AZ  
 Frank & Loureigne Kimm, Pelican Rapids, MN  
 Donna C. Knauber, Sabin

Kent & Donna Knutson, Moorhead  
 Ramona Kooren, Hawley  
 Connie Kopp, Moorhead  
 Margret Kragnes, Moorhead  
 Morrie & Ruth Lanning, Moorhead  
 Don & Alvina Lein, Glyndon  
 Mac's, Inc., Moorhead  
 Moorhead Area Retired Educators Asc.  
 Milo M. Moyano, Moorhead  
 Robert & JoAnn Nyquist, Moorhead  
 Janice J. Peltz, Fargo  
 Elsie Quam, Hawley  
 Rigels, Inc., Moorhead  
 Paul H. Rustad, Fargo  
 Ron & Nancy Saeger, Fargo  
 Matt K. Scheibe, Eugene, OR  
 Ardis E. Severson, Moorhead  
 Al & Janet Traaseth, Dilworth  
 \*Kirk & Kathy Watt, Glyndon  
 Evert Wiisanen, Moorhead  
 Jim & Clara Wilkins, Fargo  
 Eldon Wollmann, Moorhead  
 Dick & Kathy Zaylskie, Fargo

**CORRECTION:** Larry and Marcella MacLeod should have been listed in the November/December 2006 renewals in the January/February 2007 newsletter. CCHS apologizes for this omission.

### Dilworth's Genesis, cont. from page 13

Early Dilworth's growth came with problems. The sudden influx of mostly single, often rowdy, working men brought crime. In May 1907, Clay County Sheriff Archie Whaley stopped an impromptu, illegal prize fight. In August, two "business partners" (owners of an illegal saloon) assaulted one another and a workman shot and stabbed two others in a brawl. Though platted, Dilworth was still part of and administered by Moorhead Township. In 1911, the village formally incorporated and established its own government and law enforcement.

The NP continued its importance to the community through the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but changes occurred. A

May 1958 *Fargo Forum* article estimated that in the 1930s 90% of Dilworth's employed worked for the railroad. By 1958, the year the NP phased out its last (labor intensive) steam locomotives in favor of diesels, it had dropped to 50%. By the late 1980s, the percentage was less than 40, and it continues to shrink today.

However, the town keeps growing. Many new residents work in the Fargo Moorhead area and commute. In the 1990s, Dilworth's population increased from 2,562 to just over 3,000, a whopping 17%. Compared to Moorhead's population of over 32,000, Barnesville's 2,173 and Hawley's 1,882, Dilworth is now the second biggest city in Clay County. Not bad for a one-time sleepy railroad siding!



**Celebrating**  
**75**  
**Clay**  
**County**  
**Historical**  
**Society**  
**1932-2007**

*Connecting  
People  
to the History  
of Clay County,  
Minnesota  
for 75 Years!*

*Feel free to  
tear off this  
page of the  
newsletter to  
send in your  
contribution for  
the Jubilee  
Fund Drive!*

## Preserving our Past, Funding our Future

### Diamond Jubilee Fund Drive - \$75,000 for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

#### ***Become a Collections Steward!***

Level	Amount	Benefits
Penny Campaign	\$7.50	Vintage Photos of Rural Life Postcard Book
Supporter	\$75	Souvenir of Moorhead 1905-1906 Book
Donor	\$250	Frameable 8"x10" Historic Photo of CCHS Property
Sponsor	\$1,000+	Artist's Print of Clay County Landscape

***I wish my contribution to be dedicated toward a Collections Fund and/or 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Projects:***

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Collections: Archives & Artifacts   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1870s Pioneer Bergquist Cabin         | <input type="checkbox"/> 1895 District No. 3 Woodland School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1936 Buffalo Fire Truck               | <input type="checkbox"/> 1875 Parke Township Yankee Cemetery |

#### ***Become a Member/Renew Your Membership!***

Level (please check one)	Amount	Benefits
Pioneer Individual	\$25	Bi-Monthly Newsletter Access to CCHS History Tours Free/Discounted Admission to CCHS Programs/Events 50% Discount on \$20 Per Hour Archival Research Fee \$1 Off Admission to Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretive Center
Pioneer Family	\$40	All of the Above
Explorer	\$50	All of the Above PLUS 25% Discount on Reproductions of Archival Photos 25% Discount on Acid-Free Supplies
Trailblazer	\$100	All of the Above PLUS Frameable Membership Certificate
Settler	\$200	All of the Above PLUS Four Tickets to Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretive Center One Hour of Free Archival Research
Patriarch	\$500	All of the Above PLUS Frameable 8"x10" reproduction of Historic Photo of Choice Two Complimentary Tickets to the CCHS Annual Meeting
Patron	\$5,000	10-Year Membership – All of the Above!

***Businesses are eligible for Explorer, Trailblazer, Settler, Patriarch and Patron Memberships***

#### ***Contribute an Item for the Silent Auction October***

Item	Value (\$25+)	Description

#### ***I will support Clay County Historical Society's \$75,000 Goal!***

*Please complete the following, enclose your check payable to "Clay County Historical Society", and send to: CCHS, PO Box 501, Moorhead MN 56561*

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ I wish my gift to be anonymous: ☐ Yes

Name (for membership card) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name (for business) \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names (for families) \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/Email \_\_\_\_\_

***Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping us to reach our \$75,000 Goal!***

The Clay County Historical Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization supported by members, the Clay County Commission, sponsors and grants. Contributions to the Clay County Historical Society are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

**CLAY  
COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

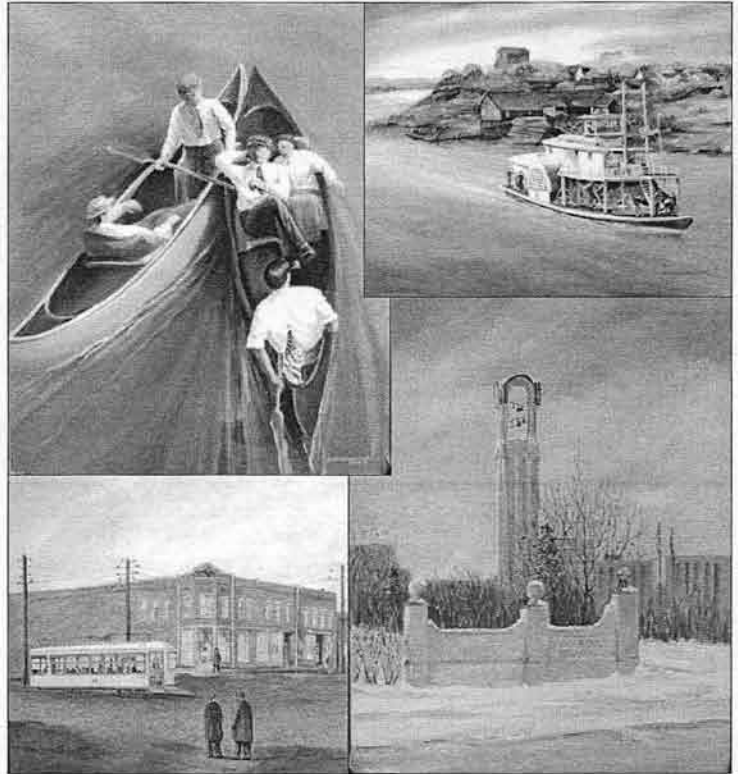
Hjemkomst Center  
202 First Avenue North  
PO Box 501  
Moorhead MN 56561  
Phone: 218-299-5520  
www.info.co.clay.mn.us/history

# *...all about Moorhead by artist Donna Chalimonczyk*

Area artist and CCHS Member Donna Chalimonczyk has created a delightful series of paintings modeled on both historic photos and modern scenes in Moorhead and the Red River Valley! Donna is giving a portion of all sales of the prints and paintings to the Clay County Historical Society. The 16x20" paintings are for sale at \$300, and she will have giclee prints made in two sizes. Prices for the prints will be \$115 for 12x18" and \$90 for 10x16". The prints can be printed on canvas or heavy acid-free paper.

The seven scenes are: Red River Flood, 1897; Hjemkomst Center & Stave Church, 2006; The Pluck, Red River, 1890s; Birnby Trolley, 1920s; Concordia Carillon, 2006; Canoeing the Red, 1890s; and Moorhead Dairy Queen, 2006. The paintings are on display in the Hjemkomst Center, in the display case next to the building staff desk.

Contact Donna for more information, or to purchase a painting or print: 218-287-2065 or e-mail: [donnachali@juno.com](mailto:donnachali@juno.com)

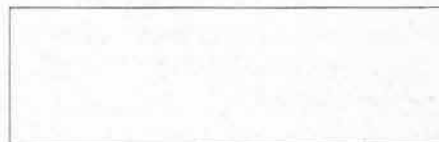


## CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hjemkomst Center  
202 1st Ave N  
PO Box 501  
Moorhead MN 56561

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Moorhead, MN  
56561  
PERMIT NO. 494

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Check us out at:  
[www.info.co.clay.mn.us/history](http://www.info.co.clay.mn.us/history)