

# Clay County Historical Society


Volume XXXI No. 4

Clay County Historical Society Newsletter

July/August 2008



This unidentified photo from CCHS Collections is almost certainly Andrew and Stennom Roen's Case Model "P" combine, purchased in 1927 for \$2,400. It was the first combine to operate in Clay County. See the story beginning on page 8.

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

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## CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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## President's Message

Greetings from CCHS!

In a recent letter to society members I gave an update on the progress of talks between CCHS and the Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretive Center (HHIC). I reported that our organizations have been discussing ways to cooperate more closely together, and that these discussions have been very positive, fostering good communication and trust between our organizations.



I said in the letter that one of the opportunities now being examined is whether it would be good for the long term continuation of the missions of both CCHS and HHIC if the organizations and their missions were to combine under a single executive director.

Several members took the opportunity to cordially contact me by phone, email and letter, either to express their support or their concern for such a move. I've learned that there is a range of sentiment among CCHS members. Some members have been outright supportive of a merger, wondering why merger talks have taken so long. Others have expressed the general sentiment that we must take care not to simply create a weaker, single organization, and that we must be careful that our mission may somehow be diluted if the organizations were to combine.

Among members of the CCHS board, the sentiment seems to mirror what I have heard from the membership this past month. I think all of us agree that a combined organization would need to be able to better leverage the public/private investment that has been made in the Hjemkomst Center over the past decades by private donors, volunteers, city and county government and the State of Minnesota. We are aware that many people have a sense of ownership of CCHS by virtue of the hard work and contributions they have been made. I sense that the board is very mindful and respectful of that fact.

Since I wrote my letter to members, not much additional information has been learned. We are still waiting to hear word from the city and the county about important financial details which will indicate whether a single organization can maintain the diversity of support that

the two organizations now enjoy. If the board learns that a merger would not make financial sense it's likely that the idea will go no further, except to continue the good working cooperation that has resulted from these talks. If the Board believes that it is in our best interests to move forward, then I will call you to a special meeting to discuss it further. Either way, I will be sure to keep you posted.

So, in the weeks ahead you may read about this issue in the newspaper as we speak to city and county officials. This is all part of the process in finding out if this is the right step for our organization. If you have any questions, please continue to feel free to contact me directly at 218-831-3239, or at [Darren@leno.net](mailto:Darren@leno.net).

**Clay County Museum Hours: 10-5 Monday-Saturday, 10-9 Tuesday, 12-5 Sunday**

**Archives Hours: 10-5 Monday-Friday, 10-9 Tuesday**

**Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Avenue North, Moorhead, MN ♦ FREE ADMISSION**

# Get your seat on the Oktoberfest and Vatican exhibit Members History Tour!

CCHS is pleased to announce another History Tour for our members! We have an exciting tour planned for October 3 and 4 to see the amazing Vatican Splendors exhibit at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul and experience the sights, sounds and flavors of Oktoberfest in the most German city in the U.S.—New Ulm!

The tour will depart from the Hjemkomst Center Friday morning, October 3 and travel along Interstate-94. We will have a brief coffee and rest break at Alexandria, and then travel on to the History Center in St. Paul for lunch at the Café Minnesota and browsing other History Center exhibits before our scheduled tour of the *Vatican Splendors* exhibit. After our History Center visit, we will drive down to Mankato for dinner and to stay overnight. The next morning we will travel the short distance to New Ulm for our Oktoberfest experience!

The *Vatican Splendors* exhibit is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see approximately 200 works of art and historically significant objects from Saint Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museums and Swiss Guard, many of which have never before left the Vatican! The Minnesota History Center will be one of only three sites in the U.S. to host this incredible exhibit. You do not have to be Catholic or Christian to enjoy this exhibit.

From the venerated relics (bone fragments) of Saint Peter to items from the election of Pope Benedict XVI, the *Vatican Splendors* exhibit comprises one of the largest Vatican collections ever to tour North America. Many items have never before been on public view. Michelangelo items and works by Bernini, Giotto and others, artwork dating back to the third century—from culture to history to art, explore how the Papacy has impacted-and been impacted by the world throughout the centuries.

We will be visiting New Ulm during the first



Top: German folk dancers at New Ulm Oktoberfest. Photo compliments New Ulm CVB. Right: Mandylion of Edessa, 3rd-5th century, one of the treasures in the *Vatican Splendors* exhibit. Photo © copyright 2007 Governatorato of the Vatican City State.



## Vatican Splendors and Oktoberfest Tour Schedule

### Friday, October 3

7:30am Leave Hjemkomst Center  
12:30pm Lunch at Minnesota History Center  
2:00pm Vatican Splendor exhibit tour  
6:00pm Dinner and overnight in North Mankato

### Saturday, October 4

8:00am New Ulm City Tour  
11:00am August Schell Brewery Tour  
12:00pm Oktoberfest festival, downtown New Ulm  
4:00pm Leave New Ulm  
7:00pm Dinner  
10:00pm Arrive back in Moorhead

Continued next page...

## Do you have photos and keepsakes of area entertainment?



In September, CCHS, with the cooperation of the Clay County Connection and the publishers of the *Barnesville Record-Review* and *Hawley Herald*, will put out another newspaper-style edition similar to the one done for our

75th Anniversary last year. The 2008 "tabloid" will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the crash of the plane that was carrying Buddy Holly, the Big Bopper and Ritchie Valens to Moorhead for the next stop on their Winter Dance Party Tour, and will also feature other local entertainers and entertainment. The plane carrying the three performers left from Clear Lake, Iowa after the tour's performance there on February 1, 1959 and crashed eight miles away in a snowy cornfield. The tragedy has been dubbed "The day the music died."



CCHS would like to add to its small collection of photos and memorabilia of area entertainers in order to do the area entertainment scene justice. We are looking for anything that documents local entertainment, or people from the area who went on to national renown for their entertaining talent. Many names of bands, musicians and personalities have been tossed around in recent meetings, such as: Bobby Vee, Bernie and Woodchoppers, Buckskin Harry, the Onans, the

Fairmont Old Timers, Ken Kennedy, etc.

Entertainment is not limited to people, however, and we are also looking for photos and things related to venues where entertainment happened and places like roller rinks, etc., particularly Johnson's



Roller Rink in Dilworth. We would love to have a poster or tickets for the Moorhead leg of the Winter Dance Party Tour. If you have any of these things, but are not quite ready to part with them, we would settle for being allowed to scan an image of the object to be able to use for exhibits and programs. Please help us out by digging out and sharing your photos and keepsakes that relate to local entertainment from the advent of radio into the 1970s and 1980s!

## Oktoberfest Tour, cont. from page 3

of the two weekends of their Oktoberfest celebration, so all the entertainers and people who help the event happen will be in top form. While in New Ulm, we will also have a city tour of the town's many historic sites and attractions and visit the August Schell Brewery, the prettiest brewery in the U.S. according to many travel writers!

All attractions fees, accommodations, bus fare, and most meals are included in the \$200 per person tour price. You will have the freedom to choose your Saturday noon meal, whether you want to have a bratwurst at one of the Oktoberfest vendors, or weinerschnitzel at one of New Ulm's authentic German restaurants downtown—it's your choice! The price is based on double occupancy and a cancellation policy applies (see the fine print, below). Single-occupancy is available for an additional fee of \$50 per person. Deadline for registration and payment of tour fee is September 1.

We hope you will join us on this exciting trip! Call Lisa at 299-5520 for more information and to make your reservation now!

CCHS Tour Refund Policy: Cancellations made after the registration deadline are subject to surrender of 30% of the published tour price.

## 2008 Donations

Thank you for these donations so far in 2008!

### January

Joanne Ogren, In Memory of Sandra McEvers  
Golden Age Senior Citizens Club, Arthur, ND, Program

### February

Hunter Friendship Club, Program

### March

Elsie Quam

Sherry Watt, In Memory of Dona Lein

Valley Vintage Car Club, Program

Georgetown Community Affairs Committee, Program

### April

Georgetown Gardniers, Program

### May

Highland Grove Township, Program

Alpha Delta Kappa—Alpha Theta Chapter, Program

### June

Moorhead Area Retired Educators

### August

Marion Gee, In Memory of Mary Ellingson

# A Tribute to Buddy Holly by Lew Ronken and The Shadows to headline CCHS Gala

CCHS announces the theme for our 2nd Annual Gala and Silent Auction will be 1950s Rock and Roll—History Rocks! The Shadows and Lew Ronken's Tribute to Buddy Holly show will be the featured entertainment! The Gala is our annual fundraising event, inaugurated with our 75th Anniversary celebration last year. This year's Gala will take place at the Hjemkomst Center on Thursday, October 30, 6:30 to 10:30pm.

The Shadows were the band that played with Bobby Vee at the Moorhead Armory that fateful night in February 1959 when Buddy Holly, the Big Bopper and Ritchie Valens were scheduled to perform there for the Winter Dance Party Tour. The plane carrying the three from their concert in Clear Lake, Iowa the night before had crashed soon after takeoff. The 50th Anniversary of the event is coming up next year in February 2009.

The Shadows have since toured North America with Bobby Vee, Bob Dylan, The Crickets, and Dick Clark's Road Show. Recently, The Shadows and Lewie Ronken from Lake Park, who has developed an impersonation of Buddy Holly, have performed a show entitled "A Tribute to Buddy Holly" at the Fargo Theatre and the Pavilion at Detroit Lakes. The Tribute show will be the featured program at CCHS' Gala, accompanied by the Borderline Strings, and The Shadows will also play a dance set following the tribute program from 9:30 to 10:30pm.

The CCHS Gala will feature delectable food from John Alexander's in Moorhead. Casual dress is welcome, but guests are encouraged to get into the spirit of the event and dress in 1950s-style attire—wear your poodle skirt and white sport coat with a pink carnation! CCHS will also have a display about the Winter Dance Party Tour and Bobby Vee's Fargo-Moorhead roots.

The 2008 Gala will also have a Silent Auction like last year. CCHS Board members and volunteers are busy rounding up valuable and must-have items for the auction!



Lew Ronken as Buddy Holly

You do not want to miss this event! Get your tickets now at the CCHS Office. Ticket prices are \$40 by October 24 and \$45 on October 25 or after. Buy a whole table of eight for your business or family for \$320 by Oct. 24! Tickets are non-refundable. Call the CCHS office at 299-5520 for more information.



The Shadows



Borderline Strings

*Look for special stories about the Winter Dance Party Tour and Bobby Vee in the special tabloid edition of the Sept./Oct. newsletter!*

## Outreach Displays

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

Barnesville Public Library displays what was HIDDEN FROM VIEW. See items from previously hidden places: Clay County Courthouse vault, Hawley 1919 High School cornerstone, Bethesda Church (Moorhead) cornerstone, and the Glyndon Bicentennial time capsule. View what was in the time capsules! See what was behind walls in Hawley and Barnesville! Dates of the items range from the late 1880s to the 1970s. **Note: the special election display will preempt regular programming from mid-August to mid-September.**



HAIL TO THE CANDIDATE is on the campaign trail again! It will be at the Hawley Public Library only until mid-August. This special display contains memorabilia and interesting facts about the presidential elections held between 1871 and 1984. Artifacts include pinback buttons, a partisan cookie cutter and sheet music titled *With Garfield We'll Conquer Again*. **Note: this display will also make a special whistle stop at the Barnesville Public Library from mid-August to mid-September.**



The Moorhead Public Library has a special display of wood carving in their case this summer and fall.



The display at the Convention and Visitors' Bureau by I-94 in Fargo honors the Minnesota State Sesquicentennial this summer. Minnesota became a state on May 11, 1858. Try a quick Minnesota quiz while you pick up your vacation brochures.

The Hjemkomst Center is featured in a temporary display at the FargoDome in a small case shared between CCHS and HHIC.

## IN-HOUSE DISPLAYS

The east hall case will feature the silent auction items starting in September. The silent auction is part of our *History Rocks!* Gala October 30, 2008. See the story about the Gala on page 5!

\*Dates and topics are subject to change

## Artifacts & Donors

### May and June 2008

#### Donors:

Moorhead: Eddie Gudmundson, Mae Gee, Regina Hanson/Valdemar Hagene/Myron Hagene, Kelly Wambach, Leone Carter

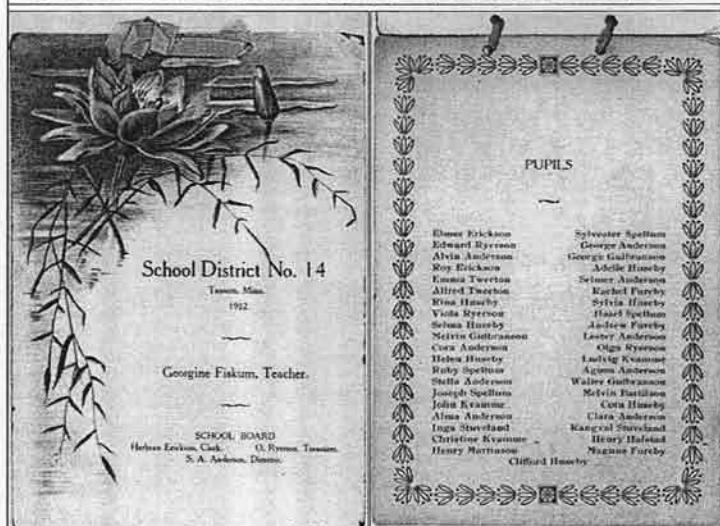
Glyndon: Trent Morse

Rustad: Kurtz Township Board

Breckinridge, MN: Eunice Lindberg Shasky and Kenneth E. Lindberg

**Artifacts:** 10 volumes of financial statements for Clay County for years ending Dec. 31, 1904, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916 & 1919; 2 boxes Kurtz Township records; 4 photos of the Nape/Lisland family including one of their 1930s reunion; key ring promoting the Georgetown Sesquicentennial 1859-2009; a tiny (1 5/16") turned chalice w/stem ring made from flooring of Church of the Good Shepherd which had been torn down; 3 school books (1924, 1928 & 1948) from Glyndon Consolidated Schools on music, health and physical education curriculum for elementary schools published by the Department of Education, St. Paul, Minnesota; a Marx tin litho "The Big Parade" action toy with box; 2 dark brown velvet pillows probably stuffed w/chicken feathers made by Hilda A. Tatley Lindberg who lived in Hawley on Reno Street until 1934; school books & story books, photos, photo-postcards (most identified) and photocopies of school souvenirs belonging to teacher Georgina/Georgia Fiskum.

Souvenir from School Dist. No. 14, Tansem, Minn., 1912.



# Outreach Case Program turns 20

By Pam Burkhardt, Collections Manager

Last issue, we ran an article about the 20th anniversary of CCHS' PAST educational trunk program. While the trunks were being developed, another project was underway to bring CCHS artifact collection closer to County residents. Steve Bremer of Barnesville was hired as an Outreach Coordinator to develop a programming plan for CCHS. Bremer located and contacted suitable sites for displays. Hawley's Norm Roos, husband of then-CCHS Board Member Mercedes Roos, found sponsors. The Sander Jacobson VFW Post in Ulen sponsored a case for placement at Viking Manor and another in the Ulen High School library. The Hitterdal Lions Club sponsored the case at the Hitterdal Senior Center. In addition, on-site cases were offered by the Hawley and Moorhead Public Libraries. The first display, Mildred Heifort's Red River Land dolls, went up at the Hawley Library on September 15, 1988.

In May 1989, Glyndon offered the use of a trophy case at the Glyndon Community Center. A few years later, the Barnesville Area Heritage Society had an on-site display case built for their Public Library. They asked to be added to our display schedule. In May of 1993, *Barnesville's in Business* was set up. That made a total of seven outreach case sites.

Displays usually changed every three months. Topics focused on education, local history and reminiscence depending on the site. The program did increase our visibility, but also increased the amount of work involved. Displays needed to be reformatted to fit the different case shapes and placements at each site. New topics were regularly researched and special requests were honored when possible. The program was a good display-making project for our interns.

The Hjemkomst Center expansion project in 1998 led to an unforeseen change in the outreach program. In the early hours of July 19, 1998, a water main broke directly to the east of the Center. It resulted in an accumulation of 18" of water on the exhibit floor and in one of our storage areas. We had about 1-2" on the next level where our office and other storage areas were located. We put our Outreach Program on hold for the rest of the summer to allow for recovery time.

*Mash Notes* focuses on the area's potato industry. It first appeared at the Barnesville Library in 1995 and has since appeared in the others. This photo was taken at the Moorhead Public Library in 1996.



In the expansion, CCHS gained a larger exhibit area as well as a display case in

the third level hallway. We found that our new areas and flood recovery demanded so much more time that we regretfully decided to cut back on the number of sites. Only the sites with the most visibility and attendance were kept in the program – the three public libraries. Cases at Viking Manor and the High School in Ulen, the Senior Center in Hitterdal and the Glyndon Community Center were discontinued.

In the spring of 2000, the Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors' Bureau asked us to create a display at their building along Interstate 94 in Fargo. The display went up in May and was so well received and had so much traffic that we felt we needed to add that to our schedule. The CVB has a display through the peak tourist season running May through September and a seasonal display during the holidays November into January.

Since the inception of the outreach display program in 1988, we have provided a total of 432 displays containing a total of over 7,500 artifacts along with countless photo panels and the occasional binder. Binders

generally have photocopies of the paper materials being displayed. Outreach topics have included steamboats, "a little lunch," sports, pyrography, elections, music, geology, babies, clothing and accessories, toys, medicine, bread baking, automobiles, fairs, weddings, wood carving, reading, collecting, then-and-now photographs as well as how-tos and what-happened-tos. Artifacts and photos from previous CCHS gallery exhibits are also recycled in this program.

Currently, the library displays are changed about every three to four months with special requests still honored. Be sure to take a look at the current display next time you visit one of these sites.



Alison Ostgarden, intern, prepares an outreach display in 2002.

# Clay County's

By Mark Peihl, Archivist

This summer marks the 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the introduction into Clay County of a piece of equipment destined to not only revolutionize agriculture but a whole way of life. The combine harvester made its first appearance in local fields in early August 1927.

For thousands of years farmers harvested and threshed grain by hand. A few of the earliest and smallest farmers in Clay County cut grain with scythes and loosened the kernels from the chaff and straw by beating with flails or having animals walk on the sheaves. Tossing the crop in the air on a windy day blew away the lighter chaff leaving the kernels.

But by the 1870s and 1880s, when most settlement occurred in Clay County, farmers were using machines for harvest. Horse-drawn binders cut the standing grain, collected the sheaves, and passed them through a device which tied them into bundles and dropped them on the ground. Workers stacked the bundles into carefully arranged piles or shocks to finish drying. Later the dried bundles could be stacked for later threshing or pitch-forked onto wagons which carried them to threshing rigs in the field.

In either case, workmen fed the bundles individually into threshing machines or separators powered by a belt running to a steam (or later gas) powered engine. Inside the separator a spinning cylinder with protruding teeth smashed the incoming grain loosening the kernels from the rest of the head. Fans blew out the chaff and straw and sieves sorted out the grain from weed seeds and debris. The cleaned grain dropped into bags for shipment.

An engine and separator were large capital investments and the whole operation was tremendously labor intensive. Large farms bought their own equipment and hired their own help. Sometimes groups of farmers pooled money for the investment and shared the machines. More often one local farmer bought the equipment and threshed for surrounding farmers, each in turn. The neighbors provided the labor, following the machinery from farm to farm until all the crops were in.

Hired help received between \$1.00 and \$2.00 per day, plus room and board. Housing these men and feeding them was the responsibility of the farmer and his wife, respectively. The latter, especially, was a huge amount of work.

In late summer, thousands of men, usually young and single, poured into the Red River Valley looking for work. Some caused local folks big problems. (In our January/February 2000 *Newsletter* we looked at Moorhead arrest registers for 1901/02 and 1911/12 and found public drunkenness and crime spiking dramatically in the period from August through October each year.)

Samuel Lane of Maine patented a machine to combine the cutting and separating into one operation in 1828, but successful devices first appeared in California much later in the century. At the same time Bonanza farms began in the Red River Valley, similar huge factory wheat farms developed in the Golden State. In the 1880s, the Hold, Best and Stockton Companies produced combine harvesters for the west coast market. Basically a reaper with a threshing machine behind it, these four-ton behemoths required up to 30 horses to pull them. The horses also provided the power for cutter blade and separator via a bull-wheel under the device. The reaper cut the grain and fed it directly into the separator with no binding or stacking. After 1900, similar implements made their way to eastern Washington State and other spots in the northwest.

In the 1910s, companies designed new smaller combines, better suited to small farms. Gas engines replaced horses as the power plant for the separator operation on some machines. On others, power take-off shafts transferred energy from the new gas or kerosene tractors which pulled the machines. By the mid-1920s, combines were taking over harvesting operations across the dry southern and western Great Plains. But they caught on slowly in the moister northeastern prairie region. A major 1926 study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture looked at combine use in various parts of the U.S. and found machines to be efficient and economical when compared to alternative

# First Combines—1927



The first successful combine harvesters operated in California in the 1880s and throughout the Pacific Northwest after 1900. Here 26 horses pull a huge combine through an eastern Washington state field about 1905. Combines designed for use in hilly terrain required leveling adjustments. These were unneeded on the later "Prairie Model" machines used in the Red River Valley. Library of Congress.

harvesting methods. Grain lost during combine harvesting averaged about 4.5%. With binding/threshing the average was over 7%.

The report created much interest, but Red River Valley farmers showed skepticism. In 1927, North Dakota boasted 249 combines, most in the drier

western parts of the states. In Minnesota there were only 11. Machinery companies, eager to show this market the advantages of combine harvesting, mounted a host of demonstrations in the area early that August. Local newspapers reported nine demonstrations in

Continued next page...

### Combines, cont. from page 9

Cass, Clay, Norman and Barnes counties. These included two in Clay County, one on the Herman Landblom farm south of Moorhead and one on the Andrew and Stennom Roen farm west of Comstock.

Results were mixed. On August 2, the *Fargo Forum* reported that in the Roen demonstration, the first to be held, "a great many farmers drove to the Roen farm during the day to watch operations, and all agreed that the machine was doing good work," but that "the rye was reported to be a little green for threshing, as the weather had been cooler the last few days and the crop did not mature as rapidly as anticipated." Grain ripeness would be a continuing problem for combine supporters. A week later the *Forum* reported, "Now the question agitating the minds of North Dakota farmers is: will this machine prove practical for North Dakota grain? Offhand, most North Dakota farmers and almost all North Dakota grain dealers answer emphatically, no." Most farmers believed that grain had to finish drying or "cure" in the

## COMBINE DEMONSTRATION

Tuesday and Wednesday Afternoons  
August 2 and 3  
3 Miles South on Highway No. 6  
**MOORHEAD MOTOR CO.**

The *Fargo Forum* ran this ad for Clay County's second combine, operating on the Herman Landblom farm south of Moorhead. The Roen brothers' machine started August 1, a day ahead of the Landblom demonstration. *Fargo Forum*, August 2, 1927.

stack before threshing. The alternative, leaving the grain standing until dry, exposed the crop to possible wind, rain or hail damage and increased chances of grain prematurely separating from the head, resulting in lost yields.

When stored damp, grain deteriorated through heating and germination. Even when the grain was



In 1927, the Roen brothers also purchased this Case 18-36 Han-Pan kerosene powered tractor. Here they take a break to refuel and dump grain from the 60 bushel hopper into a horse-drawn grain tank. CCHS Collections.

## Combines, cont. from page 10

thoroughly dry when combined, weed seeds remained wet and dampened the lot. Weed seeds in shocked bundles dried along with the grain.

Straight combining, cutting the grain and threshing it in one operation worked fine on the southern and western plains, but here hard red spring wheat ripened less evenly than the winter wheat further south. Weeds were a greater problem here as well.

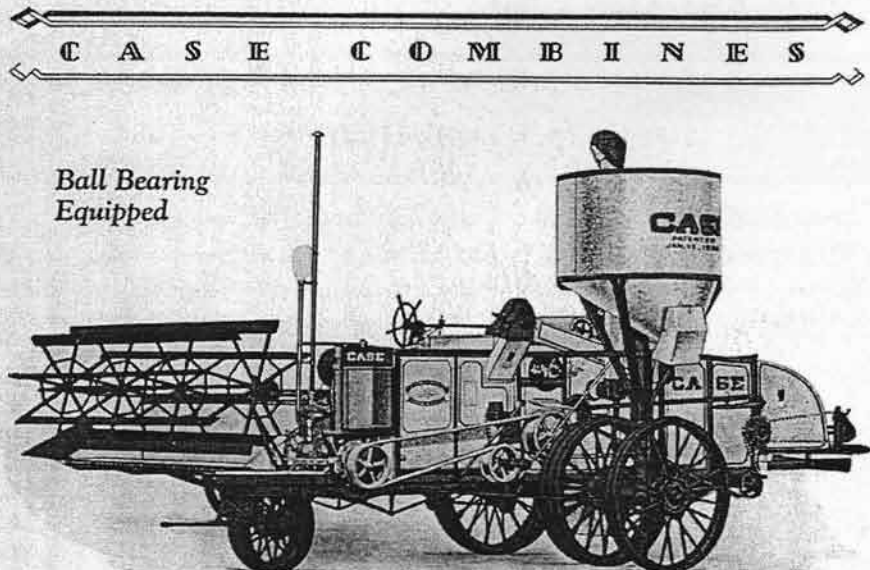
Straight combining wasn't appealing to prairie farmers. Manufacturers took note. According to NDSU history professor Tom Isern's 1981 book *Custom Combining on the Great Plains: A History*, in 1926 the Campbell Farming Company near Hardin, Montana, used binders with the tying mechanisms removed to lay cut grain in windrows for drying. They replaced their combines' headers with hay lifters adapted to pick up and feed the windrows into the threshing cylinders. In 1927, some manufacturers introduced windrower and pickup attachments. As far as I can tell, all of the 1927 area demonstrations featured straight combining. By 1928, nearly 40% of the North Dakota crop was windrowed. Windrowing solved many of the combine's problems here in the Valley, but it required two operations, increasing time and expense.

Combines continued to sell well in the west. North Dakota's numbers jumped from 249 in 1927 to 1,172 in 1928. But Minnesota added

only 38 for a total of 49 in 1928. Studies by the USDA and state extension services consistently showed the combine's effectiveness and efficiency. They reduced labor costs dramatically. But the machines required a large initial investment.

Continued on page 14...

Illustration from a Case catalog for a Model P combine. This was the type used by the Roen brothers on their farm west of Comstock in 1927. From *Full Steam Ahead: J. I. Case Tractors and Equipment, 1842-1955*, David Erb, 1993.



### Specifications of Model "P" Combine

**GENERAL DIMENSIONS**—Wheel base 10'. Total length 24'6" (add 1'6" for straw spreader). Total width of thresher 8'3". Width with header folded 15'9". Width with 12 ft. header extended 23'4". (Add to width 2'10" for grain bin). Total height 8'5". Height with grain bin 14'3".

**WHEELS**—Three on main axle, one front wheel. Two main wheels 12"x54". Grain wheel 6"x54". Front wheel 10"x32". Main axle 4 1/2" steel pipe.

**BEARINGS**—Self-aligning ball bearings on cylinder shaft, beater shaft, straw rack crankshaft, grain pan crankshaft, lower fan shaft, recleaner fan shaft and header jack shaft.

**HEADER**—12 or 16 foot cut. Supported at each end and counterbalanced. Canvas 36" wide. Long sickle guards, 2' on centers. Cuts from 36" high down to shaving the ground. Reel 54" diameter with 8 bats.

**CYLINDER**—All steel. Length 24". Diameter 21 3/4". Speed 950 R.P.M. 115 teeth with 5 teeth tracking. Cylinder and concave teeth interchangeable.

**CONCAVES AND GRATES**—All steel. Three two-row concaves and one blank concave are regularly furnished. Concave circles adjustable front and rear. Steel finger grates back of concaves.

**BEATER**—All steel. Three concave wings. Non-wrapping.

**STRAW RACK**—Width 42". Length 102". Four steel sections. Non-clogging. Crank and rocker motion.

**GRAIN PANS**—Two counterbalanced pans. Corrugated sheet steel bottoms with dividing strips, running lengthwise.

**LOWER CLEANING SHOE**—Underblast fan with six blades; diameter 23 1/2", length 35". Shoe vibrated by pitmans and crankshaft. Sieve 1 1/4" lip chaffer. Weed screen furnished.

**RECLEANER**—Underblast fan with six blades; diameter 22", length 36". Self-regulating valve distributes grain over sieve. One adjustable sieve and one cardoid hole sieve. Tailings returned to thresher.

**ENGINE**—Case tractor engine. Four cylinder, valve-in-head type. Removable cylinder barrels. Bore 4 1/2". Stroke 5". Throttling fly-ball governor, enclosed. Pressure lubrication. Water pump. High tension magneto with impulse starter coupling. Disk clutch controlled by lever on operator's platform. Direct belt drive with 5" five-ply rubber belt.

SAVE TIME · LABOR · GRAIN AND MONEY

Page Twenty-one

# Keep In Touch

See this exhibit about the changes in communications technologies over the past 150 years at the Clay County Museum!

Third Level of the Hjemkomst Center  
202 First Avenue North, Moorhead  
Free Admission - Open Daily - 218-299-5520



## Heritage Business Members and 75th Anniversary Sponsors

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

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State Bank of Moorhead (Sponsor)

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Moorhead Area Retired Educators  
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Kay Mahar  
Kelly Wambach  
Kim Brewster, Ice Art, Inc.  
Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership  
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Roisum Elite Sales & Marketing  
Sign Post, Hawley  
Snap Dragon Restaurant  
Speakeasy Restaurant  
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Summit Financial Services  
Talent Productions  
Village Inn Restaurant

## Heritage Members

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

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

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Dale D. White  
Mary Kinsella Ziegenhagen  
Carol Zielinski

**Combines, cont. from page 11**

A 1928 report found a combine with a 16-foot header cost about \$2,300 and could be expected to last about 8 years. According to an article in the *Comstock Centennial Book*, the Roen brothers bought their Case Model "P" combine with a 16-foot pick-up attachment in 1927 for \$2,400. They also bought a Case 18-36 Han-Pan tractor and a 4-bottom Grand Detre plow the same year for \$1,350. They paid for the equipment by custom combining all over the area. This was not unusual. In 1928, custom combiners harvested about one-quarter of the North Dakota crop. The article says the Roens "charged \$1.50 an acre for swathing and combining, 50¢ for swathing and \$1.00 for combining." (Many farmers did their own swathing with binders.) I'm not sure for what years they charged these amounts but they seem pretty low. A study of the 1928 harvest in North Dakota suggested the cost of

straight combining 600 acres with a 16-foot combine was about \$1.52 per acre and \$2.00 when windrowing. Harvesting more acres might reduce the costs, but the report placed custom combining rates between \$2.50 and \$3.00 an acre for straight combining and \$3.00 to \$3.50 for windrowing.

At any rate, combine harvesting progressed slowly in Clay County. I've asked many farmers over the years when they switched to combines. This very informal survey suggests many used custom combiners for years, but most acquired their own machines in the late 1940s or early 1950s. The U.S. Censuses of Agriculture asked farmers about combines for the first time in 1950. That year, 37.2% of Clay County farms reported owning at least one combine. By the 1954 census the number jumped to 63.5%, 69.8% in 1959, and 73.1% in 1964. The 2002 Census showed 587 combines on 410 Clay County farms.

Combines not only altered harvesting techniques

## 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:

\*Denotes gift membership

### NEW MEMBERS

Chamber of Commerce of Fargo-Moorhead

Genealogical Society of Utah

Mary Knopfler, Ulen

Erik & Meghan Thompsen, Moorhead

\*Michael & Geri Weiner, Fargo

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Kurtz Township of Clay County

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Nelson Homes, Inc., Fargo

Anne L. Olsgaard, Moorhead

Karen & Gene Prim, Barnesville

Kelly Wambach, Moorhead

Renee F. Weddell, Yorba Linda, CA

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Irene Burkhardt, Fargo

Kevin & Kristy Campbell, Moorhead

Gene Christensen, Glyndon

Yvonne C. Condell, Moorhead

Florene Culp, Audubon, MN

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Arthur Wenner, Moorhead

Phyllis A. Wirries, Moorhead

Marilyn G. Wollitz, Moorhead

Eldon Wollmann, Moorhead

**Combines, cont. from page 14**

but the whole culture of farming. A 1927 *Fargo Forum* article headed "Combine May Bring Radical Changes in N. D. Harvesting" prophetically stated,

"If the combine is universally used at some future date, it will mean the elimination of the binder, binder twine and the attendant crews to shock the grain.

"It will mean the elimination of the great reaches of shocked fields, one of the imposing sights on North Dakota's far flung prairies each fall.

"It will mean the elimination of a landscape dotted with threshing machines and the elimination of the threshing crews, with the attendant work which these crews cause for many North Dakota farmers' wives each year.

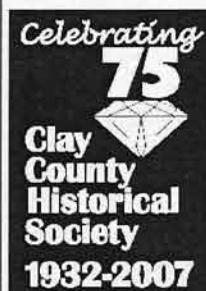
"It would in short eliminate an enormous amount of labor and expense, and the passing of the annual invasion of great hordes of laborers who now come to the state each fall to help with the harvesting and threshing."

Combines did, of course, cause all of those changes and more. The memory of the colorful days of binders, threshing rigs and crews is kept alive by organizations such as Sodbusters at Fort Ransom and our own Western Minnesota Steam Threshermen's Reunion at Rollag.



**Western Minnesota  
Steam Thresher's Reunion**  
August 30—September 1  
Steamer Hill, Rollag, MN

## Support CCHS! Become a Member or Recruit a new Member!



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

Membership Level (check one)	Dues Amount	Benefits
Pioneer Individual	\$25	Bi-Monthly Newsletter and 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**

Please complete the form below, and send with your check payable to "CCHS", to: CCHS, PO Box 501, Moorhead MN 56561

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

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

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

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

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

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.

**Registration Form**  
**Oktoberfest & Vatican Splendors**  
**CCHS 2008 History Tour**  
**Friday & Saturday, October 3-4**

*Copy this form and send in with your check to  
CCHS, PO Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561, to  
register for the Oktoberfest & Vatican Tour!*

Number of Registrants \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Registration (check enclosed to CCHS)  
(\$200/ea. double-occ. or \$250 single) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your support!  
All proceeds benefit the Clay County Historical Society.*

## Calendar

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Aug. 21-<br>Sept. 1 | Minnesota State Fair, St. Paul, MN  |
| Aug. 24             | District 3 School Reunion, Rollag, MN   |
| Aug. 30-<br>Sept. 1 | Western Minnesota Steam Threshers<br>Reunion, Rollag, MN  |
| Oct. 3-4            | CCHS History Tour to New Ulm, MN<br>and Vatican Splendor Exhibit at the<br>Minnesota History Center, St. Paul |
| Oct. 30             | CCHS Gala—History Rocks!  |
| Dec. 13             | CCHS Holiday Open House, 1-3pm  |

*Wishing you a Bountiful Harvest!*



### CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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