### **CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



CCHS Newsletter November/December 2000

Vol. XXIII. No. 6



A crowd of 4000 gathered on Moorhead's 8th Street to wish 'Bon Voyage' to a group of 141 Clay County men drafted for military service in February 1918. The U.S. Government selected men in several batches during World War I. Of these 141 young men, ten (John Kragerud, August Koenig and Henry Haberle of Barnesville; Samuel Rikhus, C.B. Burud and Carl Brenna of Ulen; Oscar Sandman of Dale; Andy Tangen of Moorhead; Olaf Omberg of Hawley; and Oscar Thompson of Glyndon) would die in their country's service. Solem/Nelson Family Photo Collection

#### **President's Report**

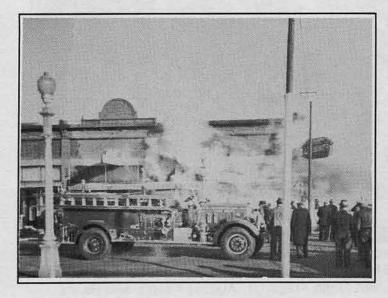
By Norman Roos, President

In recent months the old Moorhead fire truck, a 1936 Buffalo pumper weighing 7 tons, the property of the Clay County Historical Society (CCHS) since 1983, has been a topic of discussion both in and out of Board meetings.



Many questions have surfaced. Where can suitable, long term storage be found? Certainly there is no available space in the CCHS Museum for this large artifact. Should the truck be kept in "running order?" This requires new tires, engine tuneups and overhauls and regular maintenance, items of ever increasing cost and complexity as the vehicle ages. (It may be possible to find sponsors to provide backing for the truck.) Or, should the truck become a static - non-operating display item?

Last winter, the fire truck was stored and displayed at the Rollag "Steam Threshers" facility. In August a representative of that organization requested that the truck be moved. Due to unplanned circumstances we needed to move the truck before the reunion. The decision was made to relocate to a more dust free, but equally secure environment. So now it is in temporary



On Oct. 26, 1936 the new Moorhead Buffalo pumper fought a fire at the C.I. Evenson Grocery in Moorhead.

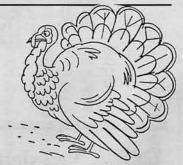
Forum Publishing Co. Collection

storage at a farm near Glyndon.

Is there a business with a secured display space willing to store the engine in exchange for its drawing power?

The CCHS Board of Directors and Staff will need to reach a decision on this matter by next spring. Any useful suggestions from CCHS Members can be directed to the Staff or Board.

### Happy Thanksgiving



#### CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Ave. N., PO Box 501 Moorhead, Minnesota 56561-0501

Phone: 218-299-5520/Fax: 218-299-5525 E-Mail: mpeihll@Juno.com

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NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION Margaret Ristvedt, Editor/Publisher Pam Burkhardt, Contributor Mark Peihl, Contributor

#### Postcard or Postal Card?

In the January/February 1995 issue of the newsletter, we published a short history of the US Postal system and a chart showing the change in domestic letter rates. With our new display in mind, we are going to give equal time to postcards and postal cards. This will also serve as a handy reference when researching a card without a date or one that isn't legible enough to read.

#### The difference is......

What is the difference between a postcard and a postal card? Most people lump them together and call them both postcards. Briefly, a postal card has pre-paid postage and is sold by the Post Office. A postcard is privately manufactured and sold commercially.

The first postcard was copyrighted in Philadelphia in 1861. The first picture postcard appeared in Zurich, Switzerland in 1872 and featured views of Zurich. The first US Post Office postal card came out in 1873. In 1889, the first postcard having a photo-reproduction was a German card with Greetings from, and a view of, the lake at Schwarzwalde.

#### Domestic Rates for Postal Cards and Postcards.

|                | and the same of th |              |
|----------------|--|--------------|
| Effective Date | Postal Cards   | Postcards    |
| 1873, May 1    | 1 cent   | 1516         |
| 1898, July 1   | 1 cent   | 1 cent       |
| 1917, Nov. 3   | 2 cents  | 2 cents      |
|                | (war emergency weigh   | nt increase) |
| 1919, July 1   | 1 cent   | 1 cent       |
|                | (pre-war rate restored   | )            |
| 1925, Apr. 15  | 1 cent   | 2 cents      |
|                |  |              |

1 cent

#### Postal cards/Postcards\*

1928, July 1

| 1952, Jan. 1          | 2 cents                         |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1958, Aug. 1          | 3 cents                         |
| 1963, Jan. 7          | 4 cents                         |
| 1968, Jan. 7          | 5 cents                         |
| 1971, May 16          | 6 cents                         |
| (Pos                  | stal Reorganization Act 7/1/71) |
| 1974, Mar. 2          | 8 cents                         |
| 1975, Sept. 14        | 7 cents                         |
| 1975, Dec. 31         | 9 cents                         |
| 1978, May 29          | 10 cents                        |
| 1981, Mar. 22         | 12 cents                        |
| 1981, Nov. 1          | 13 cents                        |
| 1985, Feb. 17         | 14 cents                        |
| 1988, Apr. 3          | 15 cents                        |
| 1991, Feb. 3          | 19 cents                        |
| 1999, Jan. 10         | 20 cents                        |
| *rate increase is san | ne for both                     |



Pre 1940s postcards



## 125th Anniversary traveling exhibit touring area

As part of the year-long celebration of Fargo and Moorhead's 125th Anniversary, a traveling exhibit of historic photographs has been prepared. The display features early photos of Fargo/Moorhead, its modes of transportation, agriculture of the area and folks just having fun. The exhibit was prepared by CCHS Archivist Mark Peihl.

The exhibit is currently at Hector International Airport where it continues through January 8. Plans are to display the traveling exhibit in area schools through June 2000.

Call 299-5520 to reserve your Moorhead History Book for Christmas giving. See Page 9 for more information.

#### **Outreach Displays**

All seven of the regular CCHS Outreach cases are still on vacation. However, new displays are being developed.

#### **Monetary Donations**

September/October 2000

US West Foundation,
courtesy of Philip E. Felde, Denver CO
Harold R. Hall, Springfield MO
Cecilia Gloor, Salem OR
Janet & Larry Nelson, Fargo
Lyle & Grace Clark, Moorhead
Sabin Lioness Club, Sabin
Degree of Honor, Moorhead Lodge #160, Moorhead
Dorothy Dodds, Moorhead

#### Book Fair a big success Thank you!!! Thank you!!!

Thank you to the wonderful volunteers who helped make our October 29 Barnes & Noble Book Fair a hugh success. Thanks also to those of you who made a special effort to come out, buy books and support us. Special thanks to Vicki Paulson and Ashley Champ who assisted staff with handing out coupons throughout the day. These two also volunteer as Museum Assistants on Sundays here at the Center. Without dedicated volunteers such as Vicki, Ashley and our many other "Sunday Volunteers" we would not be able to keep our museum open 7 days a week. Hats off to these two and all our loyal volunteers.

#### Upcoming Schedule:

| Herberger's Fund Raiser          | Sat., Nov. 18 |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Thanksgiving Holiday Th          | nur., Nov. 23 |
| (Museum closed)                  |               |
| Merry Prairie Lights Parade 2000 | Fri., Nov. 24 |
| Holiday Open House Satu          | urday, Dec. 2 |
| Rok Day Demonstrations           |               |

Call 299-5520 for more information.

#### **Artifacts & Donors**

#### SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2000

#### Donors include:

Moorhead: Helen Hedelund, Moorhead Public

Library, Florence Anderson, Ed Gudmundson, Family of Thomas

Neirby, Dudley Wells

Dilworth: Mary Dullea Miller & Margaret Dullea

McManus

Georgetown: Kathy Richards

#### Artifacts include:

(6) color photo prints of the Hjemkomst ship in Hawley, potato warehouse & Bob Asp; [photocopy] of book Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Oxcarts but Were Afraid to Ask by Ed Gudmundson containing specs, material costs and detail drawings for the construction of the replica ox cart [86.30] made by Ed Gudmundson and John Hall; painting dated 1962 by Fred Helmeke "Gravel Pit South East of Felton;" 1913 wedding dress of Anna Nergaard Neirby and 1930 confirmation dress; WWI-era, knitted wool stump sock; 1930s quilt with fan blocks in pink, green, blue and yellow; wooden walker patented in 1942; Swedish pocket knife (1874?) found in 1972 on a farm SE of Hawley.

Herberger's Fund Raiser set for Saturday, Nov. 18

CCHS is sponsoring a fund raiser at "2000 Herberger's Community Day Sale" on Nov. 18. If you would like to participate, stop in at the CCHS Office and pick up a coupon booklet for just \$5. Each booklet contains five \$10 off coupons, a chance to win a vacation in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico and an early store admission ticket. All funds from the sale of the tickets go to CCHS. Plan to do your Christmas shopping early and save money at the same time. Stop in today and purchase your Herberger's Community Day coupon booklet. Help us make this a successful fund raiser.

#### What's in the Archives?

### Seldom used microfilm collections

By Mark Peihl

#### Part 2:

In our last newsletter, we discussed a couple of microfilm collections which genealogists often overlook during research, the indexes to the personnel records of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific Railways. This issue, we'll continue with two interesting collections of government records from World War 1: the Selective Service Draft Registration Cards and Minnesota Commission of Public Safety Alien Registration Forms.

First the draft cards. On May 18, 1917 (a month after the US entered World War 1) Congress passed the Selective Service Act to draft men for military service. Although administered by the federal government, the process of registering the men, classifying them, physically examining them, etc. was up to the states. States were broken down into districts and, then, to local boards. Most counties (including Clay) were covered by one local board.

Twenty-four million men eventually registered for the draft, about 23% of the US population. Not everyone who registered served in the military (many received exemptions) and not everyone who served registered for the draft. (Many men volunteered.) There were three registrations. The first, on June 5, 1917 was for all men between the ages of 21 and 31. The second, a year later, registered those who reached age 21 after June 5, 1917. (A supplemental registration was held in August

Twenty-five year old Philip Hermann of Georgetown registered in the first draft call-up June 5, 1917. He claimed exemption to support his foster parents on the family farm. In spring 1918 agricultural deferments ended. He was drafted in May and sent to France in August. Private Hermann served in Company H, 11th Infantry Regiment. On September 27, 1918 he was killed in action while fighting in the Argonne Forest.

for those few who reached 21 between June and August.) The third registration was held September 12, 1918 for all unregistered men between age 18 and 45. Even non-US citizens had to register and were subject to the draft. A total of 5035 Clay County men registered. Seven-hundred-ninety were eventually drafted.

Information about each man was recorded on cards. The cards are broken down by county then filed alphabetically by the registrant's name. In a special arrangement with the National Archives, the Salt Lake Genealogical Society microfilmed the cards. We have the film covering Clay County. The other films are available on interlibrary loan through the Fargo Mormon Church's Family History Center, 2502 17th Ave. S. (701) 232-4003.

(Continued on Page 6)



#### Seldom Used Microfilm

(Continued from Page 5)

The local boards recorded different information about the men in each of the three registrations. Two-thousand-one-hundred-twenty-four men signed up in the first call (42% of the total). The form recorded the man's name, address, age, date and place of birth (including town, state and nation), citizenship, occupation, name and address of employer, race, marital status, whether or not the man had family members dependent on him, a physical description, past military experience and whether or not he was claiming exemption from the draft.

The second registration signed up 223 men (4%). Each man reported his name, address, date and place of birth, his citizenship, father's birthplace (again including town, state and nation), physical description and the names and addresses of his employer and nearest relative.

The third and final registration included 2688 men (53%). Information recorded on this form includes name, address, age and date of birth, race, citizenship status, physical description, occupation and names and addresses of his employer and nearest relative. These records provide important genealogical information for about a quarter of the people living in Clay County in the late teens including, in nearly half the cases, the exact place of birth of the registrant and/or his father. They really should see more use.

The other World War 1 vintage collection is the Alien Registration Forms. The war years were a disturbing time in US history. Patriotic fervor reached frightening proportions. Anyone not 110% behind the war effort was suspect. Resident aliens were particularly scrutinized. The US government registered all German citizens living in the country. Minnesota took a further step. In April 1917 the state legislature created the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety, a frightening body with broad powers to root out and suppress dissent. In February and March 1918, the Commission registered all non-German aliens living in the state. The registrars asked very intrusive questions regarding family matters, property ownership and wealth, probably so that the property could be confiscated if later deemed necessary.

The Minnesota Historical Society has microfilmed the forms. They are broken down by county. CCHS holds the rolls which cover Clay. The forms are further broken down by township, village or city, then filed alphabetically by registrant's name. Other county rolls are available on interlibrary loan from MHS. Contact your local library for further details.

We may find the process disturbing but the forms do provide us with good genealogical information. Both male and female adult aliens were registered.

(Continued on Page 7)

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Ethyl McDonald was born in Belwood, Ontario, Canada and was still a British subject in 1918. As an alien, she had to register even though Britain was a U.S. ally. She had a cousin fighting in France for Canada and eight cousins in the U.S. Army. When asked why she had not filed to become a U.S. citizen she responded "would if women had equal suffrage." American women did not win the right to vote until 1920.

#### Seldom Used Microfilm

(Continued from Page 6)

Registrars asked the aliens 35 questions including name; address and length of residence there; age; country to which the alien owed allegiance; place and date of birth; port of entry and date of arrival in US; whether or not registrant could speak and write English; occupation and current work; marital status and, if a married male, the wife's place of residence; names and ages of living children and whether they attended school; names and relationship to any male relatives participating in the war and, in each case, the country served; draft information if a male; whether the person had applied for citizenship and if not, why not; location, value and legal description of any real or personal property owned, including any held in trust for minors; value of stocks, bonds or other securities held and the location of any safe deposit boxes.

The intrusive nature of these questions makes one naturally wonder how honest the registrants were in answering. It's a good question. But by the time the registrations occurred, most Minnesota aliens were probably quite aware of the Commission's power and ruthlessness. Fear of loss of property likely took a back seat to willingness to cooperate - and concern for the consequences if found out.



#### STATE OF MINNESOTA MINNESOTA COMMISSION OF PUBLIC SAFETY

#### Alien Registration and Declaration of Holdings

33 SERIAL NO.

This registration blank to be forwarded to J. A. O. Preus, State Auditor, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

|                            | Bull name of Alien Registrant Rachel Ett. 1 mcDonals   |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1                          | run name of Affen Registrant 71  |
| 2.                         |  |
| 3.                         | 1 1 2 2  |
| 4.                         | Length of residence at the foregoing place   |
| 5.                         | y. +1 , a+ +   |
| 6.                         | To what country do you claim allegiance!   |
| 7.                         | 10 1 8 . 16 6 .  |
| 8.                         | Dute of Birth Dec. 20, 18 9/   |
| 9,                         |  |
| 10.                        |  |
| 11.                        |  |
|                            | Residence of wife, if living   |
|                            | Do you speak and write English t Yes   |
| 15.                        | Have you a trade or profession, and what!  |
| 16.                        | In exactly what line of work are you at present engaged? Stay at home.   |
|                            | Y  |
| 17.                        | Give names and ages of all living children, and state which are attending public schools   |
| 17.                        | Give names and ages of all living children, and state which are attending public schools   |
| 17.                        | Give names and ages of all living children, and state which are attending public schools   |
| 17.                        | Give names and ages of all living children, and state which are attending public schools   |
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| 18:                        | Have any of your male relatives taken part in present war either for or against the United States and its allies?  If answer yes, give name, relationship, and state which country served? Geo. Cy. Young, Coron   |
| 18.                        | Have any of your male relatives taken part in present war either for or against the United States and its allies?  If answer yes, give name, relationship, and state which country served? Geo. Cy. Young, Coronnada, Dr. Rolfe Jamte. U.S., Best McDonald, Hany Burlel, Dr. Burill,   |
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#### A time to get together - plan to attend

## January 13, Rok Day celebration

Rok Day for decades was the last day of the Christmas Season and a time for celebration. In rural England, women were expected to return to their everyday chores on January 12, so Rok Day evolved as a time for women to get together - and they brought their ever-present handiwork.

This centuries old tradition is once again being observed. On Saturday, Jan 13, the Northern Prairie Fiber Artists Guild will be demonstrating various homemaking crafts from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Clay County Atrium at the Hjemkomst Center. The ladies will be carding, spinning, weaving and knitting a variety of fibers. The demonstrations are open to the public. You are also invited to bring a handiwork project you would like to work on and join the group for a social time of sharing.

The term "Rok Day" takes its name from the northern European languages use of a variation of the word "rok" for distaff. (A distaff is a staff having a cleft end that holds flax, wool, etc. in spinning.) The Dutch word for distaff is rok, the Norwegian, rokk, and Icelandic rokker. A second meaning comes from Scotland where stone whorls were used on early spindles and sometimes referred to as "rocks."

The Clay County Museum is free and open to the public. There is no charge to attend the Rok Day celebration and demonstration. Museum hours are Monday - Saturday 10-5, Thursday 10-9 and Sunday 12-5. Call CCHS at 299-5520 for more information.

#### "Keeping in Touch" trivia

Items in the new "Keeping in Touch" display include the following. Stop in and see the entire exhibit soon.

Mail on the Rails: The R.P.O. cancellation on a postcard mailed to Augusta Bowman, Moorhead in 1908 stands for Railway Post Office.



Many times women would gather and visit while they tended to necessary homemaking skills. These four Muhle family women displayed their skills for the photographer back in 1895-96. Their skills included (I to r) knitting, carding, spinning and winding tatting.

Muhle family Collection

Special recognition: In the late 1920s and early 1930s, First Day Covers were designed to popularize a new postage stamp. The cancellation is dated on the first day of issue. Other envelopes commemorate special events. The envelopes on display are all communications-related.

Firsts: On display are the first Post Office desk in the County, the first switchboard in Barnesville, the first mailbox in Barnesville and a photographic image of the first television reception in 1950 - three years before the first TV station!

Penmanship: Charles Sikes' Spencerian egg is a popular artifact used in the teaching of penmanship.

## 20th Century - Moorhead

Researchers, scholars, and you and I, have been waiting a long time for this book. Now it is available - only at CCHS and just in time for the Christmas Season. You will want to get at least two books - one for yourself and another for a special friend or relative.

The books are due for delivery by Thanksgiving. There will be a limited printing, so be sure to order your book early.

John Kolness of Heritage Publications, in collaboration with CCHS, has put together close to 200 pages of Moorhead's history.

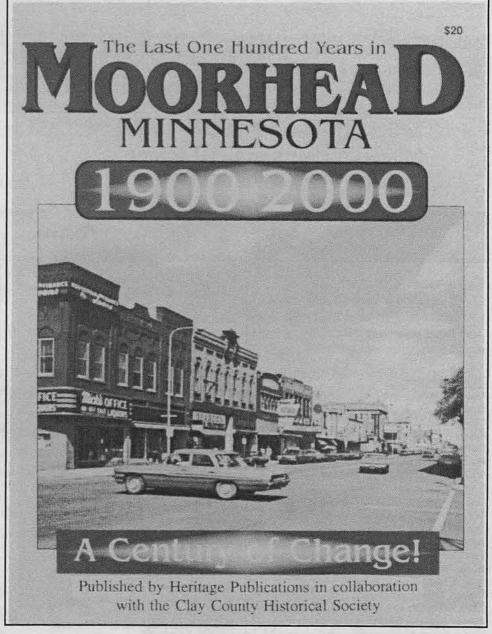
This book will provide a glimpse of the last 10 decades with major news events plus several first-hand recollections by people who have lived in the community for most of the past century. The stories, sometimes sad, sometimes humorous, give an intimate look at the events and people who have shaped who we are today. Historic photographs tell a story of progress and change.

Certainly no other 10 decades in the history of the world have witnessed the mammoth changes which occurred between 1900 and 2000. Moorhead provides a micro image of these changes in our society.

Burgeoning changes in technology, communications and transportation, unheard of 100 years ago, are the norm today. Moorhead went from a city with a population of about 3,000 in 1900 to over 30,000 today. The pioneer spirit and 'can do' attitude of those residents who were dedicated to transforming Moorhead's wild and wooly reputation (once colorfully known as "sin city") into today's All America City, is evident throughout this book. From WWI to the Persian

Gulf War, from fires and floods to football and fireworks - this is a book you will read over and over again and continue to use as a handy reference book.

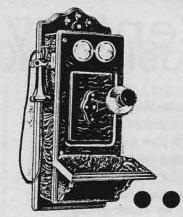
Call 299-5520 today to reserve your copy.



# CLAY COUNTY MUSEUM



"Stitches" explores the role of textiles in the social history of Clay County



This wall mounted telephone ca 1910 was called a "telephone substation."

"Seeping in Touch"

125 years of Communicating

(from telegraphy to email)

Now open in the Clay County Atrium

Museum Hours are: 10-5 Mon.-Sat., 10-9 Thurs., 12-5 Sun. Lower level of Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Ave. N., Moorhead, MN

### **CCHS Memberships - New and Renewals**

#### September/October 2000

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

#### RENEWALS

Dewey & Margery Possehl, Moorhead Dale White, Moorhead Charles Onstine, Tucson AZ Sharon A. Benzel, Moorhead Carolyn & David Bowe, Fargo Robert & Mary Davies, Moorhead Vincent & Jean Dolva, Hawley John & Beverly Hest, Hawley Lloyd Pladson, Peoria AZ Lorine Holschuh, Moorhead Don & Delores Bekkerus, Glyndon Art & Gwen Erickson, Moorhead Fern Haiby, Moorhead Edwin Stellmach, Missoula MT Janet & Larry Nelson, Fargo Dorothy Cummings, Fargo Alden Knatterud, Moorhead Beverly Coleman, Moorhead Shirley Stelter, Moorhead

Dorothy Sandvik, Moorhead Beverly Larson, Fargo Marion Gee, Moorhead Mark & Donna Voxland, Moorhead Richard & June Chenoweth, Moorhead Richard T. McMurray, Annandale VA Jackie Packer, Barnesville MN Audrey Gerhardson, Hawley Orlow Nokken, Moorhead H. Allen Ohrt, Fargo Leona & Arnold Anderson, Hawley Milo M. Moyano, Moorhead Mary & Shirley Dauner, Hawley Bernice A. Stensgaard, Moorhead Deloris Zwack-Mellon, Apple Valley MN Marion E. Gillespie, Moorhead Irene Hogan, Moorhead Neil & Polly Hanson, Glyndon George C. Shippey, Fallbrook CA Marion Formanek, Moorhead Gertrude Knutson, Moorhead Marguerite Wardeberg, Barnesville Elda S. Lutter, Moorhead Dorothy Storandt, Moorhead Gerald & Kathleen Finken, Moorhead Zona & Matt Mathison, Moorhead

Korsmo Funeral Service, Inc., Moorhead

Harold & Arlys Buland, Moorhead
Gladys Durensky, Barnesville
Waldo Hatledal, Hawley
Charles & Helen Hedelund, Moorhead
Donna Merchant, Edina
John Young Jr., Hawley
Ann Gytri, Felton
John Roos, Hinsburg VT
Allen County Public Library, Ft Wayne IN
City of Hawley, Hawley
State Bank of Hawley, Hawley
First National Bank of Hawley, Hawley
Ruth I. Swanson, Moorhead
Diane Wray Williams, Moorhead
Steve Slabik & Shirley Lontz, Moorhead

CCHS welcomes the following new members:

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

Jacque Koel, Osage Carol Dretsch, Detroit Lakes Eric Chalimonczyk, Moorhead Sam Leathes, Moorhead Young at Heart, Moorhead Jim Steen, Fargo Shirley Knatterud, Moorhead

### You are invited to a

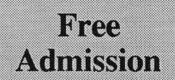
## Holiday Open House

at Clay County Museum 202 1st Ave. N., Moorhead

## on Saturday, Dec. 2

from 2-4 p.m.

**\***Entertainment **\*** Refreshments



## Clay County Historical Society Business, Individual and Organization Support (BIOS) Members

Thank you to these special BIOS Members of Clay County Historical Society

PATRON (\$200 - \$499) Grosz Studio, Moorhead

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Address Correction Requested