

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



CCHS Newsletter November/December 1996 Vol. XIX. No. 6



WPA workers and others in Clay County Museum about 1938. As many as eight WPA workers at a time worked in the Clay County Museum. The average was six. The staff has never again been that large. See story on Pages 8-12.

Clay County Collections

CCHS Highlights

By Gary H. Olson, President

Beginning in 1992 CCHS has sponsored two tours a year to points of interest in our past. This Fall's tour to New Ulm, St. Peter and America's Smithsonian at the St. Paul Civic Center is the first my wife, Becky and I have been able to take in. The well-planned trip departed the Hjemkomst Center at 6:30 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 24 on a Red River Trails bus with 40 adventurers, tour guide Margaret and bus driver, Bob Smith. Dorothy Dodds, CCHS Board Treasurer was also on the trip. John and Bev Hest of Hawley were two of the tourists ready to see the sights! John and I are both retired Vocational Agriculture teachers and had some very enjoyable times in previous visits to the National Future Farmers of America conventions in Kansas City and the like. It was a good time for me to get to know my neighbors better, such as Marion Gee, who lives just down the road from us and formerly taught at the Oakmound School. The memories of 4H and Clay County Farm Bureau socials and dances at Oakmound came to mind.



After observing the corn harvest on our way south we arrived in New Ulm, the "polka capital" of Minnesota and the home of the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame in the Randall Olde Tyme Cafe. The Music Hall of Fame Board hopes to eventually have a building of their own. Bobby Vee, originally from Fargo (now of St. Cloud) and Fez Fritchie are two of the inductees. Fritchie's "Goosetown band" performed at the Wheaton Crazy Daze which I helped with during my early Jaycee years.

A visit to the Wanda Gag house in New Ulm gave us insight on a noted children's book author, artist and translator of German fairy tales. The layout reminded me of the Comstock house here in Moorhead. A visit to an elegant home built in 1887 by Minnesota Governor John Lind, treated us to some Queen Anne architecture.

Another must see is a stop at the Glockenspiel in downtown New Ulm. It is one of the world's largest-free standing carillon clock towers at 45 feet in height. The bells chime the time of day in Westminster style at 3 p.m. each day as a door opens and three-foot-high animated figures depict the history of New Ulm. The

ladies had time for some "power" shopping in the quaint shops of downtown New Ulm before we departed for St. Peter.

Our first stop the next morning was to the Treaty Site History Center where an exhibit depicts the signing of
(Continued on Page 12)

Resource Center Web Site

The Heritage Resource Collaborative, comprised of 11 organizations, including CCHS, now has a Web Site. On this site a researcher can learn which local historical/research organizations have resources, what kind of resources, how to obtain the information and links to other genealogical web sites.

The Heritage Resource Center Web Site address is:
<http://www.atpfargo.com/hjem>.

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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Profiles of CCHS Board Members --

DIANE MEYER

Meyer grew up in Middleport, Ohio and attended Ohio University. She has lived in Clay County since 1967. She served on the District 152 (Moorhead) School Board from 1976 to 1983, and in 1984 was elected to the Clay County Commission. On November 5, 1996 she was elected for yet another term.



Diane Meyer

Meyer's enjoys reading, listening to music (especially jazz) and Community Volunteer Activities. Reach to Recovery and Clay County Conservation Society are two special interest groups for Meyer who brings another dimension to the CCHS Board since she previously worked for the Ohio Historical Society. Serving on the CCHS Board is "like a return to something pleasantly familiar," says Meyer.

According to Meyer, membership in CCHS enables us to learn more about local and regional history, which in turn makes for a better understanding of the communities we live in.

Meyer writes "Although I always appreciated the importance of CCHS, my involvement began after I became a member of the Clay County Board of Commissioners, one of the society's major sources of funding."

Meyer would like to see CCHS increase its membership and establish a core volunteer group. "This would help us prepare for the 21st Century and certainly assist our dedicated staff," says Meyer.

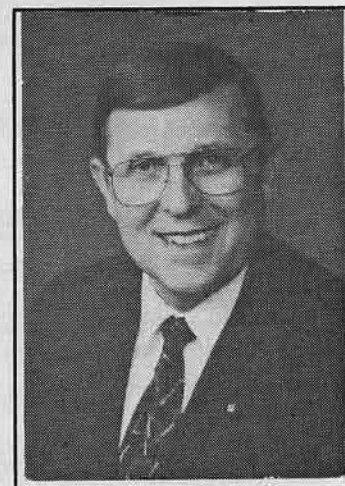
Meyer and her husband, Lysle, have two sons, Erik and Timothy and one "special daughter-in-law," Kari.

Stories of Barns and Haylofts Wanted

Historian Steve Hoffbeck is searching for people who want to share their memories of barns and haylofts for use in a history of Minnesota haymaking. Those interested in contributing to this history project may send their written recollections to: Steve Hoffbeck, History Dept., Minot State University, 500 University Avenue West, Minot, ND 58707.

ARNOLD ELLINGSON

Arnold Ellingson is a true native of Clay County where he grew up on a farm in Oakport Township. He served as an artillery officer in the U.S. Army and currently works for Equitable Life Ins., Gift and Estate planning. Special interests include fishing, golfing, gardening and photography. He is active in a number of social and fraternal organizations including past Grand Master of Masons in N.D., President of the Reserve Officer Association, President of YMCA Men's Club and a life-long member of 1st Lutheran Church, Fargo.



Arnie Ellingson

Ellingson's interest in history goes back a long way to when he participated in a "pioneer study" program in grade school and high school. He believes membership in CCHS provides an opportunity "to associate with a great group of people who are like minded." A future goal for CCHS includes continuing to provide adequate facilities "for the preservation of artifacts that reflect the life and times of the people who lived in Clay County."

Ellingson lays claim to the distinction of being a member of the last graduating class of Clay County rural schools in 1950 and a member of the first FFA Chapter at Moorhead High School in 1952. His family history in Clay County goes back to the 1890s when his great grandparents, the Bredvig family, farmed in the area.

Ellingson and his wife, Mary, live in Fargo. He has two sons, Glen and Keith.



Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to serve as greeters and receptionists for the Clay County Museum.

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

Outreach Displays

	Opens	Closes
Hitterdal Senior Center	Dec. 16	Feb. 25
Ulen-Hitterdal High School	Dec. 16	Feb. 25
Viking Manor, Ulen	Dec. 16	Feb. 25
Hawley Public Library	Dec. 16	Feb. 25
Glyndon Community Center	Dec. 18	Feb. 26
Moorhead Public Library	Dec. 18	Feb. 26
Barnesville Public Library	Dec. 18	Feb. 26

The Hitterdal Senior Center will display LET'S MAKE MUSIC with musical instruments from the past.

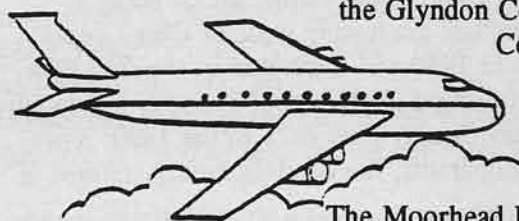
AN ENDING AND A BEGINNING will open at the Ulen-Hitterdal High School library. Who was scheduled to play at the Moorhead Armory Feb. 3, 1959? Why did Robert Veline play there? Go back in time to "the day the music died."

YESTERDAY'S MEDICINE will open at Viking Manor in Ulen with a look at over 125 years of medical history in the county.

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The Hawley Public Library will feature an S.P. Wange photo display entitled HAWLEY 1917. [Happy quasiquicentennial, Hawley!]

Character dolls from the RED RIVER LAND DOLLS collection come back home to celebrate history at the Glyndon Community



Center. [Happy quasiquicentennial, Glyndon!]

The Moorhead Public Library will be SPINNING A YARN. We take you from sheep to shawl while looking at the additions textile arts made to our language.

Barnesville Public Library will be UP IN THE AIR with model airplane instructions, a Sabin centennial frisbee, a 1942 Know Your Planes identification wheel, Clay County's own Florence "Tree Tops" Klingensmith and Minnesota's Lucky Lindy!

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

Artifacts & Donors

September/October 1996

Donors include:

Moorhead: Lillian H. Moan, Paul Euren, Paul Hannaher, Maurice Floberg, Betty DeKrey, Johanna Schultz, Anonymous
 Fargo, ND: Ed Stern, Ruth Hove Solien

Artifacts include: Newsletters from the Fargo-Moorhead Kennel Club from 1964 - 1981 and the North Dakota Retriever Club from 1968-1976; photo postcards of Moorhead; photos of the Red River flood ca 1952 and newspaper clippings on the flood of 1989; a copy of Tom Hannaher's taped interviews on the aftermath of the 1957 tornado; book, *Straus* - a history of that clothing firm and the Stern family; 1929 photo of Fairmont Creamery employees, program from the 1933 Fargo Fair; a pair of men's leg garters; (2) "I Like Ike" pinback campaign buttons and WMSTR pinbacks for 1954, 1964 and 1966; World War I poster and window service card from Keene Twp. "A man from this house is now serving his country at the front in the United States Navy;" a Fairmont Creamery blotter, F.W. Weber, Dilworth (advertising) thermometer and a Moorhead King Koin Laundry key chain; laundry bag used in 1932 by Concordia student John C. Moan of Lake Park [he mailed his laundry home]; box of Perfex all-purpose cleaner and Lake Agassiz Regional Library card (both items pre-barcode)

Temporarily away ??

Many of our valued members will soon be heading south for the winter. Good for you!!

Since our newsletter is sent non-profit bulk rate it cannot be forwarded. Therefore, unless a winter address or instructions to temporarily suspend sending the newsletter is provided directly to CCHS, your newsletter is automatically discarded by the Post Office and CCHS is billed 50 cents for each undelivered newsletter. This can add up pretty fast when there are a number of undeliverable newsletters.

Please let us know if you are going to be away for any length of time. This will save us money and assure that you get all your newsletters. We appreciate your help and thank you in advance for taking care of this matter.

Spinning A Yarn

by Pam Burkhardt

Next time you take a *shuttle-bus*, visit your *spinster* aunt, discuss the *black sheep of the family* or watch a *dyed-in-the wool* Democrat or Republican candidate being *heckled*, you can thank the textile arts for those additions to the language. Spinning and weaving were a necessary part of daily life. Since much of the activity was done in the home, people were familiar with the tools, fibers and processes. A number of textile terms became metaphors and figures of speech in other areas of life.

Collecting wool left on bushes and fences takes you in a seemingly aimless fashion around the pasture. When you let your mind wander, you are *wool-gathering*.

Flocks of people have been *fleeced* as well as sheep, except sheep yield wool rather than money or property. After shearing, the fleece can be washed and dyed. When wool is "stock-dyed" or *dyed-in-the-wool before* spinning and weaving, the fibers take the color evenly and deeply. Skeins of yarn and woven goods have twists and crossings that resist the dye.

Fleece from black sheep was undesirable in wool intended for dyeing because dark hairs contaminated the white fleece which could not take an even, pure color. However, the *black sheep of the family* might turn out to be *true blue*. Indigo blue dye was reliable, strong and color fast. The color goes deeper into each fiber than other natural dyes.

Having the wool pulled over your eyes was a literal hazard in the 17th and 18th centuries. Wigs, often wool, were a part of daily wear. A thief or "cut purse" would knock a victim's wig forward, and make off with his money. [The "cut purse" would cut the "purse strings" of the money pouch the victim had on his belt.] Reputable merchants who sold *unadulterated* products and didn't short on measurement would guarantee goods to be *all wool and a yard wide*. English merchants would *get down to brass tacks* by measuring the cloth on a counter with tacks placed exactly one yard apart.

After weaving, woollen fabric was placed on a frame called a "tenter" to dry. Small, sharp hooks kept the material stretched to dry evenly. These hooks are called (you guessed it!) *tenterhooks*.

This is a good way to describe someone stretched to the limits by a prickly situation.

Speaking of prickly . . . needling someone might include *teasing* them. The "teasel" is a plant with hooks on the flower heads. Teasels were used by workmen called "fullers" to raise (thicken) the nap on cloth as part of the finishing process. *Pin money* was a valuable commodity back when pins were scarce. The term expanded to include monies for personal use.



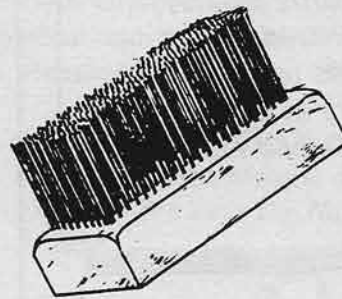
The head of the teasel has tiny hooks which can be used to thicken the nap on fabric.

Encyclopedia of Hand Spinning, Mabel Ross 1988



The hatchel (also called *heckle*, hetchel, hackle etc.) is used to prepare flax for spinning. The hatchel's main feature is a block of long, sharp teeth. [They stand upright like a dog's hackles.] A *heckler* intends to have his victim feel the

bite of many pointed remarks. A bundle of flax is drawn down, into and across the hatchel's teeth to remove the short "tow" fibers. The *tow-headed* boy and *flaxen-haired* girl both have hair the color of unbleached flax. The long, smooth "line" fibers are woven into *linen* which might be used as a *lining*.



The flax hackle has a block of long, sharp teeth. *Encyclopedia of Hand Spinning*, Mabel Ross 1988

A man who spins is a spinner. A woman who spins is a *spinster*. Since unmarried women did most of the spinning, spinster became the designation for single, often elderly, women. The distaff or flax staff held a supply of flax or wool for spinning. Since spinning was considered "women's work," the maternal side became the *distaff side of the family*.

A spindle is a *spindly* stick, i.e. long and slender, used both to hold yarn as it is spun and on which it is wound after spinning. Also, it can be a separate

(Continued on Page 6)

Spinning (Continued from Page 5)

spinning device like a "drop spindle" or part of the flyer on a spinning wheel. Sleeping Beauty pricked her finger on a spindle.* The end of the metal spindle on the high wheel, aka walking wheel, can be very sharp.

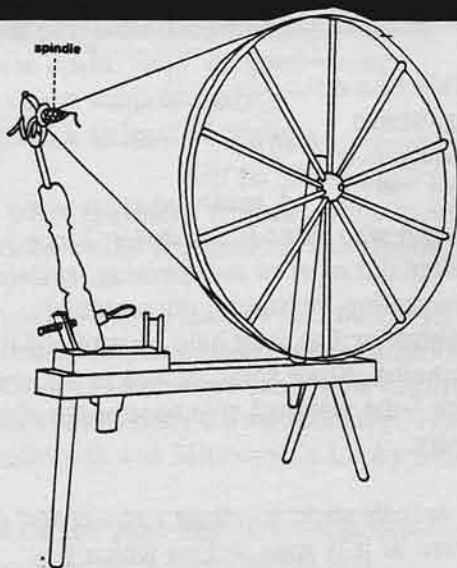
The majority of household looms couldn't produce the complex textile patterns produced by craftsmen who made goods to sell. The *homespun* items just couldn't compete. After the industrial revolution, manufactured fabrics were so commonplace that they became *run-of-the-mill*. *Shoddy* was woolen material woven from recycled fibers. Today, the term refers to poor workmanship as well cheap material. We make use of the back and forth motion of the weaver's *shuttle* to refer to space vehicles, busses and diplomacy.

Once upon a time, long ago, you might have been heir (after taxes, of course) to the various "looms" of the family. *Heirlooms* included other household items as well as textile working tools, but excluded real estate.

*Rumpelstiltskin could spin straw into gold. I wonder what his technique was?

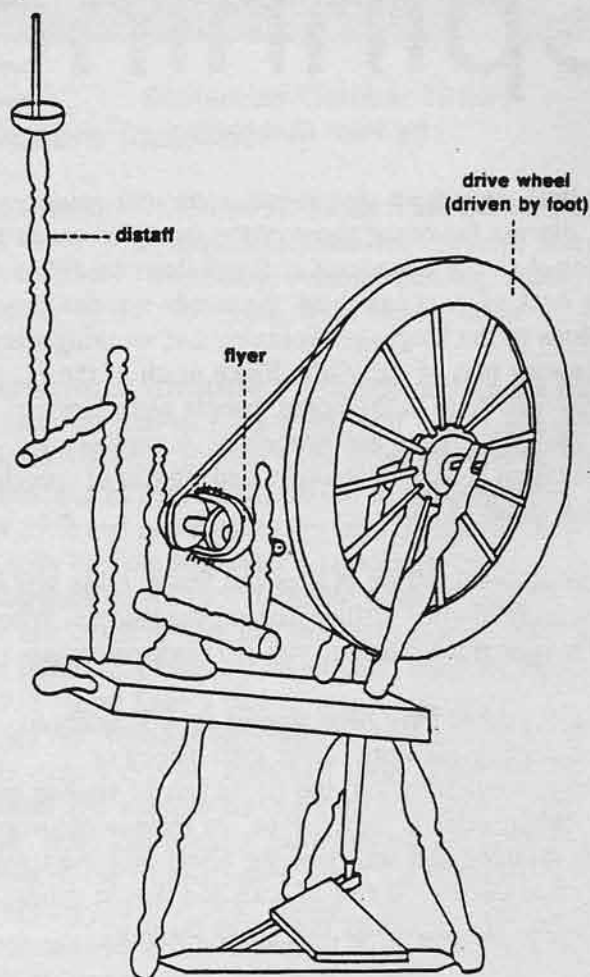
Sources include: *Weaving's Words of Wisdom*, Carol Strickler and *Who Put the Butter in Butterfly?* by David Feldman.

Visit the "Spinning a Yarn" display currently in the Ulen-Hitterdal High School Library. It travels to the Moorhead Public Library in December and to the Barnesville Public Library in February.



The high wheel may have a sharp point on the spindle.

The Craft of Spinning, Carol Kroll 1981)



The distaff holds flax for spinning.
The Craft of Spinning, Carol Kroll, 1981

Monetary Donations

September/October 1996

Richard S. Richardson, Burton, MI
Virgil D. Ishaug, Fridley, MN
Viola S. Mallory, Pasadena, CA
Norman Bakkegard, Fullerton, ND
Chapter O.P.E.O., Moorhead
Joy Club, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Mhd
American Bank, Moorhead
Moorhead Fire Dept. REC Association
Mary Duff Woehrlin, Northfield, MN
Anonymous
Doing Dozen Homemakers, Hawley

Questions Answered/Wants Fulfilled

By Pam Burkhardt

In the last issue of this newsletter, we printed a no-holds-barred want list requesting both artifacts and information for the collections. So far, we have received one artifact and several answers.

Confirmed

Information was provided by Ellen Nord, one of the confirmands in the Hauge confirmation photo. Combined classes were usually held for the three churches: Rollag, Parke and Gran. In 1941 when this photo was taken, there were no confirmands at all from Gran Church, plus, all of the boys were from Rollag and all of the girls were from Parke! One name correction: Irene Braseth was misidentified as Irene Braseth Ness. We received many other calls on this photo, some from confirmands in the photo and others from people who know most of those in the photo. Thanks to all of you!

Wet Your Whistle

Joan Mulkern, a volunteer for HHIC, remembers that the Whistle bottle held orange soda!

Downer and Out-house

We received one photograph of an outhouse from Helen Austin. She writes:

Thank goodness they are a thing of the past, but ours is still standing on our farm. This "two" holer was built before 1940 by Tony Kost, who besides having a gravel business in Downer, Minn. also operated a lumber yard and hardware store in Downer. My father-in-law had him build the building. Two young nieces from Virginia, Minn., were visiting and insisted on riding the two miles to the farm home in it. They thoroughly enjoyed it.

Helen also wrote that the outhouse was used until "electricity, a new house and bathroom came along." Later, it was moved and used for storage.

What Is It?

The unknown device pictured on page 6 of the Sept/Oct Newsletter might be a piece of dental equipment. At least, one of our members was so informed by a fellow from Hawley who thinks he saw it years ago in a dentist's office. Any other ideas?

Pinned

A big thank you goes to Maurice Floberg who brought a pinback button from the 1954 Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion plus two later ones. The first reunion was held in 1953.

This might be a good time to list which buttons and books we are still missing. Buttons: 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1982, 1986, 1987, 1989 and 1991 to the present. We need just two booklets: 1957 & 1990.

What More Could We Possibly Want?

Do you have a Dewey's Rain Gauge in good condition? How about a photograph showing the weather flags flying over Moorhead City Hall or the Post Office. We need an item with obvious storm damage, such as a straw blown through a piece of wood.

Take a look in the closet for old school annuals and newspapers. Because we need so many issues, we will tell you what we have rather than what we need.

Have

We have Barnesville's *The Trojan* for 1955, 1956 and 1982. Glyndon High's 1923 *The Spud* and the 1938 silver anniversary issue are the only Glyndon High annuals we have before 1982!

We have Hawley High's annual *The Golden Nugget* for 1940 and the *Maroon & Gold* in newspaper format for 1945. We have *The Nugget* for 1951, 1956, 1957 & 1958.

Hitterdal High is represented by the *Hit-Hi Star* for May 1931. We have the Ulen High *Seniorite* for 1917 and 1926-27 and *The Panther* for 1935 and 1940.

Hey, Concordia! You are falling behind Moorhead State Teachers' College [now Moorhead State University]. We only have four issues of Concordia College's *The Scout* 1921-23, 1925-26, 1932 & 1935.

What annuals and newsletters do we need for the other Moorhead schools? Let's give the Concordia grads a chance to catch up, first. Come on, Cobbers!

We will print requests in this newsletter more often to find answers and fill in gaps in the collections.

Thanks a bunch!!

60 years and counting ---

CCHS - A history

By Mark Peihl

This year CCHS celebrates the 60th anniversary of the beginning of our collecting the County's history and the 10th anniversary of our move to the Hjemkomst Center. We thought this would be a good time to reflect on the history of our organization and to take a look at how we got to be where we are.

One theme stands out in the history of CCHS. We are a very well-traveled institution. We have never owned an adequate museum facility ourselves so we have moved around a lot. Since 1936, two buildings on the Moorhead State University campus, the Clay County Courthouse, Moorhead's old Great Northern Railroad Depot and the Heritage-Hjemkomst Interpretive Center have each housed our museum.

It's no coincidence that CCHS got its start in the 1930s. Ironically, many Minnesota county historical societies began during the depths of the Great Depression. Part of the reason is demographics. White settlement began in Clay County in the early 1870s as railroads reached the area. In 1870, about 90 people lived in what is now Clay County. Five years later, the population was 1,500. By 1885 it was 15,000. And most of these newcomers were very young people. For instance, in 1875, 84% of Moorhead residents were 34 or younger. Nearly half were in their twenties. Less than 2% were over age 60. Old people don't leave their homes behind to start new lives out on the edge of a frontier.

By the 1920s and '30s, many of these first settlers were growing old. County residents began to realize that they had a history - and they were in danger of losing it. Early efforts to preserve our heritage included the formation of Old Settler's Societies. In the early 1900s they held extremely popular annual picnics where older residents got together to reminisce.

In 1918 Clay County Superintendent of Schools, John Turner, and publisher C. K. Semling produced a two-volume *History of Clay and Norman Counties*. It was one of many "vanity books" published in the mid-west during the period by B. F. Bowen and Company of Indianapolis. The publisher would solicit family

histories from residents - if they wanted their story included they only had to buy a copy of the book. (The volumes are still standard sources for local genealogists). A local author would provide histories of local Post Offices, businesses and other institutions.

In May 1931, Moorhead celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of becoming a city, further focusing attention on local history. Then in July 1932, the Minnesota Historical Society held its annual meeting in Moorhead. That fall, with encouragement from the state, residents from all over Clay County organized a "county affiliate" of the state historical society with a mission to "collect, preserve and disseminate the history of Clay County..." Our mission statement remains essentially the same today.

The new organization was long on enthusiasm but short on resources. One of their first projects was to interview early settlers about their family histories and experiences. A few interviews were collected but with no place to preserve this information nor a way to disseminate it, their efforts were frustrated.

In the 1930s, many people had been thrown out of work by the depression. The Federal government responded with a series of relief programs designed to put people to work and to build up the country's infrastructure. The best known was the Works Progress Administration or WPA. Today we still walk on sidewalks, drive on roads and bridges and meet in public buildings built by the WPA. But not all the projects involved construction. The program provided jobs for writers, artists and historians - and supported local history projects.

The WPA was a local-federal partnership. The feds would provide funding for workers' salaries if a local group provided a project and support facilities and materials. In 1936 CCHS asked Moorhead State Teachers' College President R. B. MacClean to provide a room for a museum in the recently completed MacClean Hall on the MSTC campus. MacClean agreed. With a facility and a project in hand, CCHS was able to get the WPA dollars to hire a staff.

of our History

Through the 1930s as many as eight workers at a time labored in the museum. (The staff has never been that large since!) Those hired included Ida Larson, Alice Arre and Agnes Stensrud. (These women would also play an important role during a later incarnation of the museum.) They conducted interviews, collected artifacts and photographs, transcribed and indexed newspaper articles of historical interest and displayed

the county's history in MacClean Hall. The museum opened officially in July 1936 with over 100 artifacts on display. Early photographs of the museum show impressively displayed and well interpreted exhibits. Other projects included staffer Hubert Stevens' weekly newspaper columns on local history and the museum's activities. Over 4,000 people visited the museum by 1939. (Continued on Page 10)



CCHS Curator Ida Mae Larson, about 1960. A former WPA worker when the museum was at MSTC, Mrs. Larson cared for the collections for many years in the court house as well.

Fargo Forum Photo

History (Continued from Page 9)

The WPA workers were aggressive collectors. By the end of the decade, the collections numbered nearly 3,000 artifacts. They filled two rooms in MacClean and some were stored in the basement. More space was clearly needed. In 1940 the WPA approved another project to dig a new basement under the Campus School building (now Lommen Hall) to provide a new museum. CCHS moved into its second home in 1942.

But at the same time, the WPA was winding down. Federal funding for staff disappeared about the time the museum opened. Ella Hawkinson was the principal of the Campus School and president of the Historical Society. She had been instrumental in securing space in MacClean Hall and WPA support. She kept the museum open for several years.

In 1946 huge numbers of World War 2 veterans enrolled at MSTC under the GI Bill. The college desperately needed men's dormitory space so the collections went into storage and beds filled the basement area. CCHS went into dormancy.

In the early 1950s Minnesota passed a law allowing counties to provide space in public buildings for county museums. In 1953 Clay County began construction of a new courthouse to replace its cramped, 1883 vintage facility. Local history enthusiasts and former CCHS members reorganized the historical society and approached the County Commission about possible space in the new courthouse. Space was granted and CCHS prepared to move into its third home.

In August 1954, former WPA worker Ida Larson contacted fellow workers and old CCHS members looking for volunteers to move the collections. Many responded including Alice Arre and Agnes Stensrud. By October the museum opened in two rooms and a work area in the courthouse basement. CCHS hired Ida Larson as curator and Agnes Stensrud as assistant. Moorhead attorney and insurance adjuster Glenn E. Johnson was elected president and served for more than 20 years.

Through the 1950s and '60s thousands of Clay County students and other visitors toured the museum. The society also expanded its education role outside the courthouse. Annual tours and picnics focused attention on area historic sites. In 1961 CCHS received the recently closed District #3 school near Rollag. Since then many students have had the chance to relive the one-room-school experience there. CCHS was heavily involved in the 1958 Minnesota Statehood Centennial celebrations. It was one of the most active and visible periods of the Society's existence.

The Clay County Commission recognized the importance of the museum's educational role. They began providing funds for the Society's museum and other programs.

(Today that support is still vital to the organization's success.)

The county grew rapidly through the period and county government



George Washington sat here? MSTC coeds Arlene LeGrand and Ruth Horien sit on one of the museum's most popular artifacts, a sofa from a tavern in New Jersey frequented by Washington.

did as well. By 1971, Clay County needed the museum space badly. So, in October, CCHS moved to its fourth and most challenging home, the former Great Northern Railroad depot just off 8th Street in Moorhead.

The depot was far from ideal. Small and cramped, alternately dry and humid, the depot challenged visitors, staff and collections alike. But the difficult environmental conditions forced the society to recognize the need for modern conservation procedures and collections management. After Glenn Johnson's death in 1976, CCHS again reorganized and hired trained, professional staff.

Curator/Administrator Carol St. Claire brought much needed grant money and a new enthusiasm to the organization. Photographer Laurie Hanson began preservation work on one of CCHS' real treasures - the Flaten/Wange glass negative collection. She worked with Grosz Studios of Moorhead to develop popular and educational photo exhibits.

With inadequate exhibit space in the depot, CCHS brought its displays out into the public with shows at banks, nursing homes and churches. But we still needed better storage space.

In the early 1980s the Society looked for a new home. Meanwhile, Moorhead educator Bob Asp built the



A former WPA worker, Curator Agnes Stensrud shows Concordia College student David Lystrom some of the CCHS artifacts. *Red River Scene Photo*

replica Viking ship *Hjemkomst* and his children sailed it to Norway.

Another local history group, the Red River Valley Heritage Society, was also looking for a home. RRVHS invited CCHS to join forces to construct a new building to house the *Hjemkomst*, the Clay County Museum and RRVHS' exhibits about the Red River Valley.

After a huge fund raising campaign, the Heritage-Hjemkomst Interpretive Center opened in 1986. Finally, after 50 years, the Historical Society had a wonderful home with ample climate controlled storage and exhibit areas.

Today we still "collect, preserve and disseminate the history of Clay County." Our artifacts number over 20,000 and we hold over 300 linear feet of photographs and manuscripts. And we use those



CCHS President Glenn Johnson shows two young students our high-wheeled bicycle. Ca 1950s

Red River Scene photo

(Continued on Page 12)

History (Continued from Page 11)

materials extensively. In the last ten years we've mounted over 60 exhibits in the museum and placed over 260 displays in cases around the county - we even hang exhibits in the HHIC bathrooms! We've done thousands of hours of educational slide shows, demonstrations and other programs. We've hosted numerous history-oriented tours, helped thousands of researchers with genealogy and other projects in the archives and our newsletter regularly entertains and educates many folks throughout the country. With the continued support of our members, our volunteers and the citizens of Clay County, we look forward to many more years of being one of the best county historical societies in Minnesota.

Memorial

A Memorial for Dewey Bergquist was received from LaVonne J. Rebholz of Oldsmar, FL.

Highlights (Continued from Page 2)

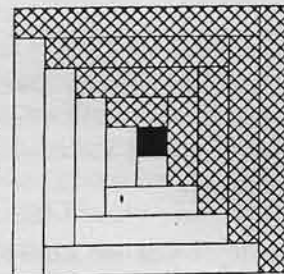
the Traverse des Sioux Treaty of 1851. The treaty forced the Indians onto reservations and resulting in an influx of hungry settlers and speculators in the new territory.

I purchased "A History of Nicollet County" by Howard M. Nelson which I will share with our CCHS staff. We then visited the 1871 home of E. St. Julien Cox, the first mayor of St. Peter. In 1862, Julien Cox led 125 men in defense of New Ulm, then under attack by the Sioux Indians. Later, he would ride to the defense of those same Indians, held captive in Mankato and threatened by a lynch mob!

A visit to the St. Peter State Hospital Museum, the first facility for mentally ill patients in Minnesota was next. The early years in caring for the mentally ill were depicted. The museum made you aware of the efforts to provide assistance and training for mentally ill patients.

We had lunch on the campus of Gustavus Adolphus College located on a hill overlooking St. Peter. The campus of 2,300 students from 40 states was founded in 1862 by Swedish Lutheran immigrants. Being one fourth

Quilt Project started



On Friday and Saturday, Nov. 8 and 9, nine volunteers gathered in the Clay County Archives to learn the technique of making a pleated log cabin quilt. The group, under the direction of expert quilter, Kim Baird of Fargo, began the process of replicating a quilt from the Clay County Collection made in the 1880s by Mrs. Warren (Margaret) Onan.

Seventy-five of the necessary 132 blocks were completed by the following volunteers: Alice Johnson of Moorhead, Hazel Ashworth of Fargo, Lynn Rustad of Fargo, Linda Schultz of Moorhead, Della Rudd of Moorhead, Rosalie Johnson of Fargo, Debra Mohr of Fargo, Phyllis Beckett of Moorhead and Jennifer Little of Moorhead.

Another "Quilting Bee" will be held to complete the quilt blocks. Please call CCHS at 233-4604 if you are interesting in learning how to make a pleated log cabin quilt. When the quilt is finished it will be raffled off as a fundraiser for CCHS.

Swedish on my mother's side, I felt right at home on campus. We visited Christ Chapel and had a bus tour of the campus grounds following lunch.

After a one hour bus ride to the St. Paul Civic Center, we toured the America's Smithsonian, a 100,000 square foot traveling exhibit commemorating the Smithsonian's 150th Anniversary. The 300 objects on display included a Wright brothers' plane, an Apollo capsule, President Lincoln's top hat and two First Ladies' gowns. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to view some of the Smithsonian's treasures without traveling to Wash. DC. It was indeed a treat!

The delicious buffet at "Charlie's" in Freeport capped off a busy day! The ride home made me think how lucky we are to live in America and to have the opportunity to travel and enjoy our history. Our next tour will be in the Spring. There is interest in a local tour featuring the history of Clay County and its many points of interest! We will let you know when it is set up!

Becky and I, along with the CCHS Board and Staff hope you have a great Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season.

Tuberculosis Sanatorium Information?

CCHS staff is researching the former Sand Beach Tuberculosis Sanatorium. The facility was located two miles east of Lake Park along Highway 10. Clay and Becker Counties jointly managed the TB treatment center from its opening in 1916 until it was turned into a home for the aged in 1951. Today Sunnyside Nursing Home occupies the spot.

We'd be interested in talking to anyone who worked or spent time at Sand Beach or visited friends or relatives there or anyone who may have photographs of the facility. Any information would be appreciated. Please contact Mark Peihl at the Clay County Museum, 218-233-4604.

Clay County Historical Society

Board & Staff Send



to all our Members

CCHS STAFF

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



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CCHS Memberships - New and Renewals

September/October 1996

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

Ruth Franzen, Fargo
 Vincent Dolva, Hawley
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 Dorothy Johnson, Moorhead
 Arvid Thompson, Barnesville
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 Richard Melarvie, Moorhead
 Tom Hall, Moorhead
 Dorothy Storandt, Moorhead
 Glynis J. Gordon, Nashua, NH
 Sherwood Peterson, Baker
 Richard & June Chenoweth, Moorhead
 John P. Woods, Fargo

CCHS welcomes the following new members:

Mary Rundquist, Moorhead
 Michael Juhl, Fargo
 Marion F. Gee, Moorhead
 Arloine Mithun, Moorhead
 Dorothy Belsly, Moorhead
 Ruth Quinnild, Fargo
 Lorine Holschuh, Moorhead
 Marion Formanek, Moorhead
 Dorothy Sandvik, Moorhead
 Ragna & Curtis Ellingson, Fargo
 Gladys Durensky, Barnesville
 Majorie Robb, Moorhead
 Jean Dolva, Hawley
 Janet Dolva, Hawley
 Carolyn & Dave Bowe, Fargo
 Vivian Rienients, Moorhead
 First National Bank, Hawley
 Hawley Public Schools, Hawley
 State Bank of Hawley
 The Rapat Corporation, Hawley
 Hannaher's Inc., Moorhead

Business Memberships

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

PATRON (\$200 - \$499)

Case Corporation, Fargo
 Wal-Mart Foundation, Dilworth

SUSTAINING MEMBERS (\$100 to \$199)

American Bank, Moorhead
 Fargo Forum, Fargo
 First National Bank, Hawley
 Hawley Public Schools
 Home Builders Association
 of Fargo-Moorhead
 Korsmo Funeral Service, Moorhead
 Mhd Area Retired Educators Association
 Rapat Corporation, Hawley
 Sellin Brothers, Hawley

SUPPORTING MEMBER (\$50 to \$99)

Altrusa International Club, Mhd
 Bentley & Bentley, DDS, Hawley

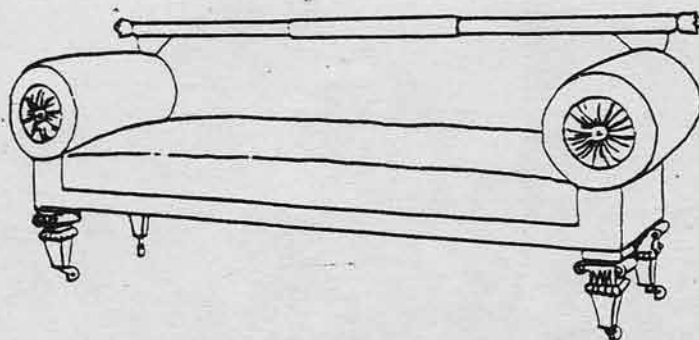
Cass-Clay Creamery, Inc., Fargo
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 Wright Funeral Home, Moorhead

CLAY COUNTY MUSEUM

features

"60 Years of Collecting"

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



This late 1700s sofa has a wonderfully rich provenance (good word for history). Come in and learn all about it!!!

Closing Soon:

"Moorhead, August 1923" A unique view of what Moorhead looked like in 1923.

"Old Ruby: Red River of the North" Topics include: steamboating & recreation

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

Hours are: 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 9-9 Thurs. 12-5 Sun.
Lower level of Hjerkomst Center, 202 1st Ave. N., Mhd. - FREE ADMISSION

CCHS Business Membership

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

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

Business: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

CCHS-1996 Membership Form

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

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

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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