

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



CCHS Newsletter

May/June 1996

Vol. XIX. No. 3

- May 18 - National Museum Day, Open House at CCHS Museum
- June 6 - Spring Tour to History & Science Centers (See Pages 3 & 15)
- June 13 - 10th Anniversary Celebration (See Page 3)
- June 27-28 Booth at Scandinavian Festival at Fargo Civic Center
- June 27-29 Open House at Bergquist Cabin (See Page 3)
- June 27-30 CCHS Booth at Clay County Fair, Barnesville



The Thompson House at Barnesville, briefly owned by the Barnesville Area Heritage Society as shown by the sign in the window, has recently been put on the National Registry of Historic Sites. (See story Pages 5 & 6.)

CCHS Highlights

By Gary H. Olson, President

It was good to see many of you at our annual meeting and banquet on April 11. Our staff put a lot of hard work into making the arrangements for this event.

Margaret Ristvedt, Office Manager, did a fine job in putting together the program and Annual Report and along with Pam



Burkhardt, Collections' Manager, made some of the door prizes and rounded up others. Hornbachers served an excellent roast beef dinner for approximately 100 people. The Hawley High School "Pop Singers" under the direction of Elaine Kluck put on a superb performance. These 20 young people received a Superior rating in the subsection 3 vocal music contest and competed in the state contest on May 4. We wish them continued success!

As usual, Mark Peihl, Archivist, presented an excellent slide presentation called "A History of Our History." Peihl illustrated our humble beginnings 60 years ago in a small room on the campus of Moorhead State Teachers College (now Moorhead State University), to the basement of the new courthouse in 1954 and then to the old Great Northern Depot in downtown Moorhead in 1971. The depot turned out to be very inadequate and had many structural problems including a leaky roof which doesn't keep collections in good shape. Peihl has many slide presentations and has been busy with group showings. If he hasn't been invited to your service club, church organization, 4-H Club or school, contact him at CCHS and arrange for a date.

Ristvedt and the Tour Committee have planned their Spring Tour. Look for details on Pages 3 and 15 of this newsletter. Saturday, May 18 is National Museum Day and CCHS will be celebrating with an Open House from 2 to 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Stop by with your family and guests!

For CCHS to attain a membership goal of over 1,000 members in 1996, it is going to take an all out effort. You can upgrade your individual membership to family like I did, or purchase a gift membership for a friend or relative in the area or for someone who has moved away. The newsletter will keep them interested in the stories and history of their "roots." After one year free they in most cases will continue the membership.

Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to serve as greeters and receptionists for the Clay County Museum. Days and hours may vary but our goal is to cover all hours that the museum is open. This will provide a wide variety of choices for days and time periods. Training will be provided.

If you enjoy meeting new people and are interested in serving your community, give us a call at 233-4604.

On the Net -----

If you are a net head or just like local history, point your browser to:

<http://homer.cc.ndsu.nodak.edu/~schwert/stockwd/stockwd.htm>

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



202 1st Avenue North, Box 501
Moorhead, Minnesota 56560
Phone 233-4604

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4th Annual CCHS Spring Tour set for June 6

Twice a year CCHS hosts a one-day tour to points of historical interest in Minnesota. Except for one tour to Duluth we have always included the Minnesota History Center as the nucleus of our tours and this has proven to be very popular. This spring we are repeating our first tour, held in the Fall of 1992, by returning to the History and the Science Museums in St. Paul.

Limiting the tour to just two sites will provide more time for the excellent exhibits at both museums or time for research at the History Center. There will also be time to shop at gift shops at both sites.

Exhibits showing at the History Center include *Boxcar 137356*, *Families*, *Grainland*, *Help Wanted*, *Home Place Minnesota*, *Manoominikewin: Stories of Wild Ricing*, *Minnesota A to Z*, *Minnesota Almanac*, *Minnesota Communities*, *Minnesota Through Artists' Eyes* and *On the Campaign Trail*.

At the Science Center the recently opened exhibit *Liquid Vision: Lasers, Holograms and Virtual Reality* will allow us to "Play with the future!" Experience virtual reality by stepping into an eight-foot-tall video game, creating a fiber-optics fireworks show, and exploring the architecture of a future metropolis. We will also visit the OmniTheatre where *The Living Sea* is showing. Here we will "Surf thundering waves in Hawaii and swim among thousands of jellyfish," according to the visitor guide.

Deadline is Monday, June 3, so call 233-4604 soon to reserve a spot.

Donations

March/April 1996

Many thanks to the following for their monetary gifts to CCHS.

Bruce Thorson, Waite Park
Larry & Elsie Quam, Hawley
Anonymous
Patti Hoversten, Waseca
Frances Underberg, Breckenridge
Mrs. Elvida Halin, Moorhead
Margaret & Richard Reed, Moorhead
Degree of Honor Protection Association,
Moorhead Lodge No. 160, Moorhead

Don't miss any of the fun

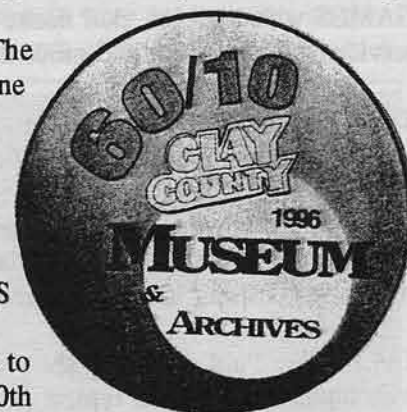
May 18 CCHS Open House --

June 13 10th Anniversary celebration --

60/10 Anniversary buttons --

Clay County Museum will be hosting an open house from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, May 18 in honor of International Museum Day. This will be a last chance to see the suffrage exhibit "Votes for Women" which closes on May 19. Bring the whole family. Free admission. Refreshments will be served.

All open house visitors will receive an Anniversary button commemorating CCHS's 60 years of collecting and 10 years at the Hjemkomst Center. The button design was done by CCHS volunteer Roger Goettsch of Moorhead. Goettsch, a retired art teacher, has also designed a new banner for CCHS which is currently in production. Plans are to hang it prior to the 10th Anniversary Celebration at the Hjemkomst Center.



On June 13 CCHS will take part in the 10th Anniversary celebration with the following CCHS events: 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. non-public storage areas will be open to the public. 2-6 p.m. photo opportunity (for children of all ages) with the 1936 Buffalo Fire Truck. Also available will be bucket rides in an aerial truck. 7 p.m. "Welcome to Beerhead: Moorhead's Saloon Days, 1890-1915" slide presentation by Archivist Mark Peihl. Join us on May 18 and June 13. Free admission.

Log cabin open house to celebrate Swedish heritage

The Bergquist Log Cabin will be open from 1-4 p.m. on June 27-29 as part of the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival. The cabin is located at 11th Ave. North and 8th Street in Moorhead.

There will be Swedish crafts, music and baking. Host Mark Peihl will present a history of the cabin. Free admission. Refreshments will be served. The open house is co-sponsored by the Swedish Cultural Heritage Society and Clay County Historical Society.

CCHS will have a booth at the Civic Center. Pam Burkhardt will make bobbin lace.

Outreach Displays

	Opens	Closes
Hitterdal Senior Center	June 3	Aug. 12
Ulen-Hitterdal High School		June 3
Viking Manor, Ulen	June 3	Aug. 12
Hawley Public Library	June 3	Aug. 12
Glyndon Community Center	June 5	Aug. 14
Moorhead Public Library	June 5	Aug. 14
Barnesville Public Library	June 5	Aug. 14

The Hitterdal Senior Center will have FUN & GAMES with marbles, doll house furniture, a WW II serviceman's game kit and other delights.

The outreach case in the Ulen-Hitterdal High School library will be on summer vacation until September.

The Viking Manor in Ulen will have FUN IN THE SUN with summer photos, a 1930s swim suit, sunglasses, fishing lures and other signs of summer.

The Hawley Public Library shows COLLECTIBLES with typical (and not-so typical) items representing a few of the many collecting opportunities - buttons, stamps, snow domes, barbed wire and marbles.



HAIL TO THE CHIEF appears at the Moorhead Public Library featuring presidential memorabilia. Artifacts include pinback buttons, a partisan cookie cutter and sheet music entitled *With Garfield We'll Conquer Again*.

The popular WHAT IS IT? display of old (and not so old) items should test the memory of visitors to the Barnesville Public Library.

ON LINE: *Then and Now* photo exhibit:
<http://www.gps.com.life/life.htm> (thanks to Great Plains Software, Fargo)

Artifacts & Donors

March/April 1996

Donors include:

Moorhead: [E.C.] Benedict Family, Lyle B. Clark, Clay County Safety Council, Charles A. Hedelund, Fred and Maybelle Larson, Oak Mound United Church of Christ/Oak Mound Cemetery Assoc., Charlotte Onstine, Alfred and Vivian Rieniets, Alvin Swanson
 Georgetown: Sara Dalen & Lloyd Dalen
 Barnesville: Diane Haugen
 Olivia, MN: Dean Simmons
 Fargo, ND: Leland Delger, Gothard Knutson, Clarence C. Lind

Artifacts include:

(2) vol. Oak Mound Congregational Ladies' Aid records ca 1930s-1950s; book, *Oak Mound Church Centennial 1896-1996*; (2) large binders of records of the Clay County Safety Council ca 1934-1989; records for Dist. No. 53 school, Spring Prairie Twp.; scrapbook of American Legion, Moorhead Auto Club and Auto Trust Fund records and issues of *Pride* magazine; letter from Hank Peterson to Hermann Massing, a WWII German POW who worked at the Peterson Farm; 6-page history of the Albert E. Johnson VFW Post 1223 by Vivian & Al Rieniets; (11) photos: Overbie Mill, Lamb Bros. brick yard, Clay Co. Courthouse and jurors, Clay Co. Museum interiors dated May 1942, school certificates from 1927 & 1928, March 1949 Kiwanis Hobby Show certificate, infant clothing; undated panorama photo of convention group by the Comstock Hotel, Mhd; auction poster for a sale on Aug. 17, 1974 at the P.E. Thompson house in Barnesville; *Road Overseer's Land Tax Pass Book* 1919 for Elmwood Twp.; (1) brochure on Earth Week and (4) on bus transportation in Moorhead and rural Clay County; Noyes Brothers & Cutler Wholesale Druggists 1917 catalog; G.A.R. encampment badge and Wisconsin 14th Inf. badge [We received Stephen Benedict's Civil War drum and drum sticks back in 1936.], Bunker Hill commemorative medal; Captain Midnight code badge, (20) plans for WWII vintage model planes and ships etc., Gilbert chemistry set, premium order form for Big Chief Wahoo gum; 1939 commemorative token from Royal Visit of Crown Prince Olav and Crown Princess Martha, packet of Air Mail stickers, book of NRA Consumer seals; Air Corps uniform and photo.

Thompson House placed on National Registry of Historic Sites

Recently Clay County Historical Society received word that the Hannah C. and Peter E. Thompson House, 361 2nd Street NE, Barnesville, has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Reasons the house merits a place on the registry include: 1.) Its Classical Revival style, popular in the late 1800s and early 1900s 2.) Because its first owners Peter and Hannah Thompson were pioneers who made outstanding contributions to the early development of the City of Barnesville. 3.) Because it was designed by the Hancock Brothers, an architectural firm in Fargo.

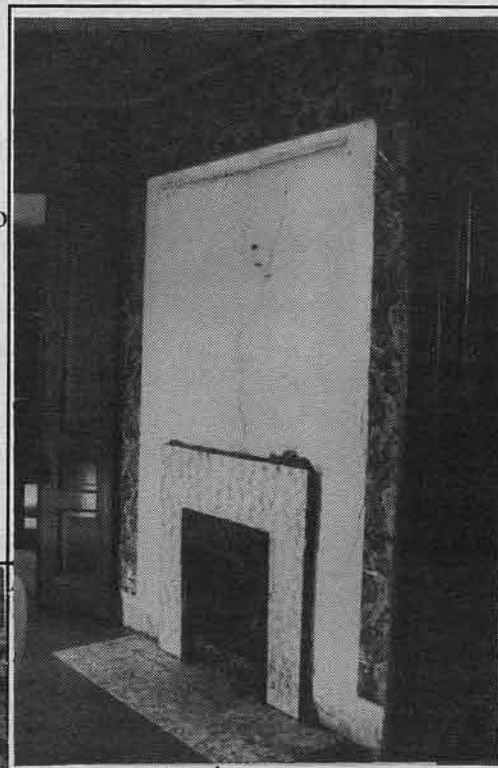
The Thompson house, as it is locally known, was built in 1902-1903 for Hannah and Peter Thompson on the eastern side of Whiskey Creek (also known as Willow River) which flows a few hundred feet from the rear of the house. The Thompsons' contributions to the development of Barnesville prompted them to be referred to as the mother and father of Barnesville.

The relationship between Peter E. Thompson and the community of Barnesville is typical of a pattern seen in many small railroad communities in western Minnesota. Thompson was a Middle-Westerner of "Yankee" or Old Stock American descent. He arrived

in the Barnesville area with capital in hand, previous business experience, and professional and business connections with entrepreneurs elsewhere. Many of the towns of western and southern Minnesota were similarly settled by Yankee or Old Stock Americans who saw the nascent towns as business opportunities ripe for development.

Many Yankee entrepreneurs were acquainted with the stockholders and developers of the railroad lines which were built across the region in the 1870s-1910, and used these connections to speculatively purchase real estate for townsites and farm land.

(Cont. on Page 6)



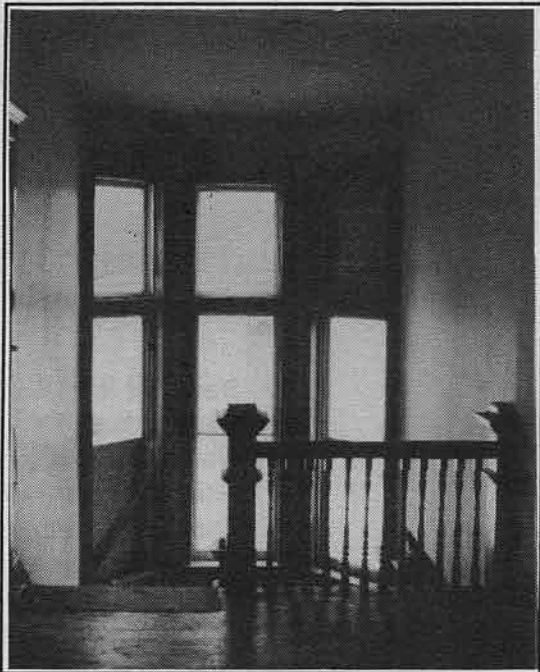
Detail at left is of the original wallpaper in the livingroom at the Thompson house. The wallpaper has never been covered. Above is the fireplace in the same room. The mantle was removed during the early 1980s.

Thompson House (Cont. from Pg 5)

Much less has been recorded of the contributions of Hannah C. Thompson, a pattern typical of many women in her social position in newly established Minnesota communities. It was the women who often accepted the challenge of transforming crude frontier villages into towns with cultural, educational, and social amenities.

Since women were generally blocked from holding elected office and were unable to vote, they often concentrated on civic projects. Hannah was active in developing the Barnesville Cemetery, assisted in the home chapter of the Red Cross, and organized and assisted Red Cross branches in neighboring townships. She was also one of Barnesville's premier hostesses, and many of her large luncheons and other gatherings are described in the Barnesville newspaper through the 1910s.

"In the early days homes here were small and scarce; the growing enterprises of her husband needed the services of many helpers and they were recruited from the boys and young men of the countryside of Barnesville. Though Mrs. Thompson had the care of her own growing family, there was always "room for one more" in her household for these young employees and she made each one feel welcome....



The stained glass windows in the second floor stairwell have been removed. Information, such as photos or drawings of the patterns in the stained glass, would be most welcome.

Her home from the beginning was always open to ministers and their families who came here to conduct services and it mattered not whether they were in the service of her own church, the Lutheran, or not and many an early pastor and their families can bear testimony of her generosity to them in those days when money and the necessities of life were very scarce." (*Barnesville Record-Review* June 24, 1920).

The Thompson House was designed by the Hancock Brothers of Fargo (George and Walter) at the height of their careers. The house is typical of their residential work of the early 20th century and is significant as one of the few residential works of the Hancock Brothers known to be still standing in Minnesota.

The Hancock Brothers practiced for over 40 years in Fargo and produced many memorable buildings including St. John's Hospital and St. John's Nursing Home, St. Luke's Hospital, the Gardner Hotel, and the Hancock Brother's Building, all in Fargo. George opened an architectural firm in Fargo in 1882 and his brother, Walter, joined him soon after. A little over a decade later, North Dakota, in the grips of a severe drought and agricultural depression, saw architectural work slow down. Many left the area following the economic crash of 1893. That same year a number of other circumstances combined to ultimately promote the Hancock fortunes: the Chicago Columbian Exposition took a renewed interest in Classical and Beaux-Arts styles and a huge fire devastated 90 percent of downtown Fargo. Since the Hancock Brothers had remained loyal to Fargo during the tight years, their patrons remained loyal to them in return and their business boomed.

Peter Thompson died in 1905 and Hannah in 1920. After Hannah's death her son, George lived in the house. In 1953 another son, Julian moved to the house where he remained until his death in 1975. The house changed hands several times before the Barnesville Area Heritage Society, formed in 1982, acquired the house in 1984 from the bank. The house was designated as the Heritage Center and over 300 guests attended an open house in November of 1987. In December 1988, Diane Haugen purchased the house.

For more information about the Thompson House, see the World Wide Web at:
<http://www.atpfargo.com/house>.

BUTTON, BUTTON - A Century Of Campaign Buttons

By Pam Burkhardt

Is there anyone around who doesn't know that 1996 is a presidential election year?

In honor of this presidential election year, we organized a small collection of election and presidential memorabilia into a display for the public libraries in our Outreach Case program. Artifacts include the campaign march *With Garfield We'll Conquer Again*, an elephant-shaped cookie cutter, a postcard of Taft making a whistle stop in Barnesville, an unused ticket to the Minnesota National Democratic Victory Dinner in March of 1937 in honor of President Roosevelt and a number of political buttons. Buttons are an integral part of this display.



Both pinback button collectors and clothing button collectors use the word *button* but with different meanings. A pinback button is usually a disk with a picture or slogan on the front and a pin fastener on the back. Clothing buttons come in disks, knobs and many other shapes. These ancient items are both utilitarian and decorative and are usually attached to fabric with thread.

Pinback buttons originated a century ago. In 1893, Amanda Lougee received the first patent for a pinback button design. In 1895, Whitehead & Hoag Co., manufacturers of advertising novelties in New Jersey, purchased three patents (including the 1893 one) and began production. Other companies to look for in pinback production are Bastian Brothers in New York and the St. Louis Button Company in Missouri.

The first pinbacks were a sandwich of metal and celluloid (an early plastic) with printed paper between them. These buttons were referred to as *celluloids* or *cellos*. Our modern pinbacks are still sandwiches of metal, paper and plastic with some changes in methods and materials. A lithograph process for buttons started around 1920 with the photo or slogan printed directly onto the metal.

Pinback buttons were introduced to the nation during the McKinley/Bryan presidential campaign of 1896. As a declaration of a person's political viewpoint, they were tremendously successful. Starting with the 1896 campaign, many election years were golden opportunities for collecting political buttons. However, during the 1980s, other media became more cost-effective for reaching the public including television

advertising and direct mailing. Even though political buttons have fallen in popularity, the pinbacks are still very successful in other areas for advertising and promotion.*

If you are interested in starting a collection of political pinback buttons, you need to do some homework. Here is some basic information to get you started: 1. One desirable button is the *jugate* - a button with pictures of both the presidential and vice-presidential candidates on it. The term *jugate* means *paired*. 2. Collectors rank slogan buttons such as "I LIKE IKE" below picture buttons. 3. Condition is important. Old celluloid buttons had a supporting metal rim or collar on the back. Look for collars that aren't rusty.

(Continued on Page 13)



Many of these Democratic campaign buttons, 1896, carry the slogan "16 to 1" which refers to the Free Silver faction's demand for 16 ounces of silver for each ounce of gold.

Hail to the Candidate, Keith Melder, 1992

Clay County Memorial

A project that didn't end with the planting!

By Mark Peihl

I'm sure many of our readers have noticed a stand of evergreen trees along US Highway 10 east of Glyndon at the entrance to Buffalo River State Park. These conifers look a little out of place, a bit of Minnesota's north woods out in the middle of Red River Valley's prairies. It's the Clay County Memorial Forest, a grove planted by Clay County kids 38 years ago to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Minnesota's statehood. As a centennial project, it was less than successful. But it serves as a reminder of the hard work of many dedicated people. And the forest can teach us lessons about how we look at the land we live on and, perhaps, how not to do local history.

On May 11, 1858, Minnesota entered the union as the thirty-second state. Ninety-eight years later, the Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission began preparing for a 100th birthday party. Plans included a wide variety of projects and events from a musical showboat on the Mississippi to a traveling history exhibit on a train and the restoration of old Fort Snelling. The Commission encouraged county groups to plan local events.

Among the most active of these groups was the Clay County Statehood Centennial Committee. Long-time CCHS President Glenn Johnson served as Chairman. Though occasionally abrasive, Johnson was hard working and absolutely dedicated to Clay County and its history. With a \$10,000 budget (provided by the County Commission), the Committee planned an ambitious program of events including a professionally produced historical pageant to be performed in Buffalo River State Park, parades, pioneer recognition dinners, a marathon canoe race on the Red River - and the forest.

Tree planting has a long tradition in this part of the country. Most early settlers came here from more moist, heavily forested regions in the eastern US and Europe. The open, wind-swept prairies provided a daunting landscape for these folks. They saw the lack of trees as a defect to be rectified. In 1873, the US Government passed the Timber Culture Act. It allowed homesteaders to claim an additional quarter section of land if a certain amount was planted with trees. It was

hoped that this would overcome "the single greatest obstacle to the populating of the Plains."

Initially, the Committee planned to plant conifers in the Buffalo River State Park on Arbor Day, May 2. What better way to create a living memorial to those pioneers than to plant evergreen trees on the (finally) conquered plains? But Park rules prohibited the planting of non-native species in the Park. Annoyed, Johnson and the Committee elected to find their own piece of ground. Forty acres of pasture was available at the entrance to the Park. While negotiating with the land owner, the Committee solidified plans for the forest.

Volunteers would plant one tree for every person living in Clay County in 1958, about 40,000 in all. Clay County Extension Service Assistant Agent Curtis Johnson and Leslie Pulkrabek of the Soil Conservation District were asked to co-chair the project.

The Committee asked the SCD and State Foresters to prepare a plan for the plantation. The experts pointed out that 40,000 trees on 40 acres would result in a solid block of trees, each 6 feet apart. They suggested a compromise. Plant only 9500 trees, one for each family in the county. Plant the seedlings in curving, plowed strips 16½ feet wide, with two rows of trees per strip. Leave 20 feet of undisturbed prairie between each strip. This would make the area more accessible, more park like and better for wildlife. (see illustrations)

The SCD reported, "the problem of successfully establishing tree plantings in western Minnesota is difficult...even under the best of conditions...This is particularly true on a project of this kind where some compromise is made in the matter of site preparation and also where it is doubly important that high survival is obtained." The Committee was set on evergreen trees so species selection would be crucial. The SCD recommended that 4-year-old White Cedar, Colorado Spruce, Black Hills Spruce and Ponderosa Pine seedlings be used. All were western species which had been planted with success in North Dakota and elsewhere.

(Centennial) Forest

The Committee approved and Pulkrabek ordered the trees. Curtis Johnson and a state forester showed leaders of about 20 4-H Clubs, Boy Scout and Future Farmers of America groups how their young charges should plant the seedlings. On April 14, 1958, land owner George Hettenbaugh sold 10 acres east of the park drive and 30 acres to the west, to the Committee for \$2500. Later, the land would be given to the county.

The next day, county workmen plowed up strips of the prairie sod and on April 28, 42 FFA members from Ulen and Felton arrived on site with pails and shovels to plant trees. Eventually 240 kids from all over the county took part.

It was uncomfortable work. Wet weather, cold and even snow challenged the young foresters. Kids carried bunches of the 6-inch seedlings to the site in pails, stuck a shovel in the ground, pushed the shovel handle over to make an opening in the soil, inserted the roots of a seedling into the crack and stepped down

the dirt around the treelet's base. One-thousand trees per day could be planted this way.

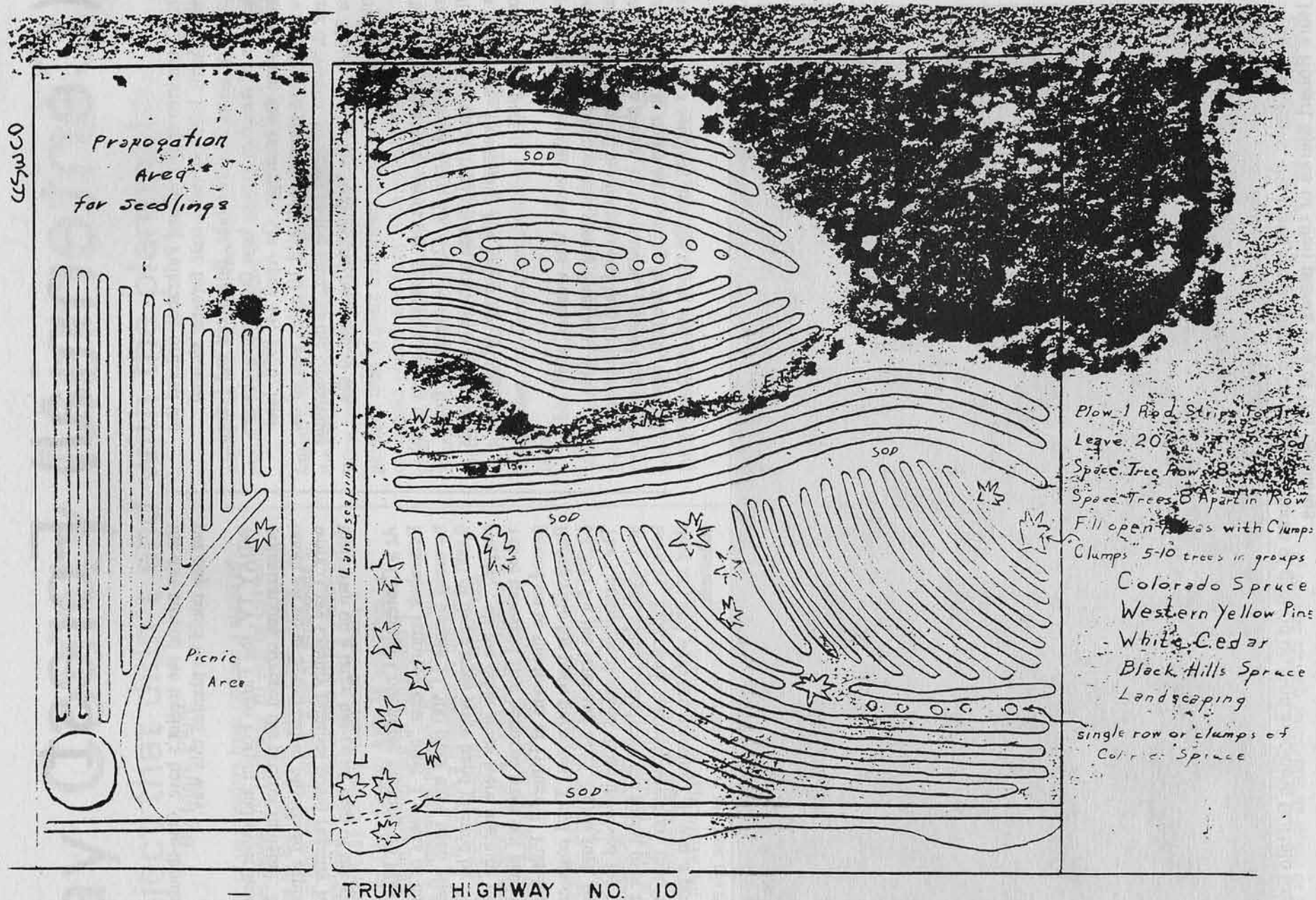
WDAY TV, the Fargo Forum and other news organizations covered the project in detail. A small booth set up at Sportland in Moorhead explained the work. Clay County families could register for a tree of their own on a large bas-relief map of the site.

At a Centennial Committee meeting on May 26, Pulkrabek reported that "after 3 weeks of hard work by many people 11,500 trees have been planted. 9,000 of these trees were hand planted by 240 young people... all the other trees were machine planted." Three thousand five hundred trees not needed were passed on to the towns of Hitterdal, Felton and Barnesville for park purposes. Total costs came to \$2,500 for the land and \$255.20 for fuel, trees, etc. The Committee thanked those involved for their work and began plans to dedicate the forest over the July 4 holiday. Pulkrabek warned, however, that "this project does not end with the planting." It was a prophetic statement.



In contour rows, the trees were planted on about 40 acres of ground on land adjoining Buffalo State Park. Here Robert Bjerke of Ulen plants one of the seedlings.

Planting Plan, Clay County Memorial Forest, Clay County Soil Conservation District, 1958



The SCD prepared this plan at the request of the Clay County State Centennial Committee. The original sketch is color coded to indicate what kind of trees would be planted in which strip. Many of the proposed trees in the upper center of the sketch were not planted - the area was too wet. Note the naturally wooded area at upper right. It is an old bend in the Buffalo River cut off by railroad construction. Courtesy of Clay County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Forest (Continued from Page 9)

Continued maintenance of the forest fell to the county. Soon the "problem of establishing a tree planting in western Minnesota" became evident. For years county employees cultivated the little trees, mowed the sod strips and planted seedlings to replace some of those that died. In 1962 State Extension Forester Marvin Smith reported that nearly half the trees had died. He considered this not beyond "normal expectations for a forest planting in a region which is typically a transition zone between the forest and prairie environments."

There were other problems. Some groups had done a better planting job than others. More importantly, the site selected by the Committee for the forest was far from ideal. Smith reported that "some of the area has poor surface drainage and resultant high water table," not a great place to try to grow evergreens adapted to the western US. Indeed, part of the planting was never completed because of the area's wet nature. Smith added, "I personally don't urge the [county] to take measures to improve this drainage but would rather suggest that future planting efforts be devoted to other sections of the planting where drainage is not a problem."

Even in the drier areas there were problems. A detailed soil survey on Clay County done in the late 1970s identified eight separate soil types on the 40 acre site. Most are considered poor habitat for conifers. The only soils considered even "fair" for evergreens are on the 10 acre section east of the park road. Many trees were lost during droughts in the 1970s.

Also in the 1970s, people gained a greater appreciation for prairies. Far from the treeless wastes imagined by our forebears, prairies are complex and diverse ecological systems made up of an astounding variety of plant and animal species superbly adapted to living with the great creator of prairies - fire. Smoky Bear and Bambi have long told us that fire is an enemy. But for thousands of years naturally occurring prairie fires have kept shrubs and trees at bay. Today, controlled burning is an important tool in maintaining the few undisturbed prairie areas left in the state.

These concerns came to something of a head in 1982 when a Hawley Boy Scout troop set out to replant evergreens in the forest. After a Department of Natural Resources official told them it would not be a good idea, the disappointed youths planted the trees elsewhere. The next year, the county and the DNR

hammered out an agreement whereby the DNR, through the staff at the Buffalo River State Park, would take over maintenance of the site.

The draft agreement pointed out that the forest had been planted on a particularly

good example of a wet to mesic (moderately dry) prairie. Its location at the base of a former Lake Agassiz beach slope had created habitat for a wide variety of prairie plants. These included some rare gentians and a protected species of orchid. Both prairie and forest would be maintained at the site and it would be open for nondestructive public use.

The DNR, however, for reasons that are unclear, decided not to accept the agreement. The county then decided to lease the forest to local farmers for pasturage.

The last time the lease came up for renewal, in 1993, representatives from the MSU Science Center pointed out the unique character of the prairie part of the forest and the fragile plant species living there. In a compromise, the lessor agreed to only pasture animals in the area east of the park drive.

There the matter sits. Some people suggest that the forest should be maintained as an evergreen memorial to the families of Clay County. Others suggest that a better memorial would be to let the trees die out naturally and make it a memorial prairie.

Whatever happens to the forest, it is important for those of us who love and work with local history to remember that projects like this "don't end with the planting." The ideas we come up with today may create complications for people later.



One of 11,500 trees planted in the Memorial Forest is set in place.
Clay County Centennial Souvenir Program, Clay County State Centennial Committee Records

1996 CCHS Board of Directors



Clay County Historical Society 1996 Board of Directors include: front row (l to r) Ann Gytri, Carol Ekre, Marjorie Aakre, Dorothy Dodds; back row (l to r) Gary H. Olson, Norman Roos, Kenneth Fox, Galen Vaa, Paul Harris and Diane Meyer. Not pictured are Terry Shoptaugh and Diane Haugen.

Awards presented and Officers elected at Annual Meeting

Four directors were elected at the Clay County Historical Society (CCHS) Annual Meeting on April 11 attended by about 100 people. Norman Roos of Hawley and Galen Vaa of Moorhead were elected to three-year terms and Dorothy Dodds and Paul Harris, both Moorhead, were re-elected to second three-year terms. Terry Shoptaugh of Moorhead was previously appointed to fill out the term of Chris Olson who relocated to the Twin Cities last October.

Others serving on the 12-member board include: Diane Meyer, Clay County Representative, Gary H. Olson and Marjorie Aakre, all of Moorhead, Ann Gytri of Felton, Diane Haugen of Barnesville and Carol Ekre and Kenny Fox of Hawley.

Officers elected at a Special Board Meeting following the Annual Meeting/Banquet are President - Gary H. Olson, Vice President - Paul Harris, Treasurer - Dorothy Dodds, and Secretary - Ann Gytri.

An Ellen Diedrich print, especially commissioned to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Hjemkomst

Center, was presented to a select group of people instrumental in the legacy of the Hjemkomst Center and of Clay County Historical Society. Receiving prints were CCHS Past Presidents - Clarence Glasrud, Mercedes Roos, Dan Skolness and Kelly Aakre. Other CCHS Past Presidents present, but who will receive their prints at a later date, include Lloyd Paulson and Vern Pederson. Four other Past Presidents, unable to attend, will also receive prints. They are Edgar Wright, Marty Holsen, Nancy Tedros and Chris Olson.

Others receiving prints include Norm Roos, Leona Anderson, Bette Haring, Ruth Franzen, Helen Euren, Arvid Thompson and Diane Meyer. Recipients not able to attend who will receive prints include: Gordon Gunderson, Dewey Bergquist, Doris Eastman and Jim Stenerson.

The Hawley High School "Pop Singers" under the direction of Elaine Kluck presented several musical selections and CCHS Archivist Mark Peihl presented a slide presentation "A History of Our History" in honor of the 60th Anniversary of CCHS Collections.

Many door prizes were awarded.

Buttons, Buttons (Cont. from Pg.7)

Lithograph buttons are easily scratched. 4. In 1972, a number of *repros* or reproductions were made of 20th century lithograph campaign buttons. Check the rim of the button for the date of the campaign on these repros.

For more information on this subject, visit your library. One excellent book is *Hail to the Candidate: Presidential Campaigns from Banners to Broadcasts* (1992) by Keith Melder. *Presidential and Campaign Memorabilia* (1988) by Stan Gores has lots of buttons illustrated. Check out *The Encyclopedia of Political Buttons* (1985) by Ted Hake. These books are available through the Lake Agassiz Regional Library system.

New collectors can write to The American Political Items Collectors, P.O. Box 340339, San Antonio, TX 78234 for information.

Display Schedule for "Hail to the Chief"

Hawley Public Library: closes June 3

Moorhead Public Library: June 5 - August 14

Barnesville Public Library: August 14 - October 16

CCHS Museum: October 18 - December 6

*see Page 3 in this newsletter for CCHS's pinback button commemorating our 60 years of collecting and our 10th anniversary at the Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretive Center.

CLAY COUNTY

MUSEUM features

"60 Years of Collecting"

The Clay County Museum opened in 1936 with 107 articles on view. Today our collections total over 20,000 artifacts. Come see some of the first articles collected and some of the most popular. Also on display will be some of our curiosities and relics.

Closing Soon:

"Moorhead, August 1923"

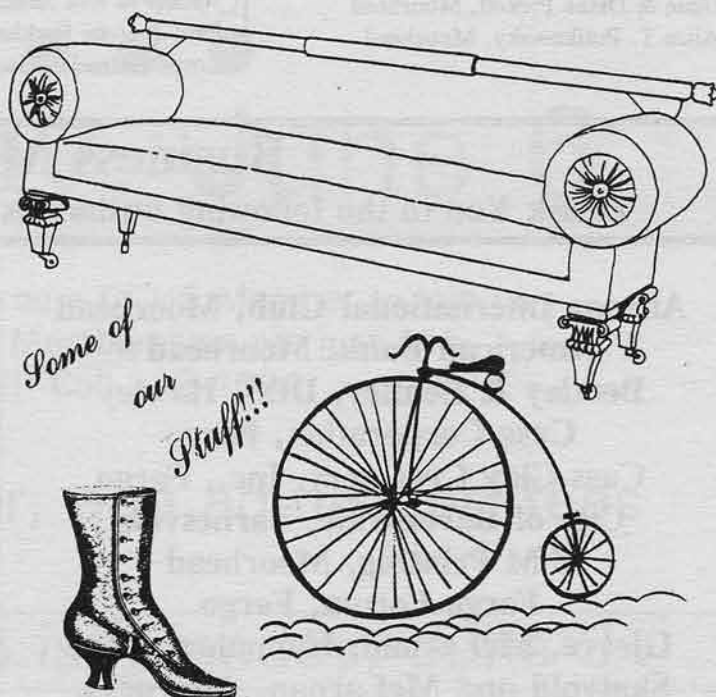
A unique view of what Moorhead looked like in 1923, frozen forever in O.E. Flaten's photographs.

"Old Ruby: Red River of the North"

Topics include: steamboating & recreation

The Clay County Museum

PERMANENT EXHIBIT includes unique characterizations of one facet of the history of towns in the county. Together they form a chapter in the overall history of Clay County.



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

Lower level of Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Ave. N., Mhd. - FREE ADMISSION

CCHS Memberships - New and Renewals

March/April 1996

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

Janet Gorman, Columbia, MD
 Vern Pederson, Moorhead
 Bonnie Rehder, Moorhead
 M/M R.E. McDougall, Hawley
 Elizabeth Lorshbough, Fargo
 Kenny & Janet Fox, Hawley
 Donald & RoseMary Strom, Moorhead
 Keith Langseth, Glyndon
 Bruce Thorson, Waite Park
 Francis Kukowski, Georgetown
 Rev. Charles Hedelund, Moorhead
 Larry & Elsie Quam, Hawley
 Harding C. Noblett, Moorhead
 Harold Helmeke, Moorhead
 Carol & Gordon Ekre, Hawley
 Richard Wussow, Sabin
 Ruby Johnson, Moorhead
 William Wallace, LaCanada, CA
 Opal P. Brand, Moorhead
 Gene & Diane Pickett, Moorhead
 Alice T. Polikowsky, Moorhead

Howard & Marcell Wergeland, D.Lakes
 Doris V. Olich, Moorhead
 Mary Bolstad & Neil Johnson, Mhd
 Susan Clemedtson, Moorhead
 Don & Alvina Lein, Glyndon
 Elmo Erickson, Moorhead
 Harold & Maybelle Dinsmore, Ulen
 Donna McMaster, Moorhead
 Dorothy Carey, Moorhead
 Duane Schulenberg, Chula Vista, CA
 Paul DesJardins, Felton
 LaVerne Halverson, Minneapolis
 David M. Remley, Conifer, CO
 Arnold Ellingson, Fargo
 Terry Shoptaugh, Moorhead
 Mrs. Andre Munn, Moorhead
 Donald Pingree, Georgetown
 Gary H. & Rebecca Olson, Moorhead
 Chris Olson, St. Paul
 Mrs. Elvida I. Halin, Moorhead
 Harold Hanson, Fargo
 Charlotte Onstine, Moorhead
 Helen & Robert Benson, Moorhead
 Rachel Smithwick, Baker
 Jerome & Eva Reindeau family, Mhd
 Paul & Irene Burkhardt, Fargo
 Loren Helmeke, Georgetown

Paula K. Johnson, Moorhead
 Gary & Nancy Ronsberg, Hawley
 Marie & Arthur Wenner, Moorhead
 Delight Heckelman, Berlin Hts., OH
 Sandra McEvers, Moorhead
 Beth Iverson, Moorhead
 Earl Ingebretsen, Felton
 Aubrey & Catherine Thomas, Mhd
 Eva Felde, Moorhead

CCHS welcomes the following new members:

Anna Marie Larson, St. Joseph
 Patrick P. Smith, Fargo
 Roy Wicker, Hawley
 Gunhus, Grinnell, Klinger, Swenson
 and Guy, Ltd, Moorhead
 Sonja R. Johnson, Fargo
 Olive Andvik, Moorhead
 Robert Belsly, Moorhead
 Frances Underberg, Breckenridge
 Deborah Janzen, Moorhead
 Margaret & Richard Reed, Moorhead
 Brent McEvers, Moorhead
 Leslie Rogne, Kindred, ND

Business Memberships

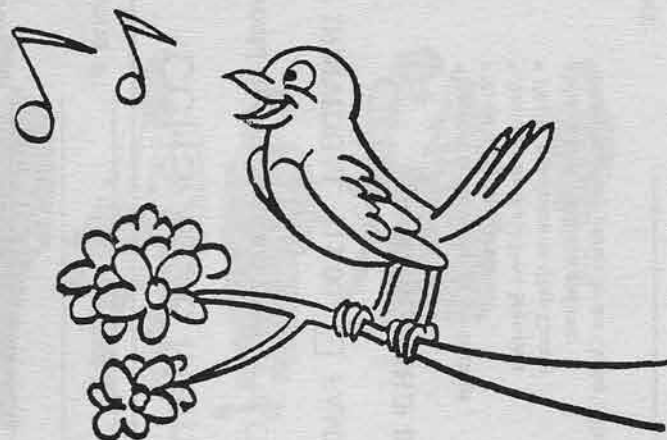
Thank You to the following businesses and organizations for their support!!!

Altrusa International Club, Moorhead
American Bank, Moorhead
Bentley & Bentley, DDS, Hawley
Case Corporation, Fargo
Cass-Clay Creamery, Inc., Fargo
City of Barnesville, Barnesville
F-M Printing, Moorhead
Fargo Forum, Fargo
Gjevre, McLarnan, Hannaher, Vaa,
Skatvold and McLarnan, Attorneys,
Moorhead
Gunhus, Grinnell, Klinger, Swenson
and Guy, Ltd, Moorhead
Home Builders Association
of Fargo-Moorhead

Hornbachers Foods, Moorhead
Korsmo Funeral Service, Moorhead
Mid-Day Lions, Moorhead
Mhd Area Retired Educators Association
Moorhead Central Lions Club, Moorhead
Moorhead Kiwanis, Moorhead
Sellin Brothers, Hawley
United Electric Service & Supply, Inc.,
Fargo
Wal-Mart Foundation, Dilworth
Ward Muscatell Auto, Moorhead
Wright Awning Company, Moorhead
Wright Funeral Home, Moorhead

(See back cover for information on becoming a business member.)

Spring Tour



to the History Center & Science Museum in St. Paul

(including "The Living Sea" at the Omni Theatre)
and a
Special Exhibit: Liquid Vision: Lasers, Holograms
& Virtual Reality



on Thursday, June 6

\$50

You must be a CCHS Member to join us
Individual Memberships are just \$15
Join Now!!! Call 233-4604

includes bus fare, supper, and admission fees

Registration Deadline is: Monday, June 3

For more information and/or to register

Call 233-4604

Clay County Historical Society, Box 501, Moorhead, MN 565601

CCHS Business Membership

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

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

Business: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

CCHS-1996 Membership Form

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

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

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

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CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



202 1ST AVENUE NORTH

BOX 501

MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA 56560

Address Correction Requested