

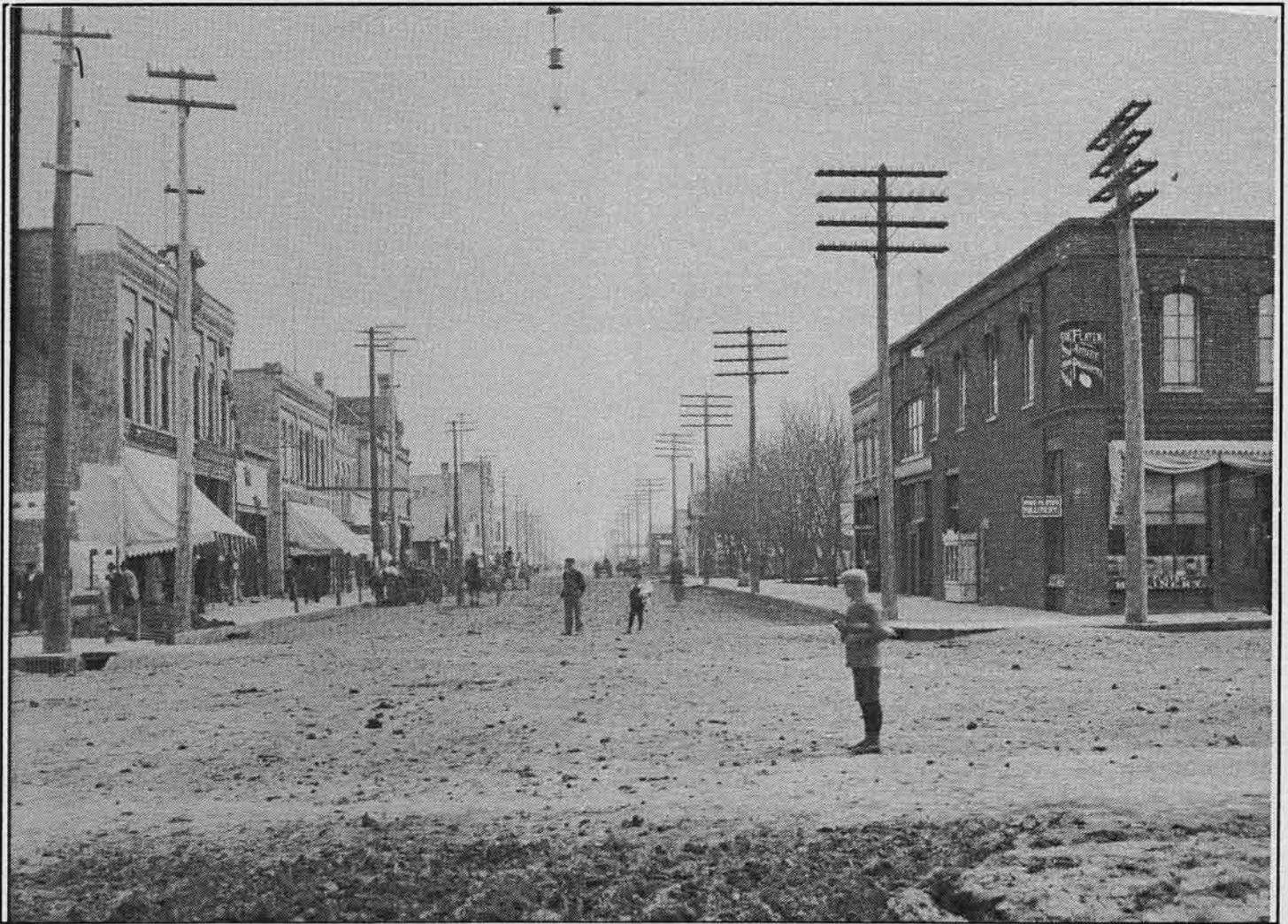
CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



CCHS Newsletter

March/April 1999

Vol. XXII. No. 2



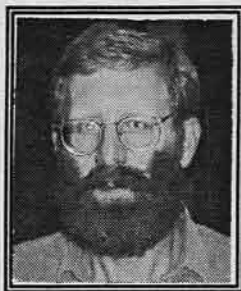
Horses are not pollution free! Note the "horse apples" littering Moorhead's Center Avenue in the 1890s. Water pollution, filth and lack of sanitation made 19th Century Moorhead a breeding ground for disease. Children were particularly hard hit.

Flaten/Wange Collection

President's Report

By Paul Harris, President

A good crowd turned out on March 6 to hear William Lass speak at the Center about the history of Minnesota territory. The event, marking the sesquicentennial of the founding of Minnesota territory, was put together by Communiversity, with Clay County Historical Society helping out as a co-sponsor.



Lass, a historian from Minnesota State University-Mankato, very neatly explained the many forces that gave shape to territorial Minnesota. He began by noting that 1849 was also the year of the great California gold rush, putting the territory's founding in the context of the great westward expansion during the era of "Manifest Destiny." Strong support for expansion was important politically because Minnesota probably did not yet have the population considered necessary for territorial status, but a Democratic Congress was willing to bend the rules a bit.

The audience was clearly engaged by the talk, as indicated by how many reconvened after refreshments to ask questions. How Minnesota's boundaries were established was one issue that intrigued a number of people. The territory originally extended all the way to the Missouri River, but Lass explained that the statehood boundaries were pulled eastward because Northern politicians did not like to make states too large. Foremost on their minds was the realization that the more states they could carve out of a given area, the more Senators those areas would end up sending to Washington.

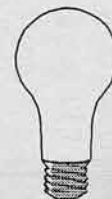
At the same time, Minnesota was allowed to extend northward to Canada in order to ensure a diverse economic base, incorporating the great virgin forests of the northeast along with the rich agricultural lands of the south and west. Indeed, lumbering was far more important to the state's early economy than farming, which necessarily remained subsistence oriented until the coming of the railroads.

Clay County Historical Society was pleased to work with Communiversity to bring Lass to Moorhead. We hope this promising partnership will continue into the future.

Do you have a story?

The Clay County Historical Society is always looking for contributors for its newsletter. If you have a story to tell, pictures to share or articles you have written that relate to county history, please submit them to the Clay County Historical Society Newsletter. If you are unsure about writing, perhaps we can sit down for an interview and publish that.

Send articles to Clay County Historical Society, PO Box 501, Moorhead MN 56561-0501 or call 233-4604. We look forward to hearing from you soon.



*The U.S. once had a state named Franklin, but it lasted only four years. The State of Franklin became part of eastern Tennessee in 1788.

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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Florence "Treetops" Klingensmith inducted into Aviation Hall of Fame

Early aviatrix and Clay County native Florence Gunderson Klingensmith will be inducted into the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame in April. Florence was among the country's best known women pilots in the 1920s and early '30s. She competed successfully against male pilots in national air races, held the world's record for inside loops, barnstormed around the country and was a tireless advocate for aviation. Florence died in a crash while competing in the National Air Races at Chicago in 1933. She was just 29. (Florence was the subject of a CCHS newsletter article in 1991. Contact us for a copy.)

After her marriage to Charles Klingensmith, Florence moved to Fargo. She was the first licensed woman pilot in North Dakota and was recently inducted into the North Dakota Aviation Hall of Fame. With her entry in the Minnesota Hall, she will join the ranks of famous Minnesota aviators like Charles Lindbergh and Speed Holman.

Two plaques will be awarded at a banquet in Bloomington April 17. One will remain in the Hall in Chaska, Mn. The other usually goes to the recipient's



Florence "Treetops" Klingensmith: Clay County native and member of the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame.

Courtesy, Minnesota Historical Society

family but none of her kin has been located. Because of his interest in and research about Florence, CCHS Archivist Mark Peihl has been asked to accept the award on the family's behalf. The plaque will remain at the museum until we find her family.

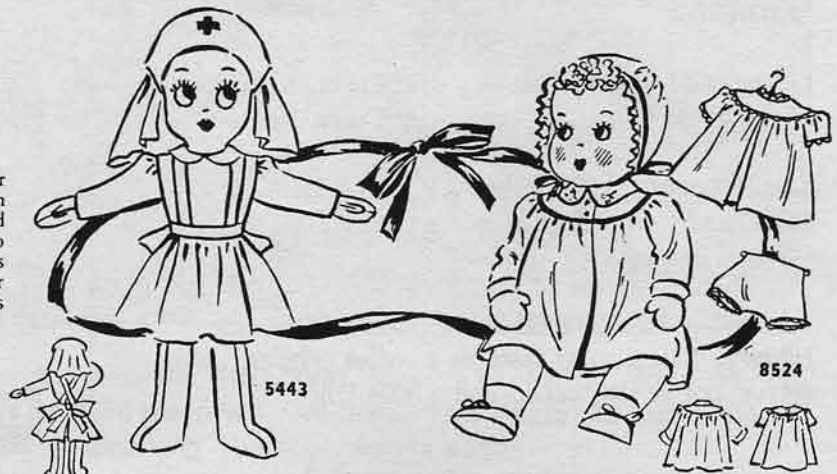
Hats off to Treetops!

Pattern No. 5443—Every little girl loves a Red Cross Nurse doll. Here is one to make from one cotton bag, 30x34, from her cap to her full apron. The pattern tells you how to make every stitch of this cute doll. One size. Includes directions, too, for cuddly doll in sleeper.

Pattern No. 8524—Doll clothes for her precious baby doll! Your little girl can make them herself, with this pattern, and some help from you. It is one way to teach her how to sew. And if she uses cotton bags, it isn't expensive - and her dolly has a new outfit! One size, requires 2 bags, 30x34.

Patterns for toys made from feed sacks were popular in the 1940s.

The pattern directions indicate how many sacks will be needed.



Outreach Displays

	Opens	Closes
Hitterdal Senior Center	Feb. 19	June
Ulen-Hitterdal High School	Feb. 19	June
Viking Manor, Ulen	Feb. 19	June
Hawley Public Library	Feb. 19	June
Glyndon Community Center	Mar. 1	June
Moorhead Public Library	Mar. 3	June
Barnesville Public Library	Feb. 22	June

[Note: due to construction and moving of CCHS operations at the Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretive Center, cases will change when time allows.]

The Hitterdal Senior Center opens **ROLLIN' ON THE RED** - a photo display highlighting steamboats on the Red River.

A CENTURY OF CYCLES opens at the Ulen-Hitterdal High School. This photo display looks at what was rollin' on two wheels in Clay County a century ago.

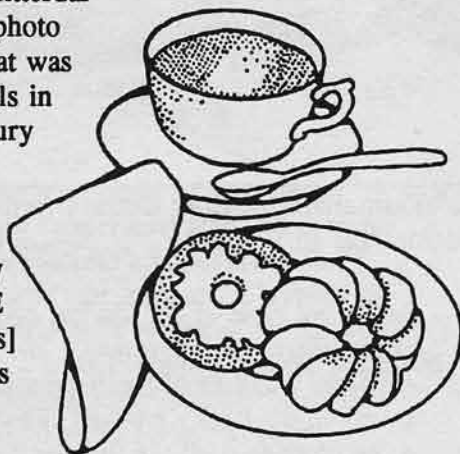
The Viking Manor in Ulen might enjoy **A CASE OF COKE** [display case, that is] featuring collectibles and fun facts about this popular soft drink.

The Hawley Public Library looks at over 125 years of medical history in Clay County in **YESTERDAY'S MEDICINE**.

Look, look. See, see! Have **FUN WITH DICK AND JANE** at the Glyndon Community Center.

The Moorhead Public Library is **CHOCOLATE CENTERED**. By the box or by the bar, this is a "sweet" display.

LET'S HAVE COFFEE at the Barnesville Public Library. This display features a coffee grinder, coffee server, coffee pot, cups - and a little lunch.



Artifacts & Donors

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1999

Donors include:

Moorhead: Clay County Extension Office
Barnesville: Gorden Shulstad
Hawley: Jerome Ekre
Ponsford, MN: Hilding Hagen
Phoenix, AZ: Dr. George Humphrey
Lake Oswego, OR: Thomas Dosland Opatz

Artifacts include: records for Barnesville Coop Creamery; tape recorded interview and typed transcript w/Emma Bergeson Olson, July 13, 1986; photo "View from NP train, Hitterdal, MN" [view of Floral Park of Richard Herring]; book, *A Long Look Back* . . . family history by Thomas Dosland Opatz 1998; dissection kit and equipment, ad for a magnetic cure for disease 1895, deposit slip for the First National Bank of Fargo, 191__; portable Singer sewing machine, records, slides etc. re: 4-H in Clay County.

Monetary Donations

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1999

Kathy Mentjes, LeCenter
Willis and LaVerne Kingsbury, Fargo
Edgar Wright, Lake Park
Berniece Janecky, Pelican Rapids
Fargo Study Club, Fargo
VFW Post #5115, Ulen
Dick & Esther Vollbrecht, Moorhead
Young in Spirit, Our Redeemer Luther Church, Mhd
Bev & Lloyd Paulson, Moorhead

Memorials

In memory of Richard A. McDonald to the Clay County Historical Society Endowment Fund from Dona Lien, Christine Patenaude, Bev Woodward, Annette Cook, Sara Pudas and Rachel Asleson.

In memory of Dr. Bottolf T. Bottolfson and Jeannette Bottolfson from Edgar B. Peterson.

Important purchases made possible through generous donations

CCHS members Bev and Lloyd Paulson of Moorhead recently donated \$350 to be used to purchase prints of local photographs taken by early photographer F. Jay Haynes. Haynes began working in Moorhead in 1876 when Moorhead was barely four years old. His photos are among the earliest taken in Clay County. His surviving negatives are held by the Montana Historical Society. They include 70 views taken in Clay County.

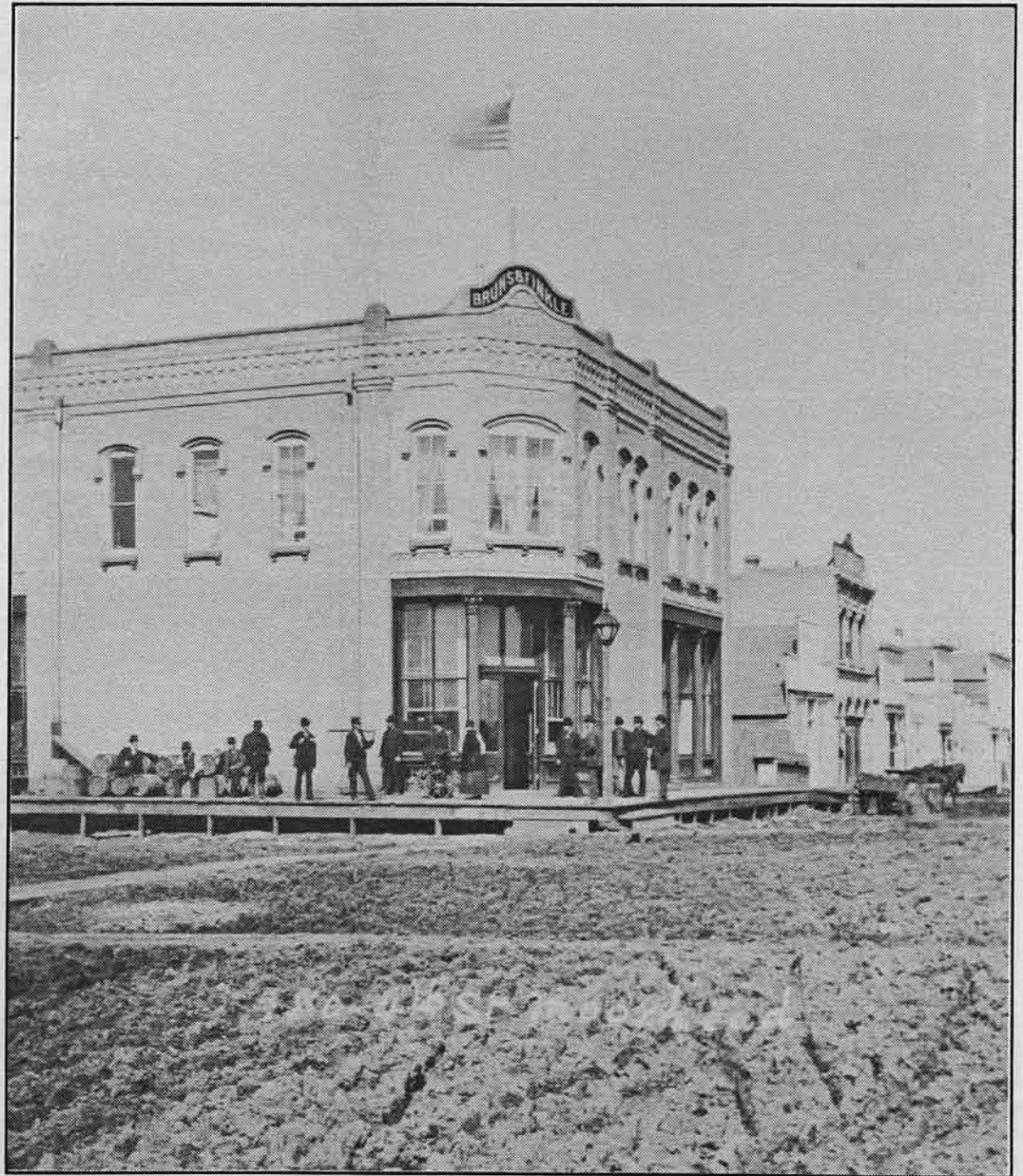
About ten years ago CCHS raised funds to buy prints of half of them. Bev and Lloyd's donation will make it possible for us to complete the collection.

Bev and Lloyd proposed to us a challenge. Last year, CCHS received a grant of \$800 from the Minnesota Historical Society to purchase microfilm copies of local newspapers and other records. That left us with another \$800 to raise for the microfilm. The Hawley Fire Department gave us \$432 to buy copies of the *Hawley Herald*. We still had to find \$368. Bev and Lloyd said that if we could raise the remaining money from local sources other than CCHS's general operating funds, they'd pay for the Haynes prints.

CCHS contacted the Veterans of Foreign Wars posts in Barnesville and Ulen to underwrite the purchase of copies of the *Barnesville Record-Review* and the *Ulen Union* respectively. Barnesville VFW Post #4628 contributed \$270 and Ulen VFW Post #5115 gave \$152, completing the match. Bev and Lloyd responded with a check and we placed

the order for the 35 prints. They should be here in a few weeks.

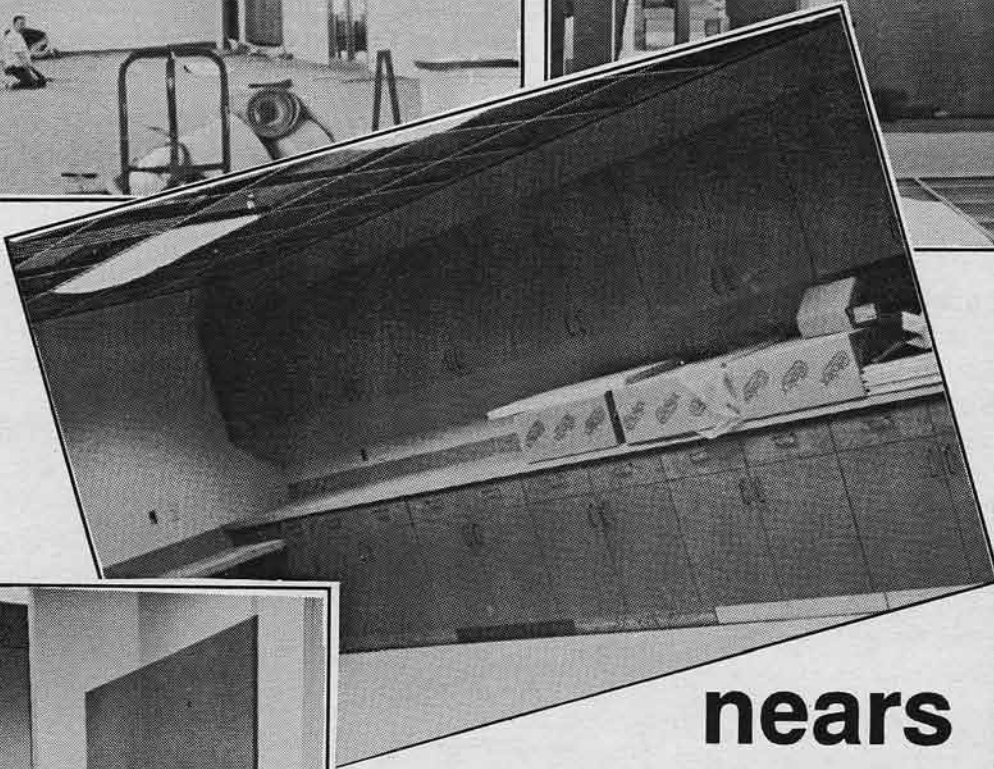
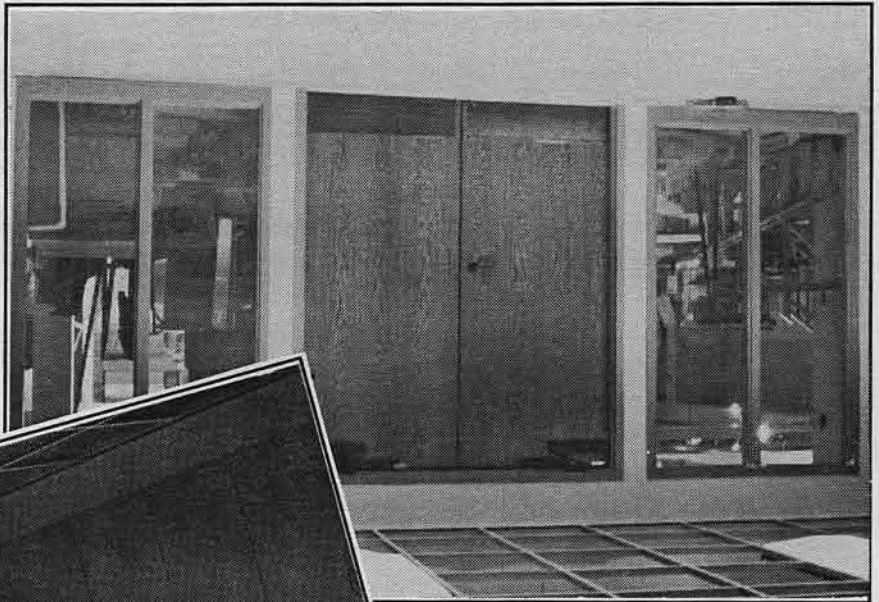
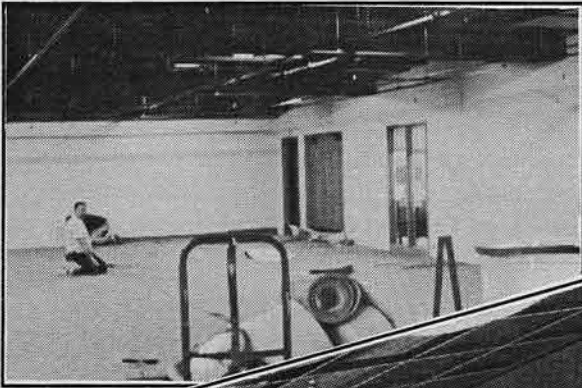
Our heartfelt thanks go out to the Hawley Fire Department, the Barnesville and Ulen VFW posts and to Bev and Lloyd Paulson for making it possible for us to add these important materials to our collections!



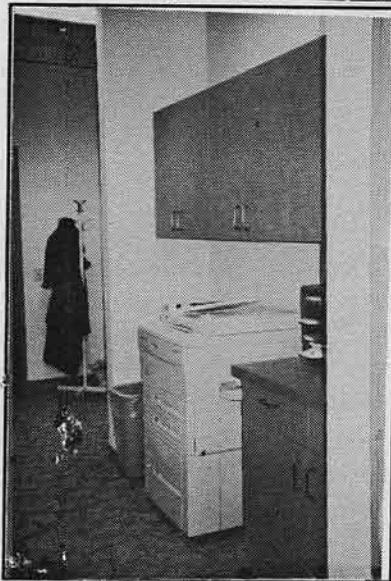
Front Street (Center Avenue) and 4th Street, Moorhead, 1877. When Haynes arrived in Moorhead in 1876 the town was barely four years old. Note the mud streets. We will be receiving 35 similar views soon.

F. Jay Haynes Collection, Montana Historical Society

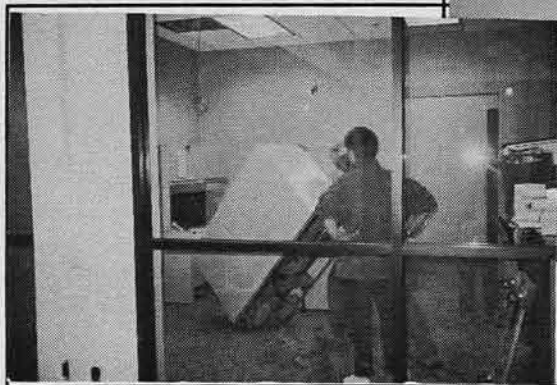
Construction



nears



completion!



Construction nears completion, Yea!!

Grand Opening plans being set

Grand Opening of the new and improved Hjemkomst Center is scheduled for Friday through Sunday, May 21-23. Plans are still being developed as this newsletter goes to print, but several events have been set.

The Center is the home of Clay County Historical Society's (CCHS) museum and archives. Other organizations in the building include the Moorhead Senior Citizens' Center, the Fargo-Moorhead Chamber of Commerce and the Heritage-Hjemkomst Interpretive Center (HHIC).

The City of Moorhead is sponsoring opening day, Friday, May 21. Festivities will begin with a ribbon cutting ceremony at noon, followed by a light lunch. Senator Keith Langseth of Glyndon and Representative Kevin Goodno of Moorhead have been invited to participate in the event. From 1:30 to 5 p.m. organizations in the new expanded building will have a chance to showcase their respective areas.

Friday events will continue with a special grand opening gala (ticket event) at 6:30 p.m. There will be a social, a sit down dinner and program followed by a dance.

On Saturday HHIC will host the Iditarod Dog Sled Program sponsored by Norwest Bank from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Sunday an ecumenical church service is planned for the Stave Church with the possibility of a pancake breakfast at the Center following.

CCHS hopes to host several events during the weekend, but the biggie will definitely be the opening of the new museum space featuring "Stitches in Time: Clay County's Handmade Textiles." Other events being considered during the three day event include several lectures on Clay County history in our new multi-use room together with light refreshments. Musical groups are being contacted to perform during special times.

Watch for mailings from CCHS and the media for further developments as plans become finalized. Plan your schedule so you can attend this once in a lifetime event. It is going to be great fun!!

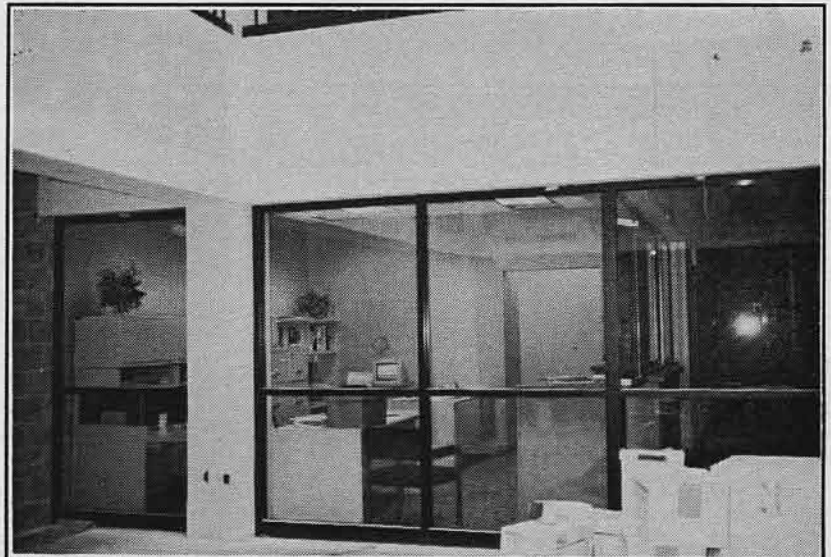
Construction Update

As construction of the new addition to the Center nears completion it seems hard to believe that work began only eight months ago. So much has happened. But the project is moving rapidly and it's getting pretty exciting.

Visitors to CCHS will see a very different place. As this newsletter goes to press Collections Manager Pam Burkhardt and Office Manager Margaret Ristvedt have moved into their new offices in our digs on the east end addition. Our exhibit area is carpeted and awaiting installation of our next exhibit "Stitches in Time: Clay County's Handmade Textiles." Archivist Mark Peihl has the research facility open in a temporary location until the new Archives area is ready for occupation.

Our permanent exhibit had to be dismantled after the water main break flood last summer but we have up temporary exhibits explaining what happened during the flood and the 1996 Moorhead State University archeological dig done in Viking Ship Park behind the Center. The later features a 22-minute video on The Point residential neighborhood that formerly stood on the site. The displays will close soon to facilitate preparation of the new museum space.

CCHS thanks all our patrons for your patience during this busy transition period. The museum will soon be back to normal, better than ever!



The new CCHS Office as seen from the lower level lobby under the balcony and sky light. The new office overlooks the museum space.

A sobering look at

By Mark Peihl, Archivist

Here at CCHS we're always on the lookout for ways we can learn about the past. Recently I tried to learn about life in the 1800s by studying the things that killed early residents. I entered into a database information about all 1,118 deaths recorded in Moorhead between 1872 and 1899, crunched the numbers and looked at the results. They are striking and a little disturbing. Two things stand out: the ages at which people died and the causes of their deaths.

According to the Minnesota Department of Health, in Clay County in 1997, the average life expectancy was 78. The leading causes of death were heart disease, cancer, strokes, unintentional injury, respiratory ailments, pneumonia and influenza and diabetes. This is a fairly typical pattern across the country today, elderly people dying from diseases which afflict the elderly.

Below is a typical page from Moorhead's Death Register. Note the young ages of the deceased and the causes of death. Today "brain fever" is known as meningitis, "consumption" is tuberculosis.

But in 19th century Moorhead half of the deaths were of children 12 and younger. A third were kids less than two. A quarter were infants under one year of age. If a child lived to see her 9th or 10th birthday, she had a fair chance of surviving to adulthood. But life expectancy was only about 48.

Part of this might be explained by the relative youth of 19th century Moorheadites. Moving to a new community on the edge of the frontier was not something old people did. In 1875, for instance, the average age of Moorhead residents was 23.5. The most common age was about 21. Less than 1% were over 60. In 1980 12.5% of Moorhead residents were over 60.

But this doesn't account for Moorhead's appalling infant mortality numbers. Today in Clay County an average of 5.8 infants (kids less than one year old) die per 1,000 live births. The US average is about 6.4. India's rate is 63.1. It's 98.9 in Haiti. Afghanistan has the highest infant mortality numbers in the world today, 143.6. Nineteenth century Moorhead's rate was 175.1. In only six years in the 1800s did Moorhead's infant mortality rate fall below that of Afghanistan's today.

REGISTER OF DEATHS, TOWN OF

St. Paul Press.

No.	DATE OF DEATH.			FULL NAME OF DECEASED.	SEX.	COLOR.	MARRIED, SINGLE, OR WIDOWED.	AGE.			PLACE OF BIRTH. (TOWNSHIP OR CITY.)	DATE OF ARRIVAL IN MINNESOTA.		
	Month.	Day.	Year.					Years.	Months.	Days.		Month.	Day.	Year.
1	Feb	27	1877	Ida Cecilia Anderson	F	W	Infant	1	3	19	Moorhead	Nov	11	1875
2	Jan	13	1877	Pella Nelson	F	W	single	22			Norway			
3	Jan	27	1877	Pella Clathout	F	W	single	19						
4	Jan	30	1877	Julia Stoll	F	W	Infant		10		Moorhead	Apr	6	1876
5	Feb	5	1877	Francis Beatty	F	W	Infant		8					
6	Mar	12	1877	Hannah Johnson	F	W	single	11						
7	Mar	16	1877	Reginald Hummel	F	W	Married	49						

19th Century life

Obviously, Moorhead residents 100 years ago weren't dying from heart attacks, cancer or strokes - most didn't live long enough to develop those problems. Most died from infectious diseases. Infections easily treated today with antibiotics and more easily avoided with simple sanitation.

Twentieth century time travelers to 1870s Moorhead would be struck by the number of sick people around, the filth and lack of even rudimentary sanitation. Horse dung covered the streets, dead animals could lay for days before burial or, more likely, being dumped into the Red River - the source of most of Moorhead's water.

Even basic food handling was a problem. The leading cause of death was tuberculosis. This highly contagious respiratory disease is passed by coughing and sneezing but also through infected water or milk. It remained the leading cause of death in the US until the 1930s when pasteurization of milk became common.

The second cause of death was "unknown." This is not surprising given the diagnostic ability of 19th century doctors. The germ theory was not even taught in American medical schools until fairly late in the period. Many recorded "causes of death" were merely the major symptom the patient complained of.

Third was typhoid fever, another infection caused by bacteria found in feces. People were exposed through infected water or through food contaminated by bad handling or flies.

The fourth, and leading killer of children, was "cholera infantum," a non-contagious diarrhea usually occurring during warm months, probably resulting from feeding infants spoiled food. (While 19th century children were commonly getting bad food, often they simply did not get enough. The second leading cause of infant death was inanition or marasmus - not getting proper nutrition. Although some kids had physical problems that kept them from absorbing the food they received, many Moorhead children undoubtedly died from starvation.)

The fifth leading cause of death was meningitis or "brain fever" followed by miscellaneous causes, accidents, diphtheria, pneumonia and being stillborn.

We can learn about 19th century life by looking at some of the other causes of death. Take accidents. They reflect the activities of the times. There were no auto crash deaths (no autos!) but 14 died in railroad accidents. One was scalded by steam in a boiler explosion. Ten drowned in the Red River, four died in

COUNTY OF CLAY, STATE OF MINNESOTA.

DISEASE, OR CAUSE OF DEATH.	PLACE OF DEATH. (TOWNSHIP OR CITY.)	OCCUPATION.	NAMES AND BIRTH-PLACE OF PARENTS.		WHEN REGISTERED.
			NAMES.	BIRTH-PLACE.	
Brain Fever	Moorhead		Aug & Helvig Anderson	Sweden	Feb 27th 1887
Heart Failure	Moorhead	Domestic	Helge & Anders Nielson	Sweden Norway	June 29th 1887
Consumption	Moorhead		P.R. Mary J. Hultant	Iris	June 29th 1887
Diphtheria	Moorhead		P.R. & Anna M. Stoll	Sweden	June 29th 1887
Consumption	Moorhead		C.H. & G.J. Neathy	Iris	June 29th 1887
Diphtheria Fever	Moorhead				June 29th 1887
Mononary Phthisis	Moorhead				June 29th 1887

Deaths in early Clay County

(Continued from Page 9)

blizzards or storms, one was kicked by a horse. In 1883 four young men suffocated in a oat filled granary.

Social problems are also reflected. There were seven suicides and at least five murders (including the unsolved killing of an unidentified newborn). Three others died of "gunshot wounds," one was hanged for murder and one young woman died from the results of a botched abortion.

Eleven died from alcoholism, including one from "exposure and bad whiskey." Another suffered an overdose of morphine and five had "softening of the brain," a condition occurring in the late stages of syphilis.

Many genealogists visiting the archives know of a relative who "died in an epidemic" in Moorhead. We have been able to point out a few periods when a

single cause resulted in many deaths. Diphtheria outbreaks killed 11 people, mostly children, during the summer of 1882 and again in spring 1892. Also in 1882 typhoid fever killed 15 and 7 died from tuberculosis. In 1884, 13 died from TB and 8 from typhoid. The period from 1882 to 1884 was perhaps the deadliest time to be a Moorhead resident.

Over the period most deaths tended to occur between August and October. The fewest in February, May and June. Not surprisingly, 72% of deaths from cholera infantum happened in the warm months between July and September. A third of typhoid fever deaths occurred in October and November while TB deaths were evenly distributed throughout the year.

The figures do bring some good news. After spiking in the early 1880s, the number of raw deaths in Moorhead stayed relatively flat through the rest of the period while the whole population skyrocketed. By the end of the century something had improved:

sanitation, better water sources, better food. It will take more research to peg the causes. Infant mortality, however, remained disturbingly high.

I found this exercise a sobering experience, a hard look at the realities of 19th century life.

Like many of us interested in history, I'd love to be able to travel back 100 years to see local life first hand. But believe me, I'd insist on having a string attached to yank me back to our own time as soon as I got sick!



Christian and Mary Holbeck lived in Morken Township where they lost six children in just over a year to Scarlet Fever and other causes. After moving to Moorhead they had another child and lost him to croup. Their remaining four children (l to r) Dagmar, Agnes, Herman and Walter survived to adulthood. Walter died of alcoholism at age 28.

How old is it?

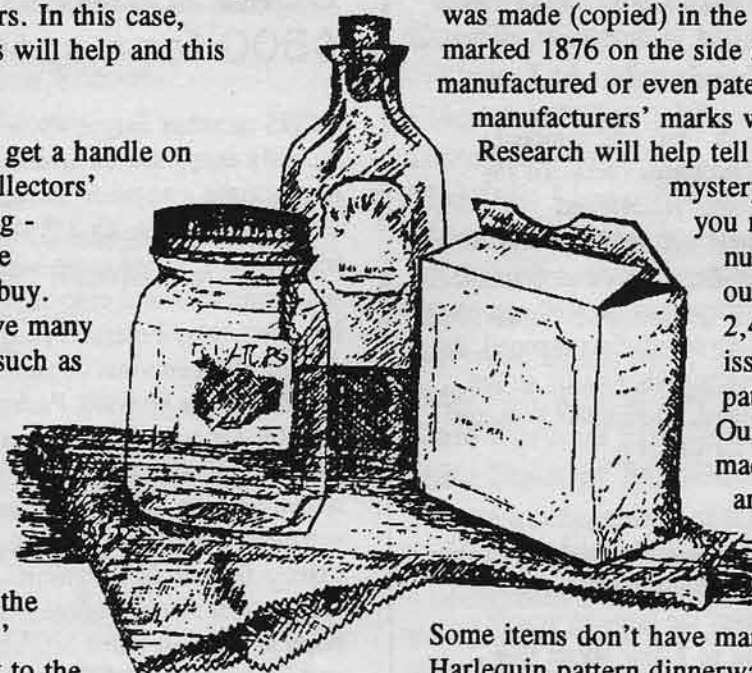
By Pam Burkhardt

In a museum, this is a familiar question. A visitor might like to know the age of a canning jar or Fiesta pattern coffee cup in an exhibit, because they realize they have one at home just like it. The same visitor might wonder why every item isn't dated. Or why we fudge with dates that are *around 1910* or *before 1950*. After all, a museum *is* in the information business, isn't it? Dating items depends on a number of things including: a general knowledge of material culture, good research and reading the item itself. In addition, each item has many dates associated with it.

First, a general knowledge of material culture can tell you when an item could have been made. Basically, you expect materials and techniques to change over time. For example, tin toys were made before plastic ones and cassette recordings before CDs. Actually, it is usually easier to tell when something *wasn't* made - there is no early 1900s Tupperware.

However, "in with the new" doesn't mean an automatic "out with the old." There is invariably an overlap in manufacturing and usage. You can buy both tape cassettes and CDs. Disk records are sold at flea markets and vintage record stores. Compounding the problem is the fact that a successful product might be in production for many years. In this case, changes in styles and colors will help and this means research.

Research is the best way to get a handle on dates. There are specific collectors' guides to just about anything - canning jars and Fiesta ware included. Look before you buy. Some price guides don't give many dates - just generalizations such as "early 1900s" or "before WW I." Also, you need to *really look* at things such as your Fiesta coffee cups - and have a good memory. Remember, they need to be *exactly like* the coffee cups in the collectors' guide not *almost like*. [Back to the museum setting for an example.]



The Laughlin Pottery began manufacturing dinnerware in 1871 in East Liverpool, Ohio. The company added production sites, and eventually, in 1929, the East Liverpool plant was closed. In 1936 the company introduced a line of brightly-colored dinnerware named "Fiesta." In 1969, the dinnerware was redesigned, but was withdrawn from the market a few years later. Before 1969, cups had full circle handles. After 1969, partial circle handles were used. Most Fiesta was marked with an incised "Fiesta," but some were hand stamped.

From 1936 to 1943, the red glaze used in Fiesta contained uranium oxide. The government assumed control of the substance and red Fiesta was dropped from production. Red was re-introduced in 1959. The Fiesta pattern is being reproduced today. The post-1986 Fiesta line has some new colors and designs.

In the case of a yellow Fiesta coffee cup with a full circle handle, the date on the exhibit label would read 1936-1969. If the Fiesta cup had a red glaze and had been donated to us in 1955, the label could read 1936-1943 for production or 1936-1955 for use.

Looking at the item carefully helps. Colonial furniture was made (copied) in the 1860s. A canning jar with marked 1876 on the side may not mean it was manufactured or even patented then. Any manufacturers' marks will give you a place to start. Research will help tell you what some of the

mystery markings are. One number you might find is a patent number. The patent number on our stocking stretcher is 2,451,208. That number was issued sometime in 1948. The patent was issued for 17 years. Our stretcher could have been made at any time between 1948 and 1965. Sometimes a mold number is mistaken for the manufacturing date.

Some items don't have markings. In the case of Harlequin pattern dinnerware, reading about the
(Continued on Page 12)

How Old (Continued from Page 11)

Homer Laughlin company will tell you about it. The Harlequin pattern was listed in 1936, though not produced until 1938. The last pieces were manufactured in 1964. It was cheaper than Fiesta and was sold exclusively through F.W. Woolworth Company. To confuse things further, in 1939 the Hamilton Ross Co. marketed a Harlequin look-alike called Sevilla.

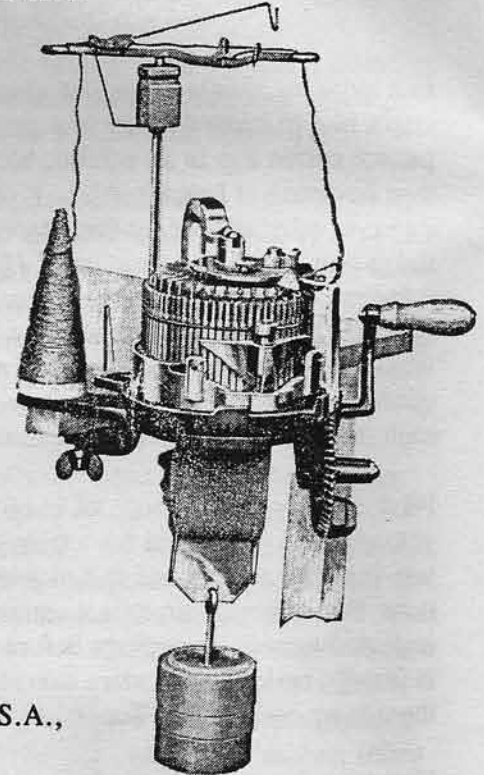
The dates that interest you may not be the date we put on a museum label. There are any number of dates that pertain to an item. In *The Illustrated Guide to Knitting* by Pam Dawson, she states knitting may date back to 1000 BC. The earliest examples of knitting according to *Prehistoric Textiles* by E.J.W. Barber date to the mid-3rd century AD. *Mary Thomas's Knitting Book* by Mary Thomas dates the first garment knit on multiple needles to the 4th or 5th century in Egypt. In Scandinavia, a fragment of knitting made with the one-needle method also dates to the 4th or 5th century. *The Book of Firsts* by Patrick Robertson gives 1527 as the earliest reference to knitting found in the French stocking knitters guild. That is a very wide period of time. Knitting machines aren't new either i.e. 20th century. In fact, they were invented in 1589.

The interval between the concept and actualization varies. According to the *Book of Lists* (Wallenchinsky, Wallace and Wallace), long-playing records took three years to develop (1945-1948), fluorescent lighting 33 years (1901-1934) and photography 56 years (1782-1838). A similar idea may be recorded by one or more people concurrently. The first one to the patent office (or the media) wins.

Some dates specific to any given item are: concept, prototypes drawn or built, patent dates recorded for the item or parts, and when it was redesigned and manufactured. More dates: when was it sold, packaged, advertised, marketed (or given away), purchased by the consumer, packed and moved, given or received as a gift, in use, retired or discontinued. In addition things are imported, exported, lost or stolen, found, broken, mended or painted, have parts replaced and photographs taken during its history.

We like to put dates on artifacts in the collections so we know how they fit together to tell the history of our county. Usually, only one or two dates are known for any artifact donated. The rest we have to search for depending on what we need to know about that particular item. Sometimes we have to make an

educated guess. Those guesses are based on the design, pattern or the time period when like items were made, sold and used.



From the Gerhart Knitting Machine, Superior Appliance & Pattern Co., Clearfield, PA., U.S.A., 1942

Other sources used: *The Collector's Encyclopedia of Fiesta*, revised 7th ed. Bob & Sharon Huxford 1992/1996

CCHS member donates \$500 for a scanner

CCHS member Edgar Peterson of Burbank, California recently surprised us with a \$500 donation to be used to purchase a scanner for our computer. In a recent newsletter article, CCHS Archivist Mark Peihl mentioned that we were hoping to add a scanner to the new computer and color ink jet printer we purchased last year. Mr. Peterson read the article and sent the check. His generous donation will make possible the purchase of a Hewlett-Packard ScanJet 6100c with an adapter for scanning transparencies. This will allow us to scan not only photo prints but 35 mm slides and negatives, including our glass plate negatives. The scanned images can then be printed out on our ink jet printer for patrons, exhibits or our newsletter. Scanned images can also be uploaded onto a web site which we hope to have in place this summer. Our thanks go out to Mr. Peterson. We'll make good use of his donation!

Before DNA testing

DNA testing is a relatively new science which can take the guessing out of identification. The identification of the person buried at the Unknown Soldier Memorial in Washington is a good example of the development of this science. In the early days and through the 1920s there was no DNA testing and Clay County had a number of unknown burials including 20 men and six babies. There were no women. The following article was printed in the April 9, 1931 Hawley Herald.

Records Show That Many Unknown Died Twenty Men Have Been Borne

to Their Graves in Clay County Unidentified

Twenty men have been borne to their graves in Clay County, their identity a mystery time has never solved.

From the records of county Coroners since 1887, when keeping of death statistics first began, is gleaned this information. A majority of the unknown met their death in the Moorhead area, some by drowning and many from causes never established. Some, perhaps, officials say, may have been murdered, although coroner's investigation showed no facts to bear out this

conclusion. In each case careful search was made to find even the most slender clue leading to identity, and in each case the investigation has borne no fruit. Some of the unknowns were found in the Red River, others out on the prairie in snow drifts. The most recent was found under a pile of snow fence near the city wells in the eastern outskirts of the city.

From time to time county officials receive queries such as this: "Have you any knowledge of the whereabouts of J ____ D ____ who disappeared at the age of 18 in the year 1900. He was dressed in overalls and a light cap, and left for the Minnesota harvest fields to find work. He is about 5 feet 7 inches tall, and weighed 140 pounds. Last seen at _____. Tell him his mother is dying and to come home."

Who knows but what it may have been one of the unknowns. But the county officials do not know, and so another has been swallowed up, never to be heard of again.

Since 1887 too, six unknown infants have been buried in Clay County, the records show. Inquests did not disclose their parentage. -- Fargo Forum

The Clay County Historical Society

thanks the following organizations and businesses for their financial support:

PATRON (\$200 - \$499)

School Specialty, Fargo

SUSTAINING MEMBERS (\$100 to \$199)

City of Hawley, Hawley
Dilworth/Glyndon/Felton Schools
First National Bank, Hawley
Fischer Farms, Glyndon
F-M Printing, Moorhead
Hawley Public Schools, Hawley
Korsmo Funeral Service, Moorhead
Rapat Corporation, Hawley
Sellin Brothers, Hawley
The Forum, Fargo

SUPPORTING MEMBER (\$50 to \$99)

Arkansas State Univ., Arkansas
Bentley & Bentley, DDS, Hawley
Cass-Clay Creamery, Inc., Fargo
City of Barnesville, Barnesville
DBA Acme Sign, Fargo
Dilworth Wal-Mart, Dilworth

Eventide, Moorhead

Fevig Oil Company Inc., Felton
McLarnan, Hannaher, Vaa. and
Skatvold, Attorneys, Mhd
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Hornbachers Foods, Moorhead
Mid-Day Lions, Moorhead
Moorhead Area Retired

Education Association
Moorhead Trader & Trapper Inc., Moorhead
Norwest Bank MN, West N.A., Moorhead
Petermann Seed Farm, Hawley
State Bank of Hawley, Hawley
State Bank of Moorhead, Moorhead
Stenerson Lumber, Moorhead
United Electric Serv. & Supply, Inc, Fargo
Vikigland Kiwanis, Moorhead
Wahl Drug Store/Gift Shop, Hawley
Ward Muscatell Auto, Moorhead
Wright Funeral Home, Moorhead

Annual meeting set for May 13

The CCHS Annual Meeting at the Hjemkomst Center, usually held in April, has been set for Thursday, May 13 to accommodate the \$2.5 million expansion here at the Center.

The schedule for the Annual Meeting will remain much the same as in past years with hor d'oeuvres, dinner and a business meeting followed by a program.

The program has not been finalized but there will be a slide presentation by Mark Peihl, CCHS Archivist, on the events of the past year at the Center. A water main break flood, and the new construction will take center stage. There will be guided tours of the new CCHS spaces in the center and some musical entertainment.

4-H clothing projects wanted

CCHS is looking for a few 4-H project books, manuals and/or pamphlets. We are especially interested in those concerning clothing projects and thrift projects from the 1930s to include in our next exhibit *Stitches in Time*. Thanks!



Approximate Amount of Material in Various-Size Bags

FLOUR BAGS Sizes	SUGAR BAGS Sizes	SALT BAGS Sizes	MEAL BAGS Sizes	FEED BAGS Sizes
5 lb.....15x19	5 lb.....13x16	13x14	15x16	40x46
10 lb.....18x23	10 lb.....16x21	16x17	18x22	40x48
25 lb.....26x26	25 lb.....22x27	18x26	26x27	40x50
50 lb.....30x34	100 lb.....36x40	30x36	36x44	40x52
100 lb.....36x42				40x54

Note: The above chart is from a 1940s booklet on projects to make from feed (flour) bags.

CCHS Memberships - New and Renewals

January/February

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

RENEWALS

McLarnan, Hannaher, Vaa & Skatvold, Moorhead
Eventide, Moorhead
Lysle & Diane Meyer, Moorhead
Katherine Mentjes, LeCenter
Richard Bollmann, Sheboygan WI
Rick Crume, Glyndon
L.L. Haggart family, Fargo
June Adele Dolva, Moorhead
Bob & Dorothy Homann, Moorhead
Bernice Peihl, Arthur, ND
Bernadine & Otto Ursin, Moorhead
C. Diane Wray Williams, Moorhead
Dilworth/Glyndon/Felton School
Nels & Myrtle Snustad, Moorhead
Dilworth Wal-Mart, Dilworth
Berniece Janecky, Pelican Rapids
City of Barnesville, Barnesville
John & Jyl Kolness, Hendrum
Alvin Swanson, Moorhead

Davis & Hazel Scott, Moorhead
Moorhead Midday Lions Club, Moorhead
Arthur & Bernice Arett, Moorhead
Florence O. Anderson, Moorhead
Joel Belgum, Moorhead
Curtiss & Helen Danielson, Moorhead
Erling & Janice Linde, Moorhead
Stephen Schroeder, Glyndon
T.W. Richard, Moorhead
Dick & Esther Vollbrecht, Moorhead
Helen Austin, Baker
Stella Carlson, Moorhead
Harry Fillafer, Moorhead
Marilyn Krogh, Ft Collins CO
Robert & Dorothy Larson, Moorhead
Mary Leach, Glyndon
Arlene Mickley, Moorhead
Alice O. Oliver, Moorhead
Bonnie Rehder, Moorhead
Roger & Joan Stenerson, Glyndon
Verna & Olaf Cartford, Moorhead
Barbara Engler, Roseville
Irene Hogan, Moorhead
Ethel Menholt, Felton
Mrs. Margaret Tabbut, Bakersville CA
Mark Chekola, Moorhead
Tom and Beth Iverson, Moorhead

Francis Kukowski, Moorhead
Grace Landin, Moorhead
Shirley Strand, Hawley
Paul & Florence Korsmo, Fargo
Vern Pederson, Moorhead
Diane Gruhl Fillmore, Hawley
Sharon Hoverson, Fargo
M/M Carl Bailey, Moorhead
T. Brent Larson, Moorhead
Jerome McCormick, Naples FL
Timothy R. Nowak, Cheyenne WY
Doris V. Olich, Moorhead
Howard Freeberg, West Fargo

CCHS welcomes the following new members:

NEW MEMBERS

Carol & Gordon Rustad, Moorhead
Marvin & Ardis Witte, Moorhead
Phyllis Ehlen, Fargo
Louise Redmann, Fargo
Joanne C. Ogren, Barnesville

CLAY COUNTY MUSEUM

*a new exhibit in a new museum
opens*

May 2

*Stitches
in Time*

Clay County's Handmade Textiles.

*Come in and explore the
role of textiles in the
social history of Clay
County!*

*Come in and examine
the fabrics of our lives!!*

"Bits & Pieces" will close soon as we prepare for the new museum opening.

Hours are: 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 9-9 Thurs., 12-5 Sun.
Lower level of Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Ave. N., Moorhead, MN

CCHS Business Membership

- ☐ \$ 50 to \$99 Supporting Member
☐ \$ 100 to \$199 Sustaining Member
☐ \$ 200 to \$499 Patron
☐ \$ 500 and up Major Exhibit Sponsor

As a CCHS Business Member you will receive all benefits of an individual membership plus a certificate ready to frame and display, extra complimentary passes to the Hjemkomst Center's exhibits and a listing in all CCHS bi-monthly Newsletters. To become a CCHS Business Member please return this form or a facsimile to CCHS, Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561-0501 or call 233-4604.

Business: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

CCHS Membership Application

I would like to become a member of Clay County Historical Society.

- ☐ INDIVIDUAL \$15.00 ☐ FAMILY \$35.00 ☐ Donation

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- * Support preservation of our heritage
- * Bi-monthly newsletter
- * Discount on Acid-Free Materials
- * FREE Admission to Clay County Museum & Archives and two complimentary passes to the Center's Exhibits
- * Discount on Photo Reproduction
- * Voting Privileges
- * Invitation to all CCHS events

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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P.O. BOX 501

MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA 56561-0501

Address Correction Requested