

# CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



---

CCHS Newsletter

November/December 1992

Vol. XV No. 6

---



Hawley's first motorized hearse waits in front of Hawley Lutheran Church on a muddy, miserable cold day. Story on Page 13.

---

## President's Message

Dear Members,

With old man winter right around the corner and outdoor activities slowing down, the Center is busily preparing for another Christmas season. It's hard to believe just how fast each year goes. It seems like only yesterday my son Cameron was born, and it was 8 months ago.

Cameron is a good reason I care so much about the historical society. What we do today will be a part of his history, and that makes me more aware of what CCHS is all about. The historical society through preservation, conservation, exhibits, and its newsletter brings the past alive. What happened 50 to 100 years ago is important to us today and will be important to our children when they are grown. We need to preserve our history while at the same time making it accessible to our young people.

Take the time to record your family's heritage. You will be glad you did and future historians will have a more accurate picture of what life was like in Clay County in the 1900s.

Right now the Clay County Museum has an exhibit called "Yesterday's Medicine." Some of it tells about medicine in the late 1800s, but some of it is more current history. Do you remember the polio epidemic of 1952? Did Dr. Thysell ever make a house call to your home? Stop in and check our exhibit out; it might jog your memory. And please, record your family's heritage today - tomorrow might be too late.

Sincerely,  
Kelly Aakre, President

## Did you know that --

John Adams was the first President to live in the White House.

Eleanor Roosevelt was the first First Lady to vote in a Presidential election.

George Washington had to borrow money to pay for the trip to his inauguration.

Thomas Jefferson died broke.

Dwight Eisenhower was the first President to hold a televised news conference.

## Riddle interns at CCHS

Heather Riddle, a junior majoring in Art History at Concordia College, is currently working on an internship at Clay County Historical Society. For four months Heather will learn about museum operations, staff responsibilities and the day-to-day activities in CCHS's offices. Concordia College's cooperative education program provides students with the opportunity to gain on the job experience while earning college credit.

In Heather's words "My internship at Clay County has given me first hand knowledge about what happens in the real world. After I complete my degrees in Art History and Communications I plan to start a masters program of Museum Administration. This fall I have learned that I have a lot more to learn - but I am eager to continue growing. I owe many thanks to people at CCHS who have helped point me in the right direction."

### CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



202 1st Avenue North  
Box 501  
Moorhead, Minnesota 56560

Kelly Aakre, President, Moorhead  
Lawrence Quam, Vice Pres., Hawley  
Gary H. Olson, Secretary, Moorhead  
Sherwood Peterson, Treasurer, Baker  
Loren Helmeke, Georgetown  
Bob Kennedy, Moorhead  
Arlo Brown, Dilworth  
Anne Gytri, Felton  
Carol Ekre, Hawley  
Chris Olson, Moorhead  
Diane Meyer, Cnty. Rep., Moorhead

#### STAFF

Pam Burkhardt, Collections Manager  
Mark Peihl, Archivist  
Margaret Ristvedt, Office Manager

#### NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION

Margaret Ristvedt, Editor/Publisher  
Pam Burkhardt, Contributor  
Mark Peihl, Contributor  
Jim Nelson, Volunteer Contributor



# The Grippe grips Clay County

By Pam Burkhardt

Influenza epidemics hit various places in Minnesota in 1882 and 1890, but it wasn't until 1918 that the entire state felt an impact due to the large number of cases and deaths.

The disease was developing in other parts of the country throughout 1918. It was brought to Wells, Minnesota in September by a soldier from Camp Sheridan in Illinois. The disease spread within forty-eight hours causing a reported 200 flu cases in that town. In Minneapolis, sixteen nurses at the University Hospital fell ill and that institution was closed. Soon after, a St. Paul newspaper optimistically reported the epidemic was in check. Two days later 1,000 people fell ill in the Twin Cities; 510 at Fort Snelling.

Dr. Egil Boeckman, a member of the state board of health, reported that this influenza "spreads like fire, very severe in onset and very prone to complications of Lobar Pneumonia, which is liable to set in on the 5[th] or 6[th] day and which is very fatal, 33% to 50% at least."

The state board of health went into action. The Red Cross and the US Public Health Service provided nurses and physicians. A state appropriation of \$10,000 was authorized. Nurses were paid \$70 a month; physicians - \$200. The Red Cross recruited and trained volunteers as nurses' aids. Stricken families were fed and provided with caretakers.

The railroads provided an excellent means of spreading the disease. An order was issued prohibiting influenza sufferers from traveling unless they wore masks and had a proper receptacle for sputum. Because of the large number of deaths occurring at army camps outside the state, health officials were concerned about transportation of the bodies into or through Minnesota. Sealed caskets were impossible to get and train crews did not want to handle them. Influenza traveled from the south up the western and eastern borders of the state.

Influenza came to Clay County in early October. The first influenza death was that of an infant recorded on Oct. 7, 1918. There were only eight infants among the 113 deaths attributed to influenza reported in the county and some of these infants were weakened by whooping cough or typhoid fever. By Oct. 10, fifty cases were reported in the area.

The disease was called Spanish Influenza or Grippe. The

Moorhead Weekly News Oct. 17 described it as "a very contagious kind of 'cold' accompanied by fever, pains in the head, eyes, ears, back or other parts of the body and a feeling of sickness." The paper added that some sufferers contracted pneumonia or meningitis and died from these complications. The army treatment consisted of bed rest, aspirin and quinine. Area citizens were told to stay at home, stay warm and wear masks when out in public.

By mid-October Moorhead schools and theaters were closed. Public gatherings and services were banned. The state board of health decreed that private funerals be held for all victims of influenza or pneumonia with closed caskets for both soldiers and civilians.

The Red Cross advertised for nursing help for Dilworth in the Moorhead Weekly on Oct. 17, 1918. Only one nurse was available and 20 were needed. In a report on Oct. 19 to Frances Brink, superintendent of the field nurse corps, nurse Louise L. Christensen wrote, "A hasty report. We are very, very busy, have 24 patients in hospital now. Have dismissed about 15, two have died and perhaps one or two died last night. I didn't think they could live through the night...Cannot say when we will get away. They want us to stay as long as they need us." A week later Dilworth reported 125 cases of influenza. Of the 11 deaths recorded in Dilworth from October through December 1918, 10 were influenza related.

By the end of October, the number of deaths from influenza in the area had lessened, but the disease continued the rest of the year. One problem was caused by the refusal of local hospitals to accept influenza patients. As a solution, two temporary hospitals were set up in Moorhead. There were 60 cots in the basement of Trinity Church and 40 cots in the girls' dormitory at the Normal School. Dr. E.W. Humphrey's wife took the day shift at the church; Cora M. Johnson took the night shift. Cora remembered cases being carried out the back door as fast as they came in the front.

From October through December 1918 in Clay County, there were 11 deaths in Barnesville, nine from influenza. Hawley had nine deaths with seven from influenza. Ulen had seven deaths with six due to the epidemic and Moorhead had 62 deaths of which 48 were influenza related. Of the 160 total deaths in Clay County for that period, 113 were attributed to influenza/pneumonia-

(Continued on Page 4)

## Outreach Displays

Hitterdal Senior Center	Opened Nov. 9
Ulen-Hitterdal High School	Nov. 9
Viking Manor, Ulen	Nov. 9
Hawley Public Library	Nov. 9

Glyndon Community Center	Nov. 11
Moorhead Public Library	Nov. 12

TIN PAN ALLEY at the Hitterdal Senior Center features a variety of tinware from our collections. Items include a syrup pitcher, toaster and nutmeg grater.



The Ulen-Hitterdal High School is PUMPING IRON(S). The display contains an electric iron (14 1/2 lbs), a gas iron (6 lbs) and a sad iron (21 lbs).

Six RED RIVERLAND DOLLS are visiting Viking Manor in Ulen. These character dolls are part of a collection illustrating the history of our area.

JUST A WHITTLE BIT of wood-carving is at the Hawley Public Library. Items include a band loom from Norway, an action toy and a plaque with the likeness of former governor Knute Nelson.

The Glyndon Community Center says, "OH, YOU BEAUTIFUL DOLL!" Among items featured are dolls from our collections, a hand stitched doll dress from the 1870s and doll dishes.

THE SURGEON GENERAL WARNS ... however, viewing our display of smoking related items at the Moorhead Public Library won't be hazardous to your health.

## Artifacts & Donors

### Donors include:

Moorhead: Mike Sigdestad, Elsie Reyelts, Marie Daellenbach, Alice Grover, St. Ansgar's Auxiliary  
Fargo, ND: Thomas Curran, Forum Publishing Co.

**Artifacts include:** scrapbooks from St. Ansgar's Auxiliary; varsity sweater from the Moorhead Normal School ca. 1919; a snood (hair net) from the 1940s; photos of the Barnesville elevator fire; bulk coffee container from Hilde & Co. of Moorhead; blueprints of the Fairmont East addition; and area photos and obituaries.

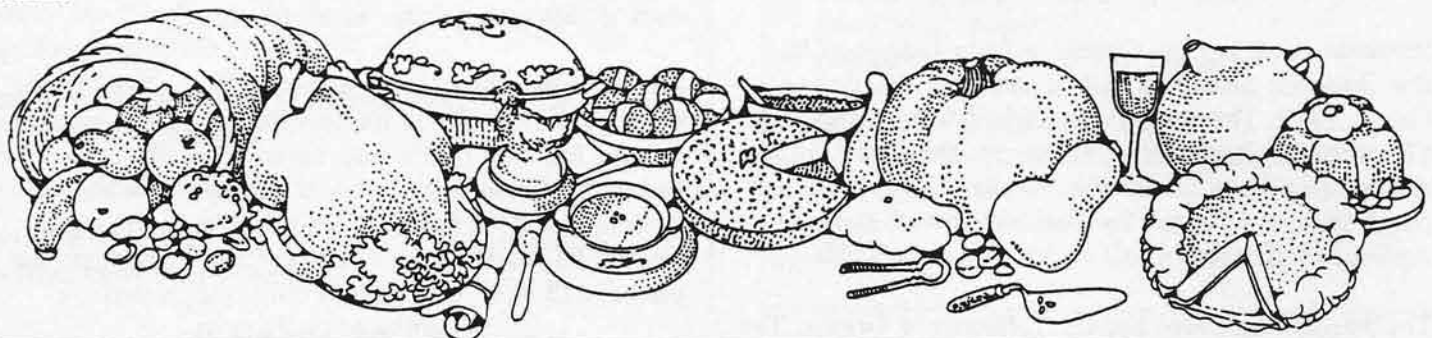
### The Grippe (Continued from Page 3)

related diseases. More adults were stricken than children. There were only 17 deaths in the population under 18 years of age.

The mortality records for the state were broken by this epidemic. The disease caused 7,269 deaths and 125,000 cases of illness in the state as reported in March of 1919 by the state board of health. Deaths from influenza totaled more than from all other causes. The number of deaths in Minnesota in 1918 totaled 31,133 - a record at that time. In November, the number of deaths exceeded the number of births for the first time on record.

A few deaths were reported through the first quarter of 1919. One cause of death in November 1919 gave influenza in March as a contributory cause and then the great 1918 influenza epidemic became history.

## Happy Thanksgiving Day





# Dr. Thysell, great friend to CCHS

By Margaret Ristvedt

The last of Clay County's country doctors, Dr. V. Duane Thysell, died on October 9. Dr. Thysell was a special patron of the historical society. His volunteer work included identifying many of our Flaten/Wange glass plate negatives. Doc's memory for names, faces and dates was an incredible resource for the society.

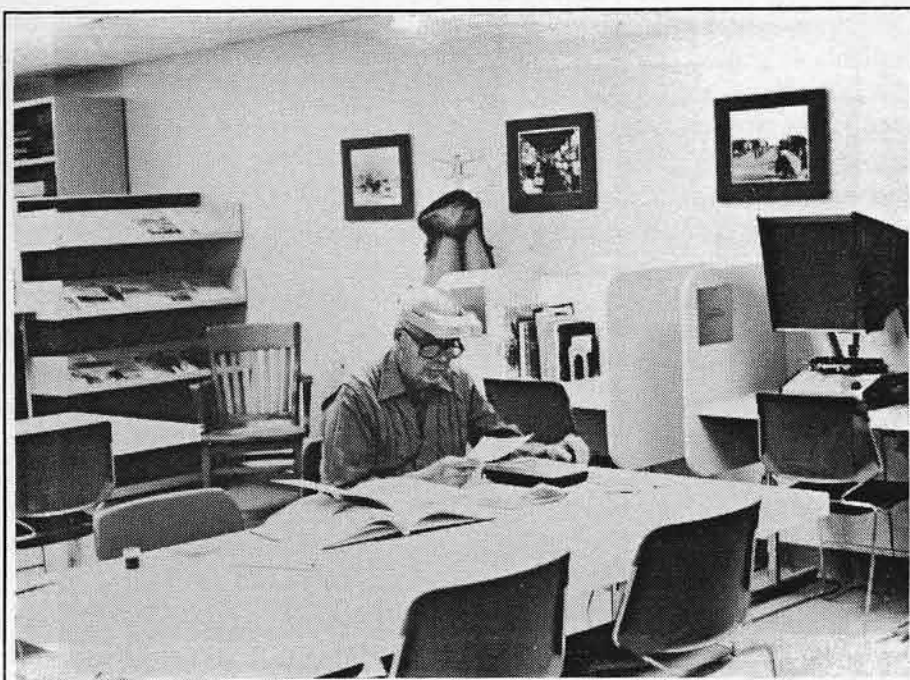
Dr. Thysell began his medical practice in his hometown of Hawley in 1934. For most of the next 26 years he was the only doctor in the Hawley/Hitterdal/Rollag area. He moved to Moorhead in 1960 where he practiced for another 22 years. He delivered as many as 2,500 babies during his career including mostly home births in the early years. At his funeral service at Hawley Lutheran Church the congregation was asked to stand if they had been delivered by Doc Thysell, had had a child delivered by him or had seen him for any other medical reason. The entire gathering seemed to be standing. It was a tremendous tribute to a fine doctor.

Just days prior to his death, Dr. Thysell granted me an interview. I was doing research on midwives in Clay County. He was both gracious and knowledgeable and shared first hand information from his early years in Hawley, especially about the four maternity homes that operated there.

When later I mentioned to a number of friends that I had just visited with Doc, their response was "Aren't you lucky!" They were right.

Before Dr. Thysell's death he gave permission for CCHS to display the doctor's bag he used for house calls in our pending exhibit, "Yesterday's Medicine." The exhibit is now up and thanks to the cooperation of Dr. Thysell's family, his bag is prominently displayed along with other memorabilia concerning medicine in Clay County.

Dr. Thysell's life and career represent an inspiration for the "Yesterday's Medicine" exhibit. We thank him for that and for being such a good friend to CCHS over the years.



Dr. Thysell put in many hours in the Archives identifying photographs from the S.P. Wange glass plate negative collection. His memory was phenomenal.

## Memorials

The following individuals contributed memorials in the name of Dr. V.D. Thysell.

Phyllis Thysell and Grant Herreid, Moorhead

Merle T. and A.E. Stoa, Winona

Vernon Duane Thysell family

Norman and Mercedes Roos, Hawley

Melvyn and Margaret Ristvedt, Hawley

Cornelia A. Burrill, Dassel

Clay County Historical Society wishes to thank all the donors of memorials and especially Dr. Thysell's family who named CCHS as a recipient for memorials.

# What's in the Archives - Census Records

By Mark Peihl

Census records are probably the best single resource available to genealogists and many other researchers. The U.S. Constitution requires the federal government to count its citizens every 10 years. Federal legislative district boundaries and seats in the U.S. House of Representatives have been allocated based on these censuses since the first one in 1790. Census results also determine how funding is distributed for many government programs. Moreover the counts give the government an idea of who we are as a nation.

Information recorded varies from census to census. At the turn of the century it usually included the names and ages of each member of each household, their occupation, place of birth and that of their parents, and their citizenship status. Because of the sensitive nature of this data, census schedules are currently kept sealed for 72 years. This spring, microfilm copies of the 1920 census schedules were released and CCHS quickly bought a copy. The 1930 census will be available in 2002.

We now have copies of the schedules for 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910 and 1920. Virtually all of the schedules for the 1890 census were destroyed in a tragic fire in 1921.

Many researchers don't realize that the state of Minnesota also has conducted censuses. We have copies of those schedules for 1875, 1885, 1895 and 1905. (The state constitution required a count in 1915 but the state legislature failed to allocate funding for it. They are still technically in violation of the constitution!) The information recorded is similar to that on the federal rolls but in some cases a particularly important item was added - the length of time the individual had lived in Minnesota and in his enumeration district (usually the village or township).

In 1990 each of us received census forms to fill out and return. In 1920 and before, however, the census takers (enumerators) carried around a bound volume of forms door to door, interviewed each family and recorded the information. Our microfilms are copies of these forms.

The schedules are arranged by state and broken down by county and by village or township in each county. The families appear on the microfilm in the order in which they were visited. In the 1930s, the Works Progress Administration developed a "Soundex" indexing system. The Minnesota Historical Society has statewide

soundexes for the 1880, 1900 and 1920 schedules. For further information, contact MHS at 345 Kellogg Boulevard West, St. Paul, MN 55102.

Our records have no index so it's important for researchers to know at least approximately where their relatives lived at a given time in order to find them on the roll. By following through the various rolls, one can learn how a family grew over the years, what they did for a living and when they arrived in and left Clay County. The counties are generally arranged alphabetically on each roll of microfilm so in many cases we also have schedules for Chippewa, Chisago, Cottonwood and other counties.

In 1890 the government conducted a special census of Civil War veterans and their widows. The schedules survived the 1921 fire. CCHS has the roll containing Clay County's returns. It also includes most of the rest of northwest Minnesota. Information recorded includes the veteran's unit, dates of enlistment and discharge, rank, any disabilities incurred and general remarks.

The government also conducts periodic special censuses on agriculture, manufacture and mortality. CCHS has copies of the 1880 agriculture and manufacturing schedules. The manufacturers' census records each Clay County mill, cheese factory, shoe maker, etc. in operation in 1879, the number of employees and the value of equipment. The agricultural census records each farmer, amount of land in production, crops raised in 1879, their value and other information.

Plain paper photocopies from microfilm are available for 10 cents per page. There is no charge to use the archives and we are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and Thursday nights until 9 p.m.

## Correction:

Our September/October Newsletter had a back-to-school quiz on Clay County. We received a number of positive comments on the quiz, including a request for a copy from one party that was going to take it to a township meeting to share. Imagine our chagrin when we realized one of our answers was wrong. Somehow, in the process of editing, a question was changed but the answer wasn't. Our apologies. The correct answer to the question "How many townships there are in Clay County?" is 30, not 36. Sorry for the mix up.



33

[D1-578]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1920—POPULATION

PLACE OF ABODE.				NAME	RELATION.	TENURE.		PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.				CITIZENSHIP.		EDUCATION.			
Street, avenue, road, etc.	House number or farm, etc. (See instructions.)	Num- ber of dwel- ing house in order of oc- cupation.	Num- ber of family in order of oc- cupation.	of each person whose place of abode on January 1, 1920, was in this family.  Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any.  Include every person living on January 1, 1920. Omit children born since January 1, 1920.	Relationship of this person to the head of the family.	Home owned or rented.	If owned, free or mortgaged.	Sex.	Color or race.	Age at last birth- day.	Single, married, widowed, or di- vorced.	Year of immigra- tion to the United States.	Naturalized or alien.	If naturalized, Year of naturaliza- tion.	Attended school any time since Sept. 1, 1918.	Whether able to read.	Whether able to write.
6	7	8	9	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	20	20		Weiss, George	Head	R		M	W	42	D					yes	yes
✓				John	Son			M	W	16	S					yes	yes
✓				Herman	Son			M	W	14	S					yes	yes
✓				Herold	Son			M	W	12	S					yes	yes
✓				George	Son			M	W	10	S					yes	yes
✓				Oliver	Son			M	W	7	S					yes	
✓				Harvey	Son			M	W	9	S					yes	

NATIVITY AND MOTHER TONGUE.						OCCUPATION.				
Place of birth of each person, and parents of each person enumerated. If born in the United States, give the state or territory. If of foreign birth, give the place of birth and, in addition, the mother tongue. (See instructions.)						Whether able to speak English.				
PERSON.		FATHER.		MOTHER.						
Place of birth.	Mother tongue.	Place of birth.	Mother tongue.	Place of birth.	Mother tongue.	Whether able to speak English.	Trade, profession, or particu- lar kind of work done, as operator, salesman, labor- er, etc.	Industry, business, or estab- lishment in which at work, as cotton mill, dry goods store, farm, etc.	Employer, salary or wage worker, or working on own account.	Num- ber of farm sched- ule.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Iowa		Germany	German	Illinois		yes	Farmer	General Farm & Co.		
Minnesota		Iowa		Illinois		yes	None			
Minnesota		Iowa		Illinois		yes	None			
Minnesota		Iowa		Illinois		yes	None			
Minnesota		Iowa		Illinois		yes	None			
Minnesota		Iowa		Illinois		yes	None			
Minnesota		Iowa		Illinois		yes	None			

From this typical entry in the 1920 U.S. Census we learn that George Weiss of Spring Prairie Township was a 42-year-old divorced farmer with six sons, ages 9 through 16. He rented his land and was born in Iowa. His father was from Germany and his mother from Illinois, as was his ex-wife. All the boys were born in Minnesota and were attending school.

# CCHS president and staff members attend MHS Grand Opening

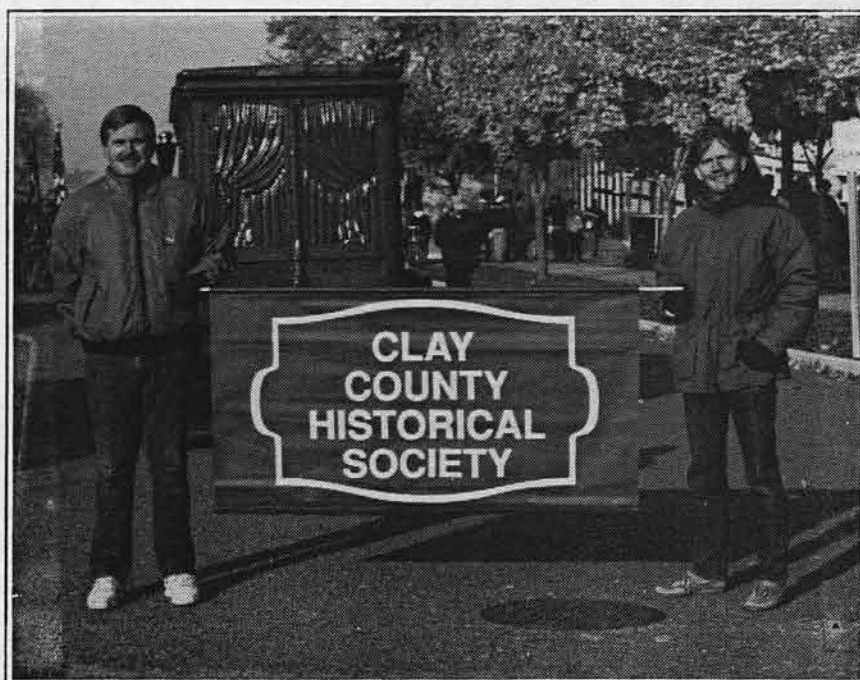
CCHS President Kelly Aakre and staffers Mark Peihl and Margaret Ristvedt attended the new Minnesota History Center's Grand Opening on October 16 and 17.

Friday evening festivities at the Center included guided tours, exhibit viewing and a buffet supper featuring a bountiful Minnesota harvest. The History Center, located in what has come to be known as the "Cultural Corridor" has some pretty impressive neighbors including the Minnesota Science Museum, the World Theater, Landmark Center, Ordway Music Theater, the St. Paul Civic Center and the State Capitol, which provides evening visitors with a breathtaking view.

Saturday a.m. CCHS participated in "Minnesota on Parade" with a banner provided by MHS. According to Pres. Aakre, our banner didn't raise too many cheers because we were overshadowed by being between a wonderful 1916 hearse from Chippewa County (similar to the one pictured on the cover of this newsletter) and Minnesota icons the Jolly Green Giant's Little Sprout and the Pillsbury Doughboy. Almost half of the state's

87 county historical societies participated in the parade of more than 60 units.

Following the parade a "Minnesota Family Portrait" was taken by an aerial photographer. It might be difficult to pick out an individual face in the crowd, but Aakre and Peihl had the foresight to find an open spot and spread out the CCHS banner. Aakre noted they drew a number of folks who wanted to be close to something they might be able to identify in the aerial photo.



Kelly Aakre and Mark Peihl line up for the History Center Grand Opening Parade on Oct. 17 in St. Paul.

The Center which cost a total of \$74 million is a dream come true for Minnesotans. The Minnesota Historical Society was founded in 1849, even prior to statehood. The purpose was "to nurture among people a knowledge of and appreciation for the history of Minnesota....to enrich the state's cultural environment and enable people everywhere to draw strength and

perspective from the past and impart purpose to the future." The History Center is another step in the ongoing history of our state and we are glad to be a part of it.

## Toys for Christmas? Here are a few items that were available in the 1902 Sears, Roebuck Catalog.

### The Laughing Camera.



No. 29R176 The Laughing Camera. A whole passing show. Furnishes more amusement than you would get in a circus. Your friends grotesquely photographed. Stout people look thin and thin people look stout. By getting a focus on passing pedestrians, horses, cars, etc., the most ludicrous pictures are witnessed. The passerby takes on the swinging stride of a grand-daddy-longlegs, horses look like giraffes. Price, each.....13c  
If by mail, postage extra, 5 cents.

### Toy China Tea Sets.

No. 29R377 Toy China Tea Set, consists of cups, saucers, teapot, sugar bowl and creamer, about 16 pieces, small 25-cent value packed in paper box. Per set....16c



Shipping weight, 10 ounces.

### Mechanical Automobile.



No. 29R335 Mechanical Automobile, open shape, with engineer. When wound up will run similar to the figure 8. Highly colored, with imitation rubber tires; will amuse and instruct the children. Price, each.....17c  
Shipping weight, 8 ozs.



# A doctor, a salesman, or a policeman? Fulton, a man of many interests!

By Jim Nelson, Volunteer

The past couple of weeks have been hectic at the historical society with a major new exhibit "Yesterday's Medicine" going up. The exhibit deals with doctors, nurses, diseases, etc. in Clay County. Along the same vein, I thought it might be interesting to take a quick look at an early veterinary doctor in Clay County.

Dr. M.M. Fulton arrived in Moorhead in late August of 1909 with a brand new veterinary degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He set up his practice at the William Morrow Livery stable, close to where the American Crystal Sugar Plant offices stand today.

Early in 1910 Dr. Fulton moved into his own office where the M&H Restaurant stands today but he soon outgrew this building and a new building was completed in the spring of 1912. Today a Dairy Queen stands on the spot where the his animal hospital was built. In January of 1910, Dr. Fulton attended the State Veterinary Association meeting in St. Paul and was chosen as one of two delegates to the national association meeting in San Francisco in June.

One of the few known employees of Dr. Fulton was Frank Heller of Moorhead. He worked at the Fulton Hospital from 1913 until December, 1916 when he purchased the Buck Taxi line in Fargo. It is about this time, whether by coincidence or not, that Dr. Fulton also changed his profession from animals to cars.

Dr. Fulton and a partner, Larry Lawrence of Fargo, started an automobile business in Moorhead called the Lawrence-Fulton Motor Co. in March, 1919. The partnership lasted less than six months and in October Dr. Fulton purchased the property for his own automobile business. However, the Moorhead city directory continued to list his occupation as veterinarian through 1924 and he retained his title of doctor except when dealing specifically with his automobile business.

Fulton's automobile business was located in a couple different places while a new garage was being built. One of his temporary sites was 512 Front Street (Center Avenue). At this location in May of 1920 he sponsored a four-day exhibit of three cars of the Chalmers Motor Co. The interesting concept of these cars was that the viewer could see all moving parts of each car without having to open or remove anything. The three cars had a total value of \$25,000.

His success in the automobile business obviously peaked within a year after he began, probably due to the tough economy and the fact that automobile dealerships and services were mushrooming in this area. According to personal property tax lists in the local newspapers, Fulton's net worth decreased each year after he entered the automobile dealership.

The 1924 Moorhead city directory lists M.M. Fulton as a "salesman," the 1927 directory has no employment listed for him and the 1928 directory lists him as a United States Narcotics Agent. In 1929 Fulton moved with his family to St. Paul where he continued as a

(Continued on Page 10)



Veterinary Hospital owned by Dr. M.M. Fulton located on the northeast corner of 8th Street and Main. Clay County Illustrated, 1916

## Dr. Fulton (Continued from Page 9)

narcotics agent until his death on December 1, 1931 at the age of 50. His obituary notes he was in charge of the St. Paul office at the time of his death and was largely responsible for apprehending the notorious "Red" Haggerty. Haggerty was considered to be one of the most vicious drug addicts and peddlers around. Haggerty later escaped while awaiting his trial.

M.M. Fulton had many interests outside of his work including cars and traveling. He loved to travel and took many trips including some to eastern Minnesota and Wisconsin where relatives resided and a 2-month sojourn, accompanied by his wife and son, to the Pacific Coast. He was one of 57 charter members of the Moorhead Auto Club formed in 1912.

His wife, Bertha, had a fancy for dogs and entered them in kennel shows. Her most successful show while in Moorhead was the fourth annual North Dakota Kennel Show in Fargo in January, 1913. Her bull-dogs were the pride of her show-dogs and according to the January 17, 1913 edition of the Fargo Forum & Daily Republican,

three of Mrs. Fulton's bull-dogs were awarded 11 ribbons, including six firsts. Mr. Fulton took second in the division "non-sporting local dog." The Dr. Fulton Cup, awarded to the best dog owned and handled by a lady, went to Mrs. F.N. Hanft of Fargo.

In February 1917 Dr. Fulton helped organize a series of sled dog races in Moorhead. The interest for such an event grew out of a Winnipeg to St. Paul sled dog race which passed through Moorhead towards the end of January.

Within a week of the first scheduled race, people from Barnesville were asking if their boys could enter. In fact, many boys from the outlying areas wanted to participate. Late in February, a race scheduled from Moorhead to Barnesville and back, was cancelled after officials decided it would be too long. But by early March a one-way race was mushed from Barnesville to Moorhead. By this time area farmers and merchants had taken over as officials.

(Continued on Page 12)



This photo was taken in 1915 from the top of what is now the Plains Art Museum, looking north. The building in the lower left hand corner is where Dr. Fulton had his veterinary office from 1910-1912. Today the M & H Restaurant stands on the office site.

Flaten/Wange Collection



# History Tour a success!!

A full bus load of eager, early birds got up at the crack of dawn on November 4 and braved the nasty weather. The occasion was a CCHS sponsored tour of the new History Center in St. Paul.

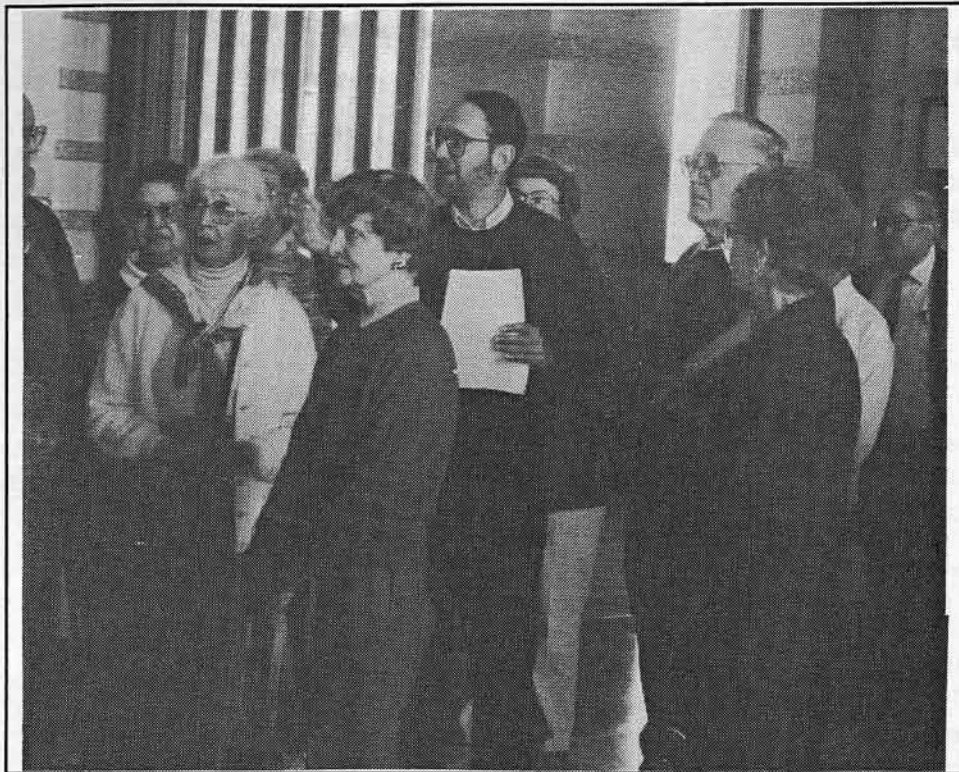
We arrived at the History Center on time and were greeted by MHS Field Representative David Nystuen. Following a private luncheon, the group was split into two smaller groups for guided tours of archives and conservation/preservation labs not generally open to the public. The History Center staff are very proud of the new facility and made it quite apparent that the History Center belongs to and is there for everyone.

The exhibit "Minnesota A to Z" is a delight and has something of interest for everyone. A 1940s kitchen covered "K" and you could push a button to hear all four different Loon calls for "L". One exhibit shows what Minnesotans wear for the St. Paul Winter Carnival when they are trying to convince outsiders how much fun a nice cold Minnesota winter can be. It was great!

Following a short bus ride (and a long wait) we were ushered into the Omni Theater at the Science Museum for the show "Blue Planet." It was a good show and it felt good to sit down for a bit.

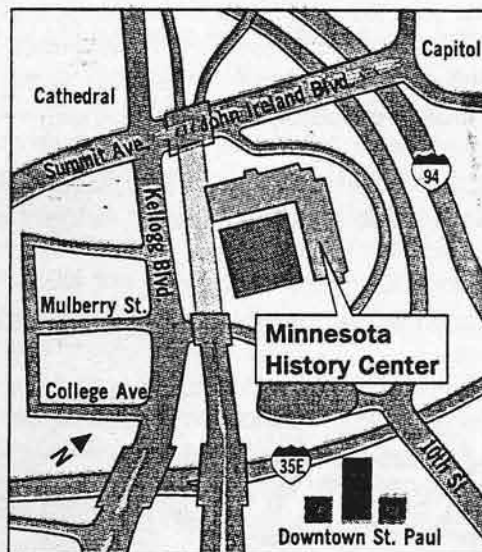
The group then toured the Science Museum, playing with various inter-active exhibits. One highlight was the Hmong home that had been constructed by Hmong volunteers. There were many examples of wonderful Hmong embroidery work and a short history of the Hmong people.

By the end of the day nearly everyone was ready to board the bus for home with a quick stop along the way to replenish our energy. Many people thanked the staff and asked about the next tour. CCHS wishes to extend a great big thank you right back to everyone on the tour. You were great and really made us want to do it again.



This is part of the CCHS sponsored tour group at the new History Center in St. Paul on November 4 with a tour guide proudly describing the \$74 million building.

A number of people have suggested a researcher's tour. At least one of our November 4 group used his free time at the Center to do a little research. If you are interested in such a tour, or any other kind of tour, please let us know. Maybe we can work something out.



## Dr. Fulton (Continued from Page 10)

One interesting sideline regarding Dr. Fulton and the sled dog race is that he went out to collect donations for prize money from the Moorhead public just two weeks prior to the city election. Dr. Fulton was running for the office of mayor.

The Feb. 1, 1917 Moorhead Weekly News printed this information at the end of an article promoting the dog sled race:

*"Dr. Fulton, one of the aspirants to the office of mayor at the coming election, has taken an active interest in the dog events. He plans to take up a collection in the city to raise funds for putting on the races. He says he will not ask for more than two-bits from any one person and believes he will be able to secure enough to make up the purse for the prize money Saturday."*

He threw his hat into the mayoral race on December 18, 1916 after members of many different factions approached him to do so. He said he would be a candidate only under one stipulation, and that being that if another candidate more acceptable to the people was brought forward, he would withdraw. Dr. Fulton's main platform was strict enforcement of the law with complete impartiality. On February 18, 1917 N.N. Melvey was elected Mayor over Dr. E.W. Humphrey and Dr. Fulton. Dr. Fulton received 276 of the 989 votes cast.

In 1917 Fulton remodeled his animal hospital into apartments and renamed it Fulton Flats. He and his family continued to live there until they left Moorhead in 1929. Fulton sold the property to A.M. Hopeman in 1920. The Fulton property purchase by Hopeman gave Hopeman the entire block now represented by the northeast block at the corner of 8th and Main.

The "Fulton Property" was sold to Moorhead Lodge No. 126, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, in April of 1922.

Fulton is buried in his hometown of Hudson, Wisc.



## Notice

The following notice appeared in the Moorhead Weekly News, September 17, 1908, from Tuesday's Daily of September 15, 1908

*Dr. D.C. Darrow declares that he is thinking of procuring permission to carry fire arms upon his person, and that he will puncture the tire of any automobile that does not give him half the road in the country, and reduce speed while passing.*

Editors Note: Now what do you suppose precipitated that outburst?

## At The **HERITAGE SHOP**

### Featuring...

- Books relating to the exhibits
  - "Seeds of Change"
  - "Where Two Worlds Meet"
  - "Baggage, Peltry & Squeak: Life of the Red River Trails"
- Educational Books & Games
- Gifts by Regional Artists
- Roy Johnson's "Red River Valley"

VISA & MASTERCARD ACCEPTED

(218) 233-5604



# A prophecy from the past!

In December of 1900 John Elfreth Watkins, Jr. wrote an article, "What may happen in the next hundred years," for the Ladies' Home Journal. Much of what he could only imagine almost a 100 years ago has come true. Here are a few of his predictions.

*Photographs will be telegraphed from any distance. If there be a battle in China a hundred years hence snap-shots of its most striking events will be published in the newspapers an hour later. Even today photographs are being telegraphed over short distances. Photographs will reproduce all of Nature's colors.*

*Man will see around the world. Persons and things of all kinds will be brought within focus of cameras connected electrically with screens at opposite ends of circuits, thousands of miles at a span. American audiences in their theaters will view upon huge curtains before them the coronations of kings in Europe or the progress of battles in the Orient. The instrument bringing these distant scenes to the very doors of*

*people will be connected with a giant telephone apparatus transmitting each incidental sound in its appropriate place. Thus the guns of a distant battle will be heard to boom when seen to blaze, and thus the lips of a remote actor or singer will be heard to utter words or music when seen to move.*

*Telephones around the world. Wireless telephone and telegraph circuits will span the world. A husband in the middle of the Atlantic will be able to converse with his wife sitting in her boudoir in Chicago. We will be able to telephone to China quite as readily as we now talk from New York to Brooklyn. By an automatic signal they will connect with any circuit in their locality without the intervention of a "hello girl."*

*No foods will be exposed. Storekeepers who expose food to air breathed out by patrons or to the atmosphere of the busy streets will be arrested with those who sell stale or adulterated produce. Liquid-air refrigerators will keep great quantities of food fresh for long intervals.*

## Cover Photo

Hawley's first motorized hearse was a splendid affair according to the September 19, 1919 Clay County Herald. The following article which appears on the front page of the paper tells the story with such a flourish that we will let it speak for itself.

From the Clay County Herald, Hawley, September 19, 1919:

## HAWLEY NOW HAS BEAUTIFUL HEARSE

For a long time every one has realized the necessity of an auto hearse, as it was almost impossible for the procession to move as the horse drawn conveyance was not suited to the pace of automobiles following. It remained for our enterprising livery and garage man, William Elsholtz to supply the demand for this up-to-date vehicle and in doing so he far surpassed even the fondest dreams of the most particular.

The new hearse is a beautiful creation of body builders art, ornamented in hand carvings of wood and silver, painted in silver gray, mounted on a special Studebaker and chassis with extra heavy wheels.

There is nothing lacking in the appointments of utility and beauty, and the entire job is pronounced by all who have seen it as the finest hearse to be found in the

Northwest, and it is a very great credit to Hawley and vicinity and congratulations are extended Mr. Elsholtz for his enterprise and liberality in adding the beautiful hearse in our community as it is the only motor hearse within a large radius of Hawley and will surely be very much appreciated.

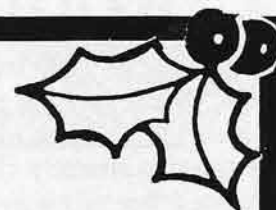
## New staff at HHIC

Several new members have been added to the Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretive Center staff recently. Traci Ackling and Kimberly Vetter have been hired to fill the position left by Pauline Marcil, Administrative Assistant, who has taken a position with Dakota Electric.

Ackling is the new Administrative Assistant. She will be in charge of marketing and some clerical duties. Ackling is not new to the Center. Her involvement includes time at the Center through the Concordia College work study and then an internship. During her internship she organized and marketed the Holiday Heritage Festival. In 1989 Ackling was a docent for the Dinamation exhibit and was the Center's Outstanding Volunteer for the year. Ackling has a major in Communications and a minor in Art from Concordia.

Vetter is the new Volunteer and Education Coordinator. Vetter began volunteering at the Center recently when her husband began teaching at Moorhead State University. Vetter has a degree in Elementary Education from Jamestown and in Psychological Foundations in Education from MSU, plus a 12-month certificate in Word Processing from Interstate Business College.

# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



from

the CCHS Board of Directors  
and Staff



*Kelly Aakre  
Loren Helmeke  
Arlo Brown*

*Lawrence Quam  
Bob Kennedy  
Anne Gytri  
Diane Meyer  
Pam Burkhardt*

*Gary H. Olson  
Sherwood Peterson  
Carol Ekre  
Chris Olson  
Mark Peihl*

## CCHS Memberships - New and Renewals

**September/October 1992**

CCHS welcomes the following new members:

Rober Gates, Staten Island, NY  
Doris Kirkpatrick, Washougal, WA  
Kevin Stein, Moorhead  
Corene K. Geffre, West Fargo  
Marrion Walsh, Moorhead

And sends special thanks to the following who have renewed their membership:

**Thanks a bunch to all of you!!!**

Richard & Jan Chenoweth, Mhd  
Evelyn Keeping Hansen, Hawley  
Dr. John Holten, Moorhead

Edward Gudmundson, Moorhead  
Evelyn Gesell, Fargo  
June Dobervich, Fargo  
Ruth Swanson, Moorhead  
John & Bev Hest, Hawley  
Vincent & Jean Dolva, Hawley  
Fred L. Larson, Glyndon  
Roger & Mary Sinkler, Moorhead  
Sherwood Peterson, Baker  
Lloyd Pladson, Fargo  
Junald Rendahl, Moorhead  
Deloris Zwack Mellon, Mpls  
Paul Dovre, Moorhead  
Nancy & Yoseph Tedros, Moorhead  
Dorothy Garven  
David Reed, Moorhead  
Davis & Hazel Scott, Moorhead  
Leona Anderson, Hawley

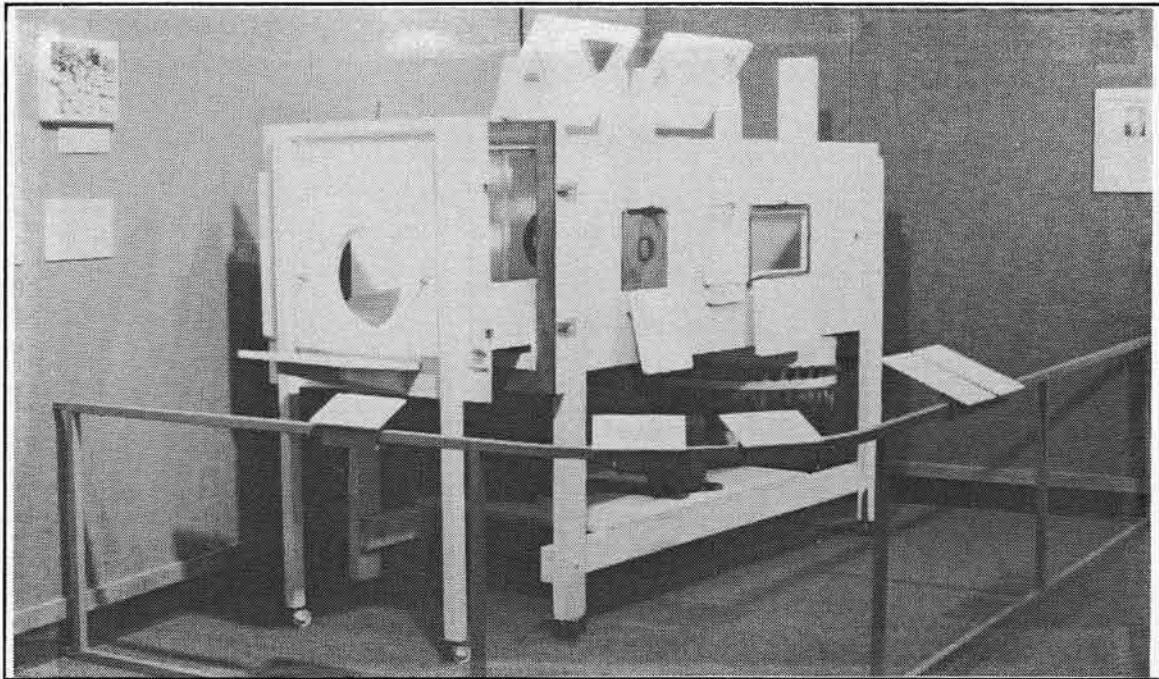
Marguerite Wardeberg, Barnesville  
Zona Mathison, Moorhead  
Donna Merchant, Minneapolis  
Mel Ristvedt, Hawley  
Marvin Koeplin, Moorhead  
Richard Melarvie, Moorhead  
Norman Bjorndahl, Hawley  
Myrtle E. Nelson, Moorhead  
Lorraine Haugstad, Moorhead  
Larry O. Holden, Moorhead  
Richard McMurray, Annandal, VA  
Jane Hendricks, Fargo  
Sharon Lyng, Eden Prairie  
John & Audrey Elton, Hawley  
Arlo & Jean Brown, Dilworth  
Marv & Shirley Dauner, Hawley  
Norwest Bank, Moorhead  
Kelly & Marj Aakre, Moorhead



# CLAY COUNTY MUSEUM

## \* Permanent Exhibit

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



Iron lung made by Moorhead VFW in 1952

## \* Temporary Gallery

New exhibit now open -

# "Yesterday's Medicine"

defines health care in the early days of the county and looks at some of the astronomical changes that have taken place in the last 100 plus years. Featured topics include Country Doctors, Nurses, Hospitals, Sanitation, Polio and the Iron Lung, Emergency Medicine, Quackery and Patent Medicines.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

## CCHS - 1992 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

Non Profit Organization  
BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 494  
MOORHEAD, MN

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



202 1ST AVENUE NORTH

BOX 501

MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA 56560

Address Correction Requested