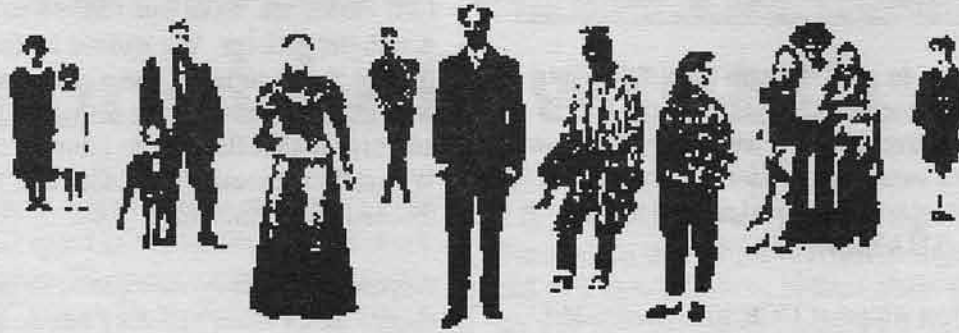


CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



CCHS Newsletter November/December 1993 Vol. XVI No. 6



F. Jay Haynes' Studio, northeast corner of 5th Street and Center Avenue, Moorhead, 1877. Haynes took some of the earliest Clay County photos in existence. The stage coach was probably used by the Minnesota State Company on its thrice weekly run between Moorhead and Winnipeg. The company usually used two teams to pull its coaches. See story pages 5-7.

Courtesy F. Jay Haynes Foundation Collection, Montana Historical Society.

President's Message

"If it is to be, it is up to me." I came upon this quote from an unknown author and thought it fit the CCHS Staff and Board of Directors very well. For if no one got involved, where would the Historical Society be? The hard work that everyone does deserves a word of praise and a hardy THANKS.

I would like to reflect on what CCHS is, or should I say, the mission of CCHS. Our mission is to collect, preserve, interpret and disseminate the history of Clay County. We need caring people to give of their time and talent to make sure that CCHS lives up to its goals and objectives. So please help as a volunteer. If someone asks you to serve on a committee or be a Board Member, don't think that someone else will do it: You be the VOLUNTEER. Another unknown author once said: "It is not the pace that you go, but the direction that matters." Sounds like good advice to me.

If you haven't had a chance to see "A Century of Cycling," now would be a good time. The exhibit closes on December 5. We think the bicycle exhibit is one of the best exhibits ever produced by CCHS. On display are bikes from the late 1800s right through the modern bikes of today. The exhibit has been a real hit and no one should miss it.

Sincerely, Kelly Aakre, CCHS Board President

Happy Birthday to Happy Birthday!

The most frequently sung song is a century old this year. "Happy Birthday to You" was published in the songbook *Song Stories of the Kindergarten* in 1893 as "Good Morning to You." Two sisters, Mildred Hill and Patty Smith Hill, respectively, wrote the music and lyrics. Mildred taught and Patty was principal at the Louisville [Kentucky] Experimental Kindergarten - one of the first kindergartens in the country to use modern methods of instruction. Their song was pirated in 1924 for inclusion in another songbook and the lyrics were altered: the second stanza was changed to the familiar "Happy Birthday to You" lyrics. By 1933 the new lyrics were accepted. People are still shocked to find that this popular song was originally "Good Morning to You" and is copyrighted.



[From *Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things* by Charles Panati]

Great ideas!!

Last month we asked our readers to submit ideas for newsletter articles. We wanted to find out what you, our readers, want to learn about. We heard from one lady who asked about clothing fashions in the 1920s and 30s, and toys (particularly dolls) during the depression years. We really appreciate this input and will try to respond to this request soon. Thank you!!

Anyone with a favorite topic or area of special interest should let us know. History has so many interesting stories - let us know which ones you want to hear.

Correction

Accordion player Ron Anderson was mistakenly identified as Ron Johnson in our September/October Newsletter. Mr. Anderson entertained at the Bergquist Cabin Open House in June.

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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Box 501

Moorhead, Minnesota 56560

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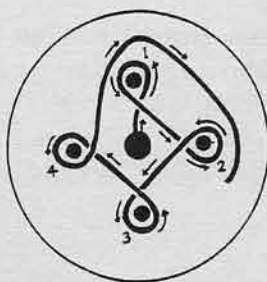
How to make a spool knitter and spool-knit wreath

By Pam Burkhardt

To make your own spool knitter, find a medium to large wooden sewing thread spool [a styrofoam one will work in a pinch] and file down the rough spots in the inside. You will need four 1" nails with small heads such as finishing nails or brads for the top. Hammer each nail about 1/8 of the way in. Space the nails evenly around the spool about half of the way between the center hole and the outside of the spool. [See diagram.]

To cast on

Pull the end of the yarn down through the center hole leaving about 4" of yarn at the bottom for a tail. Keep some tension on the tail while you are setting up. Wrap the yarn at the top of the spool once around the first nail making a little circle or letter "e" around the nail. Move the yarn right to the second nail and wrap the yarn around it once. Wrap nails three and four in the same manner. [Note: this is the only time the yarn is carried between the center hole and the nails. Refer to the diagram as necessary.]



Follow the arrows on this diagram to cast on and start knitting on your spool knitter.

To knit one cord

Now that you are set up, bring the yarn to the outside of the first nail that you wrapped. Using a crochet hook, lift the previous stitch out, move it up and over both the nail and the new piece of yarn. Pull down on the tail to tighten the work. Repeat with the second nail, pulling the tail down each time a stitch is made.

To knit off

To finish off a cord, cut the yarn about 6" from the top of the cord. Remove the cord from the spool, draw the loose end through all four stitches and pull to tighten.

To make equal lengths

To make a number of cords the same length, knit the cord a few rounds longer than you think necessary, remove the cord from the spool, ravel back to the length you need and knit off.

To braid four strands together

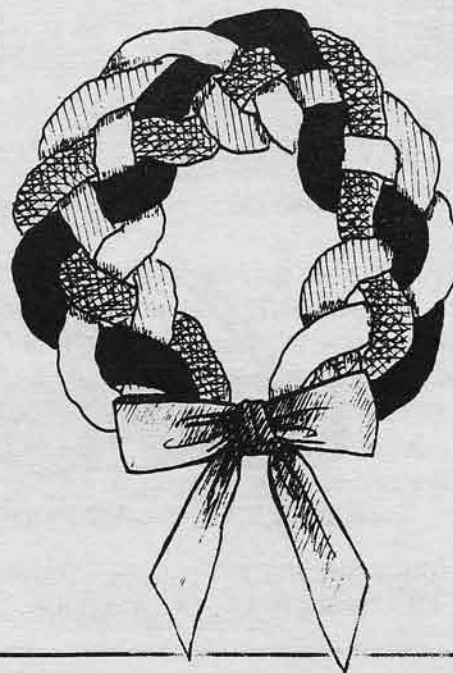
Tie one end of each of four cords together and pin that end to a firm pillow or padded chair arm. Line the cords up with the loose ends facing you. *Take the cord at the far right and weave it over and under all of the cords, working it all of the way to the left. Next, take the cord that is (now) at the far right and weave it under and over all of the cords, working it all of the way to the left. Tighten the work as necessary. Repeat from * until entire length is braided. Tie off.

To make a Christmas wreath

Time: 1 1/2 to 2 hours.

You need: a spool knitter, one skein each of three- or four-ply yarn in four Christmas colors [ex. medium green, dark green, red and white], red ribbon bow to size, No. 8 crochet hook, tapestry or yarn needle.

Instructions: make four equal lengths of cord about 6" or 7" long in each Christmas color. Braid the four cords the entire length and tie those ends together. Next, tie both ends together to form a circle. With the needle, work the loose ends into the cords and trim. Tie on a bow to hide the knots. You can use your wreath as a Christmas tree ornament, package decoration, pin it on your coat or even use it to frame a small photograph!



Make this Christmas wreath on an old-fashion spool knitter in only 1 1/2 to 2 hours!

Outreach Displays

| | Opens | Closes |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|
| Hitterdal Senior Center | Dec. 8 | Feb. 9 |
| Ulen-Hitterdal High School | Dec. 8 | Feb. 9 |
| Viking Manor, Ulen | Dec. 8 | Feb. 9 |
| Hawley Public Library | Dec. 8 | Feb. 9 |

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|
| Glyndon Community Center | Dec.13 | Feb. 11 |
| Moorhead Public Library | Dec.13 | Feb. 11 |

LET'S MAKE MUSIC will be on exhibit at the Ulen-Hitterdal High School. A variety of instruments such as a clarinet, accordion, auto harp and harmonica will be displayed.

Hawley Public Library's case is sure to send a shiver through you by featuring 'TIS THE SEASON. This exhibit highlights winter items familiar to us



Northerners: ice skates, a variety of winter clothing accessories and more.

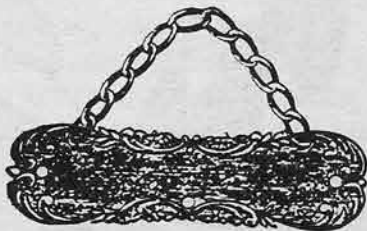
DARN IT! will be shown at Hitterdal Senior Center. On display will be a collection of socks, a stocking knitting machine and other sock accessories.

The Viking Manor in Ulen will host IT WAS A VERY

GOOD YEAR - calendars of different forms, shapes and sizes.

HATS OFF! - to Moorhead Library for displaying a selection of hats and caps from our collection.

Glyndon Community Center features THOSE FAR AWAY PLACES, displaying artifacts from all over the world.



No. 62527. Solid sterling silver coat hanger, heavy and strong. Each, 75c. Postage, 2 cents.

This fancy sterling silver coat hanger appeared in the 1897 Sears Roebuck catalogue.

Donations

A great big thank you to the following individuals and groups who made monetary contributions to CCHS in September and October.

Anonymous

Marguerite Henry and Mary Cameron, Washington

Joyce Matter, Lake Park

Clarice Babolian, Fargo

Ted and Arlene Rudser, Mora

Mrs. Hannah Schmidt, Detroit Lakes

Mrs. Harriet Miller, Fletcher, Illinois

Artifacts & Donors

September/October 1993

Donors include:

Moorhead: Opal Gudmundson, Ed Gudmundson, Tom Hall, Elsie Reyelts, First Congregational Church of Christ, Eva Felde, W.A. Simunds, Helen Hedelund, Alice Sprague
Baker: Francelia Iverson
Barnesville: Kathie Burud
Fargo, ND: Leland Delger
Belmont, CA: Stanley G. Langland

Artifacts include:

Photos of St. Ansgar Hospital and nurses; a photo postcard of NPRR Park in Moorhead; yearbooks from Barnesville Garden Club; book: a two volume history of the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Moorhead; booklets: Geographical Atlas of the US; Casselton-Fargo Folio, 1905 and Four Families - Naeseth, Duffin, Hanson, Wallace; two instrument bags which belonged to Dr. L.N. Casmey of Moorhead; a school ruler with a warning about tuberculosis; a homemaker's record book containing sewing samples from 1935; two pair homespun, hand-knit woolen stockings; a vaporizing lamp from Moorhead Drug; horsehide coat, glass-plate negative of a Barnesville Home Ec. class, Margaret Hallanger, teacher; a basketball jersey and warm-up suit from Moorhead Central Junior High and a ca. 1890 spool knitter. [See the article in this newsletter to make your own spool knitter and spool-knit wreath!]



This 1890 Spool knitter was given by Opal Gudmundson. It belonged to her mother, Mary Lebakken.

Haynes photos among earliest in Clay County

By Mark Peihl

Many of our members are familiar with CCHS's negative collection of pioneer Moorhead photographer O.E. Flaten. Flaten began working in Moorhead in 1879, barely seven years after the city was established. But the negatives of an even earlier Moorhead photographer survive out in Montana.

F. Jay Haynes worked in Moorhead from 1876 to 1879 and for another 10 years in a Fargo location. Haynes is best known for his later work in Yellowstone National Park and for the Northern Pacific Railroad. About 60

negatives he shot in Clay County showing farming, town views and transportation are held by the Montana Historical Society. CCHS is in the process of purchasing prints of each of these negatives.

Frank Jay Haynes was born in 1853 in Saline, Michigan, where he grew up working in his father's mercantile store. In 1873, the huge New York banking house of Jay Cooke overextended credit to the Northern Pacific Railroad, then building a route from Duluth through Clay County to the West Coast. The collapse of Cooke's bank caused a financial panic. The nationwide depression which followed ruined many small businesses, including Haynes' father's store. Suddenly, the 20 year old F. Jay needed a new job.

For several months he sold colorful lithographic prints, knick knacks and furniture polish out of a wagon. His traveling salesman's career was not terribly successful but gave the ambitious young man valuable sales and self promotion experience.



Farm hands on the Barnes Farm near Glyndon, 1879. Merchant and elevator owner George S. Barnes owned one of the few real Bonanza Farms in Clay County. During summer and fall Barnes hired many farm hands to harvest his huge wheat crop. Courtesy of F. Jay Haynes Foundation Collection, Montana Historical Society.

In August 1874, F. Jay found a job with a Wisconsin photographer. Absolutely fascinated with the new craft, Haynes spent seven months learning the cumbersome photo processes of the day. And cumbersome they were. Haynes took photos using the wet plate process. He sensitized his own glass plates in a darkroom, then rushed the still wet plates to his camera, made the exposure and hurried the plates back to the dark room for processing before the chemicals dried.

Early in 1875 Haynes began working for a large photo gallery, William T. Lockwood's "Temple of Photography," in Ripon, Wisconsin. It was here that Haynes honed his photographic skills and helped build and operate a darkroom equipped wagon. With the wagon, F. Jay traveled to small towns, set up shop and shot portraits and stereo views to sell. He also fell in love with his boss's sister-in-law, Lily Snyder.

Unfortunately, Lockwood and Lily's family did not
(Continued on Page 6)



Moorhead-Fargo Waterfront, 1882. The view is to the north from the Northern Pacific Railroad bridge. In the late 1870s and early 1880s, two steamboat lines, the Grandin Line and the Alsop Brothers, shared the Fargo side of the river. In 1882 the Alsops, with their boats "H.W. Alsop" (at left) and the side wheeler "Pluck," moved their operations to the Moorhead side. The Alsops' new building is seen under construction at the right as are two half-built barges. Today the Center Avenue Bridge passes through the area. The Hjemkomst Center would be in the trees at the center of the picture.

Courtesy of F. Jay Haynes Foundation Collection, Montana Historical Society.

Haynes (Continued from Page 5)

approve of F. Jay's interest in her. Hayne's working relationship with Lockwood deteriorated.

Meanwhile, F. Jay's sister Ella Henderson and her husband August, had moved to a woolly frontier town in Minnesota called Moorhead. They urged F. Jay to come to Moorhead and start a business. Haynes considered the move all summer, but he vacillated. In July he wrote Lily, "The more I think of starting in business, the more I am inclined not to go so far north."

Early in September, Lockwood let F. Jay go. On September 7, 1876, Haynes stepped off a train at Moorhead and set up shop behind August's hardware store. That month he shot many pictures of the four-year-old village, some of the earliest Clay County photos in existence. He also found a good portrait trade. The area needed a photographer. Haynes wrote that when he came to Moorhead there was "a one horse photographer in Fargo. My coming scart [sic] him so he left town."

That fall Haynes' fortunes and those of the NP Railroad again crossed and F. Jay's life changed forever. After the panic of 1873, about all the railroad had of value was its land grant, every other section of land for forty miles on either side of its right of way. But the land sold slowly. The railroad wanted demonstration farms to prove the value of their land. The NP sold huge chunks of land cheaply to eastern investors who planned to farm wheat on a large scale: the famous Red River Valley Bonanza Farms. Haynes had heard that the railroad might want photos for advertising purposes. In October he photographed impressive views of the sprawling Grandin Farm operations and sent some to the NP. Within weeks, Haynes had a railroad pass and a contract to photograph all important points on the NP Line from Duluth to Bismarck. The railroad bought prints, but Haynes retained the negatives.

In December Haynes confidently built a small gallery on the corner of what is now 5th Street and Center Avenue. When he arrived Haynes expected to stay only a few months, but that winter he wrote "I don't think I could have struck a better point." Even the weather didn't bother him: "The weather is delightful. No snow to speak of and in fact good days to bring babies to the 5th Ave. [sic] studio no matter what age, as everyone expects winter soon, and for fear the little ones won't survive, he must be viewed."

Between his railroad contracts and portrait work F. Jay cleared over \$1,000 in profits in 1877. The following winter he built a new gallery on 4th Street just south of the railroad tracks and married Lily.

Lily ran the gallery while F. Jay traveled all over the Northwest and into Yellowstone National Park. He still took a few local views, but his fortune was really with the NP and the West. In May 1879 he moved his gallery to 8th Street and Main in Fargo. After 1881 he rarely took local views. In 1889 the family moved to St. Paul where F. Jay Haynes died in 1921.

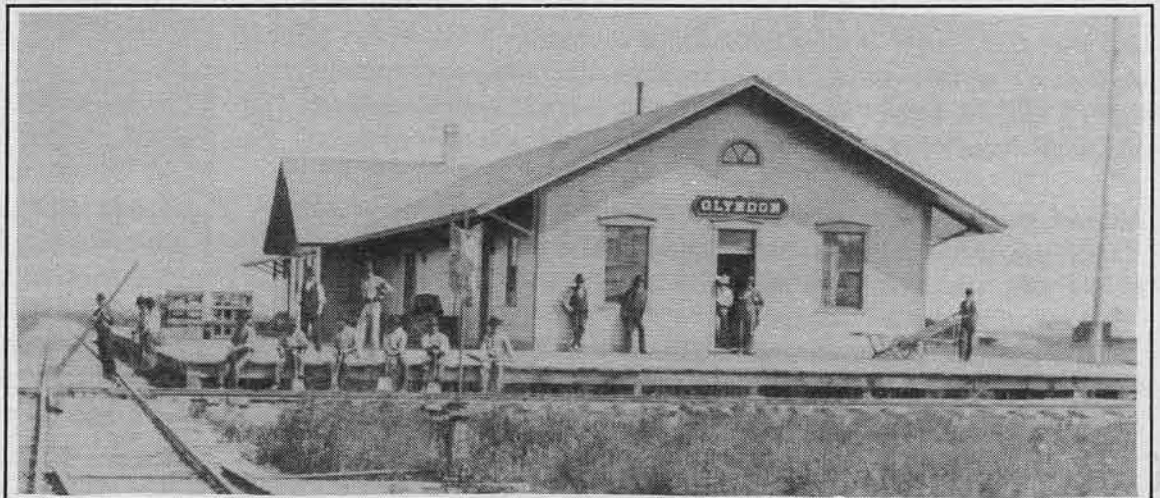
Haynes' family kept his negative collection intact and donated it to the Montana Historical Society. CCHS holds a microfiche index to the collection. The 60 some Clay County views include pictures of floods and steamboats on the Red River, Bonanza Farm operations in western Clay County, stage coaches and businesses, schools, churches and town views in Glyndon and Moorhead. They are a valuable addition to the visual record of Clay County's earliest days.

Below: Union Depot, Glyndon, 1878

The Northern Pacific Railroad and the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba (later the Great Northern) Railroad crossed at Glyndon. In a rare bit of cooperation the bitter rivals shared a depot. It burned in the 1930s. Courtesy F. Jay Haynes Foundation Collection, Montana Historical Society

Sources:

F. Jay Haynes:
Photographer; Montana Historical Society Press, Helena: 1981. *Following the Frontier with F. Jay Haynes*, Freeman Tilden; Box 201 Books, NY: 1964. *Northern Pacific Views: The Railroad Photography of F. Jay Haynes*, Edward Nolan; Montana Historical Society, Helena: 1983.



Where did it come from? The lowly coat

By Margaret Ristvedt

The lowly clothes hanger. It is hard to imagine a world without them. Some people think they propagate in the closet. But it wasn't always so. There was a day when there weren't any clothes hangers. So what did Scarlett do with her massive gowns, or pioneer women with their best Sunday dress? Try to imagine the deprivation!

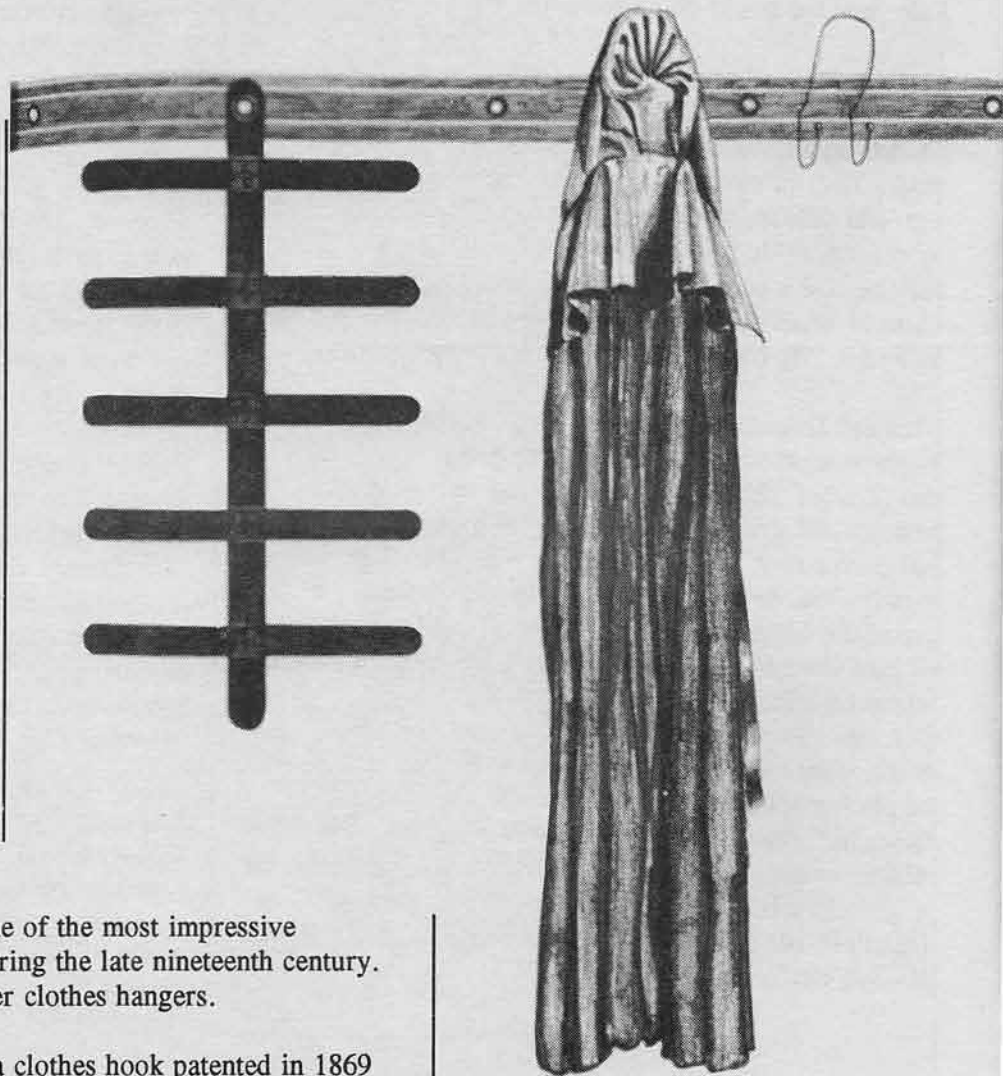
Last spring CCHS sponsored a tour to the James J. Hill house on Summit Avenue, St. Paul. While there, our knowledgeable tour guide showed us the Hills' bedrooms and noted that a large built-in dresser held the railroad magnate's shirts since the ordinary clothes hanger had not yet been invented. This fact intrigued me more than any other aspect of the opulent mansion.

The mansion, completed in 1891, was one of the most impressive residences constructed in the Midwest during the late nineteenth century. Yet there were few closets and even fewer clothes hangers.

The wire coat hanger is a descendant of a clothes hook patented in 1869 by O.A. North of New Britain, Connecticut. This hanger was similar to today's hangers, except that they had hooks at the bottom from which additional items of clothing could be hung.

But hangers didn't catch on right away. Almost 20 years later the item in a catalogue or a new patent design application would carry an explanation of its utility. (See graphics Page 10)

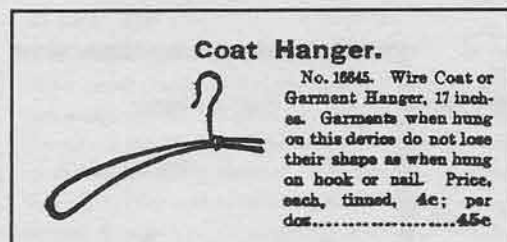
Then in 1903, or so the story goes, a gentleman by the name of Albert J. Parkhouse was working at the Timberlake Wire and Novelty Company in Jackson, Mich. His co-workers were forever complaining about the



*From "By Shaker Hands,"
June Sprigg*

scarcity of hooks for hanging their coats. So Mr. Parkhouse, according to his granddaughter, Barbara Mussell of Woodland Hills, Calif., "bent a piece of wire into two large oblong hoops, twisted both ends at the center where a hook had been formed, and raised the

hanger!!



1897 Sears Roebuck Catalogue

outside of the hoops to fit the shape of his coat." His company patented the idea but Parkhouse's granddaughter doubts he was ever rewarded.

Now that is a wonderful story! However, the 1897 Sears, Roebuck Catalogue featured a wire coat hanger which closely resembles the description of the hanger allegedly invented by Parkhouse. (See graphic above.) Since the catalogue was printed six years prior to Mr. Parkhouse's invention, it appears the wire coat hanger had been around for a while. Further investigation of patent records failed to turn up any evidence of Timberlake Wire and Novelty Company applying for a coat or clothes hanger patent.

Twenty years ago the Smithsonian Institution presented an exhibit called "Shaker" at the Renwick Gallery in Washington DC. The exhibit included a number of wooden hangers made of pine and various hardwoods. According to the Smithsonian "Shaker clothes hangers were made as early as the beginning of communal organization," which was about 1792.

The Shakers, an offshoot of the Quakers, arrived in the colonies in 1774 and flourished through the mid-1800s.

The Shakers were unusually prolific in inventing things. June Sprigg writes in her *By Shaker Hands* "It seems incredible that a small group of people who never numbered more than 6000 at a time could have produced so many inventions and so much plain and simple ingenuity." Inventions credited to the Shakers include many everyday items such as the humble clothespin. (Note: I said credited to "The Shakers" as opposed to a single, specific Shaker.)

Shaker inventions were a reflection of their lives - simple and utilitarian. The coat hanger seems a natural for them. Their philosophy was to always do the best job possible in the most efficient way. Their coat hangers came in a variety of shapes and sizes including one with multiple arms for more than one garment, and a wire hanger shaped specifically to accommodate a ladies' hooded cloak. (See graphic opposite page.)

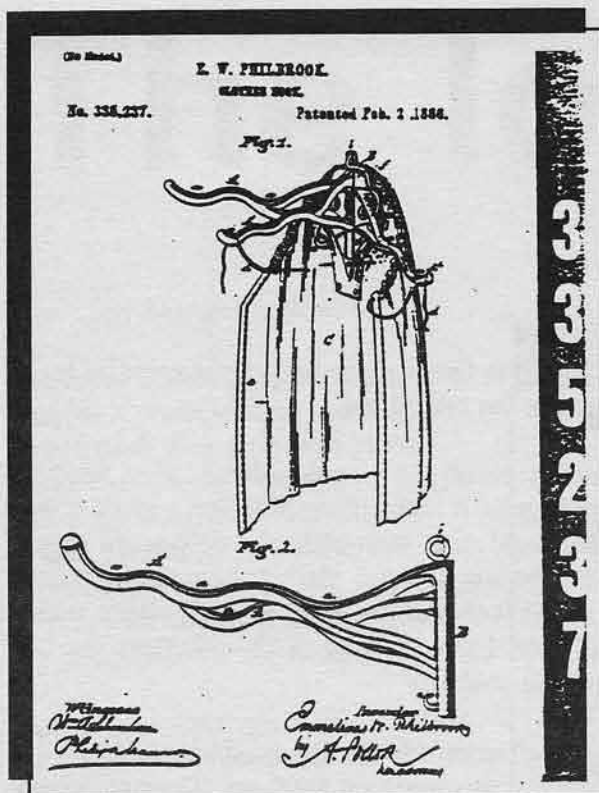
One reason the Shakers aren't credited with the invention of the hanger may be that they didn't want credit. Although they believed in sharing their lives and their ideas, they did not believe in taking personal credit. According to their religious rules "No one should write or print his name on any article of manufacture, that others may hereafter know the work of his hand." In over 200 years of sharing ideas and thousands of inventions, no more than a half dozen Shaker ideas were ever patented.

But they were shared. Shaker leaders traveled to each other's villages and kept detailed journals of all the good ideas they saw. These records would be passed around for the benefit of all.

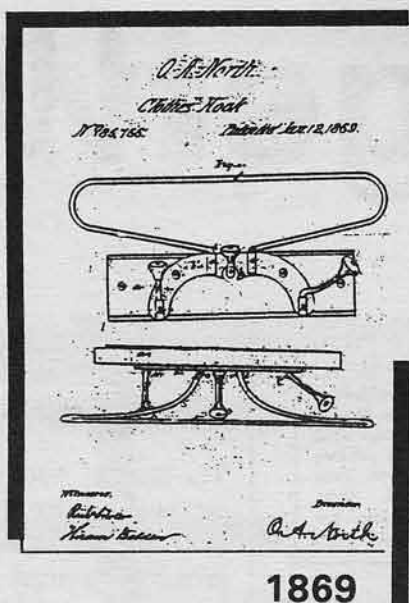
Harris Diamant collected 185 hangers made between 1890 and 1930. Diamant was a New York sculptor who saw the "technical" and "artistic legacy" of hangers after finding several interesting hangers at flea markets. A Manhattan art gallery featured an exhibit on his hangers and it proved very popular. Some show "purity of form worthy of the Shakers" and other have "wit and verve" enough to rival a master sculptor according to Diamant.

The evolution of the coat hanger

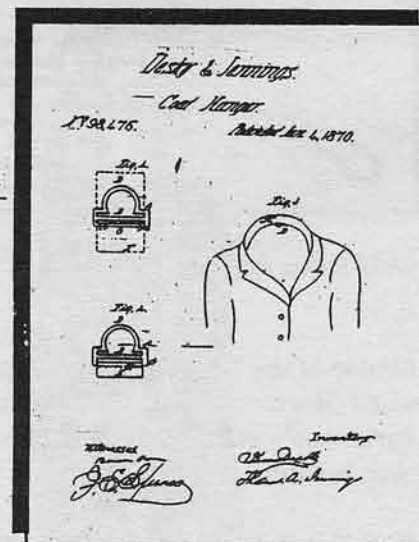
Photo copies
of original
patents



1886



1869



1870



"Early Motoring in ND"

"Early Motoring in North Dakota," now open in Heritage Hall at the Hjemkomst Center will run through January, 1994. The exhibit comes from the North Dakota State Historical Society in Bismarck. It is based on the Karl Benz Award winning article by Dr. Carl F.W. Larson called "A History of the Automobile in North Dakota to 1911." Dr. Larson of Dickinson is an authority on early automobiles.

The "Early Motoring" exhibit examines the beginnings of the automobile in North Dakota by looking at a variety of vehicles, their owners, the people who built them, and the road systems they drove across. Among the various automobile artifacts showing will be a 1904 Cadillac and 1904 Holland Special.

Also on exhibition is "For Sale by Owner" a pictorial interpretation of the area's independently owned service stations which are quickly disappearing. More than 226,000 full-service gas stations once dotted America's 4 million miles of roadways. Today, their skeletons litter the roadside. The exhibit was produced by Moorhead State University students under the guidance of Wayne Gudmundson, Mass Communications Professor. All programs are subject to change.

Opposite Page

1869 - O.A. North

Mr. North's 1869 patent refers to an "Improvements in Coat and Dress-Supporter." The "supporter" is the part of the invention that fits into the arm holes of the garment and could be bent to accommodate many shapes.

1870 - Isaac Desky & Thomas A. Jennings

It is believed that the first hangers were designed for dress and/or suit shops and dry cleaning establishments. This hanger, described as follows in the patent, would seem to bear this out.

"The usual provision for suspending garments, has been, generally, by means of a loop of tape, or like material, sewed on the garment, by which loop the garment is held to the pin or other fixture, from which it is suspended. The size-ticket used in the trade, (which is also made to denote cost and price generally,) has been heretofore sewed on the garment. These loops soon wear out and become useless; and it has been found troublesome to effect change of tickets when it is necessary or desirable to do so, when they have been sewed on the garments in the ordinary manner."

1886 - Emmeline W. Philbrook

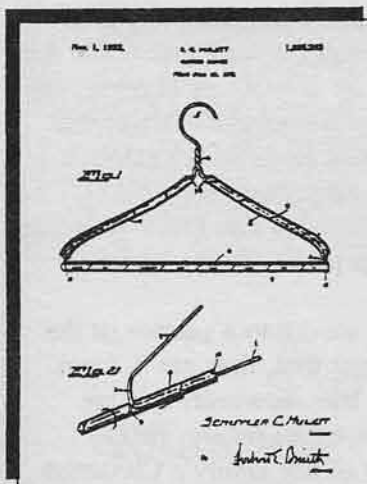
One of the interesting things about this clothes hook design is the fabric cover equipped with a draw string to keep the garments clean. It seems appropriate that this particular design was drawn by a woman, the traditional clothes launderers of the household.

Below

1932 - Schuyler C. Hulet

Mr. Hulet's invention was designed especially for commercial use, but the patent notes "...it is also useful as a household article." It seems

strange that a simple cardboard tube added to the wire hanger could be considered worthy of its own patent. But then again, how many of us like the extra crease in our slacks and pants created by the plain, unprotected wire hanger.



1932

Hangers (Continued from Page 9)

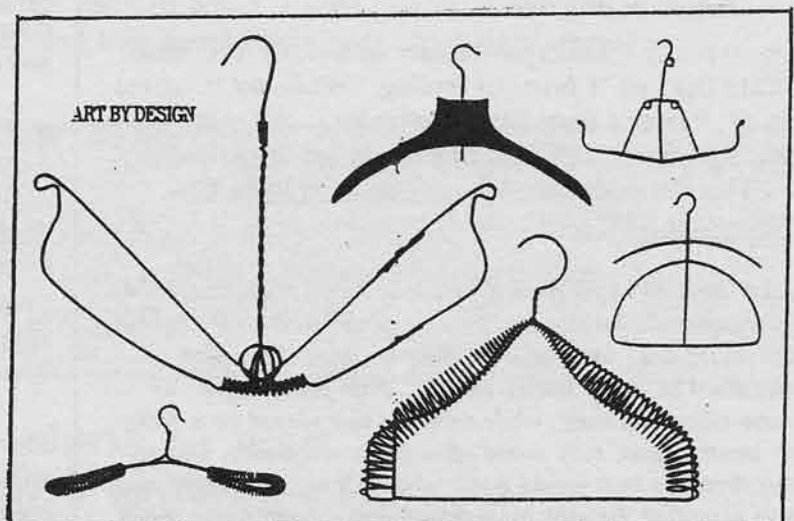
Some of Daimant's hangers are featured in the Winter, 1993 Edition of American Heritage of Invention and Technology in an article called "Art By Design." (See graphic below)

In searching patent records from the late 1800s and early 1900s it appears the coat hanger, (clothes hanger, clothes hook, garment hanger, etc.) was as popular an invention as the proverbial "new and improved" mouse trap.

By the 1930s, the common wire hanger was made in a triangular shape. In 1932 Schuyler C. Hulet of Spokane, Wash. added a cardboard tube to eliminate unwanted creases in pants.

So, the next time you reach for a hanger, think about it!!

Sources: Mothers of Invention by Ethlie Ann Vare and Greg Ptacek, Yankee Ingenuity by Harry Harris, By Shaker Hands by June Sprigg, American Heritage of Invention & Technology, Winter 1993, Shaker, Renwick Gallery, the Smithsonian Institution Press, 1973



From Art by Design, American Heritage of Invention & Technology, Winter, 1993.

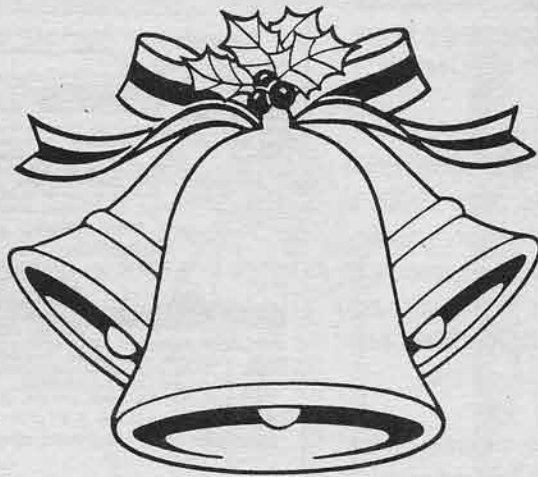
Trousers or Skirt Hanger.
No. 18K3586
The "Setwell"
Trousers or
Skirt Hanger.
This is the
most desirable hanger on the market. Will
hold skirts as well as trousers. To be set on the
inside of the door, occupying but little space.
Holds four garments. Made of 16-inch copper
Bessemer steel wire, heavily nickel plated,
highly finished. Screws attached to each
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**Trousers Stretchers and
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The "Setwell"
Trousers Stretcher
and Pants Hanger.
Makes wrinkled
clothes smooth.
Cures baggy knees and keeps your trousers in
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plated. The best hanger on the market... 33c
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Coat Hanger and
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coat hanger can be
folded in the center
into a complete hat and clothes brush. The
cleverest invention of the year. The ideal
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brush. Regular 50-cent article. Our price,
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No. Hip Skirt
Hanger, adjustable
to any size
skirt band, the
different sizes being stamped on the sliding
bar, made of the best quality steel, heavily
nickel plated. The most practical skirt
holder on the market. It drapes the skirt
over the steel hips in exactly the same po-
sition it is in when worn. It is the only
skirt hanger having this feature. Price...
If by mail, postage extra, 13 cents.

Christmas Traditions



By Joan Erickson

Christmas has long been a season heavily garnished with tradition. These traditions can vary greatly geographically, ethnically and religiously, as well as within a family. The celebration of the holiday season may differ immensely from one generation to another or from sibling to sibling.

Coming from central Minnesota, I was limited to, and familiar with traditions typical of the German Catholic community where I grew up. So after moving to the Red River Valley, I was somewhat surprised in the differences of how people in this area of the state celebrate the holiday season. Intrigued by this, I decided to do a little digging in our archives, to come up with some stories from the past.

One festivity I found particularly interesting was called "Yule Bok" or "Christmas fooling." While not practiced by all, it comes from Scandinavian roots and was practiced from Christmas Day on for ten or more days. As Tina Olson described it in Seasons to Remember: Barnesville 1882-1982:

Adult boys and girls from a couple of families would dress up in masquerade fashion and face mask and walk to a neighbor, tap on the door and call out "Here we are!" They were welcomed in, some started singing "Paul paa Haugen" or some other silly song, while someone else played on a guitar or mouth organ, men would often jig to music also. During this time, the host would guess who each one was. After one was identified, he took his mask off and stepped aside. When all had removed their masks, they had treats. Then remasked and got the young people here to dress and join the group to go to another home for more fun.

Another tradition tied to the holiday season was the Christmas program. Looking through the many centennial books from towns in Clay County, I found frequent mention of the school Christmas program and how fondly everyone looked forward to it each year. Some neighboring small towns seemed to compete, just to see who could put on the best show, but no matter which town, the entire community enjoyed taking part in these standing-room-only events.

Teachers would begin looking for material for the Christmas program as soon as school started in the fall. Every child would have at least one part in the program, which usually consisted of memorized poems, songs, and lengthy pieces. The Christian Nativity story was also generally a big part of the pageant. Children could look forward to getting outfitted with new shoes and clothing to wear both in the program, for Christmas, and then afterwards.

Getting ready for the Christmas program was a big event...Everyone was in one number at least. Sometimes one might have 3-4 parts to learn. The singing of songs might be assisted by a squeaky pump organ or out of tune piano, generally played by the teacher or the parent. Curtains were sheets furnished by parents, safety-pinned together and hung on a wire across the front. Hopefully it didn't fall during the intermissions.

Helen Nicklay Glawe, Seasons to Remember: Barnesville 1882-1982

Frequently held in the evening, the Christmas program climaxed with the passing of large bags of nuts, fruit and candy to everyone in attendance.

Regardless of background, many people of this area display a Christmas tree during the holidays. While it is common today to see them up as early as Thanksgiving, Christmas trees of the past were not cut or decorated until much closer to Christmas Day. Of the stories I found in our records, most made mention of fir or spruce trees being used, although I also found reference to oak, scrub and even large pine bows or branches.

Many times families would set out to a pasture or the woods in search of the perfect tree, then cut it down themselves. Decorating the tree, however, was not always an event done by the entire family. Beulah Brandvold has recollections of her family's Christmas

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CLAY COUNTY MUSEUM

"Then

and

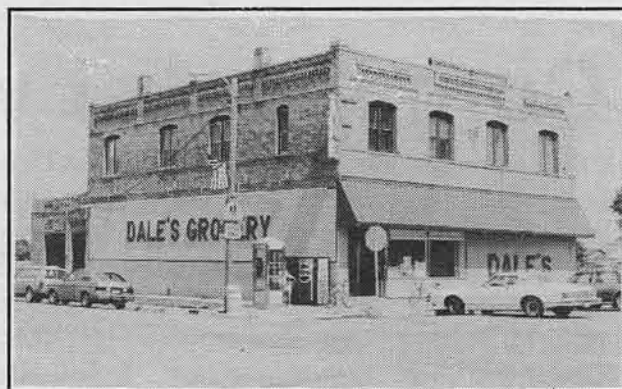
Now"

Opens Dec. 11

"Then and Now" is a photographic look at how Clay County has changed and how, in some ways, it has stayed the same. The exhibit will match photographs in the Clay County Archives with current photographs of the same scenes, duplicating the perspectives of the original photographs whenever possible.



Ulen Mercantile ca 1910



Dale's Grocery, Ulen 1987

"A Century of Cycling"

Continues through December 5

From the high wheels of the 1880s to the mountain bikes of today, Clay County residents have ridden wheels. This exhibit looks at changes in bicycles and how people have been changed by them.

Permanent Exhibit:

The permanent exhibit includes unique characterizations of one facet of the history of each county town. Together these characterizations form a chapter in the overall history of Clay County.

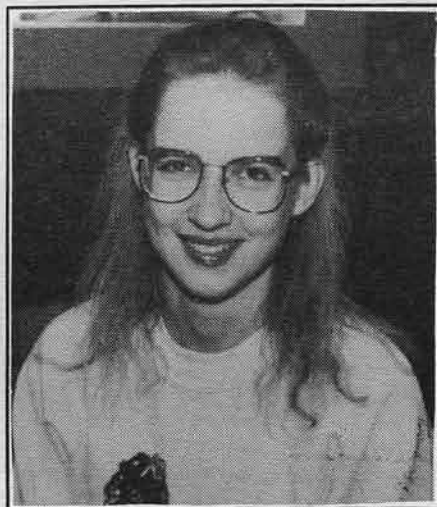
**Make plans to visit
the Clay County Museum today!!**

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

Lower level of Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Ave. N., Moorhead

Basic training begins in December

CCHS #1 Volunteer joins Army



Karen Gohner

We will soon be saying goodbye to a very special volunteer - Karen Gohner. Karen has been volunteering for CCHS every Tuesday afternoon since August 1992. Now she has decided to volunteer for another kind of duty - this time with Uncle Sam. Karen will report at Fort McClellan, Alabama, in December, to begin serving a five year stint with the United States Army. Following basic, she will do advanced training for the military police. We know she'll do a great job.

Karen began volunteering at the Heritage Center in October 1991. Later, when she decided that her 1990 history degree from NDSU could be put to better use in a museum/history setting, Karen switched to volunteering for CCHS.

She has been an excellent and dependable volunteer. Karen will tackle any project - from folding brochures to unpacking dusty trunks, all with a cheerful smile. One of her primary duties has been helping process artifacts. Karen's cheerful attitude and unselfish help will be truly missed and we wish her all the luck in the world.

Come travel with us!!

CCHS has sponsored three tours to the Twin Cities in the past year and a half. The focus of all the tours has been the new History Center at 345 Kellogg Boulevard West, St. Paul. It is a marvelous facility with ever changing exhibits, a cafe, two gift shops, and a state-of-the-art research library. Other sites have included the Science Center and Omni Theater, the James J. Hill House, the Landmark Center and the American Swedish Institute.

A large number of participants on those tours have asked about additional tours. Since we feel the exposure is both educational and recreational we would like to continue sponsoring these trips. Because the tours were never intended as fund raisers we have tried to match the price with expenses. Unfortunately, since we were unable to fill up the last tour, it had to be subsidized by CCHS. Our goal is for the tours to be self-supporting.

With that in mind we would like some input from our members, previous tour participants, and potential participants, on what kinds of tours you would be most interested in.

You can help us by responding to the following questionnaire:

| | Yes | No |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| I am interested in a one-day bus tour | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I think \$25 - \$50 is a reasonable fee | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| One tour per year is sufficient | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Two tours per year would be nice (Spring & Fall) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Check any of the following sites which would be of interest to you as a future tour site:

- ☐ Historic Sites in Clay County
- ☐ Historic Fort Snelling
- ☐ State Capital
- ☐ Governors Mansion
- ☐ Oliver H. Kelly Farm, Elk River
- ☐ Split Rock Lighthouse, Lake Superior
- ☐ Harkin Store, New Ulm
- ☐ Wanda Gag House, New Ulm
- ☐ Mayo House & LeSueur Museum
- ☐ Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum, Walnut Grove
- ☐ Wolf Center, Ely
- ☐ Science Museum of Minnesota
- ☐ Landmark Center
- ☐ American Swedish Institute
- ☐ Pipestone National Monument
- ☐ Duluth and environs
- ☐ Ironworld USA, Chisholm
- ☐ Croft Mine Historical Park, Crosby
- ☐ Alexander Ramsey House
- ☐ James J. Hill House
- ☐ Lac Qui Parle Mission, Montevideo
- ☐ Judy Garland Museum, Grand Rapids
- ☐ Mille Lacs Indian Museum, Onamia
- ☐ Sinclair Lewis Home, Sauk Center
- ☐ Walker Art Center
- ☐ Other _____

Please complete this survey and return it to Clay County Historical Society, 202 1st Ave. N., P.O. Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56560. Thanks!!

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tree in Spanning the Century: History of Ulen, Minnesota:

I am told that when we were tiny, Mama and Papa would always put our Christmas tree up on Christmas Eve after we were asleep. Lo and behold! In the morning there stood the old fashioned Christmas tree in all its glory, trimmed with ropes of tinsel and twinkling wax candles.

Homemade trimmings were very common years ago. Popcorn and cranberry strings and paper chains hung on many a tree, as well as decking halls and doorways. Tinsel, candy canes, bells, crepe paper and glass balls also added to the Christmas tree's ornamentation. Colored candles, placed in metal holders, were secured to the tree and lit for brief periods.

Although illuminating the Christmas tree and the spirits of the observers with their glow, candles on the tree could be quite dangerous. Pearle Eide Melbye recalls that aspect of Christmas in Hitterdal: 100 Years: "We children did not recognize the danger of the lighted candles on

the evergreen tree. I remember Dad, nervously keeping an eye on the tree until the candles were extinguished."

Other stories made mention of how the Christmas trees in churches and at school programs had to be carefully guarded while the candles were lit. Often times, someone stood watch near the tree, ready with a pail of water and a mop in case the tree should ignite from one of the flames.

Before gifts could be distributed, some families took part in other traditions first. The Christmas story may have been read from the Bible in English, Norwegian or other language. Singing Christmas carols seemed to be something enjoyed by all.

I found it extremely interesting reading about Christmas traditions of the past in Clay County. This year, being I'm usually with relatives during the holidays, I feel inspired to do a little more research into my own family's Christmas traditions. Maybe you can do the same!

Happy Holidays!



Merry Christmas

From the Clay County Historical Society

Board, Staff and Volunteers

CCHS Memberships - New and Renewals

* * * * September/October 1993 * * * *

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

Junald Rendahl, Moorhead
Ruth Swanson, Moorhead
John & Bev Hest, Hawley
Evelyn Keeping Hansen, Hawley
Mrs. Elva L. Jarvis, Hawley
Fred L. Larson, Glyndon
Deloris Zwack-Mellon, Mpls.
Bill & Audrey Jones, Moorhead

Francelia Iverson, Barnesville
Ann & Orvis Gytri, Felton
Lloyd Pladson, Fargo
Myrtle E. Nelson, Moorhead
David R. Reed, Moorhead
Erwin/Eleanor Aarestad, Harwood
Richard & June Chenoweth, Mhd.
Steve Olson, Nebraska
Harriet Ernst, Barnesville
Clara Bannerman, Moorhead
Ellen Butenhoff, Moorhead
Clayton/Doris Jorgenson, Hawley
Arlo Brown, Dilworth
Dr. John Holten, Moorhead

Robert Gates, New York
Marion E. Walsh, Moorhead
Davis Scott, Moorhead
Kermit Alvesshere, Moorhead

CCHS welcomes the following new members:

Clarence Bergquist, Oregon
Ruth Franzen, Fargo
Duane Schulenberg, California
Jackie Packer, Barnesville
George C. Shippey, California

CCHS - 1993 MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

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

CCHS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

Family memberships, please list family members.

Husband

Wife

Children (under the age of 18)

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

(218) 233-4604

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