

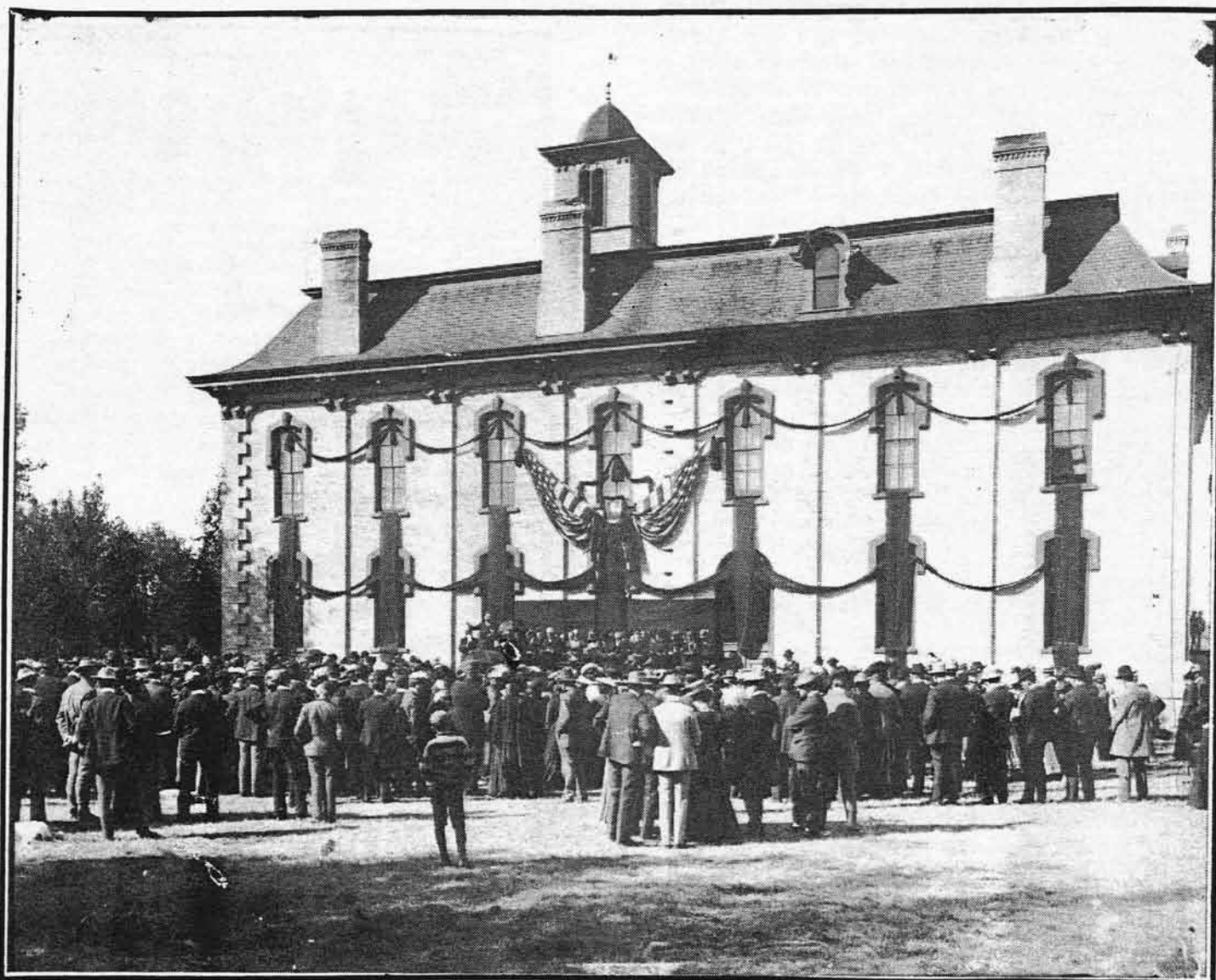
CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



CCHS Newsletter

July/August 1991

Vol XIV No. 4



The President McKinley Memorial Service at Moorhead High School in 1901.

See Story and Outline on Page 3 and 4.

Flaten/Wange Photo Collection

President's Message



Dear Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying the cool wet summer. Thank goodness the drought is finally over. Now it would be nice to enjoy a few days of sunshine.

Did you get a chance to partake in Mark Peihl's "Walking Tour" of the Red River during River Front Days? I never knew how interesting the bike trail from the floating bridge to the American Legion building could be. I grew up just 20 miles east of Moorhead, but I am amazed at how different Moorhead must have been 20 to 30 years ago. Urban renewal has really changed this area. Mark made it easy to picture what it must have looked like back then. Great job, Mark!

Enjoy the rest of the summer and don't forget to check out what's happening at the Center. We have a number of very interesting exhibits and the archives are open for researchers Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursdays.

Sincerely,
Kelly Aakre, CCHS Board President

Family History Workshop set for fall

The Heritage Education Commission (HEC) has set Saturday, Sept. 21 as the date for the Family History Workshop XVI at Moorhead State University. CCHS Collections' Manager Pam Burkhardt serves on the Commission.

Mark Peihl will be doing a session on preserving family photos.

Among the many experts who will be conducting classes for registrants are Daniel M. Schlyter, senior European reference consultant at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Charles Stuck, a fellow of the Minnesota Genealogical Society. Frank Vyzralek, former North Dakota Historical Society archivist, will be the luncheon speaker.

Brochures on the workshop will be available in August. For more information write: Heritage Education Commission, Division of Continuing Education, Moorhead State University, Moorhead, MN 56560.

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.



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Box 501
Moorhead, Minnesota 56560

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Moorhead mourns assassinated President, 1901

By Jim Nelson

Editors Note: When you read about this massive memorial service you should keep in mind that the organizers had few resources at their disposal for publicizing it. In 1901 there was no broadcast media. Radio didn't become common until after WWI and television was still several decades into the future. President Roosevelt's proclamation concerning the day and time of memorial services around the country must have created a few problems in communication.

On September 14, 1901, U.S. President William McKinley became the third chief executive to succumb to an assassin's bullet. The nation went into mourning, as did many other countries throughout the world.

Moorhead's Mayor William Tillotson appointed a committee to arrange for a memorial service to be held in Moorhead on the day and hour of the President's state funeral. One of the first proclamations issued by newly appointed president, Theodore Roosevelt, was that all memorial services should be held in this manner. Tillotson chose the following nine men, all prominent businessmen or former businessmen, for this committee: William Davy, Edward Fay, Sr., Hans Aaker, Edward Bjorkquist, John Bayer, Daniel Meeker, Robert Richards, Herchman Grasse, and Warren Onan. Moorhead School Superintendent Charles Mickens offered the use of the high school grounds for the special service.

The service was scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. Thursday, September 19. The public attending the memorial service was asked to wear some type of mourning, such as a badge or piece of crepe. President Roosevelt also proclaimed that schools and businesses should be closed throughout the states during this day of mourning. Mayor Tillotson added to the proclamation that "..... between the hours of 12 noon and 6 in the afternoon of said day, secular pursuits of all kinds be absolutely abandoned....."

The service took place on the south lawn of the high school. The order of the service began with the Rev. Dr. Joseph Kerr of the

First Congregational Church of Moorhead delivering the invocation. Dr. Rev. Kerr had been installed at that church just a few weeks prior to the service.

The hymn "Nearer My God To Thee" was sung by a choir of a dozen gentlemen conducted by George Perley. The choir consisted of the following: Howard Moody, James Burnham, Thomas Lewis, Samuel Kantor, Lew Huntoon, Edward Bjorkquist, Ole Beck, A.J. Wright, Daniel Darrow, Leon Hyde, Hubert Zervas and R.A. Bjorkquist. Edith Grasse accompanied at the organ.

After the hymn, the Rev. Gilbert Wilson of the First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead gave a long prayer which was followed by the choir's rendition of the fallen President's favorite hymn, "Lead, Kindly Light." Readings from the Scriptures and Lesson were by Rev. Gustav Larsen of the Norwegian Trinity Lutheran Church of Moorhead. They were short but powerful readings.

The Honorable Solomon G. Comstock had the distinction of delivering the eulogy. According to the local newspaper "He was visibly affected the moment he stepped up to speak." Although Mr. Comstock was known as a great orator, this time he had to read his speech because he did not trust himself to his own words.

Comstock, who is known as the "Father of Moorhead Normal School" gave a short review of the life of the martyred president from birth through childhood all the way to his actions with the 23rd Ohio, a military unit, during the Civil War. In the September 20, 1901 Moorhead Independent, Comstock states in a eulogy "His [McKinley's] last term ended with the 51st and mine ended and began with the same Congress. Desks in that body are drawn by lot and, by good fortune, I drew one near him, therefore I was his neighbor for two years and must needs learn something of his methods and characteristics."

The choir sang the hymn "Thy Will Be Done," which were the last words spoken by the president on his death bed. The Rev. Herbert S. Webster of St. John's Episcopal Church in Moorhead gave the benediction.

Mayor Tillotson's Proclamation in which he admonishes the inhabitants of Moorhead to "...return quietly to their homes immediately after...." is printed in its entirety here:

PROCLAMATION

The funeral of our late president William McKinley, having been appointed for Thursday, Sept. 19, 1901, I hereby earnestly recommend, in furtherance of the proclamations of the president of the United States and the governor of this state, that business of all kinds be suspended and that all the schools and places of business be closed throughout the day, within our city; and it is my especial request that, between the hours of 12 noon and 6 o'clock in the afternoon of said day, secular pursuits of all kinds be absolutely abandoned, and that all our citizens attend the services to be held at that time in memory of our late president, returning quietly to their homes immediately after the services are ended.

Thus, in a feeble manner, maybe testify to our tender regard and respect for the memory of the noble man whom we so lately honored as the chief magistrate of our country.

September 17, 1901

Wm. R. Tillotson, Mayor

Cover Photo:

This is one of two photographs taken by Moorhead photographer O.E. Flaten at the McKinley Memorial Service. It shows the south wall of the Moorhead High School draped with black crepe paper and a large photograph of the fallen president with American flags on each side.

The Rev. Gustav Larsen is standing at the left side of stage delivering his speech. Flaten's other

Outreach displays

Glyndon Community Center	Thru Sept. 13
Moorhead Public Library	Thru Sept. 13
Hawley Public Library	Thru Sept. 11
Hitterdal Senior Center	Thru Sept. 11
Viking Manor, Ulen	Thru Sept. 11

The photo display OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL BABY! will appear at the Glyndon Community Center. These photographs from the S.P. Wange glass-plate negative collection highlight the irresistible infants from Clay County's past. Artifacts included.

The Moorhead Library will SPRING INTO SUMMER with swim suits, marbles and cooling refreshments from long ago.

STITCHES IN TIME will be shown at the Hawley Public Library. Artifacts include quilt patches, sewing equipment and color photos or quilts from the CCHS collections.

ROCKS OF AGES will be featured at the Hitterdal Senior Center. This display includes thompsonite, gypsum and iron ore found in Minnesota. Other specimens such as copper and fossil bivalves, were brought to this area by man and nature.

HAWLEY, OCTOBER 1917 is a photo display which will appear at the Viking Manor. These photos show interiors of Hawley businesses taken by photographer S.P. Wange of Hawley.

photograph shows S.G. Comstock delivering his eulogy. The two photos were advertised in the newspapers from that time encouraging people to save them because of their historic value, not to mention that they cost 50 cents each. According to Mrs. Leslie Welter, an early resident of this area, the young boy in the foreground wearing the striped sweater is Leslie Welter, Jr. The dog on the lower left side of the photo doesn't seem to care about any of it.

1936 Heat wave very persistent!!

By Mark Peihl

Now that summer is officially here it's inevitable that Clay County will be visited by our usual summer heat waves when the perspiration flows and we stick to the furniture. Before we complain too loudly it might be helpful to grab a cool drink, crank up the air conditioning a notch and remember back to the worst heat wave in the county's history. That heat wave was a two-week scorcher in July 1936, when the temperature peaked at 114 degrees and 100 degree plus highs were recorded for eight days straight.

Nineteen thirty-six was a pretty lousy year. The summer was the hottest and driest in the county's history. The previous winter had been the coldest in history. In January and February the temperature at the Weather Bureau recording station at Moorhead's old post office (now the Plains Art Museum), didn't reach above zero for 38 days straight - and twice bottomed out at a bone numbing -37 degrees. The recordings set all time cold records for Clay County which still stand today.

Fairly heavy snow fall followed the deep freeze. It was welcome precipitation after several very dry years. But a warm snap in April melted the snow so fast that most of it ran off. Flooding followed!

Hawley suffered its worst flood in 20 years. Two feet of water flowed through the railroad overpass on the highway. WPA workers stabilized the Hawley Dam on the Buffalo River with scores of sand bags. The dam, built the year before to create Hawley Lake, held and the new lake filled up quickly.

The wet conditions soon disappeared. Rain fall in May and June was 60 percent of normal, less than half an inch falling in June. By July the crops were in critical need of water.

On Saturday, July 4, thousands of county residents celebrated Independence Day in 90

degree heat. On Sunday the temperature reached 95. Then it really got hot.

Monday, July 6 dawned clear and warm. It was 91 by 10 a.m. and 105 by 1 p.m. At 3:15 the temperature peaked at 113.6 degrees, the hottest temperature ever recorded in Minnesota! And it was only the beginning: for eight days straight the daily high reached 100 + degrees.

For the first few days, Clay County residents responded with their usual pluck and good humor. With very little air conditioning, people tried to dress lightly and move as little as possible. Local newspapers reported that prisoners in the western cells of the Clay County Jail "insisted on stripping down to the basic swimming suits." Neighbors complained and Sheriff Roscoe Brown moved the naked jailbirds to a more secluded - but hotter - area of the lockup.

Most folks couldn't avoid activity. WPA laborers working on the new Main Avenue Bridge in Moorhead worked straight through and the Clay County Historical Society opened its new museum in MacLean Hall at Moorhead State Teachers College (now Moorhead State University) just in time for the heat wave. Local weather bureau assistants fielded thousands of calls from distraught citizens. There were 151 calls in one hour on July 10.

Official local weather observer, R.J. McClure, missed the heat wave - he was on vacation in Oregon from June 25 through August 3 and later "emphatically denied having been forewarned."

Night brought little relief. On Friday the 10th, the overnight low only dropped to 82 degrees. Some people just sat up all night on their porches. Others tried "the old practice of keeping windows closed to shut out the sizzling blasts. The Hawley Herald reported that a few months earlier "Leonard Riedberger, the milkman, was scrambling

THE WEATHER.

Moorhead and vicinity—Fair tonight and Wednesday; continued warm.

Highest yesterday, 113; lowest last night, 77; precipitation, none.

The actual high for July 6 was 113.6 degrees (114)

United Press Wire Service, Complete Local News Coverage and the Finest Features Obtainable.

Moorhead Daily News

THE WEATHER. Forecast for tonight and Wednesday: continued warm. Highest yesterday, 113; lowest last night, 77; precipitation, none.

VOLUME 53

MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA, TUESDAY, JULY 7, 1936

NUMBER 159

DROUGHT UNBROKEN; HEAT SETS RECORD

G.O.P.'s Welcome Borah's Decision Not to Bolt

BELIEVE SENATOR WILL BACK LONDON IN FALL CAMPAIGN

Sellers Flock to Italy, New Military Alliances Seen As Sanctions End

NO PROGRESS ON PAVING PROJECT, COMMITTEE SAYS

Actress, Writers Figure In Alienation Case

FEDERAL LEADERS HASTEN ACTION TO AID BURNED AREA

STATEMENT SEEN AS DISAPPOINTMENT TO SUPPORTERS OF LEMKE

Slain

COMMERCE SEEKS RAPID RESUMPTION OF TRADE WITH FASCIST NATION

UNABLE TO REPORT FURTHER ACTION ON PWA EMPLOYMENT HERE

ANNOUNCED EARL BROWER THAT MICHIGAN MIGHT AIM SENATOR OR THIRD PARTY



DEBATE SEEMS SENSITIVE WITH LEGISLATION OF NATIONAL YOUTH MOVEMENT ENACTMENT

CITY COUNCIL DEFERS ACTION ON APPROVAL OF CITY ENGINEER TO SUPERVISOR WORK



WASHINGTON, July 7 (UP)—The arrival of Senator William E. Borah, Republican, Idaho, that he will not bolt his party during the coming campaign was seen by Republican leaders today as evidence he will leave to active and responsible part in behalf of the candidacy of Governor Alf Landon.

CHICAGO, July 7 (UP)—Sought in the January slaying of Elizabeth Blake (above), beautiful Pittsburgh blonde night club singer, Catherine Fred will have the chance to confer with her husband, Eddie, before going forward on questioning.

LONDON, July 7 (UP)—An array of statements scattered in Italy today and Europe indicated mounting interest in a new epoch of military alliances.

Asking toward carrying through through Monday's closing down over getting project of 40 blocks for which the Public Works administration has approved a 40 per cent profit was delayed further Monday night when the project committee to which the project had been referred said the city council it was unable to report any progress.

Carol Frank (above), Chicago dramatic critic, probably has a \$10,000 allegation of affection toward actress Charis MacArthur, (above), and the actress wife, Helen Hayes (below) shown at right, when the case was introduced in circuit court at Chicago.

Charles (above) when his love affairs with his former wife were read in the courtroom, Miss Hayes recently composed a dramatic production in the role of Queen Victoria.

WASHINGTON News The Republican word of Borah's decision was welcome here. The threat that he might not come here this week was regarded by them as a threat to the farm belt vote, a vote regarded by many as essential to party victory.

NORTHWEST LISTS OVER 40 DEAD IN

DISPATCHES RECEIVED FROM EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS IN THE LAST FEW HOURS OF THE WAR.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE PROJECT WERE STARTED MORE THAN A YEAR AGO WHEN PROPERTY OWNERS petitioned for the improvement. The work was delayed by the city council.

SEEK COMPROMISE IN LABOR DISPUTE; OVER UNION PLANS

BULLETINS

LONDON MOVES TO ENABLE KANSAS TO SHARE IN U. S. AID

COMMERCIAL leaders had not taken very seriously rumors that Borah might support Mr. Roosevelt. His decision probably fell most heavily on those party men. To them it would only mean that Borah would keep in reputation those many of those they might have hoped to count upon this party.

OVER 40 DEAD IN

MINNESOTA Governor Eddie Blake is supposed to be a third candidate for governor. The business houses of St. Paul are supposed to be a third candidate for governor.

THE PROPOSALS AT THAT TIME WERE REJECTED BY THE COMMITTEE LED BY FREDERICK, who said Monday night that no further progress could be reported. While the project had been approved by PWA, formal legislation of funds had not been introduced.

Because of the extreme heat, livestock animals were housed in places here between Moorhead and Otis and moved off late today.

ASKS LEGISLATURE TO SUBMIT

(Continued from Page 5)

over deep drifts of snow to deliver milk. [Now] He is scampering around sleeping people who are lying scattered around front lawns and back yards, trying to get some sleep."

A swim in the Red River gave only limited relief. Slowed to a trickle by the drought, the water temperature was 82 degrees, as

thousands of gallons of heated water from the Fargo-Moorhead power plants poured into the already tepid stream."

One local resident "rigged up a water fanning device which blew cool breezes through the channels of his hot air furnace." Others came up with more bizarre cooling methods. Moorhead Fireman H.W.

Kuehl, turned down ice water advocating "hot coffee for cool after effects" and several farmers near Baker reportedly favored "heavy fleece-lined underwear to keep out the heat"!

Appliance dealers quickly ran out of electric fans and the Moorhead Ice Company hired extra help to keep up with demand.

And yes, somebody did fry an egg on the sidewalk. The Fargo Forum advised against it. "It's messy and it won't work ... eggs won't fry in a temperature under 140 degrees, according to a North Dakota Agricultural College (NDAC) Home Economist." However, several people watched an egg cook on the sidewalk in front of the Moorhead City Hall on the sizzling 6th of July.

After several torrid days, even locals began to despair. On Thursday, July 9, Fargo Forum headlines asked, "How long can this go on?" By Saturday things had begun to look desperate. Drought weakened crops and pastures withered in the heat. Over the weekend eight people died in Clay County directly or indirectly from the heat. The high temps were general across the country. Fifteen states across the U.S. hit their all time highs in 1936. Nearly 4,000 people died.

By the end of the second week, the previously flooded Buffalo River below Highway 10 was a dry ditch with a few stagnant pools. Desperate farmers built illegal dams to collect moisture for crops and animals. One group near Glyndon asked that Hawley Lake be drained to save their livestock. The gates opened but the water disappeared into the ground before it reached Highway 10.

Cold front after cold front from the northwest fizzled out before reaching Clay County.

Finally, on Tuesday, July 14, for the first time in eight days, the temperature failed to reach 100. It was 99. Wednesday it reached 99 again and by Thursday it was

back to 104. Not until July 19 did the daily high fail to reach 95 - after 14 days of such weather. The 19th also brought the first real rain in weeks: .19 inches.

But the damage to crops was done. According to County Extension Agent Donald Peet, 1936 produced "The smallest grain and feed crop that has ever been raised in the county." The barley and oats were nearly a total loss. Many farmers in Parke and Tansem turned their livestock into the fields. Others cut the grain for hay. Wheat provided many with the only crop worth harvesting. Farmers cut much of it with mowers and rakes - the strands were too short to bind. Although the return was better than anticipated, most Clay County wheat yielded only two to 10 bushels per acre. Spotty rains pushed that to 12 in some localities.

Potatoes and beets suffered too. Spuds averaged 45 bushels per acre county wide and beets barely 5 to 6 tons. The only bright spot was prices. The drought raised wheat to over \$1 per bushel and potatoes went for \$2.50 to \$3.15 per hundred weight.

So, next time you complain about the heat, turn on the fan, have a cool drink and be thankful it's not 1936.

May/June Donors and Artifacts

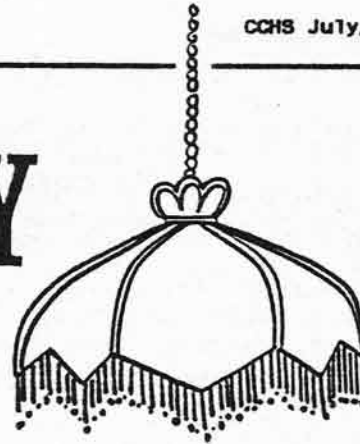
Donors include:

Moorhead	Clarence Glasrud, Owen Lee, Eva Felde
Barnesville	Dorothy Garven
Hawley	Marcus Erickson
Lake Park	Bette Haring
Cloquet	Carlton County Historical Society

Artifacts include

Fairmont Creamery souvenir bell, a student paper on the history of Dale, Minnesota; certificates and photos belonging to Dr. Bottolfson; (2) 1960s Barnesville telephone directories; (2) glass lantern slides showing potato digging and dairy cattle near Moorhead; (2) tokens from Lynch Brothers in Barnesville; recycling information for the City of Moorhead and collection basket; and a water glass from the Comstock Hotel and Liquor Store in Moorhead.

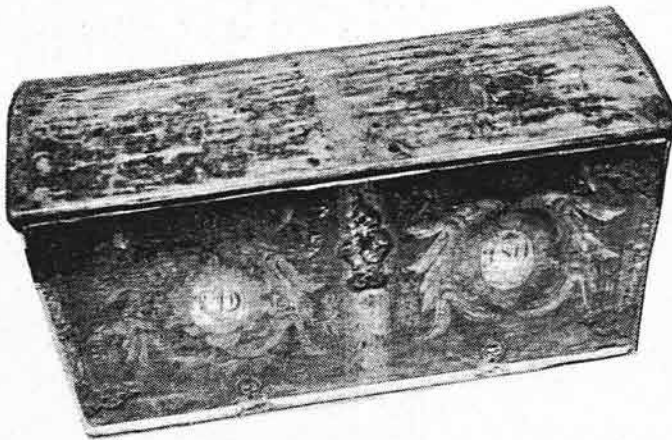
CLAY COUNTY MUSEUM



* Permanent Exhibit

Unique characterizations of one facet of the history of each county town. Together they form a chapter in the overall history of Clay County.

* Temporary Exhibits



Scandinavian Sampler

(Through October 6, 1991)

"Scandinavian Sampler" is an exhibit that explores the Scandinavian heritage in this area through artifacts. Many of these artifacts were brought to this country by families seeking a new beginning. What did they bring and what did they leave behind in the "old country?" This exhibit explores the Scandinavian mystique.

"Welcome to Dilworth" (Through August 25, 1991)

This photographic exhibit explores how the railroad and an accompanying influx of Italian immigrants shaped the culture of this small Minnesota town presently facing urban sprawl from neighboring Moorhead. The exhibit and book "Welcome to Dilworth," were produced by Mass Communications students at Moorhead State University.

*Make plans to visit the Clay County Museum today!!
Hours are 9-5 Mon-Sat, 9-9 Thurs. and 12-5 Sun.*

100 Years of Tradition at Concordia

By Kerri Wall

Concordia College has a rich and exciting history that makes it unique. When Concordia celebrates its Centennial this coming year it will be a memorable time for the students, alumni and the community. To know something of Concordia's history will enhance our appreciation of the upcoming Centennial celebrations.

Moorhead was once called the "Wickedest City in the World." Saloons and dance halls entertained gamblers, prostitutes and desperadoes. This would not seem a fitting place to house a future private religious college, but despite Moorhead's reputation, Concordia was constructed, first as a high school for Norwegian immigrant children, and in 1907 as a college.

Ever since the college was established, traditions have been an important part of Concordia's academic life.

One early tradition that lasted from 1892 to 1916 was the "Play Hour," defined as one-half hour after supper in the evening and a longer period after supper on Saturday. Games such as 'Pig in the Parlor' and 'London Bridge' were played. The tradition began when most of the students were teenagers but died out once older students began to outnumber younger students.

In 1893 the first graduation was held with eight men and one girl graduating. There was no guest speaker, but each graduate gave an essay or oration.

In 1939 Crown Prince Olav of Norway and Princess Martha attended graduation ceremonies which had been postponed to coincide with their visit to Moorhead.

The handshake tradition started in 1902. Originally it was held the first Saturday evening of the school year and was intended to acquaint faculty and students. Somehow it mushroomed and ended up with everyone

shaking everyone else's hand. Today part of the tradition is for freshmen to visit the President's house during orientation for the traditional hand shake.

Beanies for freshmen have been a long standing tradition at Concordia. Originally the domes were green but when the dye was discontinued and unobtainable, a gold color was adopted. Today transfer students wear maroon beanies to distinguish them from freshmen. Another part of the beanie tradition has been participation in a beanie toss at the first home football game. This used to mark the end of the time a freshman student traditionally had to wear the identifying beanie.

Orientation at Concordia subscribes to some strong traditions which include a fun-filled week of activities like volleyball, late night trips to Sher's Kitchen, club tours, introduction to the faculty and academic life and an exciting orientation show featuring the communicators, Dean of Students and the college president.

The list of traditions is endless and many new ones are sure to be added in the years to come. To learn more about Concordia, I recommend Dr. Carroll Englehardt's book "Concordia's 100 Years as an Institution." Englehardt is a professor of history at Concordia.

You too can become a part of the fine tradition of Concordia College. Plan to participate in the many centennial activities next year, starting with the exhibit "Sent Forth: Concordia College 1891-1991" at the Hjemkomst Center opening August 31 in Heritage Hall.

WWII items sought for exhibit

The Clay County Historical Society is looking for two WWII era items to borrow for a fall exhibit: leg make-up and a draft notice. If you have either item please call CCHS at 233-4604.

Relive your childhood at the Hjemkomst Center's Summer Exhibit!!

Over 80 authentic and reproduction dolls, doll houses and doll quilts from the late 1800s to the present are featured in the Hjemkomst Center's newest exhibit: "The World in Miniature: Dolls, Doll Houses and Doll Quilts."

Dolls and their accessories have been known to have existed 1900 years before Christ. They were fashioned to amuse a child or a lady, or for use in ceremonies.

The dolls in Heritage Hall range from an 1830s "Frozen Charlie" to a Spanish American War doll ca. 1900. A Chase baby doll ca. 1910-1920 was used for training by the Fargo Red Cross and a pair of W.P.A. dolls were made between 1934 and 1943. Popular character dolls include a Shirley Temple doll of the 1930s, "Barbie" dolls of the 1960s, and the Cabbage Patch dolls of the 1980s. "Art" dolls of today are also on exhibit.

Doll accessories enhance the exhibit. Several doll houses representing different eras are on display. They include an 1890s Converse lithographed doll house, a tin doll house from the late 1940s, and a "Barbie's Dream House" of the 1960s.

Many doll quilts were made specifically for the exhibit by the Quilters Guild of North Dakota and represent each decade from the 1850s up to the present time. The exhibit also contains original doll quilts made by children, mothers and grandmothers. The oldest quilt is a Crazy Quilt dating from 1889.

The doll exhibit is sponsored by a grant from the City of Fargo through the Lake Agassiz Arts Council and organized with the help of Clay County Historical Society, North Dakota Valley Doll Club, Red River Valley Dolls Club, the Quilters' Guild of North Dakota and local collectors.



Service Station: For Sale by Owner

Less than half of the full-service gas stations that once dotted America's four million miles of roadways remain. They have been driven from business by a combination of economics, environmental regulations, demographics and changing consumer tastes.

The exhibit documents several gas and service stations that still exist today in small towns surrounding Fargo-Moorhead. "The photographs aren't meant to be epitaphs," said Wayne Gudmundson, who organized the project. "Consider them glimpses into the past and future of a once enchanting industry in transition."

The exhibit, as well as a book by the same title, was produced by a group of Moorhead State University students under Gudmundson's direction. The book is for sale in the Hjemkomst Center Gift Shop.

For more information on these Heritage Hall exhibits call (218) 233-5605.

Both exhibits opened in June and will continue through August 18.

*** \$5 Family Days August 8-11!**

Bachelors make up entire population of Dale

By Jim Nelson

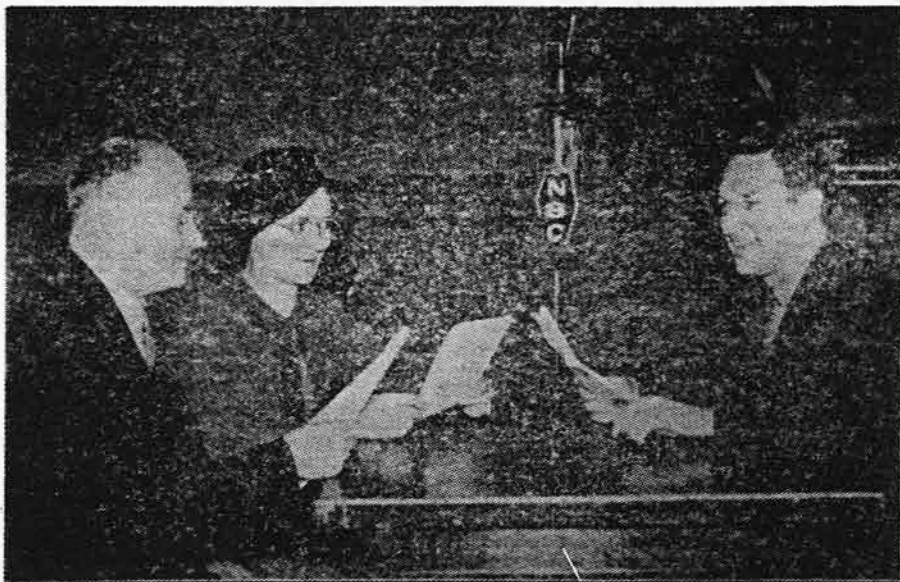
The summer of 1936 was not known only for its extreme heat and lack of moisture. To six men from Dale, a very small village east of Hawley, it meant the beginning of the end to a way of life.

Dale was called "The Six Man, Womanless Town." The six men, all bachelors, were the only inhabitants of Dale. The bachelor village had become all male about four years earlier when Mrs. Victor Estrim, the village's lone female, had moved with her husband to Ada.

Roy Johnson of the Fargo Forum came across the little town and its half dozen occupants in August of 1936. Seeing an interesting story, Mr. Johnson wrote of the plight of these men to survive everyday life without women. The article was written-up in the Sunday, August 23, 1936 Fargo Forum.

The six men that comprised this tiny village were Alfred Carlson, 44, who at the time of the article was just back from duty in France where he had served 14 months with the 90th Division, 360th Infantry; George Carlson, 52, "the garageman," who repaired everything from radios to horseshoes; Obert Carlson, 36, "the live wire," and a jack-of-all-trades; John Johnson, 58, "the messenger," aptly named because he had to get up for the 4:10 a.m. train and pick up the mail bag; Knute Knutson, 70, "the section foreman," so named because he worked for over 40 years for the Northern Pacific Railroad; and lastly the youngest, Jerome Ulven, 30, known as "the clerk" because he ran the store, post office and was the depot agent. The three Carlsons were brothers.

The final paragraph of Roy Johnson's article, reprinted here, drew the attention of quite a number of women: "But what Dale's six men would rather see is a batch of women, who will be willing to come to



Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Ulven were interviewed by Phillips Lord on the NBC "We, the People" radio program in New York City.

Dale and stay for keeps. And so, they keep looking over those hills and hoping."

In a matter of hours after the article appeared, an automobile filled with widows (or so they claimed) arrived at the Dale General Store. George Carlson and John Johnson had already gone to bed and Obert Carlson had gone fishing. That left Alfred Carlson, Jerome Ulven, and Knute Knutson to entertain them. Besides the visiting women there were letters that came a few days later, many in the form of marriage proposals.

Jerome Ulven, who was believed to be courting a young lady prior to these happenings, announced late in October that he would marry Dorothy Wisted of Lake Park on November 12 at Detroit Lakes. At about this same time Jerome received an invitation to appear on the November 8 broadcast of a national radio show called "We, The People," to be held in New York City. He was initially invited by the show's sponsor, Phillip H. Lord, Inc., to talk about Dale and its six bachelors.

But when Jerome declined because it would interfere with his wedding a new invitation was offered. The sponsor, Lord, Inc. agreed to have both Mr. & Mrs. Ulven appear on

(Continued on Page 12)

Dale bachelors

(Continued from Page 11)

the November 29 show and the fully paid trip could serve as a honeymoon.

According to the Fargo Forum "The young couple were on the air about five minutes, and the general opinion of their listening friends was that although Ulven had been slightly nervous he gained courage as he proceeded. Mrs. Ulven was 'grand,' they said."

The bachelors may have been a little nervous when Mrs. Ulven told over the air how she apparently had "married the town" and "from now on she would demand that all bachelors get dirty dishes out of the sink within three days."

Both Mr. and Mrs. Ulven were grateful to the Fargo Forum, and especially wished to thank Roy Johnson who they felt was responsible for their lovely honeymoon. When they returned home they were given a royal welcome with the entire town at the depot to greet them. Fourteen months later the population of Dale swelled to 20 but the saga of the bachelors continued.

Knute Knutson, the oldest of the original bachelors at 70, married a lady from Wisconsin with whom he'd become acquainted through the mail. They were married in Decorah, Iowa and then moved to La Crosse, Wisconsin. Dale had lost another bachelor.

With the marriages of Ulven and Knutson there should have been two less bachelors in town, but the fates had decreed that the count of six should remain stable for a time longer as two new bachelors promptly moved into town. One of the new bachelors was Peter Carlson, another brother of the three Carlsons already living in Dale.

A headline in the May 7, 1944 Fargo Forum stated "Dale Feminine Population Is Exactly Doubled." This should have made the hearts of the lonely bachelors jump for joy, but it turned out that the new feminine resident was too young for any of the current bachelors. She was the baby daughter of Jerome and Dorothy.

In 1946 The Forum published a follow up on the changes in Dale in the past decade. Of the original six bachelors, three still remained bachelors: (brothers) Alfred, Obert and George Carlson. Except for Obert who lived in Fargo, they remained at Dale. John Johnson died in Sweden in 1939. Knute Knutson remained with his bride in LaCrosse, Wisc. and Jerome and his bride Dorothy, along with children, Joann and Charles, still lived at Dale. Jerome passed away June 10, 1984.

Memorial

Clay County Historical Society recently received a memorial for the Bergquist Pioneer Cabin from Linda G. Hassoun, in memory of Helen Person.

From
The Heritage Shop's

BOOK NOOK



Featuring books related to
the summer exhibits:

- Paper Dolls
- Welcome to Dilworth
- For Sale by Owner

As well as an old favorite:

- Roy Johnson's Red River Valley (hard cover)

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First Clay County Fair held in 1914 Fair a "Hummer!!" and Baby Show a big hit

By Teresa Cascio

The first Clay County Fair held in Barnesville was on November 23-25. It was, in the words of the Barnesville Record Review, "a hummer." The fair had been scheduled for the following summer, but when financial aid became available from the state treasury, the eager residents of Clay County decided not to wait. By October of 1914 plans were under way.

The Farmer's Short Course, a series of lectures meant to help farmers and their families improve their farming methods was held in conjunction with the fair.

Harold John Bredemeier, 1914 and 1989.



Topics included "Potatoes and Their Diseases," "Corn Breeding," "Improving the Dairy Herd," and for the ladies, "Cakes and Cake Making."

On the lighter side, one of the most popular features of the Fair was a Baby Show or Baby Contest. A joke in Barnesville prior to the Fair was that several of the old bachelors of high civic standing fled town in a hurry in fear of being called upon to judge the baby contest.

The entry requirements in 1914 were few. The child had to be under the age of one and born in Clay, Wilkin or Otter Tail County. Twenty-six infants competed for

prizes which were for health and physique rather than just beauty.

Dr. R. Platt, one of the judges (who presumably didn't get out of town fast enough) wrote a short article for the Barnesville Record Review outlining the judging criteria. The length and weight of each child was measured plus the circumference of head and chest. The contest originators thought of everything and in order to prevent any favoritism, each child was tagged with a number and held by someone other than his or her mother.



A set of tables, compiled from the observations of a group of 500 healthy infants was used as criteria for

the judging. All but one of the babies entered in the Clay County Baby Show were well above the average. This prompted Dr. Platt to observe with smug pride that "just where those 500 infants had been studied he did not know, but it had to have been somewhere not so favorable as the vicinity of Clay County."

The Barnesville Record Review donated 12 silver spoons as consolation prizes. Little Harold John Bredemeier, son of John and Bertha Bredemeier and seven months old at the time of the fair, was a winner of one of those spoons. A baby picture from about
(Continued on Page 14)

Program Council update

The last Program Council meeting was held on May 8 in the Hjemkomst Center's Board Room. Business included program reports from the Red River Valley Heritage Society, Clay County Historical Society and an update on the programs in Heritage Hall. The main business of the meeting was brainstorming for the Spring 1992 exhibit in Heritage Hall - "Leonardo da Vinci -- The Inventor." The next meeting is scheduled for July 10 from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m.

The Program Council is responsible for the content development of the interpretive program (exhibits, public programs, and educational services) for HHIC/RRVHS and CCHS. Members of the Council for 1991 are: CCHS - Nancy Tedros, Mercedes Roos and Chris Olson; RRVHS - Jon Evert, Marrion Walsh and Verlyn Anderson; Heritage Club - Betty Litten; At-Large - Jim Saueressig, Clare Johnson, Linda Folk, Carole Kline and Kim Baird.

If you have any program suggestions, please contact your representative or call Claudia Pratt, HHIC/RRVHS Program Coordinator at 218-233-5604.

Baby Contest

(Continued from Page 13)

that time survives and Mr. Bredemeier was kind enough to send us that photo along with another taken in 1989 at Dallas, Texas. Mr. Bredemeier no longer has the silver spoon, but he will always retain the distinction of competing in the baby contest at the very first Clay County Fair at Barnesville.

The top three prizes awarded were \$3 for first place, won by the baby daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lamb of Downer; \$2 for second place, won by a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N.B. Hanson of Barnesville; and \$1 for third, won by a son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Possehl of Baker.

A further prize that no one won was a box of chocolates, offered by Jim Lakie, for the mother of the healthiest twins. There were none, healthy, sickly or otherwise.

CCHS welcomes new members

Clay County Historical Society is grateful to all who support the society through their membership. We salute our many long time members and welcome the following new members:

(May - July, 1991)

Rae P. Haynes, Durango, Colo.

Paul Harris and

Cynthia Palmer family, Moorhead

Lynn M. Slater, Moorhead

Clay County Fair Winner

Brian Nelson of Rural Route 3, Hawley, won the drawing for the one-year free CCHS membership given at the Clay County Fair at Barnesville in June. Brian will begin receiving the newsletter with this issue and is eligible for all benefits afforded by his membership including free admission to the Hjemkomst Center and voting privileges at the annual meeting in April.

The CCHS booth at the Clay County Fair had good attendance. A highlight of the booth was a 1910 map of the county which depicts the ethnicity of early Clay County settlers. The map was researched and compiled by CCHS Archivist Mark Peihl.

CCHS had a booth at the Fargo Civic Auditorium during the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival the same weekend, and the 1870 Bergquist Pioneer Log Cabin was open to the public. The Open House at the cabin was cosponsored by CCHS and the Swedish Heritage Society. Dewey Bergquist, former WDAY weatherman and grandson of John Bergquist, who built and lived in the cabin, was on hand as official storyteller relating the history of the cabin. It is the oldest house in Moorhead still on its original site.

Suggestion box is out!!!

Do you have an idea for a newsletter article or a subject you are particularly interested in and would like to know more about? Let us know what you are interested in and we'll do our best to research and publish information of interest to our readers in future newsletters. Write to Clay County Historical Society, Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561 or call 233-4604.

Ekre joins CCHS Board

Carol Ekre of Hawley joined the CCHS Board of Directors last April. Carol has a keen interest in the history of Clay County since both her maternal and paternal grandparents the Langseths and Rosenquists, were early settlers in Clay County.

Carol's first exposure to the Clay County Historical Society was when she was working with family histories and sought assistance from the historical society. "We contacted CCHS and got copies of some of Wange's photos," said Carol.

"I enjoy working with family histories and studying the history of other families in Clay County. Both my husband and I are interested in preserving memories and memorabilia from the past. We both recognize the importance of preserving our local history."

Carol is a graduate of Concordia College with majors in Business Education and Physical Education. She taught at Hinckley and Lake Park, MN and presently is a teacher's aide at Hawley High School and a part-time clerk at the Fashion Gallery, a women's clothing store, in Hawley.

Carol and her husband Gordon have four children: Mark, a graduate of North Dakota State University, who currently farms with his parents; Linda McDonald, a teacher at Bemidji High School; Carolyn, a student at St. Cloud State University and Pauline, a student at Bemidji State University. The Ekres have one grandson, Trent McDonald.

Wall interns at CCHS

Kerri Wall, a junior at Concordia College, interned at Clay County Historical Society this summer. Wall's major is social studies education with a concentration in history. She is active with the school radio station, manages the varsity volleyball team and is working toward a coaching certificate for volleyball.

According to Wall, "My internship at Clay County has given me a rich experience in the field of historical societies. The list

of things I have learned is just endless.

"Probably the most important thing I have learned is the value of a county historical society and the work involved in preserving history. The preservation of one's home area is important because it gives one a sense of who we are. It is this preservation and display of history that can be a common factor in bringing a community together. It is an experience I'm sure I'll never forget."

Wall is hoping to spend one semester next year at Curtin University in Perth, Australia doing her student teaching.

Fellow in kilt identified

In the CCHS May/June Newsletter there was a photo of a dashing Scotsman in the traditional Scottish kilt. He was tentatively identified as George McDonald (ne MacDonald) of Hawley. Shortly after publication CCHS received a call from Ardis Johnson of Placentia, California. The photo was of her father, Dr. George Henry McDonald, a dentist in Hawley.

Since the gentleman was of Scottish descent, we assumed it probably was a family heirloom he was wearing, but the true story is even more interesting. Dr. McDonald was taking part in a "Chautauqua Show."

The word "Chautauqua" (pronounced cha-talk-wha) means: an assembly for educational purposes, combining lectures, entertainments, etc., often held outdoors, modeled after summer schools established at Chautauqua, NY. Chautauqua Shows were very popular during the depression years. They were comprised of troupes of actors and musicians who traveled around the country performing and utilizing local talent and personalities in their productions, presumably to boost ticket sales.

According to his daughter, Dr. McDonald had a wonderful tenor voice and sang the same lead role in this production as Sir Harry Lauder, a famous tenor of the day, had sung in a much more prestigious production.

And now you know the rest of the story.

CCHS - 1991 Membership Information

CCHS Membership

I would like to begin/renew my membership in the Clay County Historical Society. Please enter my membership in the category I have checked below:

- () INDIVIDUAL \$15.00
() FAMILY \$35.00

CCHS Membership Benefits

- ** FREE Admission to the Center
- ** Bi-monthly newsletter
- ** 25 % Discount on photo reproductions
- ** 10 % Discount on acid-free materials
- ** Voting privileges
- ** Invitation to the annual meeting/dinner and all CCHS events

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

DATE PURCHASED: _____

Please list additional family members needing passes. (Family member is considered husband, wife and children living at home under the age of 18.)

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