Mystery Building?

This photo from our last Newsletter elicited many questions about the turreted building at right. It's story is told in this issue beginning on page 8.

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President's Message

By Darren Leno, President

Attend the Annual Meeting
Make plans today to attend the Clay County Historical Society's Annual Meeting! Somehow, Lisa was able to get a commitment from Nina Archabal, the Minnesota Historical Society's Executive Director, to be our guest speaker. We're very excited to have Nina come, and hope you'll be there to give her a big Clay County welcome. Nina's appearance part of our 2008 celebration of Minnesota's Statehood Sesquicentennial.

Have you Seen the New Exhibit?
Pam, Mark and Lisa have prepared a wonderful new exhibit in our museum about communication technology in Clay County. I know you'll enjoy it immensely! Please make plans to stop by the museum before the annual meeting, and let me know what you think. And be sure to bring along a friend!

As our 75th Anniversary celebrations and exhibit concluded recently, part of which detailed the history of CCHS from a little backroom collection to a major contributor to local culture, I was reminded how important it is for all of us to continually reassess our situation, and prepare for the future. For as a wise person once said, "those who don't remember the past are doomed to repeat it." And while there are many, many good things in Clay County's past that are worthy of repetition, I'm glad that the society is here to help us remember all of it.

The Clay County Historical Society, in its dedication to its mission, remains a tremendous resource for local historians, governments, planners, teachers, students, researchers genealogists and anyone else who has the curiosity to ask, why are things the way they are? With more than 30,000 historical artifacts in its care, CCHS can bring the answers to that important question to life.

Looking to the Future
You can help to ensure that the mission of CCHS will always be carried forward. Contributions to our endowment fund are always welcome, and are professionally managed in perpetuity. Each year when we receive our discretionary payment from the fund, I am thankful to those who took the time to make a contribution. It is my hope that this fund will become a more important part of our funding in future years. For more information on how to contribute to the CCHS endowment, please contact FM Area Foundation or call the CCHS office.

CCHS and HHIC
A group of board and staff members from CCHS and the Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretive Center (HHIC) have been meeting to share information about our organizations, with the goal of realizing closer cooperation. We've learned a lot about each other's strengths and challenges, and discovered issues that we have in common. Like any pair of roommates who have lived together for more than twenty years, there have been times that our organizations have disagreed on things. But we were quickly able to agree that we share the goal of creating an exciting destination for where history can be learned and culture celebrated.

It's my hope that CCHS and HHIC will continue to build on the good will that these meetings have engendered, and that we will work closely together to build successful and secure futures in the Hjemkomst Center.
CCHS Annual Meeting, May 7  
Guest Speaker, MHS Executive Director Nina Archabal

The Clay County Historical Society is proud to announce Minnesota Historical Society Executive Director, Nina Archabal as the Guest Speaker for the CCHS Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 7! Ms. Archabal's visit is part of CCHS' homage to Minnesota's 150th Anniversary of Statehood. The Annual Meeting will be held in the Auditorium of the Hjemkomst Center, 202 First Avenue North, Moorhead. Guest registration will begin at 5:30 p.m., dinner will be served at 6:00, a brief business meeting will be held at 7:00, and Ms. Archabal will speak at approximately 7:30 p.m. Cost is $18 per person for dinner, catered by Concordia College's Palatable Catering.

Ms. Archabal served as Minnesota Historical Society's Deputy Director from 1977 until she was appointed as the Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer in 1987. In the 20 plus years of her directorship, Archabal has overseen the planning for and construction of the Minnesota History Center, which has significantly expanded the scope and public visibility of the Society's programs, collections, and services; extended the Society's reach to many more Minnesotans as evidenced by the increase in its membership from 7,000 to 19,000; drawn the state's Native American citizens more closely into the preservation and interpretation of their contribution to Minnesota's past through the Society's Indian Advisory Council and the construction of the Mille Lacs Indian Museum; and expanded the Society's presence in Minneapolis with the construction of the award-winning Mill City Museum within a burnt out industrial shell where people can now learn the important stories of agriculture on the plains, the development of shipping by rail and water, the growth of the milling industry that made Minneapolis the Flour Capital of the World, and the history of the state's largest city.

Archabal currently serves on a number of governing boards including the Smithsonian Council; the Hill Museum and Monastic Library at St. John's University; the St. Paul Riverfront Corporation; the Alliss Educational Foundation; and currently serves as vice-chair of the United States Committee of the International Council of Museums. She chairs the visiting committee for the Peabody Museum at Harvard University and the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board, and serves on the visiting committees for Longwood Gardens and the Arnold Arboretum. Archabal served as an overseer of Harvard College, chair of the board of the American Association of Museums and has been a trustee of the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress. She also served on the National Council on the Humanities.

In 1997, President Clinton awarded Archabal the National Humanities Medal. In 2001, she received the Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award from the University of Minnesota, and an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Carleton College in 2002. In April 2006, she received the Colman Barry Award for distinguished contributions to religion and Society from St. John's University. In 2007, she received the President's Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation for her leadership in the historic preservation movement.

Archabal holds a bachelor's degree cum laude and a master of arts in teaching from Harvard University. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota.
Probstfield Farm Picnic May 15

The Probstfield Farm Living History Foundation will hold their annual picnic 5:30-7:00pm on Thursday, May 15, at the Probstfield Farm site. The farm is located north of M.B. Johnson Park on 11th Street North (also known as County Road 3, Oakport Street North, or the old US Highway 75) in Moorhead, MN. The picnic is free and will include hay rides, a bonfire with s'mores, and grilling. The Foundation's annual meeting begins at 3:30.

The Probstfield Farm Living History Foundation, Inc. was founded in 1995 by June Probstfield Dobervich and her grand-nephew Matthew Scheibe as a way to preserve the historic farm of their ancestor (June's grandfather), Randolph M. Probstfield. Randolph Probstfield was born in 1832 in Prussia and emigrated to the United States around 1850. He and his family came to Minnesota in 1859, when they moved to Georgetown, MN, north of present-day Moorhead, MN. They moved to the current location of the farm in 1868/69 and the family farmed there until the 1960s.

PFLHIF also owns and operates the Probstfield Organic Community Gardens. Plots are available for rent seasonally starting in early spring. Visit the foundation's website at www.probstfieldfarm.com for more information.

Could your farm be a Century Farm?

Has your farm been in your family for one hundred years or more? The Minnesota Farm Bureau and the Minnesota State Fair work in conjunction on the Century Farm program to honor Minnesota families that have owned their farms for at least 100 years, are at least 50 acres in size and are currently involved in agricultural production. Since the program began in 1976, around 8,000 farms in Minnesota have been recognized as Century Farms, with roughly 250 farms being designated each year. Eighty-one farms in Clay County have been honored with the designation since 1979. Century Farm families receive a commemorative sign, as well as a certificate signed by the president of the State Fair, president of the Minnesota Farm Bureau and the Governor of Minnesota. The deadline for 2008 applications is June 1. Get forms at the CCHS Office, the Clay County Extension office, or online at www.mnstatefair.org.

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 80s!
Minnesota Celebrates Sesquicentennial Week
May 11-18 in Saint Paul

On May 11, Minnesota will reach its 150th anniversary as the 32nd state! Statehood week culminates May 17-18 in a weekend festival on the State Capitol grounds. For a Sesquicentennial calendar of the year-long commemoration, go to the State Sesquicentennial website: www.mn150years.org.

Events leading into the Sesquicentennial Statehood Week include:


May 6: Declaration of Independence arrives at the MN History Center for Statehood Week events. The Declaration exhibit, including many of Minnesota’s founding documents, is free and open to the public through May 18th.

May 8 - 11: Old Minnesota Song of the North Star musical tribute show at the Pantages Theatre in Minneapolis. Evening performances May 10 and 11.

May 10: Minnesota Twins & Boston Red Sox game at the Metrodome honors Minnesota’s Sesquicentennial. Pre-game festivities on the Twins Plaza and 1860s-style baseball game on the field before the 6:10 p.m. Twins-Red Sox showdown. Go to http://minnesota.twins.mlb.com for tickets.

Statehood Week Events:

Statehood Day, Sunday, May 11th
1-4pm - Open House at the State Capitol and History Center
1-4pm - Tent up on Capitol grounds near Aurora (Merchandise sales and rain shelter)
3 pm - Group picture of former state officials and their descendants on the Capitol steps
3:30pm - Wagon Train arrives from Summit Avenue
3:45pm - Ceremony begins with presentation of colors by First Minnesota Regiment, playing of national anthem and Minnesota Hail to Thee.
4 pm - Dignitaries make brief remarks and introduce Statehood Essay contest winners.
4:15 pm - Statehood Essay contest winners read their essays (“What Statehood Means Today and Into the Future”)
4:30 pm - Church bells ring. Sesquicentennial Convoy leaves Capitol to begin Capitals for a Day tour from May 12-16

Saturday, May 17 highlights
11:00am - Food vendors on Martin Luther King Drive, Sesquicentennial and exhibitor tent, entertainment on the Minnesota Stage in front of the Capitol, Emergency Food Shelf Network collects non-perishable food donations all day
12:30pm - 26 vintage aircraft flyover

1:00pm - First Day Issue ceremony for Minnesota’s Sesquicentennial Commemorative U.S. Postage Stamp in front of the Capitol featuring both Minnesotan dignitaries and representatives of the United States Postal Service. States are only allowed one commemorative stamp every 50 years, so Minnesota won’t have another till 2058.

1:30pm - USPS will have the Commemorative Minnesota Stamp for sale. Dignitaries and the artist behind the stamp’s photographic image, Richard Hamilton Smith of Park Rapids, will be on hand to sign autographs on poster-size reproductions of the stamp.

Sunday, May 18 highlights
4:00pm - Food vendors on Martin Luther King Dr, Sesquicentennial and Exhibitor tents, entertainment on the Minnesota Stage, Emergency Food Shelf Network collects non-perishable food donations all afternoon
6:45pm - Music begins on the Capitol steps
6:58pm - (18:58 Military Time) National Guard Flyover
7:00pm - Statehood Ceremony “Honoring Those Who Serve” We’ll recognize public servants, citizen volunteers, and members of our armed forces on the steps of the Capitol. Includes an all-state choir led by Philip Brunelle, and speakers that include Governor Tim Pawlenty and other dignitaries. There will also be a satellite link to our troops stationed in Iraq.
8:30pm - Music
8:45pm - Fireworks over the Capitol

State Capitals for a Day
May 12-16
Five honorary capitals chosen by the people of Minnesota

May 12—Bemidji
Contact: Kay Murphy, 218-759-3570
kmurphy@ci.bemidji.mn.us

May 13— Thief River Falls
Contact: Jodie Torkelson, 218-681-2943
jtorkelson@citytrf.net

May 14—Detroit Lakes
Contact: Amy Stearns, 218-844-4221, amy@dlccc.org

May 15—New Ulm
Contact: Mayor Joel Albrecht, 507-359-8233
joel.albrecht@ci.new-ulm.mn.us

May 16—Winona
Contact: Myrna Olson, 507-457-8232
M0Ison@cityhall.luminet.net
Outreach Displays

Barnesville Public Library  April  Close
Hawley Public Library      April  July
Moorhead Public Library    April  July
Fargo CVB                  April  October

Celebrate the MINNESOTA STATE SESQUICENTENNIAL at the Hawley Public Library. Our state celebrated its centennial 1958. See some souvenirs of the celebrations plus a few fun facts about Minnesota. The official date for statehood was May 11, 1858.

The Moorhead Public Library displays what was HIDDEN FROM VIEW. Come and see items from a variety of time capsules: Clay County Courthouse vault, Hawley 1919 High School cornerstone, Bethesda Church (Moorhead) cornerstone, and the Glyndon Bicentennial. The items have an interesting story. How and when were they discovered? See also a few items from two “behind-the-wall” collections from the Keeping/Dock house in Hawley and the former Stahl house in Barnesville. What was hidden there? Dates in the display range from the late 1880s to the 1970s.

The Moorhead Public Library has COAT HANGERS: THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE REASONS. Patrons get the inside story on coat hangers in this display. Learn about the history of the wire hanger. Find out what is a “good” hanger and why there are “bad” ones.

Convention and Visitors’ Bureau display case by I-94 in Fargo is closed until May. The theme for the summer 2008 display honors the Minnesota State Sesquicentennial. Minnesota became a state on May 11, 1858.

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

Artifacts & Donors

January and February 2008

Donors: Moorhead: Clay County Extension Office, Helen Danielson, Alvin Swanson, Gary Euren, Dale White, Bev & Jerry Edenborg; Barnesville: Terry Olson; Hawley: Margaret Ristvedt; Chuck McDonald; Fergus Falls, MN: Gloria Shepherd; Ely, MN: Jean Marsolek; Fargo, ND: Bob Harris, Mark Peihl, Paul Rustad, Dr. Ronald Olin; West Fargo, ND: David & Marilyn Bruckner; Wahpeton, ND: Paul West


Donors: Moorhead: Clay County Extension Office, Helen Danielson, Alvin Swanson, Gary Euren, Dale White, Bev & Jerry Edenborg; Barnesville: Terry Olson; Hawley: Margaret Ristvedt; Chuck McDonald; Fergus Falls, MN: Gloria Shepherd; Ely, MN: Jean Marsolek; Fargo, ND: Bob Harris, Mark Peihl, Paul Rustad, Dr. Ronald Olin; West Fargo, ND: David & Marilyn Bruckner; Wahpeton, ND: Paul West


IN-HOUSE DISPLAYS

The east hall case will feature a display honoring Denmark as part of the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival June 27 – 29 at the Hjemkomst Center. Denmark is the featured country this year. The display is scheduled to open sometime in May.

*Dates and topics are subject to change

** currently on display in the Keep in Touch exhibit.
Candidates for CCHS Board of Directors

By Lisa Vedaa, Director

With every Annual Meeting comes the end to another term for one or more of the members on our Board of Directors. This year, we thank for their service and bid goodbye to John Elton of Hawley and Carolyn Barden of Moorhead. To our slate of candidates for election at the Annual Meeting on May 7, we welcome Helen Olson, Hawley; Carol Lockhardt, Ulen; Gene Prim, Barnesville; and Jim Odegaard, Hawley. Gene is up for election to a second three-year term and Jim is up for election to a first three-year term, having been appointed to fill a vacant board seat in 2006. Helen and Carol will be new to the Board, as candidates for first three-year terms to take the open seats left by John and Carolyn. Following are short biographies of each candidate.

Gene Prim, Barnesville

Gene Prim has been in the newspaper business since high school in Barnesville. He currently owns the Barnesville Record-Review, Hawley Herald, and Lake Park Journal newspapers, runs the Clay County Connection which concentrates on special regional news, and is a shareholder in Vikingland Publishers which produces a weekly advertising supplement. He was the mayor of Barnesville for a total of ten years, 1985-1992 and 1999-2004, and has worked with the Barnesville Jaycees, Barnesville Chamber of Commerce, and the Barnesville Main Street Program. Prim has always had a great deal of interest in local heritage and its preservation, and is enthralled with historic artifacts, stories, buildings, and particularly photographs, though he is not one to dabble in genealogy. He enjoys writing a historical column for the Barnesville paper in which he combines his own research about important community events with historical photos and stories recorded in the Record-Review.

Jim Odegaard, Hawley

Jim Odegaard is a lifelong resident of Clay County, graduating from Hawley High School and Minnesota Technical College, Moorhead Campus. He retired from the North Dakota Air National Guard in 2005 with over 25 years of military service. Jim and his wife Melanie live in Hawley. He currently enjoys driving motor coach for tours by Anderson Coaches in Frazee and owns the Olde Richwood Shoppe on Highway 10 in Hawley with his sister Cathy Riedberger. He has served in many civic groups and city government positions, including in the Hawley City Council for two terms, as Hawley Vice-Mayor, in the Hawley Area Fire Department for 23 years, and as President of the Hawley Community Club. Jim and Melanie have a grown son and daughter and two grandchildren. Jim has always been interested in history and artifacts.

Helen Olson, Hawley

Helen Olson was born and raised in the Rollag, Minnesota area, and graduated from Hawley High School. She worked for four years at the 1st National Bank in Moorhead and spent three years as an officer’s wife in the U.S. Army, before becoming a stay at home wife and mother and farming for 40 years near Hawley with her husband Bob. They have four children and nine grandchildren. Helen is active in her church and community and enjoys playing the organ and piano. She is interested in local and family history, as all four sets of her great grandparents homesteaded in the Rollag area. The Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion grounds are located on her grandparents’ land.

Carol Lockhart, Ulen

Carol Lockhart is one of five children raised by Stanley and Eldora Lunde on their dairy and grain farm near Ulen. Carol graduated from Ulen High School in 1966 and from Fergus Falls Junior College in 1968. Carol and her husband Mike operate a small grain farm east of Ulen and have two grown children, son Jeffrey and daughter Jean. Carol has worked as a receptionist secretary at a local funeral home, typesetter for the Ulen Union, and church secretary at Bethlehem Lutheran Church for 15 years. She really enjoyed setting type for Ulen’s Centennial book Spanning the Century and serving on the committee for the city event in 1986. She has taught Sunday School, confirmation, served as youth advisor and currently serves on the church’s Synod Council. She served as Bethlehem’s church organist and volunteers as a choir accompanist at Ulen-Hitterdal School and Viking Manor. One of her interests has been serving on the Preservation Committee of Atlanta Lutheran Church, a closed rural congregation. When time allows, she hopes to do more work on cemetery history books.
MYSTERY BUILDING

By Mark Peihl, Archivist

The cover of our last Newsletter featured a story about the troubled origins of the Fargo and Moorhead Electric Street Railway Company. A 1910 vintage photo of the Old North Street Car Bridge graced the issue’s front cover. We received several phone calls (including one from KFGO Radio) from folks curious about the building in the background. Here’s an explanation.

The building was the Midway Saloon and Restaurant, one of many such establishments crowded around the Moorhead approach to the bridge. As many of you readers may know, North Dakota entered the union in 1889 with a prohibition provision in their constitution. On June 30, 1890 all of the saloons in North Dakota closed. But they could stay open in Minnesota. Fargo saloon owners and others poured into Moorhead to set up shop. In 1900, the number of Moorhead saloons peaked at 45. There were about 3,700 people in town at that time, about one saloon for every 82 residents. That would be like Dilworth today with 37 bars. The business brought money into the city, but tremendous problems as well.

This map shows the neighborhood around the North Bridge in September 1906. The lower arrow points to the Midway. Alcohol serving businesses are highlighted in grey. Nearly a dozen sat within 100 yards of the bridge. Those marked “Sal” are saloons. “Rest” indicates a restaurant and “D” means dwelling. Adapted from Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Moorhead, Minnesota, September 1906.
The Midway about 1912. Haas' glass sign is gone as are the brass rails protecting the plate glass windows out front. Note the streetcar tracks in the street in the foreground.

Obviously it wasn't Moorheadites supporting these businesses. Their customers were coming from dry North Dakota, especially in the fall when thousands of harvest hands flooded the Red River Valley. The best locations for saloons tended to be around the Moorhead ends of the two bridges, the South (Main Avenue) and North Bridges. (Think "first chance, last chance.") The Midway was the first on your right as you crossed the North Bridge.

Two days before North Dakota went "dry," the Moorhead City Council met to act on 23 applications for saloon licenses. Only one was for a saloon near the north bridge. Andrew Thompson had built a new building on the north side of Ridge Avenue where the bridge abutted in Moorhead. (Thompson's would become the first saloon on the left.) Thirty First Ward residents turned in a petition arguing against allowing this bar in their neighborhood. (The First Ward included Moorhead north of the NP Railway tracks and west of 5th Street.) The Council granted all 23 licenses, including Thompson's. The First Ward residents had reason to be concerned. By 1900, their neighborhood was home to over half of Moorhead's 45 saloons.

The Midway was the second saloon near the bridge. In late summer 1891, John "The Dutch Prince" Haas built a saloon and restaurant just across Ridge Avenue from Thompson's. Haas had been a successful Fargo

Continued next page...
businessman, owning a saloon, restaurant and hotel. His Moorhead establishment was 64 by 70 feet, two-stories, including a full basement. He did a good business and in 1897 refurbished the place into what was, perhaps, the gaudiest of Moorhead’s saloons.

The city may have had something of a reputation for fancy bars. In Sinclair Lewis’ 1925 novel, *Babbit*, the title character, recently graduated from medical school in 1908, approaches his father-in-law for a loan to furnish an office for his practice. The old man says, “…you can look at a fellow’s sore throat or prescribe for an ear-ache just as well in a nice simple little office as in some fool place all fixed up like a Moorhead saloon.”

The September 18, 1897 *Moorhead Daily News* described the joint’s renovations:

Haas spent over $5000 on this 8 by 12 foot mechanical band. That’s more like $125,000 today.

Midway owner John Haas published an illustrated “Souvenir” of his saloon and restaurant in 1899. Here he is on the cover.

“The west front [facing the river] is in imitation of cut stone. A tower, 80 feet high from the ground, of Moorish and Corinthian design, rises out of the central portion. From the top of this tower a tall flagstaff ascends heavenward, having a golden eagle at its apex, and flying the American flag always. There are four other flag staffs along the western roof which will float streamers. The dome is supported by eight columns, having carved capitals. Beneath the dome is a place for a brass band. Along the façade is the sign ‘JOHN HAAS, THE MIDWAY CAFÉ’ in lead art glass, in two plates 4½ feet wide by 26 feet long on either side of the dome. The sign will be illuminated at night by electric lights behind, which will give a bright and flashing effect. At the top of the dome will be an electric sign which will spell the owner’s name in alternating colors of red and gold. The north elevation is in imitation of brick, has iron cornice and is artistically painted. The first story of the building on north and west fronts is of fine plate glass from floor to ceiling. Guard rails of polished brass to protect these.”

Henry Johnson, a Normal School teacher and Moorhead City Council member in the late 1890s, later wrote in his autobiography, *The Other Side of Main Street*, of the Midway:

Continued on page 12...
The Midway in 1899. Note the brass railings protecting the plate glass window around the front. The big sign on the west wall at right was glass and lit from behind at night. The writing on the tower in the middle advertises Pabst Beers. Haas was the sole distributor of Pabst products in Moorhead.

The lobby itself was pretty impressive, featuring a free-standing cigar case.

It's a shame the barroom photo is so unclear. Note, however, the arched, frescoed dome in the ceiling and the length of the mahogany bar – 36 feet!

The Midway’s restaurant was nearly as famous as its bar. Chef Nick Markov served up sumptuous meals.
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:

**PATRIARCH ($500+)**
State Bank of Moorhead (Sponsor)

**SETTLER ($200-$499)**
Cahill Law Office, P. A.
Eventide
First National Bank of Hawley
City of Georgetown
Mac’s, Inc.

**TRAILBLAZER ($100-$199)**
City of Barnesville
Dilworth/Glyndon/Felton ISD
Don’s Car Washes, Inc.
City of Hawley
Korsmo Funeral Service
Moorhead Antique Mall
Moorhead Area Public Schools
Moorhead Drug Company
Moorhead Kiwanis
Moorhead Midday-Central Lions
Rigels, Inc.
Scheels Moorhead

Sellin Brothers, Inc.
State Bank of Hawley
Talent Productions
Wright Funeral Home
YHR Partners, Ltd.

**EXPLORER ($50-$99)**
Geoffrey D. Bentley, DDS, PA
McLaughlin Auctioneers, Dilworth
Mickelson Body Shop, Hawley
Moorhead Area Retired Educators
Moorhead Vikingland Kiwanis
Richman’s Press Club
Stenerson Lumber

**75th Anniversary Sponsors**
AmericInn Lodge & Suites of Moorhead
Bernie’s Wines & Liquors
CMP Consulting
Clay County Connection
Dewey’s Septic Service, Lake Park
District No. 3 School Alumni
FM Printing & Office Supplies
First National Bank, Hawley
Georgetown Community Affairs Committee
Gio’s at the AmericInn
Gloria Lee
Hornbacher’s Foods
Johnson & Johnson Insurance
Jon and Phyllis Evert
Juan and Annele Mondragon, owners of Juano’s Restaurants, Juano’s Latin Bar and John Alexander’s American Classics Restaurant and Bar
KFGO 790-AM
Kay Mahar
Kelly Wambach
Kim Brewster, Ice Art, Inc.
Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership
Lightsnin, Anderson Insurance
Lindsay Ecwater Soft Water
Lynn Brakke Organic Beef
Mikkelson Insurance
Moorhead Antique Mall
Red River Trails & Tours
Roisum Elite Sales & Marketing
Sign Post, Hawley
Snap Dragon Restaurant
Speakeasy Restaurant
Strand & Marcy Insurance Agency
Summit Financial Services
Talent Productions
Village Inn Restaurant

Mystery Building, cont. from page 10

“At one of the bridges was ‘Johnnie Haas’ place,” said to be the most palatial saloon on the continent between New York and San Francisco. I never saw the interior but the report that within its precincts four-hundred electric lights were nightly gleaming suggested that there was something to see.”

Indeed there was. The Moorhead Daily News continued:

“In entering the room next to the bridge the visitor passes though a handsome vestibule, then by a heavy mahogany door, having a carved glass panel, into the lobby... It is finished in solid mahogany, with octagon columns... extending from floor to ceiling, filled in between with brass grill work...

“Passing though the lobby the visitor enters the barroom, which is 22 by 45 feet. It is almost dazzling in magnificence. Extending its entire length is an arched dome, frescoed on steel, and dotted all along the beams supporting the dome are numerous incandescent lamps. All around the room are mirrors. Those behind the bar... are 11 feet deep and extend 32 feet in length... The bar is 36 feet long, exquisitely carved in front, smooth as glass on top. The top is one piece of mahogany and is the largest single piece of mahogany, it is claimed, ever put into a bar in the United States. Behind the bar is a

Continued on page 14...
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+)**
Darren & Jane Leno, Moorhead  
Lynne M. Olson, Fargo  
Elsie Pitsenbarger, Fargo

**Individual Settler ($200-$499)**
David R. Alme, Kennewick, WA  
Roland & Carolyn Barden, Moorhead  
Jeff Longtime, Moorhead  
Richard T. McMurray, Annandale, VA  
James & Chris Stenersen, Moorhead

**Individual Trailblazer ($100-199)**
Robert L. & Selma Anderson  
Rod C. & Audrey Angstman  
Carl L. & June Bailey  
Jim Bergquist & Jane Eastes  
Al & Meredith Bloomquist  
Kevin & Kristy Campbell  
Dr. Yvonne C. Condell  
Jim L. & Portia Danielson  
Paul & Joyce Eidbo  
John & Audrey Elton  
Rodney Erickson  
Graham & Madrene Goseon  
Burton Grover  
Rhoda Hansen  
Dennis & Kris Herbranson  
Lorine D. Holschuh  
Andre & Emily Hougum  
Hal F. Janneck  
Ardee & Eunice Johnson  
Richard & Sharon Krabbenhoft  
James H. Landblom  
Patricia Lynde-Hemmah  
Dan & Faith Meurrens  
Robert & JoAnn Nyquist  
E. Robert & Donna Olson  
Esther O. Olson  
Charlotte Onstine  
Elaine G. Oss  
Lloyd & Bev Paulson  
John D. Peterson  
Sherwood, Jr. & Wendy Peterson  
Donna M. Richards  
Karl Kay Peterson Rood  
Bev & John Rowell  
Steve & Lucia Schroeder  
Hazel & Davis A. Scott  
William Snyder  
Ruth & Olin Storvick  
Bob & Linda Swanson  
Phyllis W. Thysell  
Chris & Ellen Velline  
Mark & Donna Voxland  
Tom & Sherry Watt  
Ron & Loretta Welch  
Eldon Wollmann

**Individual Explorer ($50-$99)**
Marjorie Aakre  
Mark & Lois Altenburg  
Howard Anderson & Pat Hinze  
Russell & Lois Bekkerus  
Genelle Bentley  
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Richard & June Chenoweth  
Patrick A. Colliton  
Nancy K. Cooper  
Helen M. Danielson  
Leland & Dorothy Delger  
Roland & Beth Dille  
Maybelle Dinsmore  
Dorothy A. Dodds  
Paul & Mardeth Dovre  
Gordon & Carol Ekre  
Jerome C. & Pamela Ekre  
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Howard R. Geng  
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Ethel & Ralph Hest  
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Paul E. & Florence Korsmo  
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Katherine Mentjes  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan B. Murphy  
Larry & Jan Nelson  
Gisela S. Nobel  
Beverly Nokken  
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Paul Pratt  
Eugene & Karen Prim  
Elise Quam  
Pearl & Vern Quinnild  
John Reber  
Mel & Margaret Ristvedt  
Edna J. Rude  
Helen Rudie  
Carol & Gordon Rustad  
Barry & Renee Steen  
Marge Stoa  
Ray & Erma Stordahl  
Don & Rose-Mary Strom  
Alvin & Diane Swanson  
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Kenneth & Mary Tangen  
Bruce M. Thorson  
Ron & Deanna Ulven  
Nancy & Marc Valenzuela  
Marguerite A. Wardeberg  
Dale D. White  
Dick & Kathy Zaylskie  
Mary Kinsella Ziegenhagen  
Carol Zielinski
CCHS extends a special thank you to the following individuals who renewed or upgraded their memberships or became new members in January and February:

**NEW MEMBERS**
- D. Bohlman, Barnesville
- Bruce Karevold, Moorhead
- Kurt Ketterl, Hawley
- Mickelson Body Shop, Hawley
- Heather M. Nelson, West Fargo

**UPGRADES**
- Clayton & Doris Jorgenson, Moorhead
- Helen Rudie, Fargo
- Carol & Gordon Rustad, Moorhead
- Nancy & Marc Valenzuela, Moorhead

**RENEWALS**
- David R. Alme, Kennewick, WA
- Mark & Lois Altenburg, Fargo
- Leona P. Anderson, Hawley
- Jeanne E. Aske, Moorhead
- City of Barnesville
- Olaf & Verna Curtford, Moorhead
- Mark Chalimonczyk, Fargo
- Rick Crume, Glyndon
- Eventide, Moorhead
- Mike & Dianne Fillmore, Hawley
- Edith L. Flaa, Moorhead
- Graham & Madrene Goeson, Mhd
- Clarence & Donna Hanson, Ruo, ND
- Neil & Polly Hanson, Glyndon
- City of Hawley
- Orval M. Hurner, Moorhead
- Dr. John M. Jenkins, Sun City, AZ
- Joyce R. Johnson, Glyndon
- Evelyn Keeping Hansen, Hawley
- Janet Kiefer Martin, El Cajon, CA
- Carolyn J. Kirk, Andover, NJ
- John & Jyl Kolness, Hendrum, MN
- Francis Kukowski, Georgetown
- John David Lee, Georgetown
- Jane Loeffler, Moorhead
- Jeff Longtime, Moorhead
- Joe & Shirley Manning, Moorhead
- Gretchen M. McDonald, Moorhead
- Richard T. McMurray, Annandale, VA
- Katherine Mentjes, LeCenter, MN
- Eileen P. Michels, St. Paul, MN
- Moorhead Kiwanis
- Alvera Murch, West Fargo, ND
- Charles A. Nelson, Surprise, AZ
- Larry & Janet Nelson, Fargo
- James Odegaard, Hawley
- Bob & Helen Olson, Hawley
- Charlotte Onstine, Tucson, AZ
- Marlowe & Joan Parries, Moorhead
- Bernice Peihl, Arthur, ND
- Richard & Helen Pembke, Moorhead
- James & Dorothy Powers, Fargo
- Jean A. Prentice, Moorhead
- Paul & Carol Quinlana, Barnesville
- Grant & Peggy Ramstad, Hawley
- Scheels All Sports, Moorhead
- Fern A. Schellack, Moorhead
- S. George & Diane Spangler, Jamestown, ND
- State Bank of Hawley
- Sanford & Joyce Steen, Moorhead
- James & Chris Stenerson, Moorhead
- Ray & Erma Stordahl, Moorhead
- Alvin & Diane Swanson, Moorhead
- Bob Swenson, Moorhead
- Diane Tweten Sylte, Benson, MN
- Bernadine Utsun, Moorhead
- Wayne & Loanna Wagstrom, Mhd
- Duane Walker, Moorhead
- Wright Funeral Home, Moorhead

**Mystery Building, cont. from page 12**

dazzling array of glassware. One of the punch bowls, it is stated, cost $200... The room is illuminated with an immense number of electric lamps and three chandeliers. A wide stair case descends from the west side of the barroom to the parlors below."

The News goes on to describe the smoking room, club room and private dining rooms. Even the bathrooms: "Passing from the barroom toward the east the visitor enters the lavatories of which there are two. They have marble floors, walls in imitation of marble tiling and are equipped with the latest modern plumbing, with nickel trimmings."

Also on the east side was the public restaurant, office and kitchen "equipped with steel ranges of the most improved pattern, and with all the various utensils for the best style of cooking. Nick Markov of Fargo will manage the restaurant.

"Behind the kitchen is the musical garden. This is suitably furnished, and here is the large pipe organ, 8 by 12 feet, which is chock full of music and plays all the latest and most popular airs." This nickelodeon reported cost Haas over $5000. That’s more like $125,000 today.

The News article claimed “there are 363 electric lights in the building, with handsome globes.” Apparently Haas added more later. A News advertisement from January 1898 claimed 400, corroborating Johnson’s account.

The electric lights caused something of a stir later that year. Council member Johnson headed up a committee to investigate management of the city owned power plant and found that Haas, along with several other saloon owners, had never paid to have his power hooked up or paid his bills. Haas soon installed his own light plant in the basement to power his 400 electric lamps.

Continued next page...
Mystery Building, cont. from page 14

In all Haas’ improvements cost $15,000 (maybe $375,000 today). It was likely money well spent. In 1902 he turned the saloon over to Norman Young who ran it for several years with a succession of partners. Young built a “New Midway” down the street in 1910 and sold the operation to J. E. Johnson. Charles Nelson ran it as the “Old Midway Buffet” from 1913 until Clay County went dry in July 1915.

The old building sat empty for some time. By 1922 it was home to a pool hall. The former palace disappeared, either burned or torn down, sometime between 1924 and 1927. The “Dutch Prince” had retired early to Detroit Lakes. He lost both legs to diabetes, moved back to Fargo and died there in 1918. He was only 55 years old.

After getting caught snitching electricity from the city, Haas installed his own power plant in the basement of his saloon.

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

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<td>$25</td>
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<td>Pioneer Family</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>All of the Above</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explorer</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>All of the Above PLUS 25% Discount on Reproductions of Archival Photos 25% Discount on Acid-Free Supplies</td>
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<td>All of the Above PLUS Four Tickets to Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretive Center One Hour of Free Archival Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patriarch</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>All of the Above PLUS Frameable 8”x10” reproduction of Historic Photo of Choice Two Complimentary Tickets to the CCHS Annual Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patron</td>
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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) ____________________________________________

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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.
Attend the Annual Membership Meeting!

Wednesday, May 7
5:00-8:30pm
Hjemkomst Center
202 First Avenue North, Moorhead

Evening Schedule
5:00 Registration
6:00 Dinner
7:00 Business Meeting
7:45 Guest Speaker, Nina Archabal, Executive Director, Minnesota Historical Society

Dinner Tickets:
$18 CCHS Members
Available Monday-Friday at the CCHS Office

Calendar

May 7  CCHS Annual Meeting
        Guest Speaker: Nina Archabal, MHS Executive Director

May 11  Sesquicentennial of Minnesota Statehood—activities in St. Paul

May 26  Memorial Day, Clay County Museum closed

May 31  Breakfast on the Farm, Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion Grounds, Rollag, MN

June 27-28  Bergquist Cabin Open House, 1-4

June 27-29  Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival

July 10-13  Clay County Fair, Barnesville

July 20  Viking Village, 12-4pm, Heritage-Hjemkomst Interpretive Center

October  CCHS History Tour, New Ulm, MN
October 30  CCHS Gala—History Rocks!

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Hjemkomst Center
202 1st Ave N
PO Box 501
Moorhead MN 56561

Check us out at:
www.info.co.clay.mn.us/history

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