

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



CCHS Newsletter

May/June 1992

Vol. XV No. 3



This 1893 photo of the devastation caused by the Fargo fire was taken by Moorhead photographer O.E. Flaten.

(Story on Pages 5 and 6)

President's Message



Dear Members,

On April 2 CCHS held its annual meeting. Minutes of that meeting are printed on pages 12-13 of this newsletter. Nineteen ninety-one was an interesting year for the Clay County Historical Society with many changes occurring. One change is that the CCHS Board and the unified HHIC and RRVHS Boards have been meeting jointly since last September. This provides a vehicle for better understanding between the two organizations. The cooperation between the two groups is beneficial to everyone concerned.

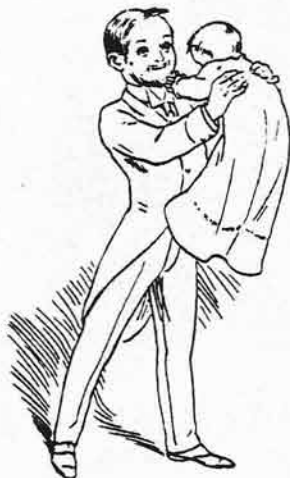
The new computer and laser printer purchased last year are saving time and improving the quality of a wide variety of printed materials for both CCHS and HHIC. Most of the brochures, handouts, programs, and signage now used in the Center is produced with the new equipment. Eventually the collections will be computerized for better record keeping and access.

Finally, as I stated in my Annual Report, I would like to commend our staff for doing a good job on a limited budget. Mark does a wonderful job with presentations throughout the area, Pam's Outreach cases and demonstrations are well received throughout the county and Margaret has continued to improve the quality of our newsletter and has been a tremendous help to me during this term as president.

As this Newsletter goes to press the CCHS Board of Directors and the HHIC/RRVHS Board of Directors are once again holding meetings concerning the future of the Hjemkomst Center and the Clay County Historical Society Museum, Archives and Offices located in the Center. Ground work is being laid for a Board Retreat

with a professional facilitator to be held early in June. We'll keep you posted!!
Kelly Aakre, President

Editors Note: On Monday, March 30, just three days prior to the CCHS Annual Meeting, Pres. Aakre and his wife Marjorie became the proud parents of a 7 lb. 11 oz. baby boy, Cameron James. The CCHS Staff and Board joins with all CCHS members in heartfelt congratulations!!



Upcoming Events

June 25: A slide show "Old Ruby" by Mark Peihl during River Front Days. The presentation begins at 7 p.m. in the Hjemkomst Center's Auditorium.

June 26: A Walking Tour of the Red River will be led by Mark Peihl in conjunction with River Front Days. Tour is from 7 to 8 p.m.

June 25 - 27: CCHS will have a booth at the Clay County Fair, Barnesville. Stop in!!

June 25 - 26: CCHS will have a booth at the Fargo Civic Center during the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival. Stop in!!

June 25 - 27: The Bergquist Cabin will be open to the public from 1 to 4 p.m., courtesy of the Swedish Society, in conjunction with the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival.

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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Hans Langseth - Bearded Wonder

Editors Note: In May of 1991 Carl Thress, a student at Concordia College did research and a paper on Hans Langseth, a Glyndon pioneer. This is his story.

~~~~~  
By Carl W. Thress

Hans Langseth was a farmer. That was his calling in life. Like many Norwegian immigrants coming to America in the mid-1800s, Langseth first settled in Iowa where farm land was inexpensive.

Langseth was a farmer, an ordinary man. So, why does he have his own display at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC, and his name in the Guinness Book of World Records. How did an immigrant farmer accomplish such a feat? Simple -- by not shaving for 53 years. Mr. Langseth's claim to fame was his amazing 17½ foot long beard, the longest ever, according to the Guinness Book of World Records.

Hans Langseth's life began on a farm in Eidsvold, Norway on July 14, 1846. Since he was not the oldest son in his family, Hans did not inherit the family farm. So in 1866, he got into a sailboat, according to his grandson, Norman Langseth, and came to America where land was cheap. Once he had established a farm near Kensett, IA, he returned to Norway in the 1870s and married Anne Benson.

At about this same time - 1874-1875, Hans began to grow his beard. Like most farmers at the time, Hans grew a beard every winter to keep his face warm. In 1874, however, he noticed that his beard grew fast, so he decided not to shave it off, just to see how long it would grow. He never shaved again. According to Erling Rolfsrud's book Extraordinary North Dakotans, Hans' facial hair did stop growing, but, the hair on his neck kept growing. Most of his beard's 17½ feet consists of this hair.

Family records indicate that Hans and Anne had two children while in Norway, Nels Bernard, born in 1877; and Carl Martin, born in 1879. During the next decade in Iowa the Langseths had four more children: Emma, in 1881; H. William, in 1883; John Oscar, in 1887; and Peter Melvin, in 1890. But tragedy struck the Langseth home on November 19, 1891, when Anne died.

Hans was left alone with six children to raise and a farm to run. Hans decided to send the baby, Peter, to live with his brother Nels, and Emma, 10 years old at the



Hans Langseth

time, went to live with Anne's brother Peter Benson. By 1897 Hans' oldest son, 20-year-old Nels, was on his own and 18-year-old Martin was old enough to run the Iowa farm. A government policy of giving land to the railroads for expansion purposes, resulted in cheap homestead prices up north. After the railroads laid their track they would sell off excess property to homesteaders at bargain prices. Hans bought some of this railroad land and brought his family to Glyndon. Martin remained in Iowa to run the farm there.

In 1900, for whatever reason, father and son traded places, with Martin purchasing the Glyndon farm from his father in 1901 and Hans returning to Iowa. But, once again the call of cheap farm land beckoned, and Hans bought railroad property in Richland County, ND, near Barney.

(Continued on Page 4)

## Langseth (Continued from Page 3)

By 1923 Hans' beard had reached 17 feet in length according to a New York Times article. But Hans, still farming quietly at Barney, had long since lost interest in the beard which interfered with his work. If loosed, the beard would have dangled in front of poor Hans' plow and created quite an occupational hazard. Consequently, he kept the beard wrapped around a stick inside his vest and only unwound it when a curious passerby asked to see it.

Then things began to happen. Hans was invited to a "Day's of '49" convention of old Forty-Niners in California. There would be a prize for the longest beard. Hans won the \$300 prize, beating out his nearest opponent by as much as four feet. The contest earned Hans the title of "King Whiskers."

Later in the same year, at a convention of the International Association of Specialty Salesmen in Chicago, Hans won another beard contest and earned the title of "Supreme Grand Whiskerino of the Universe." This contest involved Hans beating a fakir in India who reportedly had the world's longest beard at a mere 15 feet. The contest was reported in the New York Times. The Times article states that Hans commented "...that he had not looked at the beard himself for over a year."

However, many other people would look at the beard during the next year as Hans began traveling with the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus. The circus traveled from city to city. Hans would sit on a small stool for all the world to see and touch his famous beard. However, Hans soon grew tired of people tugging at his beard expecting it to be a fake. Doubts hurt his pride as much as the tugging hurt his face, and after only one year with the circus he returned to his home in North Dakota where he once again hid his beard in his vest.

His grandson joked that the beard gave Hans the appearance of a heavy-set man with an ordinary beard. When asked, he would show the beard and joked that it covered his chest like a pillow, protecting his health.

Hans died in his sleep on November 10, 1927 and was buried at the Elk Creek Church Cemetery in Kensett, IA, next to his wife, Anne. His beard measured 17½ feet at the time of his death.

Forty years later, in 1967, following extensive tests for authenticity, the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC accepted Hans Langseth's beard into its

collections. It was put on display at the Smithsonian shortly after it was collected and remained on display until July of 1991. The Guinness Book of World Records accepted the authenticity established by the Smithsonian and entered it into their record book.

So who ever said shaving was the price of fame?  
Certainly not Hans Langseth, a modern day Sampson.

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Langseth still has descendants in Clay County including Senator Keith Langseth of Glyndon who was instrumental in helping to secure funding for the Hjemkomst Center where Clay County Historical Society and Museum is presently located. A commemorative plaque for Senator Langseth is mounted across from the ship in Heritage Hall. It reads:

SENATOR KEITH LANGSETH

The Board of Directors of the Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretive Center wish to express their deepest appreciation for the Senator's dedication to the dream embodied in this Center and for his continued efforts to secure the essential legislative support.

at the

Heritage Shop

Featuring

- ★ *Syetende Mai (May 17) Items*
- ★ *Gifts Commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Hjemkomst Journey*
- ★ *Large Selection of Exhibit Related Items.*
- ★ *Educational Books and Games.*
- ★ *Gifts by Regional Artists*

Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretive Center
202 1st Avenue North, Box 157
Moorhead, MN 56560
(218) 233-5604

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How the 1893 Fargo Fire affected Moorhead

By Jim Nelson, Volunteer

June 7 marks the 99th Anniversary of the "Great Fargo Fire." On that date in 1893, most of downtown Fargo was devastated into heaping ruins of rubble and ashes. Much can be written about the fire, and since next year marks it's centennial year, we can wait until then to learn the particulars. This article is about Moorhead's involvement - before, during, and after the fire.

One ironic event occurred just days before the fire, when both the Fargo and Moorhead Fire Departments agreed upon a new system of alerting each other in the event that one City needed the other City's fire fighting assistance. This alarm, nine whistles in length, with a pause between each series of three, proved to be very timely.

The fire occurred shortly after 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 7, with the origin somewhere near the Herzman's Store on Front Street. Dry conditions, wooden buildings, and near "hurricane" type winds contributed to the intensity of the blaze.

Commencement exercises scheduled for four students, Jessie Alsop, Ada Bodkin, Ernest Mills and James Holmes, of Moorhead High School that evening at the Moorhead Opera House were overshadowed by the fire. At 10 p.m. fires still burned in over a dozen different areas of Fargo.

According to the June 8 edition of the Moorhead Daily News, "The program was necessarily cut short by the absence of Mr. W.B. Douglas, president of the school board, who was designated to deliver the diplomas, and [direct] the Union orchestra. There was consequently no music. The gas supply was very weak and lamps had to be placed [strategically] to afford light."

One of the graduates, James Holmes, became ill shortly after delivering his essay due to the fact that he had over-exerted himself in the afternoon while fighting the fire and removing goods from his uncle's store in Fargo.

The death of William H. Johnson of the Fargo Rescue Hook and Ladder Co. was the only fatality, although some out-of-town papers reported up to four deaths, with many other people missing. Many Moorhead firemen were slightly scorched and Capt. Stewart of Moorhead's Hook and Ladder Co. had the hair on one side of his head singed. One Fargo fire fighter who was seriously burned was John Hogan, a resident of Moorhead.

Anderson Bros. of Moorhead kept busy during the fire repairing a pump belonging to the Fargo Fire Department. This meant that Fargo had only one pump to fight the fire.

It was believed that a Moorhead hose cart was lost in the fire. A cart placed between fires on Front Street in Fargo could not be rescued and was destroyed. The burned cart was later discovered to belong to Fargo. Moorhead did lose over 600 feet of hose.

When the Moorhead fire whistle blew around 4 p.m. that day, it was believed that the fire had finally crossed the Red River. However, this turned out to be a false alarm.

Debris and embers from the fire covered a large area. Capt. W.H. Newcomb, who lived about seven miles north of Moorhead near the Oakport/Kragnes Township border, reported picking up burning embers on his lawn.

In the June 7 edition of the Daily News, Editor George Lamphere made this plea in behalf of the fire sufferers: "Moorhead homes should be opened to them. Let us offer what assistance lies within our power to those upon whom this heavy blow has fallen." Moorhead responded, and numerous buildings, residences, and garages were thrown open to fire sufferers including the Moorhead High School and Moorhead Normal School.

One peculiar incident occurred at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Moorhead. The Grand Pacific had been closed prior to the fire. When the owner, the great railroad magnate, J.J. Hill, heard of the fire, he immediately opened the hotel free of charge to all fire sufferers. Evidently, when caretaker Henry Bruns came back from St. Paul to investigate wrong-doings in the hotel, he found about a dozen or so men who were not fire sufferers who had not paid. Also, he was informed of two watchmen placed outside the building the first night of the fire to screen out fire victims. It developed that they were charging fire sufferers room rent. Mr. W.A. Stevens, representing Mr. Hill, came down to investigate these charges.

A relief meeting was held the morning after the fire at the Y.M.C.A. building in Fargo. Among citizens from Moorhead donating money or materials were: S.G. Comstock, \$500; City of Moorhead, \$500; Moorhead Mill, 125 sacks of flour; A.E. Daubner, Agent for the Val Blatz Brewing Co., \$100.

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Fargo fire

(Continued from Page 5)

Some of the Fargo businesses which temporarily moved to Moorhead were: Western Union Telegraph Office, Plano Manufacturing Co., Busch and Smith Butchers (they bought out Zachary Hyde's market), John A. Clickman Livery, Skeoch Bakers, Ames Iron Works, and the Swedish Baptist Church of Fargo who moved into the Baptist Church of Moorhead.

The Jay Cooke House in Moorhead was the location of a meeting for the North Dakota Farmer's Alliance due to the lack of any building in Fargo large enough to hold this large group.

Alderman Con Keefe of Fargo was so pleased by the assistance given to him by Moorhead's August Kuhfeldt, a paragraph of praise was placed in the June 9 edition of the Daily News. Mr. Kuhfeldt, along with his driver, helped move the alderman's belongings after Keefe injured his hand in the moving process.

Moorhead's Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor met to find ways to help the fire sufferers. It was decided to meet at Miss Nellie Lamphere's residence and that all members bring any out-grown clothing, old bedding, etc., and be prepared to sew.

There was a program put on by the Norona Singing Society, Lensrud's Orchestra, and the Fargo Dramatic Club on June 16. The proceeds of the event went to the fire sufferers. The program took place at the Moorhead Opera House, but due to poor advertising and rain, few people showed up for what was described as "the well carried out benefit," highlighted by the play "Den Tredie."

Fred Tillotson, foreman of the Moorhead Daily News, helped at the Fargo Forum after fire wiped out that building. This example of opportunistic advertising appeared in the Forum shortly after the fire: "If you can't get what you want in Fargo in the line of groceries, crockery, or feed, V. Fischer in Moorhead keeps a large stock and will not take any advantage of you. Close to post office, telephone connections." The ad may have been for Vitalis Fischer who ran a grocery store on Front Street near Sixth.

The sermon at the Grace Methodist Church in Moorhead was entitled "Thoughts Suggested by the Fargo Fire," with Pastor Carl A. Anderson in charge.

On June 9, the Barnesville Review stated "Coming at a time when there is such a general depression, it is very

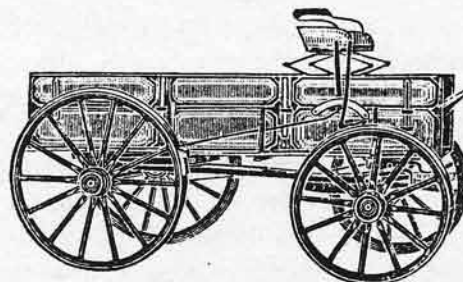
doubtful if Fargo ever regains its former prestige."

Compare the Review's statement to the praise in the August 31 Moorhead Weekly News: "...congratulates the people of Fargo in having within her limits a class of live businessmen who are superior to adverse circumstances and which only incite them to greater achievements." The paper was referring to the rapid and well advanced operations on rebuilding, especially at a time when the country was in a depression.

However, less than a month after the Moorhead paper praised Fargo, an article in two of the Fargo newspapers scorned the people of Moorhead. A committee in Fargo had proposed to build a new opera house to replace the burned one. Seven thousand dollars would be raised immediately by the building committee by selling 7000 tickets for the opening show at \$10 each. Many people from Moorhead believe those selling tickets would come over to Moorhead since they had helped them so during the fire relief crises. By this time, Moorhead believed that the people of Fargo should help themselves. The Moorhead Weekly News on September 21 reported that most Moorhead citizens "...wouldn't pay 50 cents to see a good show at the Moorhead Opera House."

It had only been just over three months since the fire and for some of the residents of Fargo, the help that Moorhead contributed to the fire sufferers was no longer appreciated. The two Fargo newspapers belittled Moorhead by calling the town "the worst 'hell-hole' on top of the earth," and furthermore, stated that Moorhead averaged four highway robberies a day. This was untrue, as up to that point during the fall, Moorhead had a total of only three robberies while at the same time, a Moorhead paper reported, within the City limits of Fargo "...two men have been found brutally murdered, before or after being robbed."

It appears Moorhead's unselfish generosity was only minimally appreciated by some Fargo residents!!



A wagon (cart) of the type that would have been in use during the time of the fire.

Outreach Displays

Hitterdal Senior Center	Opens
Ulen-Hitterdal High School	May 6
Viking Manor, Ulen	[closes May 27]
Hawley Public Library	May 6
	May 6

Glyndon Community Center	May 12
Moorhead Public Library	May 12

The display at the Hitterdal Senior Center asks **WHAT IS IT?** Will you be ready with your answers?

RED RIVER LAND DOLLS at the Ulen-Hitterdal High School will run through the end of the school year. The next display will open in September.



Viking Manor will look at **GOOD FOR WHAT AILS YOU** with medicine bottles, bleeder and cup and other medical items.

THE SURGEON

GENERAL WARNS ... However, viewing our display of smoking related items at the Hawley Public Library won't be hazardous to your health.

The Glyndon Community Center display asks **SNACKER DU NORSK?** with Norwegian artifacts from our collections.

HEAVY METAL will open at the Moorhead Public Library. This display features a selection of irons from our collections.

Artifacts Donated

Donors include:

Hawley:	Mrs. Lester Nelson, Kay Harmon, Jim Nelson
Moorhead:	Art Nix, J.N. VandenBos
Fargo, ND:	June Dobervich

Pratt to attend graduate school

Claudia Pratt, Program Coordinator for the Hjemkomst Center, has been accepted for graduate studies to the Folk Studies Program at Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY, where she has received a graduate assistantship. She will begin her studies in August.

Pratt has been with the Hjemkomst Center since January of 1988. Among her many responsibilities are planning, implementing and overseeing construction of in-house exhibits and scheduling traveling exhibits. Under a staff exchange agreement between HHIC and CCHS, the historical society staff has worked very closely with Pratt on exhibits, brochures and many other aspects of the Center and CCHS's mission.

Pratt has resigned her position as of July 31 and her co-workers and colleagues will miss her expertise!

POSITION OPEN: CURATOR OF INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

The Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretive Center/Red River Valley Heritage Society is seeking an energetic and innovative individual to develop and implement an active interpretive program that includes the coordination of public programs, educational services and exhibit procurement. Candidates must have a museum background with excellent communication, organizational, and fiscal management skills. Salary commensurate with experience. Send resume, three professional references and letter of interest by June 5 to Bev Woodward, Director, Box 157, Moorhead, MN 56560.



Artifacts include:

Photo postcards of area scenes; a photo postcard showing the results of heavy rains in the Hawley area; photos of area women; an Art Sellin store token from Hawley; a booklet titled "Hawley Bowling Association 1962-63 Year Book;" a souvenir plate from the Erickson & Riedberger store in Hawley; a collection of newspaper clippings concerning area National Guard Units 1940-1945; and two area railroad time books with names and hours worked 1954-1957, a trunk addressed to "U.S. Ameika."

Columbian World Fair in Chicago

"Ferris" Wheel contends with 1889 Paris Exposition

By Pam Burkhardt *Part 3 of a 3-Part Series*

The 1893 Chicago World's Columbian Exposition, or World's Fair, was a tremendous show designed to commemorate the discovery of America by Columbus four centuries earlier.

Area residents attended the Fair in droves and the media had a field day!

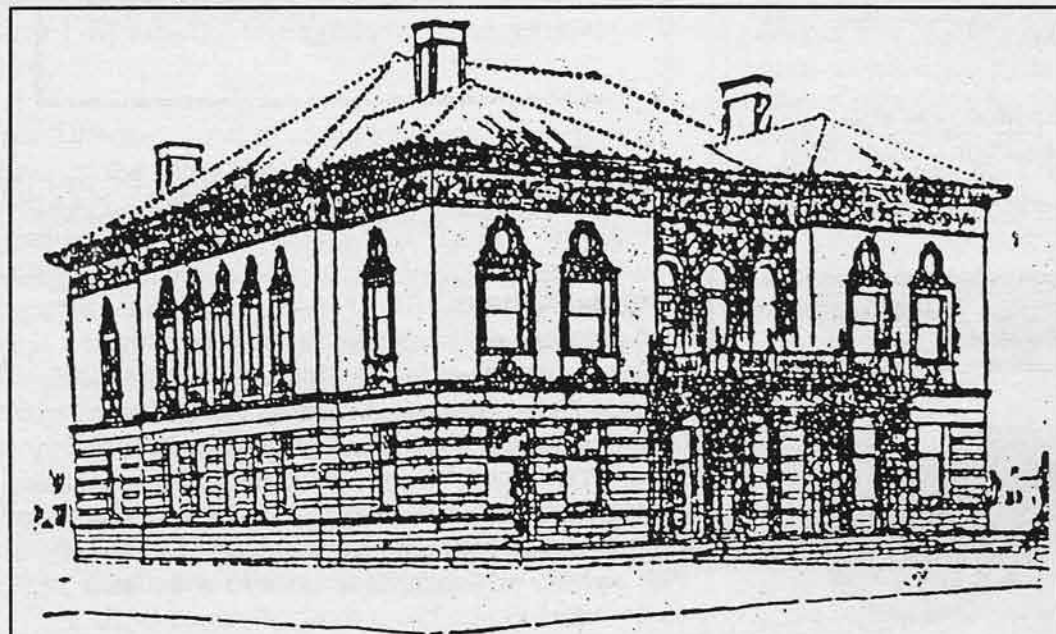
Normal draws a photographer

In preparation for the opening in May 1893, the Moorhead Weekly News reported that Frank T. Wilson, general secretary of the Minnesota educational exhibit, arrived in Moorhead in April to take both interior and exterior photos of the Normal School for inclusion in the educational exhibit at the Fair. His goal was to display "in a complete and credible way the true character of the educational system of the state."

The Sights!

In the Oct. 5, 1893 edition of the Moorhead Weekly News B.F. Mackall of Moorhead reported that three weeks at the Fair was not too long, "it is the most extensive and best of all international expositions that have ever been held in the world." [B.F. Mackall had attended the centennial exposition in Philadelphia in 1876.]

(*Red River Valley News* 10/20/83)



The Minnesota World's Fair Building.

The News quoted Frank Kilbury, a Moorhead warehouseman saying "I returned from the World's Fair and Eastern points this morning. The Fair is a grand show and I can't begin to tell what I saw or how well I enjoyed it." J.H. Liebe of the Northern Pacific Railway was quoted with similar feelings. "It is a great big, good show."

The sights were there to see. The Fair covered over 600 acres in parks along Lake Michigan. The largest buildings housed Manufactures and Liberal Arts, Agriculture, Machinery and Horticulture. The United States occupied a large part of the Manufactures area. On view were the finest examples of chemical and druggists' supplies; dyes and varnishes; typewriters; monuments and mantels; glassware; gold and silver plate; fabrics and laces; clocks and jewelry; rubber goods; trunks, canes, and umbrellas; toys; leather goods; scales and weights; tin goods and wire goods; vaults; heating apparatus, refrigerators and more. The best of international production and arts could be seen in the foreign pavilions.

The mile-long Midway Plaisance had more of a "side show" air. Here you could see a portion of the "Wishing Chair" of the Giant's Causeway standing on real Irish soil. The Dutch settlement featured eighty dwellings populated with natives from Java, Samoa, Fiji and New Zealand, among others. The world was open here for all to see!

Of course, a visit to the Fair would not be complete without a ride on the Ferris Wheel, an attraction that was meant to rival the Eiffel Tower featured at the Paris exposition four years earlier. It consisted of two skeletal wheels 28 feet apart and towering 264 feet in the air. The 36 passenger coaches each held 60 people. George Lamphere, editor of the

- 1893

Exposition's Eiffel Tower

Moorhead Weekly News reported that the view from the top was magnificent and "[he] would not have missed it for a great deal." The Columbian World's Fair also introduced the following to the world: Cracker Jack, the zipper and the moving sidewalk!

The Minnesota Building

A popular stop for Clay County residents was the Minnesota Building. It was located along with other state buildings in Jackson Park inside the 57th Street Gate. The wooden building in the Italian renaissance style covered 80 by 90 feet of ground area. It contained check rooms, offices, the Woman's Auxiliary Board Room, and guest, reception and reading rooms among others.

The Spring 1992 issue of Minnesota History published by the Minnesota Historical Society carries the story of our state flag introduced to the public at this Exposition. In 1891, Minnesota had no state flag when the state legislature voted to have a building at the World's Fair. For reasons unknown, it became a project for the Women's Auxiliary Board. They selected a design from almost 200 submitted, commissioned its execution in embroidery and proudly displayed it for the first time in the Minnesota building.

Clay County Goes To The Fair

A number of Clay County residents took time to visit the Fair. The largest single group consisted of 75 Moorhead residents who attended both Chicago Day on Oct. 9, North Dakota Day on Oct. 10 and Minnesota Day on Oct. 13. The newspapers regularly printed names of people going to and coming from the Fair. The Glyndon Red River Valley News stated, "Hawley will have sent quite a delegation to the big show." Miss Anna Osborn of Glyndon attended the opening in May. She enjoyed her visit very much, but commented, "O what a place for money to slip through fingers!" L. Dalen and T.H. Brokke left Georgetown for the Fair, but they only made it as far as St. Paul. They were called back to deal with overheated wheat at the elevator. They said they planned to try again. According to the reports, it appears that several hundred Clay County residents visited the Fair.

The Fair At Home ...

The Sept. 29, 1893 edition of the Red River Valley



Red River Valley News 7/28/83

News reported Rev. E.A. Wood of Clearwater, Minn., presented a program on the Fair at the Union

An artists rendition of what we might now term 'Country Bumpkins' in the big city.

Church (probably the Union Church in Muskoda). This stereopticon show was viewed by 90 people at an admission fee of ten cents. The paper also reported a magic lantern lecture on the Fair at Hawley's Union Church in October which charged twenty-five cents for adults and fifteen cents for children. This program raised \$11 for the bell fund.

(Continued on Page 10)

World Fair (Continued from Page 9)

... And Just Passing Through

On Wednesday, August 22, a special train left Chicago on the Great Northern line heading for Larimore, North Dakota. The eight cars carried foreign commissioners on their way to view harvesting operations on the 10,000 acre Elk Valley Farm outside of Larimore. The party was composed of representatives of 27 different nations and a group of reporters from the Twin Cities making a total contingent of about 50 people. The train made frequent stops for tours in Wisconsin and Minnesota. At 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 30, the contingent stopped in Moorhead for only five minutes - enough time to allow a few men to stretch their legs at the depot. However, a stop of two hours was made in Fargo and representatives were driven through the city. [See the Fargo Fire story on Pages 5 and 6.]

On August 29, the foreign visitors saw what they came to see. The Red River Valley News reported "the procession of carriages drew up in front of forty-two harvesting machines, which passed in review before the distinguished spectators, cutting and binding a 160-acre field of the yellow grain. Each harvester was worked by three mules and a driver, while a gang of men followed to 'shock' the bundles as quickly as thrown out. The sight was picturesque and a revelation in agriculture to many of the foreigners. In the afternoon the operation of thrashing [sic] was seen with four machines working at once. A prairie chicken lunch was served to the guests

in picnic style on the farm under a tent." Visitors included representatives from Jamaica, Russia, Brazil, Turkey, Germany, Japan, France, Orange Free State and Australia.



General Passenger Agent Whitney takes the Special Train to North Dakota.

After the Fair

"Crown Piano for Normal Home" is the title of an article by George Lamphere, editor of the Moorhead Weekly News, announcing the imminent arrival of a rosewood piano from the Fair. George Lamphere, you will remember, was a member of the Minnesota Committee. He was also a Resident Director involved in the building of the first dormitory at the Normal School, now Moorhead State University. It is likely he was "instrumental" in securing the rosewood piano from the Minnesota Exhibit after the Fair closed. It was shipped to Moorhead in January of 1894 by the manufacturer George P. Bent and placed in Wheeler Hall, the dormitory referred to as the "Normal Home," which had just been constructed. In appreciation, the Moorhead Weekly News printed the details illustrating the superior quality of Bent's instrument. Crown pianos won four awards as instruments and 20 for materials used in their construction. Fifty-one Crown pianos were in use on the Fair grounds. [Note: This piano is no longer in the inventory at MSU.]

[from Clarence Glasrud's book The Moorhead Normal School, pps 36-37 and Moorhead Weekly News Jan. 4, 1894]

Auxiliary becomes Study Club

The Clay County Auxiliary of the Woman's Columbian Exposition for the 7th District was formed to gather educational and cultural materials for display in the Congress of Women Pavilion. The women who worked on this project felt it would be of great benefit to the community to continue this cultural activity. The group met on July 18, 1893 to discuss the possibility of organizing the auxiliary into a woman's study club. The first meeting was at the home of Mrs. Livingston Lord on September 22, 1893 in Moorhead. Eighteen women decided to pursue "the systematic study of topics of general interest." This Moorhead Woman's Club, along with 14 others in Minnesota, became federated in 1895. Mrs. B.F. Mackall wrote the first constitution and Mrs. A.A. Zabriskie, was the first president. Their first topic in 1893-4 was Egypt, followed in subsequent years by subjects such as ancient Rome, the Middle Ages and sixteenth century England.

[from Federated Women's Club file, NWMHC and A Century Together, p.202]

A Journey Remembered

"Dare to Dream" with us as we celebrate the Hjemkomst Journey and Robert Asp's 'Ship of Dreams'! The Center is marking the 10th anniversary of that incredible 6,100 mile journey across the Atlantic Ocean with several special events this summer.

MAY 17

A Syttende Mai reception on May 17 from 1:30-3:30 in Hjemkomst Hall will feature special displays, and Scandinavian music and pastries! The Syttende Mai reception is sponsored by the Heritage Club and the Red River Valley Heritage Society. It is open to the public with a membership pass or general admission.

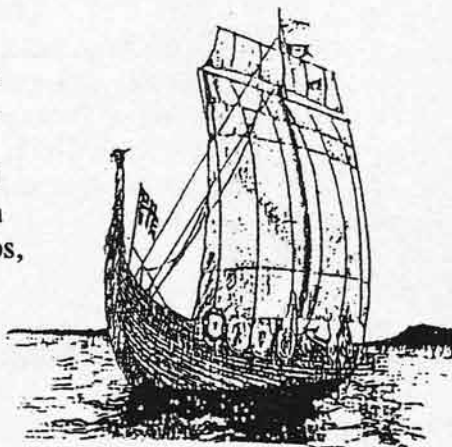
JUNE 25-28

The annual Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival will be held in Fargo and Moorhead June 25-28. The Hjemkomst Center will sponsor a special presentation by Rose Asp along with the signing of her book Hjemkomst, A Homecoming Odyssey on Saturday, June 27 from 1-4 p.m.

JULY 18-19

A home style 'Hjemkomst Family Reunion' is set for July 18-19 to commemorate the anniversary of the completion of the journey. Activities will include a reminiscence time with the crew and their families, a memorial service at the Hawley Shipyard Park followed by supper and a program at Hawley Elementary School. Tickets for the meal can be purchased at the Hjemkomst Center. On Sunday there will be an ice cream social in Viking Ship Park together with a crew question and answer session. The weekend will close with a "Bridge Across Nations" Interdenominational Service at Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead.

Tenth Anniversary Committee members are: Rose Asp, Rev. Cecil Johnson, Jim Saueressig, Gert and Chuck Solum, Karen Myran, Norman Roos, Chuck Peterson, Phyllis Thysell and Grant Herreid. For more information please contact the Hjemkomst Center at 218-233-5604. The schedule is subject to change.



The Language of Flowers



*"Gather a wreath from the garden-bowers,
And tell the wish of thy heart in flowers"*

Twentieth Century Etiquette

A century ago the way a young lady held, closed or moved her fan could give a signal to a young man across a room. The calling card on the tray in the front hall with one corner turned down left an additional message for the recipient. Similarly, the giving and receiving of flowers could mean more than just an expression of friendship, affection or love.

The book Twentieth Century

Etiquette (1900) by Annie Randall

White, offered a ready list entitled "The Language of Flowers" for those who wanted to send just the right message - or at least avoid an embarrassing mistake when planning to send a hidden

message. Here are selections of

the 61 flowers listed and the messages they could carry:



Alyssum, Sweet:	worth beyond beauty
Bachelor's Button:	hope in love
Bramble:	envy
Buttercup:	riches
Dahlia:	forever thine
Evergreen:	poverty
Forget-me-not:	true love
Ivy:	friendship; matrimony
Lilac:	first emotion of love
Lily:	purity; modesty
Marigold:	jealousy
Oleander:	beware
Orange:	generosity
Orchid:	beauty
Peony:	anger
Rose, Moss:	superior merit
Sunflower:	pride
Thorn Apple:	deceitful charms
Tulip:	declaration of love
Violet:	love
Weeping Willow:	forsaken

Don't you like people who have oranges with their buttercups and have no peonies, brambles, or marigolds? These people have moss roses and sweet alyssum!

(See above for translation.)

1992 Annual Meeting Minutes

The Clay County Historical Society held its Annual Meeting/Banquet on April 2, 1992 at the Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretive Center in Moorhead. Eighty-five members and guests attended.

The Society presented its annual report and elected three directors to fill three-year terms of office.

President Kelly Aakre welcomed CCHS members and guests and introduced a number of distinguished guests including County Commissioners Arvid Thompson and Dewey Possehl, Lorraine Langseth, wife of Senator Keith Langseth, David Nystuen, Field Representative of the Minnesota Historical Society and HHIC and CCHS staff members. Volunteers Jim Nelson, Pat Bertnolli and Amy Roberts, and intern Karen Waalen were recognized. Mercedes Roos gave the dinner blessing.

Kathy Coyle of KXJB Channel 4 Television was the after-dinner speaker. Ms. Coyle talked about the importance of history in a family sense. She spoke of her heritage and her late brother, a Minneapolis official, who kept journals and diaries of his public life. These papers have since been donated to the Minnesota Historical Society. According to Ms. Coyle, the actions of our ancestors has importance as it relates to what we do with our own lives. Ms. Coyle brought a special portrait of her grandmother, who she feels helped her to believe in herself and become who she is.

Pres. Aakre opened the annual business meeting and introduced current Board Members: Larry Quam, Mercedes Roos, Sherwood Peterson, Ann Gytri, Robert Kennedy and Gary Olson. Absent were Nancy Tedros, Carol Ekre, Arlo Brown, Loren Helmeke and Diane Meyer, Clay County Representative.

Mercedes Roos was presented a plaque in honor of her dedicated service to the Board since 1985. She was involved in the Society's move from the Depot location to the Hjemkomst Center in 1986 and has also been a CCHS Representative to the HHIC Board for some time. Aakre noted that Roos has served two full terms, plus an unexpired term prior to her election and her presence will be greatly missed.

The membership was referred to the secretary's and treasurers reports as presented in the annual booklet. On



Board President Kelly Aakre presented Mercedes Roos with a plaque commemorating her 7 years of service on the CCHS Board. Nancy Tedros also left the Board after serving over three years.

motion by Bob Kennedy, second by Sherwood Peterson the secretary's report was accepted as presented. Peterson moved for acceptance of the treasurers report, seconded by Lloyd Paulson. Carried.

Pam Burkhardt recapped the staff reports from the annual booklet and gave a brief report on CCHS activities during the past year.

Ann Gytri presented the Nominating Committee's Report. The nominating committee presented the following slate for election to the Board of Directors: Kelly Aakre, Chris Olson and Paul Ostlie. Norm Roos moved to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate as printed. Second by Bette Haring. Carried.

Aakre asked if there was any other business that should be addressed. Hearing none he asked for a motion to adjourn. On motion and second the annual meeting was adjourned.

(Continued on Page 13)

Annual Meeting (Continued from Page 12)

Marion Bergseid of Hawley entertained the assembly with a monologue and several musical selections even including a little 'ballet dancing(?)'. Her presentation was well received.

Mark Peihl, CCHS Archivist introduced a new slide show. The show "Old Georgetown" documented a site dedicated by the Clay County Historical Society in the early 1970s and indicated that there are some errors in the plaque and interpretation of the site. The presentation concluded with a recommendation that the Society be very cautious in the future, especially as relates to accurate research and research methods.

Door prizes were awarded throughout the evening. Prizes and winners were: Stuffed Cat - Dalene Trende of Ulen, Jewelry Box - Larry Quam of Hawley, Holography Handbook - Chris Olson of Moorhead, Framed Scherenschnitte Family Tree - Carol Kennedy of Moorhead and Lloyd Paulson of Moorhead, Bobbin Lace Doily - Donna Nystuen of St. Paul, \$10 Gift Certificate to the Wagon Wheel at Barnesville - Elsie Quam of Hawley, \$10 Gift Certificate to Smokies at Hawley - Orvis Gytri of Felton, and a Wooden Cat Ring Holder - Cecil Johnson of Moorhead.

Aakre thanked all those attending the banquet. Immediately following the annual meeting a special

Board of Directors meeting was held to elect officers for the coming year. Officers elected as presented by the Nominating Committee were: President - Kelly Aakre, Vice President - Larry Quam, Treasurer - Sherwood Peterson, and, Secretary - Gary H. Olson.

New Board Member Profiles

Kelly Aakre

Kelly came on the CCHS Board in 1989 to fill an unexpired term from 1989 - 1992. He served as Treasurer from 1990 until last April when he was elected president. Kelly has been an active and strong CCHS Board Member. He serves as a CCHS representative to the Hjemkomst Heritage Interpretive Center (HHIC) Board. Kelly is employed at Rigel Electric, Moorhead. He and his wife, Marjorie, have a brand new baby boy, Cameron James.

Chris Olson

Chris is no stranger to Boards. He served three years on the Clay Wilken Opportunity Board and six years on the Moorhead Community Education Advisory Council. For the past year Chris has been a member of the Hjemkomst Center's Program Council as a CCHS representative. Chris has a degree in Mass Communication/Business from Moorhead State University. He is a Public Information Specialist with the Lake Agassiz Regional Library at Moorhead.

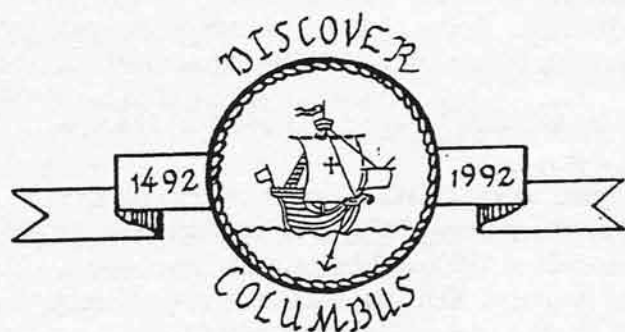
Dr. Paul Ostlie

Paul has been a tour guide in the Chippewa County Pioneer Village and Swensson Farm Museums, Montevideo, and was employed by the Minnesota Historical Society at Fort Snelling for three years. He is a dentist in South Moorhead. He received his BA in Biology/Chemistry at Concordia College and his DDS at the University of Minnesota. He and his wife, Lori, reside in Moorhead.



Board of Directors include seated (l to r) Ann Gytri, Kelly Aakre, Paul Ostlie; standing (l to r) Chris Olson, Bob Kennedy, Sherwood Peterson, Larry Quam and Gary H. Olson. Not pictured are Arlo Brown, Diane Meyer and Loren Helmeke.

Maps and the Columbian Encounter



Opening May 9 in Heritage Hall, along with "Leonardo da Vinci - The Inventions," will be one of two exhibits hosted this year by the Hjemkomst Center to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the New World's encounter with the Old.

The Columbus voyage of 1492 marked the beginning of the modern world. Nowhere is this seen more clearly than in maps of the period. They provide a graphic portrait of this historic encounter from two sides of the Atlantic. Native American and European maps are used to reconstruct the world views of these societies both before and after 1492. The American lands - previously unknown to the Europeans - were rapidly incorporated into their world map. Rather than being innocent documents of discovery, maps were instruments of European power erasing the American Indian presence from the landscape as the new territories were claimed, named, and recreated on paper. Using the vivid images of maps as a historical window, this exhibit provides a fresh perspective on the political, religious, economic and cultural influences shaping the Encounter and its relevance to the modern world.

The exhibit was produced by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee using maps from its American Geographical Society Collection. The Newberry Library in Chicago, the James Ford Bell Library at the University of Minnesota, the William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan, plus various U.S. and foreign collections. The exhibit is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities with additional support from The Program for Cultural Cooperation between Spain's Ministry of Culture and United States' Universities and The Rand McNally Foundation. The exhibit is accompanied by a catalogue that provides a guide to the exhibit as well as an introduction to the cartography of Europe and the Americas in the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries. A 29 minute video provides an introduction to the exhibit as well.

Special lecture to accompany "Maps...." exhibit

"The World of Christopher Columbus" will be revealed by John Parker, Curator of Maps and Rare Books at the University of Minnesota on Thursday, May 21. The lecture will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Hjemkomst Center's Auditorium. The program is being held in conjunction with the "Maps and the Columbian Encounter" exhibit currently showing in Heritage Hall and in honor of International Museum Day.

The Columbus voyage of 1492 reflects the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of the modern world. The maps of the time in particular reflect the old mythologies and new science of the times. Columbus's voyage was the culmination of new information about geography, mapmaking, and shipbuilding. The knowledge, beliefs, and misunderstandings of Columbus shaped the plans for this voyage and the European responses to his discoveries.

John Parker is currently a professor with the University of Minnesota and Curator at the James Ford Bell Library. Mr. Parker is originally from Nekoma, ND and received his PhD in Library Science from the University of Michigan. He is the author and editor of several books and articles including Discovery: Developing Views of the Earth from Ancient Times to the Voyages of Captain Cook.

This program is a part of the 1991-92 "When Worlds Meet" International Speakers Bureau Program organized by the Minnesota Humanities Commission. Speakers are available to talk about the kinds of encounters that have shaped our history - and shaped the stories we tell about ourselves and other people. Minnesota groups can request a speaker at no cost to the sponsoring organization. The programs are made possible with funding from the Minnesota Humanities Commission in cooperation with the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Minnesota State Legislature.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, please call 218-233-5604.

CLAY COUNTY MUSEUM

EXHIBIT SCHEDULE:

"The Point" *(Through Fall)*

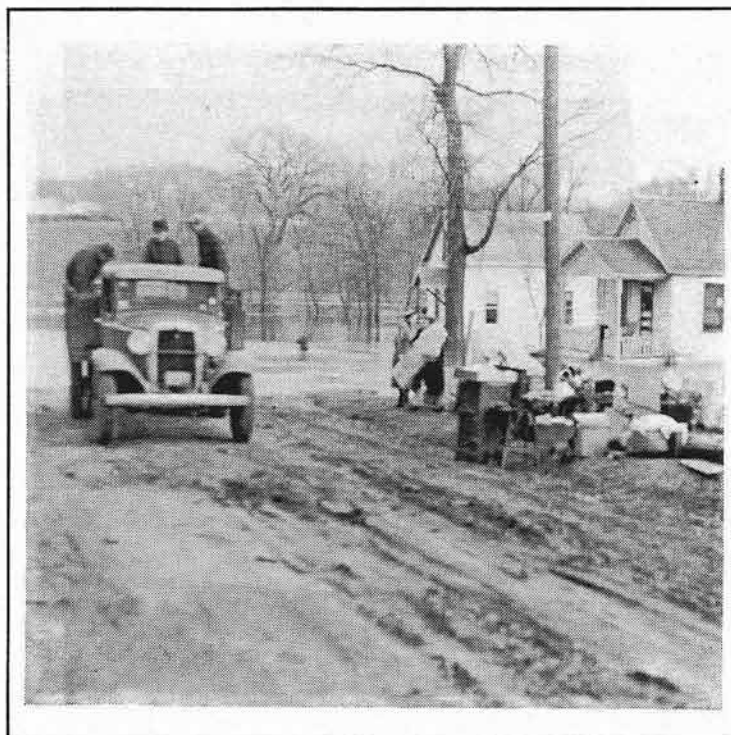
This exhibit looks at Moorhead's original residential district - the bend in the river known as "The Point" and now occupied by the Hjemkomst Center.

"I Do, I Do" *(Through Fall)*

S.P. Wange of Hawley took many formal wedding photographs over the years. "I Do, I Do," spans photos from 1893 to 1933.

A Permanent Exhibit depicts unique characterizations of one facet of the history of each county town. Together they form a chapter in the overall history of Clay County.

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



Flood victims evacuate homes along Elm Street North, Moorhead in April 1943.

Forum Publishing Company Collection

CCHS Memberships - New and Renewals

March/April 1992

CCHS welcomes the following new members:

Chris D. Olson, Moorhead
Floyd E. McDunn, Moorhead

The following members have renewed their membership for another year. Thanks!!!

Elmo Erickson, Moorhead
R. T. McMurray, Annandale, VA
Werner and Opal Brand, Moorhead
Elizabeth Lorshbough, Fargo
Bonnie Rehder, Moorhead
Larry & Elsie Quam, Hawley
Mark Chekola, Moorhead
Jennie Dickelman, Sabin
Arnie Ellingson, Fargo

Don & Alvina Lein, Glyndon
M/M Earl McDougall, Hawley
Delmar & Rhoda Hansen, Mhd
Elvida Ihalin, Moorhead
Harold & Maybelle Dinsmore, Ulen
Eileen M. Roberts, Moorhead
Rachel Smithwick, Baker
Thomas M. Peterson, Moorhead
James & Florence Drury, Moorhead
Keith Langseth, Glyndon
Clara O. Borstad, Moorhead
Aubrey & Catherine, Thomas, Mhd
Gene & Diane Pickett, Moorhead
Gary H. Olson, Moorhead
Francelia Ivers, Barnesville
Harold Hanson, Fargo
Edna Carlson, Moorhead
Robert L. Gerke, Moorhead
Joseph L. Knutson, Moorhead
Mrs. Ella M. Livdahl, Moorhead
Ruby Strand, Comstock

Ruby Johnson, Moorhead
James & Yvonne Condell, Mhd
Edna J. Cowan, Moorhead
Mrs. Joy R. Johnson, Moorhead
Hazel Tonsfeldt, Moorhead
Chris Velline, Torrance, CA
Loren Helmeke, Georgetown
John Hall, Moorhead
Ethel Medalen, Mankato
Harriet Ernst, Barnesville
Jean Doty, Hawley
Bette Haring, Lake Park
Mrs. Elva Jarvid, Hawley
Pearl Gehler, Moorhead
Roger Stenerson, Glyndon
Vilera Rood, Moorhead
Gary Cameron, Moorhead
G. Harriet Geib, Moorhead

CCHS - 1991 MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

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

CCHS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- ** FREE Admission to the Center
- ** Bi-Monthly Newsletter
- ** 25% Discount on Photo Reproductions
- ** 10% Discount on Acid-Free Materials
- ** Voting Privileges
- ** Invitation to the Annual Meeting/Dinner and all CCHS Events

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

Family memberships, please list family members.

Husband

Wife

Children (under the age of 18)

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

(218) 233-4604

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