

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



CCHS Newsletter

May/June 1991

Vol XIV No. 3



Florence "Tree Tops" Klingensmith - Clay County's first female aviator.

See story on Page 7.

Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

President's Message



Dear Members,

As the newly elected President of Clay County Historical Society I want to thank Dan Skolness and Norman Bjorndahl for all their years of service to CCHS. Their time and talent will be greatly missed. At the same time I would like to welcome new board members Gary H. Olson of Moorhead and Carol Ekre of Hawley. I hope they will soon feel at home on the board.

The annual meeting was held in April with Michael Michlovic rebutting the Kensington Runestone at Alexandria as a myth. It was a very informative talk. Mark Peihl gave an excellent presentation on the ethnic groupings of Clay County in the early 1900s. I wish to thank the staff for their work in making the meeting an enjoyable evening.

I am sure everyone has been reading about the recent action of the county commissioners voting to give the Hjemkomst Center \$22,500 along with \$22,500 from the City of Moorhead, to help with their shortfall from fiscal 1990. The details of a management agreement between CCHS and HHIC are still being worked out and I hope to have more to report to you in the next newsletter.

Might I recommend the displays throughout the Center. They are well worth seeing. I would like to remind everyone of Mark's final two lecture series on May 9 and June 6. You will find them both educational and entertaining.

Sincerely,
Kelly Aakre, CCHS Board President

Family History Workshop set for fall

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

Brochures on the workshop will be available in August. For more information write: Heritage Education Commission, Division of Continuing Education, Moorhead State University, Moorhead, MN 56563

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



202 1st Avenue North
Box 501
Moorhead, Minnesota 56560

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Education top priority in early 1900s

By Jim Nelson

The Moorhead School Board began the process of building a new and larger high school in May of 1918 with the purchase of Block 3 in Lambs Addition. Moorhead Hornbacher's, built in 1980, presently stands on this site, but the proposed school of 1918 was destined to be built elsewhere.

Shortly after the Block 3 property was purchased, a grass roots movement to rethink the board's decision began. The Moorhead Commercial Club, Moorhead Retail Merchants and other professional and social clubs in Moorhead, along with a large portion of residents, came to the agreement that it would be more feasible to raze the old high school and rebuild on the same site. This proposal came to a vote on April 2, 1919, and by an overwhelming majority of 1,048 to 59, the citizens of Moorhead agreed that they wanted their school to remain at the same site between 8th and 9th Street and 3rd and 4th Avenue South. The "Townsite Center" presently occupies the site.



On the afternoon of October 12, 1921, the new Moorhead High School at 8th Street and 4th Avenue was the scene of a flag raising ceremony. A large crowd huddled around the new flag pole (just recently arrived). Garfield Rustad, a Moorhead High School alumni and current Clay County Attorney, gave the address. The flag raising was handled by the Melvin E. Hearl Post of the Moorhead American Legion. Note the horse and buggy on the left side of the picture.

(Photo by O.E. Flaten)

With architects Miller, Fullenwider & Dowling of Chicago in charge, ground was broken for the new school on September 15, 1919. Preliminary costs were estimated at about \$235,000, but in less than a year, by April 1920, an additional \$250,000 was added to the costs. A bond issue for this amount was passed by the voters of Moorhead, with final cost of the structure reaching about \$500,000. The building was ready for use by late July of 1921. M.L. Jacobson was Superintendent of Moorhead Schools at the time.

(Continued on Page 4)

EDUCATION: (Continued from Page 3)

The formal dedication of the new building was scheduled for October 12, 1921, with the flag raising dedication scheduled as a prelude on Labor Day, presumably before fall classes began. But the new flag pole didn't arrive in time and ultimately the flag raising and building dedications were feted together on October.

At 3:30 p.m., on the southwest lawn of the newly completed building, the Melvin E. Hearl Post of the Moorhead American Legion took total control of the flag raising ceremony. The student body of the high school united in singing "The Star Spangled Banner" as the flag was raised.

Guest speaker was Garfield Rustad, County Attorney. Mr. Rustad was a 1905 graduate of Moorhead High School and a 1908 graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School. He was assistant Clay County Attorney for a short time until 1912 when he became the Moorhead City Attorney. He became County Attorney in 1918 and served in that capacity until 1922. He had by then proved himself as a worthy lawyer and for almost 30 years practiced with much success in Moorhead. He died in July of 1951.

The formal dedication of the building occurred that evening in the auditorium of the new school with over 800 people attending. Addresses were given by former Senator, Charles S. Marden, of Moorhead; W.F. Webster, former Superintendent of Schools in Moorhead and present Superintendent of City Schools in Minneapolis; and J.M. McConnell, Minnesota State Commissioner of Education.

The following account of Superintendent Webster's speech appeared in the October 13, 1921 Fargo Forum: "Everybody is going to school," said Mr. Webster, in telling of the wonderful growth of the school system in the United States and how the people of the United States are pouring forth their treasuries for educational buildings, like people in the 12th and 14th centuries of European history built churches.

Edmund Stanfield gave an address on behalf of the student body, and Lucy Sheffield spoke on behalf of the alumni. Also on the program were the following musical selections: piano solos by Norman Wright and Edna Johnson, both 1921 Moorhead High graduates, and vocal selections by Margaret Newton, a 1915 Moorhead High graduate and current music teacher at Moorhead, and the high school mixed chorus and girls sextet.

The Rev. W.J. Hall of the First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead gave the invocation.

The Moorhead High School, dedicated in 1921, almost 70 years ago, served the educational needs of Moorhead for almost half a century until the present Moorhead High School opened in 1967. The 1921 high school has continued to be used, first as office space and later as the Moorhead Area Vocational Technical School. Presently called the "Townsite Center," the building houses offices for the Moorhead School District, the Minnesota Job Shop and a number of other organizations.

Final Spring Lecture

Thursday, June 6 - 7:30 p.m.

OLD RUBY: The Red River and Moorhead—from steamboats to recreation, fishing to floods. How local residents have used and abused the Raging Red for over a century.

Sponsored by
Clay County Historical Society
at the
Heritage Hjemkomst
Interpretive Centre
202 1st Ave. N.
Moorhead, Minnesota

For more information call 233-4604



"Welcome to Dilworth" opens May 25

A new exhibit called "Welcome to Dilworth" opens in the Clay County Museum on May 25. The exhibit is a by-product of a book of photographs documenting the people, places and unique heritage of Dilworth, Minn. The book was published by the Moorhead State University's mass communications department under the direction of Wayne Gudmundson and features an introduction written by Clarence "Soc" Glasrud.

A group of 13 students took photos over the past nine months in order to compile the 112-page book which explores how the railroad, and an accompanying influx of Italian immigrants, shaped the culture of this small Minnesota town of 2,655, which is now facing urban sprawl from neighboring Moorhead.

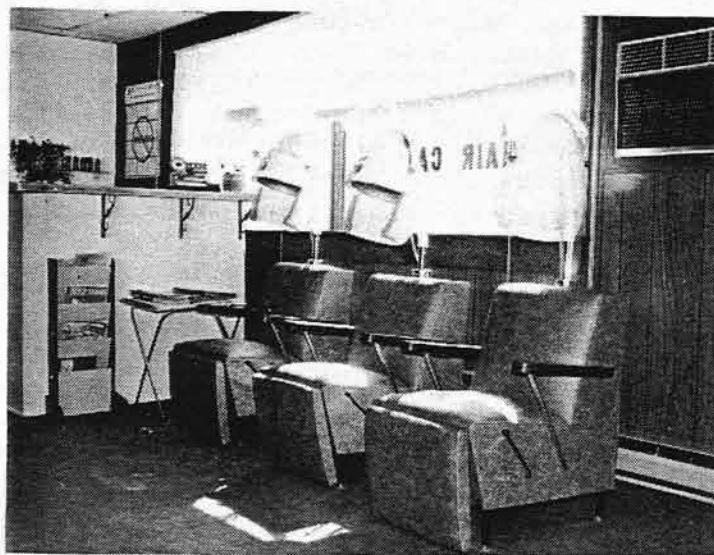
The book is for sale at the Gift Shop in the Hjemkomst Center.

Bergquist on hand for great-grandfather's cabin's open house

Dewey Bergquist will be on hand during the Bergquist log cabin open house on June 27, 28 and 29. Bergquist will relate the history of the cabin built by his great-grandfather John Bergquist in 1870. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the cabin is the oldest house in Moorhead still on its original site.

The open house is sponsored by the Swedish Society and is part of the area's Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival.

Special activities include: Thursday - Muriel Vincent knitting Swedish mittens; Friday - Pam Burkhardt making Swedish bobbin lace; Saturday - not set at this time. Ron Anderson will play Scandinavian music on his accordion during the open house. The cabin open house is free and open to the public. Hours are from 1 to 4 p.m. each day. Coffee and cookies will be served.



The chairs sit empty at "W.E. Clips," on Highway 10, Dilworth. In the Fall of 1990 when Jeff Bummer took this photo for the "Welcome to Dilworth" photographic documentary of the city it was an operating beauty shop.

Rhubarb, yesterday and today

The rhubarb season is soon upon us and we thought it would be fun to compare rhubarb recipes at 50 year intervals. Reprinted below are two rhubarb jam recipes, one from 1940 and the other from 1990.

The first recipe is taken from Reliable Cook Book, put out in 1940 by the ladies aid of Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead. The second recipe is from the Comstock A.L.C.W. Cookbook, Comstock American Lutheran Church Women, which was sold during their June 1990 centennial.

RHUBARB JAM (1940)

9 cups sugar	1 lemon
12 cups rhubarb	2 cups pineapple
½ lb. raisins	2 large oranges/nuts

Let mixture stand overnight. Boil to desired consistency and seal. (Mrs. Marie Iverson)

RHUBARB JAM (1990)

Cut up 6 cups rhubarb. Add 4 cups sugar. Mix well and let stand overnight. Cook until tender. Remove from heat and add:

1 can pie filling 1 box Jello
Stir well and reheat to boiling. Fill jars, seal and store. Variations: strawberry, peach and apricot. (Vivian Hoppe)

Outreach displays

Hawley Public Library	May 8-July 3, 1991
Hitterdal Senior Center	May 3-July 3, 1991
Viking Manor, Ulen	May 3-July 3, 1991
Glyndon Community Center	May 10-July 1, 1991
Moorhead Public Library	May 10-July 1, 1991



"Frozen in Time" an exciting addition to trunk program

The Hawley Library will feature IN MY MERRY OLDSMOBILE. Artifacts include a car window fan, sheet music, road maps and travel games. A wooden license plate from a Glide automobile is included. The car was owned by C.C. Nelson of Skree Township who was often seen driving in Hawley.

COFFEE WITH CREAM (and sugar!) will be served, or rather displayed, in the Hitterdal Senior Center. Items include a mustache cup, sugar cube rack, cream siphon and coffee mill.

STITCHES IN TIME will be shown at Viking Manor in Ulen. Artifacts include quilt patches, sewing equipment and color photos of quilts from the CCHS collections.

The Glyndon Community Center will SPRING INTO SUMMER with swim suits, marbles, plant seeds and cooling refreshments (from long ago, that is).

ROCKS OF AGES at the Moorhead Library will include thompsonite, gypsum and iron ore found in Minnesota. Other specimens, such as copper and fossil bivalves, were brought into this area by man and nature.

March/April Donors and Artifact

Donors include:

Moorhead	Helen Hedelund and Clay County Treasurer's Office
Fargo, ND	Forum Publishing Co., Elizabeth Lorshbough and James Landblom
Mpls, MN	Minnesota Bankers' Assn.

Artifacts include:

"Red River Star" newspaper dated 1873; bare-bones budget pin; postcard of the railroad trestle at the Stockwood Fill; book titled Banking in Minnesota; and area photo postcards.

Frozen in Time is the newest addition to our family of educational PAST trunks. Frozen in Time is a self-contained study of photography recommended for grades 5 and 6. Some of the activities in this trunk include Capturing an Image, Learning from Photographs and What is a Camera? Lesson 3 shows students how to make sun prints using the photosensitive paper from the trunk. Lesson 5 uses a stereo viewer from the previous century as well as a modern View Master for instruction on How We See in 3-D. Lesson 6 continues the process when students create their own stereo views using the stereo camera designed especially for this trunk. (The teacher is responsible for the film and processing costs.)

The other PAST trunks currently in circulation are Down on the Farm, The Good Old Days and Coming to Clay County. In addition to being very popular in the schools of Clay County the PAST trunks have a second life in nursing homes and retirement centers where they serve as a reminiscent tool. This adds to the extensive use of the trunks on a year round basis.

The PAST trunk program was developed by the Clay County Historical Society with funding from the Minnesota Department of Education by a grant through the Dilworth Public Schools.

PAST

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Friends remember Clay County Aviatrice Florence Klingensmith as a dare devil !

By Mark Peihl

On August 27, 1927, Charles Lindberg touched down at Hector Field in Fargo to thousands of cheering fans. These days it's hard to imagine the electrifying impact "Lindy's" solo flight over the Atlantic the previous spring had had on the country. For years afterwards the newspapers were filled daily with stories of daring aviators' exploits. Lindberg inspired hundreds of young Americans to become fliers, and not all of them were men.

In the 1920s women made great strides in many previously all male vocations, even aviation. One young woman in the crowd that day at Hector was a gutsy former Clay County school girl named Florence Gunderson Klingensmith.

Florence was born September 3, 1904, on her parents' small Oakport Township farm. She attended Oakmound School with her sister Myrtle, and brothers George and Roy. Her father, Gust, worked at Oakmound as janitor and school bus driver.

*"A wild one!
ready to try anything"*

Recently I talked with several of Florence's childhood friends. Everyone of them remembered her as a nice girl, a very attractive girl, and a daring girl who was always ready to try anything. Ingvald Stensland says the whole family was like that. "Ya, they was full of spetakkel¹, those kids. But they never hurt anything." Florence especially was "A wild one" laughs Clarence Simonson. "She was a great sports fan and ready to try anything."

In 1918 the Gundersons moved to Moorhead. Florence didn't slow down a bit. Marion Gillespie lived a few blocks away on 10th Street and was a close friend: "Oh, she was a real live wire, real daring.... We'd run out and jump on the back of the street car when it passed and ride to each others' house."

1. Norwegian: uproar, hubbub, racket, boisterous.

*"Oh, she was a real live wire,
real daring....."*

At a very young age Florence's devil-may-care attitude was nearly her undoing. Fellow Moorhead High student Oliver Sondrall remembers, "I used to do some skiing at the [ski jumping] scaffold near the Moorhead Country Club. Florence wanted to try it too. When we got to the top of the scaffold we found she didn't have any bindings on her skis! [Just a couple of leather straps.] My friend and I had to talk her out of it. She would have been killed!"

*".....used to look a bit askance
when she would race through the
streets on her motorcycle."*

In Moorhead her energy found an outlet - motorcycles, fast ones. Evelyn Gesell: "Oh, you bet she rode motorcycles! I think she was the only girl we knew who did. Some of us more conservative girls, I guess, used to look a bit askance when she would race through the streets on her motorcycle."

The Fargo Forum later claimed she got her first experience with flying on a motorcycle. With her brother George riding on the gas tank, "A tire blew out when the speedometer showed better than 70 miles an hour and Florence went sailing through the air."

Florence left school in her junior year and went to work as a motorcycle and truck delivery person, eventually working for The Pantorium, a Fargo dry cleaner. It may have been there that she met Charles Klingensmith. They were married June 25, 1927, but it was a short union. Within a year and a half she was on her own. Frank Vyzralek, in a biography of Florence writes that Charles "enters and exits her life almost as a shadow, leaving behind little

impression beyond his surname, which Florence retained to the end of her life."

Two months after their wedding, Lindberg paid his visit and Florence decided to become a pilot. In early 1928 she attended ground electrical classes at Hanson Auto and Electrical School in Fargo. "A lone girl among four hundred boys," she later wrote. She worked as a mechanic's apprentice at Fargo's Hector Field, learning planes inside and out and taking flying lessons when she could afford to.

That summer her flight instructor E.M. Canfield needed a stunt girl to accompany him on a series of area flying exhibitions. Florence agreed to be that stunt person in return for lessons and she started a new adventure - skydiving.

On June 14, after some brief instruction, Florence bailed out of Canfield's plane some 1700 feet above Hector Field. Her brother George, who had had jump training at Kelly Field in Texas witnessed the jump. It was a wild ride. "She pendulumed worse than any 'chute jumper [I'd] ever seen at Kelly." Florence was unconscious when she hit the ground but undeterred. Later jumps at Bismarck and Brainerd were more successful.

The travel and flying were a great experience for Florence, but she made little money. To make a living flying she needed her own plane. The following winter she literally went door to door to persuade local business men to provide money for a plane. In return, Florence would promote Fargo and carry advertisements at fairs, flying meets and air races. Her persistence paid off. As Fargo laundry owner William T. Lee said, "If you're willing to risk your neck, I'll risk my money." Norman Black, William Stern, J. K. Roth Herbst and others agreed and provided \$3,000.

In April, 1929, Florence traveled to the Monocoupe Airplane Factory in Moline, Ill. where she purchased her first plane. She flew it back to Hector and christened it "Miss Fargo." Florence had a new name too, "Tree-Tops," probably given to her by Phobe

Omlie or one of the other top fliers she met and received instructions from at Moline. In June she became the first licensed woman pilot in North Dakota and started her aviation career. That summer she barnstormed county fairs, worked as operations manager at Hector and flew in her first race where she took fourth.

By spring she was ready for another challenge. Mildred Kaufman of St. Louis had established a woman's record for inside loops of 46. Florence figured she could do better. On April 19, 1930, with hundreds of onlookers lining the roads around Hector she smashed the record with 143 loops. Unfortunately, no members of the National Aeronautics Association were present. Bad weather prevented Florence from making the record official later that spring and in May, Laura Ingalls completed first 344, then 850 loops.

Florence spent the summer in Minneapolis doing commercial flying. In September American Eagle Airlines appointed her Northern Division Traffic Manager, and those duties kept her on the ground.

Laura Ingalls, meanwhile, had raised her loop record to 980. But by summer Florence was back in the cockpit. On June 22, 1931 before more than 50,000 spectators (and NAA officials) Florence took off from Wold-Chamberlain Field at Minneapolis. Four and 1/2 hours later, "A trifle groggy and gagged by gas fumes," she touched down with a record of 1,078 loops firmly in hand.

She taught a women's aviation class, did radio addresses on flying and with partner Jack V. Kipp, spent weekends giving 5-minute plane rides for a dollar. She also began racing in earnest. At the 1931 National Air Races in Cleveland, against the best women fliers in the country, she won four events and walked away with \$4,200 in prize money. At the 1932 Nationals she collected the most coveted prize in women's aviation, the Amelia Earhart Trophy. But racing against women was not enough for Florence. She also took second racing against men in a race for planes with engines smaller than 510 cubic inches.



Amelia Earhart herself (right) presents Florence with the coveted Amelia Earhart trophy at the 1932 National Air Races.

Photo courtesy of Smithsonian Institution.

In 1933 Florence entered the \$10,000 Frank Phillips Trophy Race at the Nationals in Chicago. She was the first woman to do so. The Thompson was a 100 mile, 12 lap race around pylons. The race was open to planes with no limits on engine size. The best pilots in America competed.

*"....The plane is fast enough
and I can fly it."*

Florence flew a bright red Gee Bee Sportster owned by Arthur Knapp of Jackson, Mich. The fabric covered craft's original 220 horse power engine was replaced with a souped up 670 hp motor. The overpowered engine added an element of danger, but Florence was confident. The Chicago Daily News quoted her as saying just before the race, "I don't know that I will win, but I do know I will place. The plane is fast enough and I can fly it."

Late in the afternoon of September 4, one day after her 29th birthday, Florence was flying a beautiful race, in fourth place ahead of four male fliers, averaging over 200 mph through the first eight laps. Then, just as she was passing the grand stands, a bit of red fabric fluttered down from the fuselage. The stresses of the race were apparently too much for the overpowered light craft. Florence immediately veered

off the course and flew steady and level straight south to a plowed field a couple of miles away. Then the crowd gasped as the plane flipped over and nosed into the earth from 350 feet up. Florence was thrown from the cockpit and died instantly. Apparently she had attempted to bail out. Her parachute was found tangled in the fuselage.

Even though the crash resulted from structural failure and not pilot error, Florence's death was later used as an excuse to bar women from competing with men. Officials banned women from entering the Bendix Air Race at the 1934 Nationals. Women protested. Amelia Earhart's method of protest was to refuse to fly actress Mary Pickford to Cleveland to open the air races. The women held their own air meet in Ohio.

Florence's body was shipped back home for the funeral. She was well loved in the flying fraternity. Dozens of pilots from all over the country joined hundreds of local friends at the funeral in Fargo's First Presbyterian Church. Floral tributes included one arrangement in the shape of her first plane "Miss Fargo." The businessmen who had bank rolled Florence's first plane served as pallbearers. She was interned at Oakmound Cemetery, a few miles from where she was born. Rev. J.C. Brown, "The Flying Parson" said "If she could speak to us now she would tell us not to lose faith in aviation because of the tragedy that ended her flying career.

She would say it was not usual, but in the pursuit of the thrills upon which she thrived."

Visible Writing Machine.



It is the production of fifteen years' experience, and is unquestionably the best and most thoroughly up to date low priced, Universal keyboard, visible typewriter on the market. Writing is swift is a self evident advantage. The carriage is extremely light and counter balanced. It is so well composed and connected with the shift key that the action is extremely light. Fitted with Universal keyboard of 27 keys, and writes altogether 81 characters. The speed of the Universal is so great that no operator, however rapid, could possibly reach its limit. Every key has a uniform depression and absolutely equal leverage. It takes paper up to 8 1/2 inches wide and writes a line 7 1/2 inches. The paper feed and release is most simple and effective, marginal stop is positive and convenient, bell trip which could not be easier to handle, carriage release, which is simplicity itself; in fact, the entire machine is not only perfection, perfectly perfected, but simplicity, simply simplified.

No. 3R1520 Our special cut price.....\$29.50
Weight, unpacked, 10 1/2 pounds.

May/June Schedule

- May 18 International Museum Day.
"Preserving Your Photos and Heirloom Textiles" workshop. Sponsored by CCHS and presented by Mark Peihl, Archivist and Pam Burkhardt, Collections Manager. 1:30-5 p.m. Free and open to the public.
- May 19 Last Day "The Point" - Clay County Museum.
- May 25 "Welcome to Dilworth" opens. Clay County Museum.
- May 27 Memorial Day-Center Open. Last day of "3-D VISIONS," Heritage Hall.
- June 6-9 Riverfront Days - Fargo/Moorhead.
- June 6 "Old Ruby" 4th in CCHS Lecture Series by Mark Peihl. Auditorium. 7:30 p.m. Free and open to the public.
- June 8 "The World in Miniature" and "For Sale by Owner" open in Heritage Hall.
- June 9 Special Center Events - Ice Cream Social and Band Concert in Viking Ship Park.
- June 27-30 Fargo-Moorhead's Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival. Viking Ship Park - Viking Age Club Encampment.

Peihl to guide Red River walking tour

In conjunction with Riverfront Days, CCHS will conduct a walking tour of historic sites along the Red River from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 7.

CCHS Archivist Mark Peihl will guide the two-mile stroll along the Moorhead bike path from the new floating bridge to the American Legion Building. At the end of the tour a shuttle bus will be available to carry hikers back to their cars at Dike East.

McDonald's is sponsoring the walk and will provide refreshments along the walk. Tee-shirts will be available for participants. The tour is free. Register at Moorhead McDonald's, 220 South 8th Street.

Preserving Your...

International
Museum Day, May 18

FAMILY PHOTOS



1:30 - 3:00pm

Preserve your family photos for future generations to enjoy. Now is your chance to bring those old photographs up from the basement. This workshop will include storage and display ideas for old and new photographs. Special topics include color photos, slides, wedding photos, movies and videos. Handouts provided.

Mark Peihl, Archivist

HEIRLOOM TEXTILES



3:30 - 5:00pm

Whether it's your great-grandmother's wedding dress, your grandmother's quilt, a sampler, a doily or any of the textiles you have inherited or purchased, let us help you preserve them. This workshop includes repair, cleaning, display & storage of heirloom textiles and needlework. All procedures will be tailored for home use. Bring an article from home for question and answer time. Handouts for care and storage provided.

Pam Burkhardt, Collections Mgr.

SPONSORED BY

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SATURDAY - MAY 18, 1991

1:30 - 5:00pm

HERITAGE-HJEMKOMST INTERPRETIVE CENTER
202 First Avenue North, Moorhead, Minnesota

Workshops open to the public.
No pre-registration necessary.

For more information call: 218-233-4604

Preserving our ethnic heritage through dance

By Terese Cascio

Old time folk dances are a means of preserving and transmitting ethnic culture. Mention the Highland Fling and people think of Scotland and tartan kilts, the Hat Dance and Mexico and big sombreros are visualized. Every country in the world has its own dances and its own native costume.

The Moorhead State University Heritage Dancers, directed by Ellen Cromwell-Cecrle, assistant professor of Health and Physical Education at MSU, was formed in 1977 to help preserve the ethnic heritage of the various groups in the county. First called MSU Performing Dancers, the group later changed its name to reflect the focus on ethnic folk dance.

The groups' regular repertoire includes dances from countries strongly represented in Clay County, such as Norway, Sweden, Germany and Mexico. In addition, each year a number of other countries plus early American dances are explored to illustrate the diversity of our land and county. A dancer who has been in the group for four years will have learned well over a 100 different ethnic dances.

Because authenticity is important to the Heritage Dancers, all dances are carefully researched, as are the costumes. Creating the costumes is a major undertaking, especially since patterns generally do not exist and the design committee must create the necessary patterns.

All costumes are hand made by the dancers, including the intricate satin stitch embroidery on the women's Hungarian vests and the strip of Hardanger embroidery in the Norwegian aprons. In this way many ethnic crafts are mastered as well as dances.

For the Jalisco, Mexico costume, two full circle skirts were sewn together with a sturdy waistband. A 20 inch wide, 15 yard long ruffle with nine rows of ribbon and lace was added at the hem. This spring the

group made a set of kilts which consist of eight yards of plaid wool, pleated to fit a 30 inch waist. Every pleat had to be hand sewn to encourage the kilt to swing freely.



This gentleman, photographed by S.P. Wange in his full native costume, is evidence of a strong Scottish heritage in Clay County. The photo has been tentatively identified as George McDonald. If anyone has any further identification or knowledge of this picture, please call CCHS at 233-4604.

(Continued on Page 12)

DANCERS: (Continued from Page 11)

In the interest of authenticity and because Scottish folk dance is both difficult and precise, a certified Royal Scottish Country Dance Society teacher came from Kentucky to teach the Scottish Country and Highland dance. The result of this intense five-day seminar was not only strains and shin splints, but proper posture and styling as well.

The Heritage Dancers have been invited to attend the Nashville Highland Games in Nashville, Kentucky, this summer, where one or two of the dancers may be able to compete in the competition. They will also spend a week at the Kentucky Dance Institute in Moorhead, Kentucky, where they will have a chance to expand their repertoire and broaden their understanding of other cultures.

CCHS Staff attends MHO meeting in St. Paul

CCHS Staff Pam Burkhardt, Mark Peihl and Margaret Ristvedt and Board President Kelly Aakre attended the Minnesota Historical Organizations Annual Meeting at Fort Snelling in St. Paul on April 19.

Many informative seminars were presented. Topics included: "Keys to Communication: Building a Complete Program and Tips on Design and Writing" in two parts, "Ethical Standards for the Museum, Making Historic Resources Accessible" and "Setting the Record Straight: History & Interpretation."

Rhoda Gilman's dinner address was "Conflict and Compassion in Considering the Past." Gilman is author of "Northern Lights," a Minnesota History text book published in 1989 for elementary students.

The day ended with a tour of historic Stillwater, including the 1867 Washington County Courthouse and Jail, one of the oldest standing courthouses in the state; the Warden's House (1853), which now houses the Washington County Historical Society Museum; and the Territorial Prison site (1884-1898); plus several other places of interest.

Since such a lengthy trip will be expensive the dancers hope to raise money by contributions and extra summer performances. The dancers feel that the extra work and expense will be well worth the added polish and expertise they will gain as a result of their trip.

By performing ethnic dances accurately and in authentic costumes, the MSU Heritage Dancers desire to entertain their audiences, while at the same time educating them. In this way the MSU Heritage Dancers are helping to preserve the ethnic heritage of Clay County.

Editor's Note: Terese Cascio, a student at MSU and a member of the Heritage Dancers, is currently doing a quarter of intern work at Clay County Historical Society.

Summer exhibits in Heritage Hall June 8 - August 18

"The World in Miniature" - Dolls and their accessories have been known to exist 1900 years before Christ. Featured in this exhibit will be over 80 authentic and reproductions of Dolls, Doll Houses, and Doll Quilts, from the late 1800s to the present day. The exhibit is being produced locally in cooperation with the North Dakota Valley Doll Club, Red River Valley Dolls Club, the Quilter's Guild of North Dakota and other local collectors.

"For Sale by Owner" - More than 226,000 full-service gas stations once dotted America's 4 million miles of roadways. Less than half remain. The stations were driven from business by a combination of economics, environmental regulations, demographics and changing consumer tastes. This exhibit documents several of the **gas and service stations** that still exist in small towns within a 40-mile radius of Fargo/Moorhead.

The exhibit was organized and produced by a Moorhead State University Mass Communications Class taught by Wayne Gudmundson.

Wanted, a typewriter:

An inventor discourses on the machine of the future.

Editor's note: The above headline and the following story were printed in the November 14, 1889 "Red River Valley News." CCHS Volunteer Jim Nelson came across the article and thought it might be of special interest to our readers in this computer age of faster and faster communications.

I have not been sick; I have not been drinking, neither am I suffering the pangs of remorse."

"What on earth makes you so lean and pale then?"

The question was addressed to a mechanical engineer who has made one or two hits with his inventions, and is in consequence well endowed with worldly goods.

"I've been scheming," was the response: "scheming for the last three years on one of the greatest needs of the times."

"What's that?"

"A typewriter that shall be cheap, rapid, compact, light and noiseless. Why sir, there's millions in it, positively millions. If I could devise such a machine I'd get all the backing I wanted in less than an hour. I know a concern in Hartford that has expended \$12,000 in experiments and hasn't anything to show for it yet.

"There are hundreds of men all over the country at work on the same problem. For some time the Patent Office at Washington has received more applications for patents on typewriters than anything else. The man who strikes it will clear a fortune.

"The machines already in the market, that satisfy the requirements as to speed, cost too much to make it possible for every man who has much writing to do to get one. Then they are too heavy and bulky to be carried around easily, and the noise they make render them objectionable in officers where conversation has to be carried on.

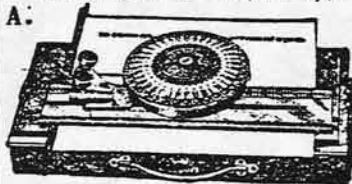
"The right thing will be struck some time. It always is. Why, the waste of time in writing - the mere mechanical labor of writing - is a disgrace to civilization. The average speed of writing is from 15 to 20 words a minute - not more. What an immense gain it would be if that average could be brought up to 40 or 50 words a minute. And it will be done some day. The typewriters of the future - cheap, rapid, efficacious - will do it.

"You young men will, I expect, live to see the day when nine-tenths of the writing done for newspapers will be done on typewriters. The reporter will consider the typewriter just as necessary an instrument of his profession as is now the pen or pencil. Then it will be a common thing to rattle off a column in an hour or three quarters of an hour or even at a spurt in half an hour. Then you newspaper fellows will wonder how on earth you ever managed to get along with them." - New York Herald.

A variety of typewriters were available in the 1902 Sear, Roebuck Catalogue: A. One of the first portable typewriters, becomes a handsome hardwood carrying case. B. The

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., Chicago. manufacturer claims this one is made on entirely new principles. Finally, for a more expensive machine (also available in the 1902 catalogue) see Page 9.

New Improved Simplex Typewriter.
A. Takes full width paper, easily operated, substantially made, has full range of characters. Typewriter is mounted on a reversible polished wood base, which, when reversed, forms cover of a handsome hardwood carrying case with nickel handle. Weight, packed for shipment, 28 ounces.
No. 3R7494 Our price.....\$2.70
If by mail, postage extra, 28 cents.








Practical Typewriter.
B. A strong hand-plated type-writer, suitable for business and private use. Made on entirely new principles, easily understood and operated. Has roller feed with spring adjustment, full line of characters, bell, large and small letters, writing always in sight; positive and perfect alignment; will take any width of paper.
No. 3R7490 Our special price.....\$3.75
Weight, packed for shipment, 5 pounds.



My Antique Collection

(Find as many as possible on entire trip)

- 1—() Word ANTIQUE on Sign
- 2—() Model T Ford
- 3—() Horse Hitched to Farm Equipment
- 4—() Horse Hitched to Wagon, Cart or Buggy 
- 5—() Colored Glass in Window of House
- 6—() Word INN on Sign
- 7—() Hand Type Water Pump 
- 8—() Rail Fence
- 9—() Old Rock Fence
- 10—() Log Building (not modern type)
- 11—() Scare Crow 
- 12—() Bell on Farm Animal
- 13—() Wooden Windmill
- 14—() Red Country School House
- 15—() Round Unthreshed Grain Stack
- 16—() Hitching Post 
- 17—() Wooden Wagon Wheel
- 18—() Farm Animal with Hobbles (front legs tied together)
- 19—() Wooden Barrel
- 20—() Stile (for crossing a fence) 

27

Wayside Contest






(Find any ten to win)

- | 1st Day | 2nd Day | |
|---------|---------|--|
| 1—() | () | Dead Tree  |
| 2—() | () | U. S. Flag  |
| 3—() | () | Garden Hose |
| 4—() | () | Flower Bed at Filling Station |
| 5—() | () | Wooden Gate |
| 6—() | () | Cemetery |
| 7—() | () | Post Damaged by Fire |
| 8—() | () | Iron Fence Post |
| 9—() | () | Lawn Mower  |
| 10—() | () | Historic Marker |
| 11—() | () | Stone Fence |
| 12—() | () | Baby or Doll Buggy  |

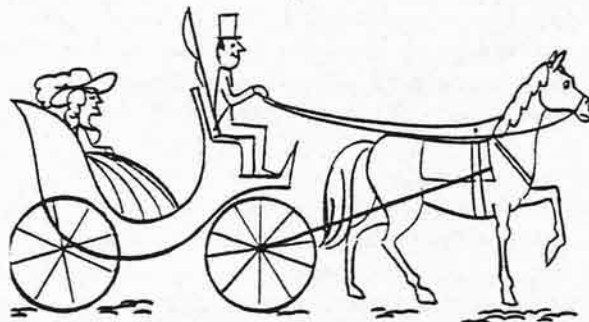
19

Road games**Highway Contest**

(Find any ten to win)

- | 1st Day | 2nd Day | |
|---------|---------|--|
| 1—() | () | Gasoline transport truck  |
| 2—() | () | Blue sedan |
| 3—() | () | Car with visible spare tire |
| 4—() | () | Car same make and year as your own |
| 5—() | () | Two tone car  |
| 6—() | () | Dump Truck  |
| 7—() | () | Car with Trailer Hitch |
| 8—() | () | Food Truck  |
| 9—() | () | Blue Car with Sun Visor |
| 10—() | () | Refrigerator Truck |
| 11—() | () | Car with Printing on Door |
| 12—() | () | Car with Open Trunk  |

9

**COUNTING WHITE HORSES**

This is an old favorite game but since the white horses are rather scarce you may vary the game and give 5 points for a white horse, 3 points for a white dog, 3 for a white cat and 1 point for a white chicken. (Only one chicken in a flock may be counted.) One player selects the right side of the road another the left side. If there is a cemetery on the right side the player must bury all the animals and start over again. Player looking on the left side does the same. The first to get 50 points wins.

"Are we there yet?" or "How much farther is it?"

By Pam Burkhardt

Remember those summer vacations in the 50s? You traveled long distances in non-airconditioned cars with the kids bouncing around (there were no seat belts) in the back seat! Right? Recollecting one of those trips includes phrases like: Are we there yet? I'm thirsty! I've got to go to the bathroom! How much further?

The thought of a back seat containing more than one hot, bored and cranky child - and 200 miles to go to the motor hotel - can bring back haunted memories of past vacations. Vacations were remembered as much for the antics on the road as for the exciting destinations.

Inventive parents created games to fill the empty hours. One parent, Edmund Beaver of Spring Grove, MN, developed Travel Games for his children "whose restlessness during childhood days, first made these games necessary."

Ford Motor Company developed a special edition in 1954 to "Keep the Kids Busy," and distributed the pamphlet through their Ford dealerships. The 30 games are competitive in nature, usually pitting the left side of the road against the right.

Four pages of the games are reprinted on the facing page. Take them along on your next trip in case you find yourself once again traveling with bored backseaters of any age and need a diversion, or maybe just for old times sake.

The cover of the Ford Travel pamphlet pictured below makes no bones about what it is all about. It proclaims for all the world to see - "Keep the Kids Busy."



Again in '54!
FORD

... WORTH MORE
when you buy it ...
WORTH MORE
when you sell it!



Compliments of
YOUR FORD DEALER

FORD
TRAVEL
GAMES

Keep The Kids Busy



Door prize winners at the April 4 Annual Meeting

Drawings for 18 door prizes were held at the annual CCHS meeting/banquet on April 4. Winners include the following:

Photo album made and donated by Carol Nelson of Hawley, won by Ray Stordahl; carved wooden cowboy and carved wooden troll, made and donated by David Larson of Moorhead, won by Evelyn Gesell and William Prieb, respectively;

Doilies (2) made and donated by Pam Burkhardt of Fargo, won by Larry Quam and Lloyd Pladson; framed scherenschnitt wall hangings (4), made and donated by Margaret Ristvedt of Hawley, won by Rev. Loren Fevig, Carol Kennedy, Clarice Aakre and Carol Thomas;

Gift certificates for Waffle and Omelet Sunday Brunch at Private Affairs/Eat's Cetera, donated by CCHS, won by Donald Strom and Marj Aakre; hologram bookmarks (3) donated by Donna Knutson, manager of the Hjemkomst Center Gift Shop, won by Mrs. Aggie Helmeke, Carol Ekre and Evonne

Anderson; Bergquist Cabin stationery (4) donated by CCHS, won by Florence Drury, Evelyn Keeping Hanson, Vincent Dolva and Jim Nelson.



This colorized map of Clay county was a big hit at the April 4 Annual Meeting. The graphic was researched and created by CCHS Archivist Mark Peihl. The map categorizes land ownership by ethnic groups in 1910. The group checking it out after the banquet includes (left to right) David and Gary Ronsberg, Leona Anderson, Evelyn (Keeping) Hanson, and Arnold Anderson. If you were unable to attend the banquet and would like a closer look - stop in and see us. The map now hangs in the CCHS business office, lower level of the Hjemkomst Center.

Vikings to invade

Viking Ship Park at the Center will once again be transformed into an 11th Century Viking Age encampment during the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival June 27-30.

Dressed in costume, the Viking Age Club of

Minneapolis will recreate the lifestyle of the Vikings. Tents will circle a campfire, and there will be ongoing demonstrations of arts and crafts of the day such as card weaving, jewelry and chain mail making, archery, ax and spear throwing. For more information call 233-5604.

Four Directors elected at annual meeting



Clay County Historical Society Board of Directors are: front row (l to r) Loren Helmeke, Larry Quam, Bob Kennedy, Carol Ekre; back row Sherwood Peterson, Gary H. Olson, Kelly Aakre, Diane Meyer-Representative for County Commissioners, Ann Gytri and Arlo Brown. Not pictured are Mercedes Roos and Nancy Tedros.

The Clay County Historical Society held its annual meeting/banquet on April 4, 1991, at the Heritage-Hjemkomst Interpretive Center in Moorhead. The Society presented its annual report of activity and elected four new directors to fill three-year terms of office.

The following candidates were elected to the Board of Directors: Ann Gytri of Felton, Arlo Brown of Dilworth, Carol Ekre of Hawley and Gary H. Olson of Moorhead. Gytri and Brown have been filling vacancies on the board since last May. Ekre and Olson are new to the Board. All were elected for three year terms. Leaving the board after six year tenures were Dan Skolness of Glyndon and Norman Bjorndahl of Hawley.

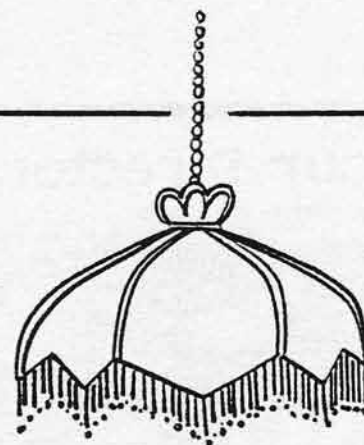
Ninety-nine CCHS members and guests were welcomed by President Dan Skolness and Rev. Loren Fevig of Glyndon Lutheran Church gave the invocation. The program included several vocal renditions by Hawley vocalist

Carol Nelson of songs written by Clay County residents. "Freedom" was written by Annie Stein of Georgetown in 1917 and "The Beautiful Buffalo River" was written by Ida Larson of Moorhead in 1971. Ms. Larson is a former curator of the Clay County Museum. Mark Peihl, Archivist, gave a presentation on ethnic origins in Clay County in 1910 and Michael Michlovic, Professor of Archaeology at Moorhead State University, delivered the dinner address. His topic was the Kensington Runestone: fact or fiction?

A short business meeting was conducted and recognition awards were presented to Dan Skolness, Norm Bjorndahl, Dewey Bergquist and Arvid Thompson.

Following adjournment, a special board meeting was called to elect officers. Elected were: Kelly Aakre-President, Larry Quam-Vice President, Mercedes Roos-Secretary, and Sherwood Peterson, Treasurer.

CLAY COUNTY MUSEUM



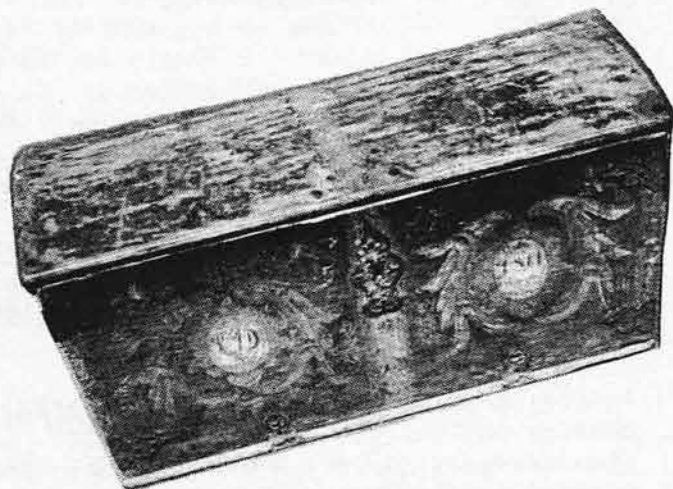
* Permanent Exhibit

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

* Temporary Exhibits

The Point (Through April 30, 1991)

"The Point" which opened on July 28, looks at Moorhead's original residential district - the bend in the river that is now home to the Heritage-Hjemkomst Interpretive Center (HHIC) and Viking Ship Park. "The Point" explores who lived in the area, how the neighborhood changed over the years and why it was vacated. The exhibit includes items left behind by the residents and a fire hydrant which was removed from 1st Street and 2nd Avenue.



Scandinavian Sampler

(Through September, 1991)

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

Make plans to visit the Clay County Museum today!!

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

Olson elected to CCHS Board

Gary H. Olson of Moorhead is one of four new board members elected at the April CCHS Annual Meeting.

Olson is motivated by a desire to help maintain the history of our region. "I have visited many museums in the U.S. and other countries and was interested in the Roseau County Museum while I was a farm management teacher there from 1971-78. [I] felt the old museum in the [Moorhead] depot was inadequate in comparison."

Olson grew up on farms near Horace and Kragnes. His family attended St. John's Church (now at Bonanzaville) for 10 years. After graduating from Moorhead High School in 1956 and North Dakota State University in 1960 he earned a masters degree in education at NDSU in 1972.

Olson taught high school and adult vocational agriculture for 18 years, was in agriculture sales with Lake-O-Lakes for a year and has been with Farmland Insurance since 1982. He is active in Lions and other community service and fraternal organizations. In his spare time Olson operates a 400 acre farm where he and his family raise registered Duroc hogs. He has been a member of the Air Force Reserve since 1956.

Olson brings a variety of skills to his board position, including a teaching/educational background, and leadership/communication skills. "I want to involve the entire county in membership and promotion of exhibits for CCHS," said Olson.

Then, with refreshing candor he added this note, "Thank you for the opportunity to serve."

Olson and his wife Becky have three sons, Steve, married to Cindy, Dave and Clark.

CCHS welcomes new members

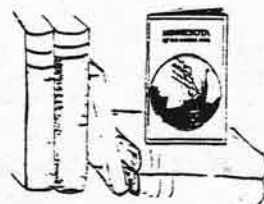
Clay County Historical Society is grateful to all who support the society. We salute our many long time members and welcome the following new members:

(January - May, 1991)

June Adele Dolva, Hawley
Charles A. Nelson, Alexandria, VA
Donna McMaster, Moorhead
Trish Olmstead, Fargo
Elizabeth Lorshbough, Fargo
Gary Olson, Moorhead
Gary Ronsberg, Barnesville
David Ronsberg, Moorhead
Arnie Ellingson, Fargo
Jeffrey Pladson, Moorhead
Ethel R. Medalen, Mankato
Larry & Vicki Peihl, West Fargo

From
The Heritage Shop's

BOOK NOOK



Featuring books related to
the new summer exhibits:

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

As well as an old favorite:

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

Hjemkomst Center
(218) 233-5604 202 1st Ave. N.
Moorhead, MN 56560

Visa/Mastercard Accepted

CCHS - 1991 Membership Information

CCHS Membership

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

() INDIVIDUAL \$15.00

() FAMILY \$35.00

CCHS Membership Benefits

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

DATE
PURCHASED: _____

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

RETURN TO:

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 501
Moorhead, MN 56561

(218) 233-4604

Non Profit Org.
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MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA 56560

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Requested