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.

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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.
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.

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.

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

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

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**

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BOOST FOR BARNESVILLE is a special display at the Barnesville Public Library honoring the city's 125th 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!

**Artifacts & Donors**

**May and June 2007**

Donors:
Moorhead: Ruth Johnson, Verne and Carol Wilk [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 50th, 49th & 48th 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.

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**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 5th Silent Auction in the hall cases!
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 29th 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. 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 1st 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 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 Bjornaaas 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 2nd 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, 2nd Avenue South on the south, 4th Street SW on the west and 7th Street SE on the east. The plat placed most business lots on the north side of 2nd 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 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 Ballard-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
Richman'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

**Individual Trailblazer ($100-199)**
Robert & Selma Anderson
Rod & Audrey Angstman
Carl L. & June Bailey
Roland & Carolyn Barden
Jim Bergquist & Janie Eastes
AI & Meredith Bloomquist
Kevin & Kristy Campbell
Dr. Yvonne Condell
Paul & Joyce Eidbo
John & Audrey Elton
Rodney Erickson
Graham & Madlene Goosen
Burton Grover
Delmar & Rhoda Hansen
Andre & Emily Houglum
Hal F. Jannke
Ardie & Eunice Johnson
Richard & Sharon Krabbenhoff
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 & David A. Scott
William Snyder
Ruth & Olin Storvick
Phyllis W. Thysell
Ron & Deanna Ulven
Mark & Donna Voitland
Marguerite A. Wardeberg
Tom & Sherry Watt
Ron & Loretta Welch
Elion Wollmann

**Individual Explorer ($50-$99)**
Marjorie Aakre
Howard Anderson & Pat Hinze
Sharan Benzel
Gary & Rose Bergan
Richard & June Chenoweth
Helen Danielson
Jim & Portia Danielson
Leland & Dorothy Delger
Roland & Beth Dille
Maybelle Dinsmore
Dorothy A. Dodd
Paul & Mardele 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 Korso
Lois L. Kandt
David & Anne Larson
Neil H. Larson
Gloria Lee
John David Lee
Don & Alvina Lein
Jay & Rebeca Leitch
Bob & Phyllis Litherland
Janet K. Martin
Ethel R. Medalen
Kathy & Ron Mentjes
Dan & Faith Meurmans
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 Quan
John Reber
Mel & Margaret Ristvedt
Terry Shoptaugh & Deborah Janzen
Marge Stoan
Ray & Erma Stordahl
Alvin & Diane Swanson
Bob & Linda Swanson
Bruce M. Thorson
Chris & Ellen Veline
Howard & Marcel Vangeland
Dale D. White
James & Marilyn Zank
Dick & Kathy Zaylksie
Dave & Carol Zielinski
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 20th 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...
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 Froslie, 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 Kragne, 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
Elidon 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.

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**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 20th 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 fazed 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!
Preserving our Past, Funding our Future
Diamond Jubilee Fund Drive - $75,000 for the 75th Anniversary!

Become a Collections Steward!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Penny Campaign</td>
<td>$7.50</td>
<td>Vintage Photos of Rural Life Postcard Book</td>
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<td>Supporter</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>Souvenir of Moorhead 1905-1906 Book</td>
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<td>Donor</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>Frameable 8”x10” Historic Photo of CCHS Property</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsor</td>
<td>$1,000+</td>
<td>Artist’s Print of Clay County Landscape</td>
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I wish my contribution to be dedicated toward a Collections Fund and/or 75th Anniversary Projects:
- 75th Anniversary Projects
- 1870s Pioneer Bergquist Cabin
- 1936 Buffalo Fire Truck
- Collections: Archives & Artifacts
- 1895 District No. 3 Woodland School
- 1875 Parke Township Yankee Cemetery

Become a Member/Renew Your Membership!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level (please check one)</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pioneer Individual</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pioneer Family</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>All of the Above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explorer</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>All of the Above PLUS 25% Discount on Reproductions of Archival Photos 25% Discount on Acid-Free Supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trailblazer</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>All of the Above PLUS Frameable Membership Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Settler</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>All of the Above PLUS Four Tickets to Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretive Center One Hour of Free Archival Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patriarch</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>All of the Above PLUS Frameable 8”x10” reproduction of Historic Photo of Choice Two Complimentary Tickets to the CCHS Annual Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patron</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>10-Year Membership - All of the Above!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Contribute an Item for the Silent Auction October

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Value ($25+)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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.
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; Bimby Trolley, 1920s; Concordia Carillon, 2006; Canoeling 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