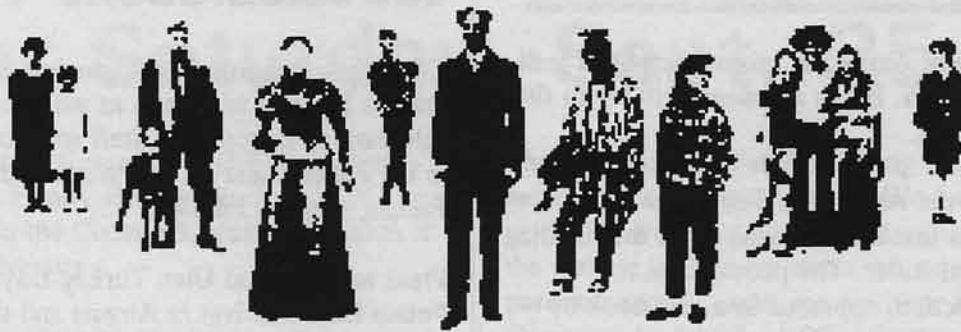


# CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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CCHS Newsletter

July/August 1993

Vol. XVI No. 4

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The recent flooding along the Mississippi River Valley reminds us of this 1897 flood scene in Moorhead. A.W. Bowman and his unidentified cousin appear to have overcome the adversity surrounding them. They look very well dressed and composed despite the circumstances.

Flaten/Wange Collection

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## From the Front Desk

CCHS President Kelly Aakre has taken a brief and well earned break this month. In his absence I will try to fill this space as best I can.

The cover photo of the April 1897 Red River flood seems appropriate at this time because of all the flooding along the Mississippi River. The photo, from the Flaten/Wange Collection, appeared in a new book by Peg Meier "Too Hot, Went to Lake." Meier is an award-winning reporter for the Star Tribune in Minneapolis and author of four other Minnesota books, including "Bring Warm Clothes."

Meier's "Too Hot, Went to Lake" includes seasonal photos from Minnesota's past, many from the Minnesota Historical Society Collections and others from county historical societies such as CCHS. There are nine CCHS collection photos in the book. The book also includes a number of essays by the author and letters and dairies taken from historical records.

We highly recommend "Too Hot, Went to Lake." The book is available through: Neighbors Publishing, P.O. Box 15071, Minneapolis, MN 55415.

The cover photo depicts an age when a "lady" did not go out without a hat no matter what unpleasant circumstances might prevail. Where do you suppose the lady was going? Perhaps she had some shopping planned, or maybe a church service, or it might be that she was just going across the street for coffee.

This is a 'write your own caption' cartoon. Some suggestions might be "July 4, 1993," "A summer day in Minnesota," or "Margaret's mood two days after the newsletter deadline."



And then there is this from the Barnesville Record, August 16, 1900 - - -

*A woman was recently observed seated on a side-walk of one of our neighboring towns with her shoes and stockings off and she was turning her stockings inside out. Upon being asked why she did that she replied that her feet were hot and she was turning the hose on them.*

Margaret Ristvedt, CCHS Office Manager

## Clay County communities set celebrations

CCHS has planned a busy schedule for the summer months in order to take in as many community celebrations as possible. Staff and volunteers participated in the Felton Field Day's Parade and the Hawley Rodeo Parade, both on June 19.

Plans are to attend Ulen Turkey Days and Barnesville Potato Days Festival in August and the Valley Fest Parade in Moorhead in September.

These community celebrations are a unique way to celebrate our heritage here in Clay County and the historical society commends all the community leaders who donate their time and talent to provide these wonderful celebrations.

### CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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# Family History Workshop XVIII set for Saturday, Sept. 25

The Heritage Education Commission (HEC) of Fargo-Moorhead will hold Family History Workshop XVIII on Saturday, Sept. 25 in the Comstock Memorial Union at Moorhead State University.

Among the many experts who will be conducting classes for registrants are Timothy Klobberdanz, Gerhard Naeseth, Verlyn Anderson, Maralyn Ann Wellauer, and Beth Mullinax. Klobberdanz, an anthropologist at NDSU, will speak on "Rainmakers and Revolutionaries: Collecting Folklore in Russia" at the workshop luncheon and will also teach a class. He was researching folklore in the Volga Region of Russia in August 1991 when the Communist coup and the dramatic events of the "Second Russian Revolution" took place. Naeseth, director of the Vesterheim Genealogical Center in Madison, Wisc. and Verlyn Anderson, librarian at Concordia College, are both well known for their ability to guide research on Norwegian ancestors in this country and in Norway. They will jointly teach four classes. The author of a large number of books, pamphlets, and articles, Maralyn Ann Wellauer has expertise in a variety of areas. She will teach classes on German reunification and its effects on the genealogist, Polish emigration, and emigration and immigration routes and records. Beth Mullinax from Minneapolis, President of the Irish Genealogical Society International, will teach two sessions on Ireland.

Many other experts from this region will lead sessions during the conference. Two new classes this year are taught by Maureen Zimmerman, former WDAY producer/anchor and now Director of Publications at Concordia College, on "Getting the Scoop" on your family history, and by Pam Burkhardt, Clay County Historical Society, on preserving family heirlooms. Les Bakke, computer specialist at Moorhead State University, will lead small groups in hands-on sessions using the LDS genealogy program, Personal Ancestral File, on IBM computers. Rick Crume, local research expert will focus on England and Wales, and teach another class with an overview of the rapidly changing field of computers and genealogy. Bev Paulson, well-known genealogist and presenter, and chair of the annual Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival, will hold two classes on Swedish research. Jackie Marler will teach classes in beginning research, and Diane Armstrong will discuss ways to use the LDS Family History Centers efficiently.

The Commission is still accepting family histories and memoirs for purchase awards. Brochures on the workshop will be available in August. To be placed on the mailing list and for more information on the purchase awards, write the Heritage Education Commission, Division of Continuing Education, Moorhead State University, Moorhead, MN 56563.

## STARING AT THE BRIDAL PARTY

The guests should not rush out of church for the purpose of collecting on the sidewalk to get a look at the bride. They should remain quietly in the church until the wedding procession has passed out.

From Twentieth Century Etiquette, ca 1900



**AT THE  
HERITAGE  
SHOP**

*Featuring:*

- \* "Quilts" by Victoria Hoffman
- \* Cards
- \* Quilt Jewelry
- \* Pattern Blocks
- \* Stained Glass

*As well as other  
special gifts.*

# The house had a familiar scent, Depression era home

By Joan Erickson, Museum Assistant

According to some standards, a 1931 house isn't old. But when I look at photos of that period and see the type of clothing worn, or the automobiles driven, 62 years seems like a long time ago to me! So, when I speak of renovating an old house, please bear with me. It's not a 200 year old cape cod that you'd see out East, but it has more charm, personality and character than many of the new homes I've seen recently.



The Erickson's 1931 stucco cottage lies on this tree lined boulevard in south Fargo among similar era housing.

It was that "charm" of the house we now own that initially caught my eye. The cute little stucco cottage seemed to beckon us to enter one Sunday afternoon as we were doing our weekly Open House circuit. Sunshine greeted us through multi-paned windows as we walked into the living room. The glass door knobs sparkled and the rich oak woodwork glowed with a homey warmth.

The house had a familiar scent, and I was almost instantly transported back to my maternal grandmother's house. A feeling of comfort enveloped me. Meanwhile, my husband was scanning the setting at a more hurried pace. I think all the bright green carpet and heavily flowered wallpaper was a turn-off for him!

"I love it!" I whispered, so as to keep the realtor from hearing the excited tone in my voice. "There's so much potential here!" (I've since learned that "potential" is synonymous with "work to be done", but that is hindsight!)

As we walked through each room, with me lingering in each just a bit longer than my husband, I was falling in love. Then we went upstairs. The slanted ceilings reminded me of the farm house I grew up in, but it was once again a smell, this time similar to the home of my paternal grandparents, that gave me the warm fuzzies. This was it. Our new home.

And so it was to be. We bought our first home on an elm-lined street where we used to ride bike when we were dating in college. We'd see the cute little cape



# a feeling of comfort has charm all its own

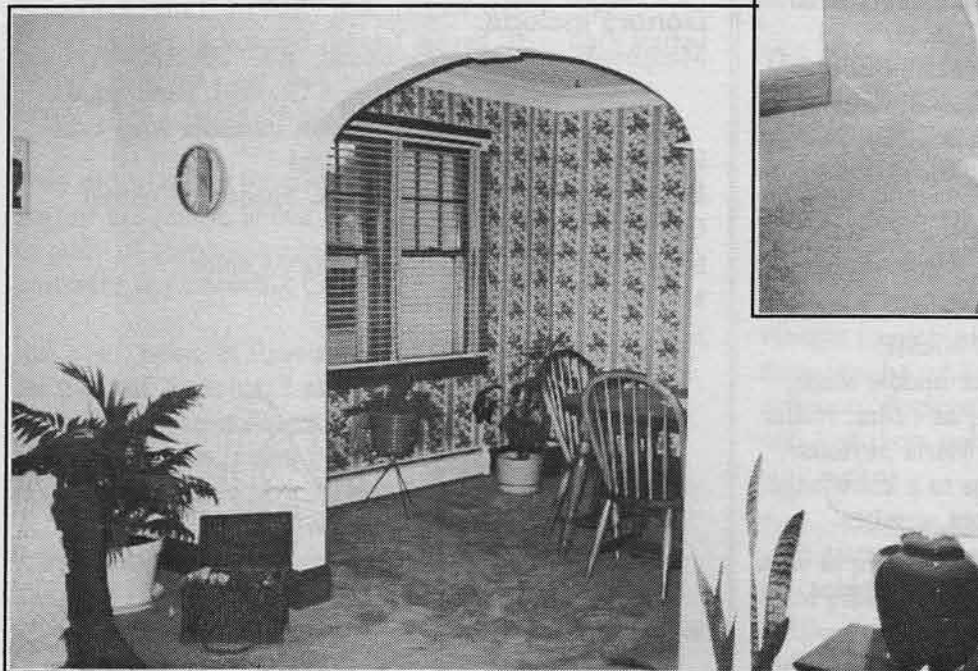
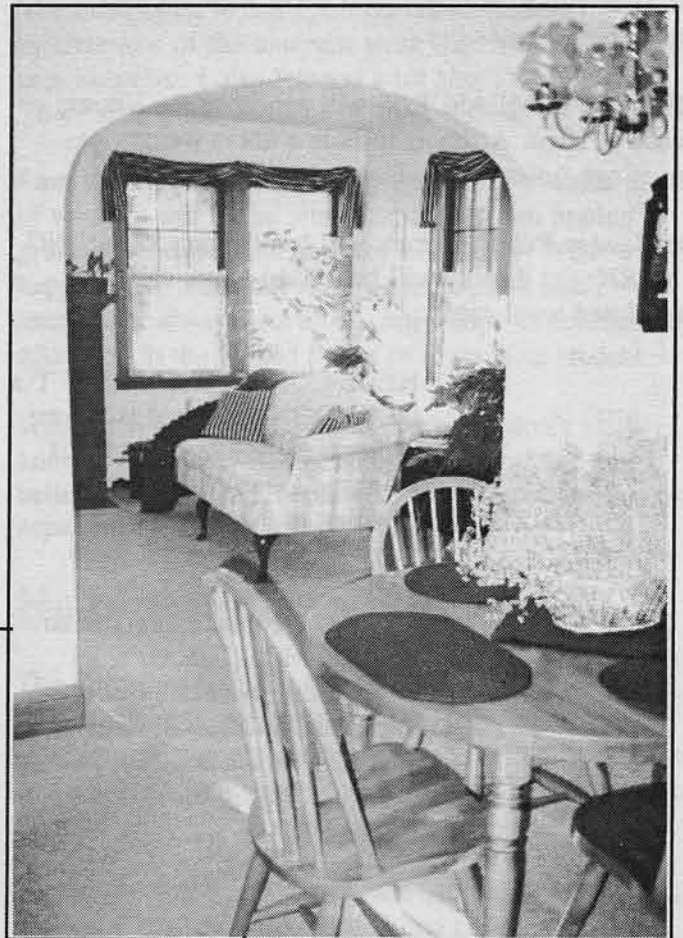
cods, tudor cottages and colonial revivals and say to each other, "This would be a nice street to live on if we end up staying in Fargo." We've been fixing the place up ever since!

The first thing to go was...you guessed it...the bright green carpet and the heavily flowered wallpaper! And to think that that seemed like a big project! Huh! We were young amateurs then, without a clue of what other dust-raising experiences loomed ahead!

We hadn't lived in the house too long before we found out that it belonged to a historic district of Fargo, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This was very exciting to us, but also brought on new challenges. At that point, we decided that whatever we'd do to our house in the line of remodeling/renovation, we'd try our best to keep it historically accurate to the period it was built - 1931, and still try to maintain it's English cottage flavor as well. This was the birth of a new hobby for me.

With a degree in interior design, I dug out all my text books on the history of design and interiors. I spent hours at the library, looking for books on period

These two photos, one taken into the dining room (1987) and the other from the dining room (1990), show the flowered wallpaper and the dark green carpeting of the earlier period and the white walls and light carpeting of today. The openness of the recent photo places the accent on the wonderful period arch and the airiness of the rooms.



architecture. It became more fun, and more interesting with each new bit of information I would find. I'd seek out people who were into historic preservation and period architecture and try to learn from them. It's amazing how many people there are so

(Continued on Page 10)

## Outreach Displays

	Opens	Closes
Hitterdal Senior Center	July 21	Sept. 22
Ulen-Hitterdal High School	Now Showing	July 21
Viking Manor, Ulen	July 21	Sept. 22
Hawley Public Library	July 21	Sept. 22
Glyndon Community Center	July 23	Sept. 24
Moorhead Public Library	Now Showing	Sept. 24

The Hitterdal Senior Center will feature SMILE! with cameras and photography supplies used over the years.

The Ulen-Hitterdal High School will have no new display until September.

WEIGHTS & MEASURES will appear at the Viking Manor in Ulen. Artifacts include a horse weight, gas gauge, egg timer and an iron.

The Hawley Public Library will be showing SPINNING A YARN. On display will be a band loom, shuttle, hatchel and wool cards.



HERE COMES THE BRIDE TO GLYNDON! Featured is a dress and accessories worn by Ginia Winifred Peterson at her wedding to Wendel George Tehven on October 23, 1924.

Moorhead Public Library is now showing MOORHEAD'S IN BUSINESS. Artifacts from Waterman's Dept. Store, KVOX, and the Pehrson and Nelson Store are among items on display.

## CHANGING THE MIDDLE NAME

A bride may after her marriage drop her middle name, and adopt her maiden name in its place, as - Mrs. Nellie Winn Seymour, instead of Mrs. Nellie Maria Seymour. We think this a good fashion, as it helps to a knowledge of the family to which the bride belonged, ere her marriage, and saves confusion. Widows often retain the names of their first husbands, as Mrs. Belle Hopkins Gill.

From Twentieth Century Etiquette, ca 1900

## Donations

A great big thank you to the following individuals and groups who made monetary contributions to CCHS in May and June.

Concordia College (Honorarium)  
 Esther Olson  
 Gjevre, McLarnan, Hannaher, Vaa,  
 Skatvold and McLarnan  
 Moorhead Central Lions Club  
 Anonymous

## Artifacts & Donors

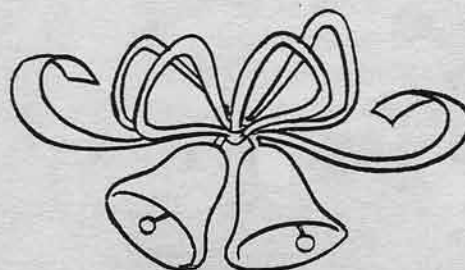
May/June 1993

### Artifacts include:

A glass bell from the Hitterdal centennial 1984; plate from Moorhead State College [now MSU]; lunch box; WW I and WW II posters; Polk's Fargo-Moorhead Directories for 1987, 1988 & 1992; (6) photo prints of a Red River flood ca 1943; (8) issues of Barnesville's Town Topics and (7) issues of Barnesville's Broadside; blueprints for the Fankhanel house in Barnesville; WMSTR booklet Memories of Bygone Years 1991; minute book of the Moorhead Automobile Club ca 1912-1970; copy of the proposed Moorhead Charter 1900; dress form ca 1900; photos of Northwestern Hospital and staff; book, Too Hot, Went to Lake; book, Houston County History.

### Donors include:

Moorhead: Helen Hedelund, A.C. Bloomquist, Lyle B. Clark, Kevin Goodno, Ruth Smith, Paula Kay Wilson Johnson, Meg Fuell  
 Hawley: Norman Bjorndahl  
 Barnesville: Dorothy Garven, Spencer D. Arndt  
 Glyndon: Sherry Watt  
 St. Peter: Treaty Site History Center  
 Mpls/St. Paul: Peg Meier  
 Fargo: Joan Erickson





# When I landed in Fargo I said: "Is that really America?" From Moscow to Moorhead

By Ekaterina (Kate) Parton, Russian exchange student and CCHS Intern

Why did you choose Fargo-Moorhead?," I have been asked by many people. "How do you like it up here? Where is better: here or in Russia?" These questions sound really simple, but still, they aren't easy to answer.

I was leaving Moscow on the cold rainy night of August 27, 1991. At that time I was a 19 year-old second year student at the University of Moscow. This was to be my first experience of travelling alone.

Just several days had passed after the military coup in Russia and people were still scared to death because they remembered the reign of Stalin and prayed that wouldn't come back. My family was also worried about my future and we decided that I should leave the country. My plane was scheduled for 6 a.m. and, while on the escalator into the plane, I was trying to catch the eyes of my parents among the crowd of the huge Moscow airport. I finally did because of my Dad's bright leather jacket and, after I waved, they both started crying, because I am their only child and they didn't know when I might be back.

Why did I choose Fargo-Moorhead? I don't really know. Part of the reason is that my mother, who has a Ph.D. in political science, visited the area once as a guest professor at Concordia College, and she really liked it.

But, also, being in Russia, I didn't realize the variety of the parts of America. I saw the huge buildings of New York City on television and thought that all of America was like this. So, when I saw Fargo, I couldn't believe my eyes: "Is that really America?"

It has been almost two years since I came over. During this time I have improved my English, learned how to drive and use a computer, and got some American habits



Ekaterina (Kate) Parton

(both good and bad). I am completing my senior year at Moorhead State University, majoring in history. This summer I am interning at Clay County Historical Society and I really enjoy it. I like everything at CCHS: the place itself, the documents available and, especially the people. Pam Burkhardt and Mark Peihl provide the atmosphere of peace, friendship and harmony and, moreover, there is a lot to learn from them. After being here for a couple weeks, I feel as if I have gained a lot.

The main thing is that I started understanding the mechanisms of the museum work that is important to me as a historian. I also learned a lot about Norwegians. There aren't that many of them in Russia.

I am planning to complete my internship towards the end of summer and in the winter of 1994, I am hoping to graduate from Moorhead State University. What will happen then? I am not sure, because plans don't necessarily always work out. But I hope to continue my education in the United States as a graduate student.

Whether it is better in Russia or here, I don't really know... I miss my home, and I love America, too. I believe that nowhere is perfect, but I enjoy my learning experience of living in different cultures.

## Helpful household hints!!

The following helpful hints are taken from Fowler's Blue Book of Selected Household Helps and Guide to Household Economy 3rd ed. 1925. CCHS will claim no responsibility for consequences suffered from the use of these hints.

**When Serving Fresh Strawberries**, after hulling, place them in a shallow dish and add one tablespoon of vinegar to each pint of berries; sugar to taste and let them stand a while before serving. They will be delicious. Persons who are unable to eat strawberries will find them quite agreeable if sprinkled very lightly with pepper.

**To sprinkle cloth quickly**, turn nozzle of the garden hose to a fine spray and sprinkle them while on the line. Plain pieces can then be rolled up and laid in the basket as taken down. Starched pieces may need further sprinkling.

# A museum's goal:

**By Pam Burkhardt, Collection Manager**

This is the third in a three-part series on our mission statement which states:

*"The object of the Clay County Historical Society shall be the collection, preservation and dissemination of knowledge of the history of Clay County and to relate it to the history of the region."*

[taken from The Purpose of the Clay County Historical Society by-laws, adopted Sept 28, 1984]

The first two parts were on collections and preservation respectively. This third and final installment will cover "...dissemination of knowledge..." one of the truest purposes of the historical society.

## Part III: Dissemination of knowledge

The textbook Introduction to Museum Work by G. Ellis Burcaw states that "the museum exists for the purpose of providing education, inspiration, and aesthetic enrichment for all the people ..." Burcaw further says the museum's role is not primarily for entertainment, nostalgia, to promote tourism etc. or "for any other non-educational end. For the educational use of collections, research is essential and requires such facilities as a reference library . . . ." At an education workshop in Bismarck in 1990, Viki Sand, Director of the Shaker Museum in Old Chatham, New York, talked about education and museums. She said our job was to teach. She also said a museum could be any number of things ... just don't be boring!

In May 1990, "The Family Circus" comic strip showed Billy waking up and saying he could hardly wait to go on a field trip that day! The vision in his head showed smiling children running in a field. The last panel showed a sad-faced Billy returning home saying they spent the day in a museum. Whew! We are playing to tough audiences. The word "museum" can still conjure up a daunting image of a spinster with glasses presiding over crowded rooms filled with dusty furniture and displaying dark store cases containing dried flowers, old vests, painted sea shells and dishes. A visit to this museum can leave you trying to understand how all of these things are historically important. The museum's role is changing. The public image of that role has to

change, however, to make it work. We can't be just public attics any more!

In the past few years, museum conferences have repeatedly stressed the role that education plays in museums. In other words, if we aren't educating, what are we doing? In Parts I and II, we have shown how Clay County Historical Society collects and preserves. We use what has been collected and preserved for educational purposes. Our museum provides education opportunities in a variety of ways: through exhibits, displays, programs, demonstrations, use of archival materials, tours, and publications. As you will see, a lot happens outside the museum setting.

### EXHIBITS:

In addition to the permanent exhibit featuring community development in the county, we prepare two exhibits a year for our temporary exhibit gallery. In the past, we developed four in-house exhibits a year, featured several travelling exhibits provided by the Minnesota State Historical Society, and hosted one by the Heritage Hjemkomst Center. We held one larger exhibition in HHIC's exhibit hall and often provide them with photos and artifacts.

### DISPLAYS:

Our in-house displays are featured in one alcove area and one wall gallery in our exhibit hall. Displays can be found in hallways, in the lobby and in bathrooms! Since the Outreach project started in 1988, we have provided well over 100 off-site displays. They are located in Ulen, Hitterdal, Hawley, Glyndon and Moorhead. Displays have been created for other sites as requested.

### PROGRAMS:

Our four PAST (Packaged Artifacts for School Teachers) trunks are CCHS's travelling program which began in 1988. Each trunk illustrates a different aspect of Clay County history and contains artifacts or replicas, photographs, an activity binder, and in most cases, a video. These are available to area schools on a first come/first serve basis. They are designed specifically for elementary students, but have also been used extensively by area nursing homes as a reminiscence tool.

CCHS offers a number of slide shows on county history. We present workshops on displays and, especially,



# to educate

textile, photograph and document care and preservation for CCHS and other agencies. Over 100 programs were presented by CCHS staff in 1992. Artifacts from the collections are loaned to schools, nursing homes and other organizations for their special programs. Programming provided by the staff is often supplemented with artifacts from the collections. In fact, every three years, about one fourth of the three-dimensional collections has been on display in the county or used in a program!

## DEMONSTRATIONS:

Demonstrations have included butter-making, spinning, knitting and lace-making.

## USE OF ARCHIVAL MATERIALS:

The two-dimensional collections are used to develop programming for the society in exhibits, slide shows and newsletter articles. Researchers visit the archives or write for information. Our archives are used by students, genealogists, writers, reporters, etc.

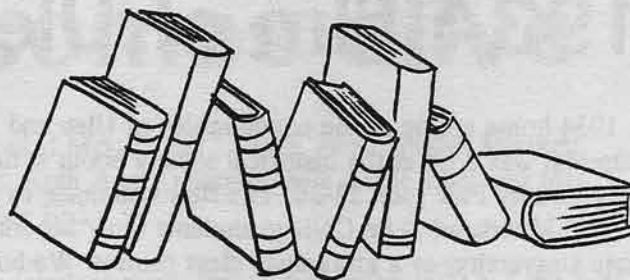
## TOURS:

We give behind-the-scenes tours of the museum as well as tours of the exhibit areas. School is held occasionally in our rural school at Rollag. The Bergquist Pioneer Cabin in Moorhead is open during the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival (courtesy of the Swedish Cultural Heritage Society) and at other times by request. CCHS created a walking tour of the Red River in conjunction with River Front Days last year and repeated it again this year. Last fall and again this spring, CCHS sponsored tours to Minnesota's new History Center and several other historic sites in St. Paul.

## PUBLICATIONS:

Our newsletter is more of a magazine. It features articles on events, people, and sites in the county plus information on preservation and information about the collections. This newsletter is sent free to area nursing homes, schools and libraries. Topical brochures and handouts complement a number of exhibits and programs.

As you can see, CCHS is involved in a wide variety of educational activities which began with collections and preservation. Remember, when you visit the museum and archives, you are seeing only a small part of this total effort to fulfill our mission statement.



## CCHS programs that educate

STOCKWOOD FILL (20 min.) Why is the railroad up in the air east of Glyndon? A look at this major engineering feat.

OLD RUBY: the Red River at Moorhead (20-30 min.) From steamboats to recreation - how the city and river have co-existed for over a century.

OLD GEORGETOWN: Crossroads (20 min.) A look at Clay County's oldest community; transportation crossroads in the fur trading days.

DOC HUMPHREY FILMS (15 MIN.) an amateur movie maker's view of Moorhead around 1917.

SPINNING (20 MIN.) The equipment used in spinning wool, preparing wool for spinning and quilting and dyeing.

CONSERVATION OF TEXTILES (60 min.) How to care for heirloom textiles and needlework.

PRESERVING YOUR FAMILY PHOTOS (30 min.) How to save your pictures for future generations.

GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES IN THE CCHS ARCHIVES (20 min.) How we can help you find your ancestors.

STORY OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY (30 min.) Prehistory and early people of the valley.

FUR TRADE IN THE RED RIVER VALLEY (45 min.) Designed especially for school children. This lecture-demonstration covers the why and how of early fur trading in the area.

WELCOME TO BEERHEAD (35 min.) Moorhead's saloon days, 1890 to 1915.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS from the collections are available upon request.

Call 233-4604 to schedule a program.

# 1934 film of Ulen/Hitterdal a classic

A 1934 home movie of the communities of Ulen and Hitterdal was a hit at the historical society booth at the Clay County Fair June 23-26. The film was made by several Moorhead State College students (now Moorhead State University) as a journalism class project. We hope the students got an A+ in the course because they certainly preserved a heap of history. Over 60 years from the time it was shot, this rare film brings Hitterdal and Ulen communities of the 1930s to life once again.

Included on the clips shown at the fair that were identifiable were the following businesses: Swenson's Garage, with Clarence Swenson pumping gas; Ulen Union, with a very young Milt Reiersgord setting type; Grandes' Pool Hall with Mr. Grande serving up the foamy; McDonald's Drug Store, with pharmacist Tom McDonald wrapping a package with the traditional twine; and Coldwell Dray Line, with the horses pulling a full load. Also included on the 1934 clips were shots of Bethlehem Lutheran Church and the Ulen Public School. A crowd favorite was a classic of a 1933 Model A pulling into a full service filling station where three attendants converged on the vehicle to put gas on, check the radiator and wash the windshield. This event was commonplace in the 1930s but 60 years later it certainly struck the funnybone of many of our viewers.

This was the fifth consecutive year for CCHS to sponsor a booth at the Fair. Assisting staff were two gentlemen from the Blandin Leadership Program, Kenny Fox of Hawley and Russ McDougall of Hitterdal. Fox and McDougall were instrumental in securing the video used at the fair and provided the television and VCR to show the film. Also volunteering in the booth was Francelia Iverson of Baker.

Besides the 1934 film, clips of the 1984 Hitterdal Centennial celebration were featured along with a Ulen celebration at about the same time and excerpts from the WMSTR promotional video.

The films were part of a plan to feature the communities of Ulen, Hitterdal, Hawley and Rollag this year and expand to other communities next year. Fox and McDougall made much of this year's program possible and it is hoped that community leaders from other towns in Clay County will come forward with ideas and assistance for next year.

One hundred twenty-two people signed up for the drawing of a one-year gift membership to CCHS. It was

won by Janice Danielson of Rothsay.

It is estimated, based on an increased number of parked cars and the attendance at the grand stand performances that about 17,000 people attended the four-day Fair.



## Cottage (Continued from Page 5)

knowledgeable on this subject!

Another valuable resource I found was the State Historical Society in Bismarck. I wrote and explained to them what projects we wanted to work on in our house, and asked their advice on what types of windows, walls, floor coverings, furnishings, etc. to use. Their reply was very helpful, and they gave us some guidelines on how to keep the house's curb appeal and not ruin it's historical details.

Luckily, too, there seems to be a resurgence of interest in old-home renovation projects nation-wide. I find that very exciting! Why not preserve our past by restoring these old homes and structures that have so much character? There is a certain amount of security and stability for us if we have historic landmarks surrounding us. I think many people are realizing the importance of preservation and restoration, as seems evident with the TV shows like "This Old House", and the abundance of magazines and reading materials now available on the subject. The information is out there. One just needs to look!

Six years and several thousand dollars later, we are still in our home, still working on yet another project. It has been an enjoyable experience for both my husband and me. Not only have we become handier in our carpentry skills (we're your typical do-it-yourselfers!), but we've become educated on a piece of history. The research we've done on the time period in which our home was built has given us a window to the past.

I sometimes wish I could turn back time and just for a day, see what life was like on our street 62 years ago. I sit in my living room as I write this, and I wonder what went on in this home before we moved in. If only this house could talk!



# Pioneer Cabin comes alive

The lonely little cabin sits in a secluded area along the river in north Moorhead. But it wasn't lonely June 24, 25 and 26. For three days the tiny Bergquist Pioneer Cabin was the scene of much activity.

An open house, sponsored by the Swedish Cultural Heritage Society and Clay County Historical Society, was part of the area's Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival.

The Bergquist cabin is the oldest existing residence on its original site in Moorhead. John Gustav Bergquist emigrated from Smaland, Sweden to Minnesota in 1868. When he was 20 he secured his homestead rights in the area which was later to become the City of Moorhead. The cabin was built in 1870 with an upstairs addition added several years later when John's brother, Peter, joined him.

John worked on the railroad, farmed, sold milk door-to-door, and later became a brickmaker, using the clay he found here. He established his first brickyard in 1881 just as the area's economy was beginning to flourish. The Comstock Hotel in Moorhead, a landmark for many years, was built with Bergquist bricks.

Bergquist broke up his homestead in 1882, contributing part of it for the new Clay County Courthouse, and platted some of his homestead just north of the court house into lots to be sold. For himself, he put up a large frame home on his brickyard east of town.

Dewey Bergquist, well known former weatherman for WDAY Television and a grandson of John Bergquist was the host and tour guide for the open house. Dewey's children, Paul and Ellie Bergquist and Phillip and John Paul of Ashland, Wisc., and Carol Bergquist and Joe Rebholtz of Prior Lake were surprise guests and helped with the musical entertainment: Paul on his horn and Carol on her flute. Other activities included accordion music by Ron Anderson, bread baking by Gladys Westrum, knitting (Swedish mittens) by Jean Jacobson, weaving by Muriel Vincent, making Swedish bobbin lace by Pam Burkhardt, and wood shavings handcraft by Heather Paseka, Beth Wolslegel, Jessica Jordahl, Kristin Paseka and Ruth Franzen. For the third consecutive year, Ruth Franzen served as chairperson for the event.

John Lopez provided a parking area, water for coffee and the use of a telephone. Other volunteers who either furnished Swedish goodies, and/or helped serve them

included Mrs. Grace Landin, Mrs. Gladys Mudgett, Mrs. Ruth Ann Anderson, Mrs. Elsie Lee, and Mrs. Elaine Fiske.

One hundred thirty-three people signed up for the door prize, a Swedish bobbin lace doily, made and donated by CCHS Collection's Manager Pam Burkhardt. The doily was won by Jo Jacobson of Alamo, ND.

All three local television stations gave the cabin open house good coverage and Minnesota Public Radio did a special on-the-air interview with Dewey on Saturday morning.

As part of the Scandinavian Festival, CCHS also had a booth at the Civic Center in Centennial Hall. The booth displayed rosemaled artifacts from the collections to help promote the first annual juried Scandinavian Folk Art Exhibition featuring rosemaling. A demonstration of Swedish bobbin lace making was featured to encourage a visit to the Bergquist Pioneer Cabin.

From the Moorhead Weekly News, July 16, 1908

## NOTICE TO BATHERS

### CUSTOM OF BATHING WITHOUT SUITS IN CITY LIMITS MUST CEASE.

A number of complaints having been made today to Chief of Police Malvey against the custom of certain men and boys bathing within the city limits without bathing suits, the chief gives notice that hereafter anyone found so bathing within the limits of the city, will be arrested and fined.

The river is coming to be very generally used by pleasure craft during the summer months and common decency should prompt bathers to an observance of the law as to the wearing of bathing suits.

# The genealogy pox

**Epidemiology:** Warning! Mature adults are usually susceptible.

**Symptoms:** Chronic compulsion to search for names, dates, and places. Patient has blank expression, sometimes utterly ignoring spouse and children. Perceived to have no desire for work of any kind, except feverishly looking through records at libraries and courthouses. Has an irresistible urge to write letters. Swears at the mailman when he doesn't leave mail. Often frequents such strange places as cemeteries, ruins and remote, desolate country areas. Makes secret early morning and/or weekend telephone calls. Hides phone bill from spouse. Mumbles to self. Has strange, faraway look in the eyes.

**Prognosis:** Guarded. There is no known cure.

**Treatment:** Medication is useless. Disease is not fatal, however, but gets progressively worse. Patient should attend genealogical workshops, subscribe to genealogical magazines and be given a quiet corner in the house where he or she can be alone and not be disturbed.

**\*Patient is Harmless.** Is almost never violent. However, when you tell him

everything you know, he will always want more.

**Warning!** Disease is not contagious, however, patient would like to infect everyone, particularly distant cousins, aunts, and uncles.

**Remarks:** The usual nature of the diseases is....The sicker the patient gets, the more he enjoys it.

Reprinted from the Anoka County Genealogical Society Newsletter, Jan/Feb 1991 Vol. 13, No.1

## Banners & Bicycles



Michael Peet of Wolverton (lower left) rode his replica 'ordinary' in the Hawley Rodeo Parade on June 19. Upper photo: Margaret Ristvedt (left) and Ann Gytri carried the new banner promoting the "Cycling" exhibit at the Felton Field Days Parade. Carol Ekre assisted Margaret carrying the banner at the Rodeo Parade.



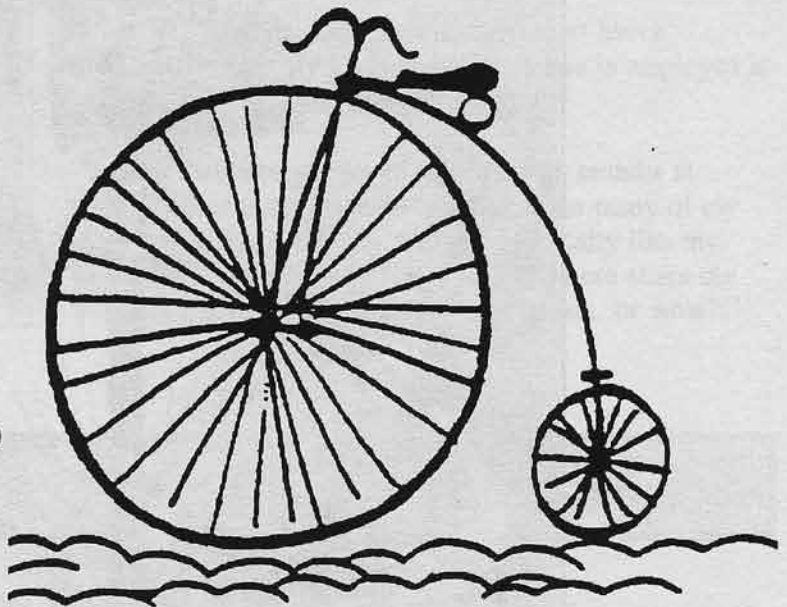
# CLAY COUNTY MUSEUM

## *"A Century of Cycling"*

now showing in the temporary gallery

What is an ordinary? Why and when was the ordinary replaced with the safety bike? What did "taking a header" mean? What is a skirt guard and why was it necessary? Find the answer to these and many other questions in the "Cycling" exhibit.

From the high wheels of the 1880s to the mountain bikes of today, Clay County residents have ridden wheels. This exhibit looks at changes in bicycles and how people have been changed by them.



### **Permanent Exhibit:**

The permanent exhibit includes unique characterizations of one facet of the history of each county town. Together these characterizations form a chapter in the overall history of Clay County.

~~~~~

**Make plans to visit  
the Clay County Museum today!!**

**Hours are: 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 9-9 Thurs. and 12-5 Sun.**

Lower level of Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Ave. N., Moorhead

# Dual City Wheel Club Member, ca 1892



Early Cycle enthusiast and Dual City Wheel Club member John E. Johnson poses with his wheel and the club banner. His uniform of a short close fitting jacket, wool knickers, tight stockings and high boots are practical for riding the tricky ordinary. The first cycle club in the county, the Dual City Wheel Club began at Moorhead-Fargo in 1892.



# CCHS hires Museum Assistant

Joan Erickson has been hired by CCHS to assist the staff with designing and implementing outreach cases and exhibits. Erickson has degrees in Interior Design and Home Economics from North Dakota State University. She has worked at several area newspapers in graphic design and most recently was employed at the Plains Art Museum. In addition to her part time position at CCHS Joan freelances out of her home doing interior design consulting and drawing. She has plans to do illustrations for a medical book.

Joan tells us that in her spare time (?) she enjoys "....renovating/remodeling on our 1931 home and learning as much as I can on historic preservation, architecture and period decoration." Joan's



hobbies include outdoor activities such as biking, walking, cross country skiing, waterskiing and ice skating, and she loves music, both as a listener and also playing piano and singing.

Anyone who has visited the new "A Century of Cycling" exhibit in the CCHS Temporary Exhibit Hall can attest to the impact Erickson has had on the exhibit. It is bright and inviting as well as informative and entertaining.

Joan hails from Wadena and is married to Steve Erickson, originally from Hitterdal. Steve is employed at St. Lukes Merit-Care, Fargo.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my first two months at CCHS because my position touches on so many of my interests. I feel I can be creative and I really like my coworkers. Besides that, people around here share my love for chocolate! Now is that a great job, or what?!"

## CCHS Memberships - New and Renewals

### May/June 1993

CCHS extends a very special thank you to the following individuals who have renewed their membership for another year.

Vilera Rood  
 Sylvia Larson  
 Harry C. Bergquist  
 John H. Hall  
 Jane Hendricks  
 Marvin Koeplin  
 Leona Overby  
 Evert A. Wiisanen  
 Polly Ames  
 M/M Bernard Gill  
 John Jenkins  
 M/M James Stenerson  
 Albert Knutson  
 Louise Nettleton  
 Steve & Lucia Schroeder  
 Jim Fay

Mark Chekola  
 Barb & Roger Spilde  
 Carroll & Joan Engelhardt  
 Norwest Bank Minn. West  
 Patrick Colliton  
 Mrs. Elvida Halin  
 Rae P. Haynes  
 Ralph H. Lee  
 Lester Bakke  
 Ramona Kooren  
 Justine Swanson  
 Conn Bjerke  
 Authur Nix  
 Milton & Ardis Severson  
 Fern & Owen Voxland  
 J. Robert Hanson  
 William Prieb  
 Kent Knutson  
 Esther Olson  
 Norman Bjorndahl

Marie Daellenbach  
 Alice Grover  
 Arvid Thompson  
 Royce Yeater  
 Beth Iverson  
 Marlene Ames  
 Gjevve, McLarnan, Hannaher,  
 Vaa, Skatland & McLarnan  
 Mrs. Joy R. Johnson  
 Ed Gudmundson  
 Lloyd Sunde  
 James Antonen

CCHS welcomes the following new members:

Shirley A. Manning  
 Eva Felde  
 Delayne M. Karls  
 Catherine Schelbe

## CCHS - 1993 MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Family memberships, please list family members.

Husband

Wife

Children (under the age of 18)

Return to: Clay County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 501  
Moorhead, MN 56561

(218) 233-4604

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