Not surprisingly, Flaten took many photos of the southeast corner of 4th Street and Front Street including this view snapped on July 28, 1923. The corner was the heart of Moorhead’s commercial downtown and the site of Flaten’s Studio. Today the corner is occupied by the Moorhead Federal Building. See Story Pages 8-10. Flaten/Wange Collection
Hello Everyone,

I hope you all had a good summer as weird as it was. I can’t believe the summer’s weather. We certainly made history in many different weather ways. Lots of rain fall, several floods and cold; what else could happen?

In June the CCHS board met at the Bergquist Cabin in Moorhead. It is a great piece of history that not many people have seen. With the assistance of the Swedish Cultural Heritage Society, CCHS hosts an open house at the cabin each June during the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival. If you missed it this year, be sure to put it on your calendar for next year. It is well worth seeing. If you just can’t wait until next June it is possible a special tour could be arranged, providing staff time is available.

In August the Board met at the District 3 School House by Rollag. Known as the "Woodland School" the school is of special interest to me because it is where my father, Herbert Aakre, and all my aunts and uncles went to school. Seeing it once again brings a new appreciation of the modern school I attended in Hawley. Following the August meeting the Board toured Yankee Cemetery, which sits on top a hill overlooking the school. The view from atop the cemetery hill is breathtaking and includes a front row look at the Western Minnesota Steam Thresher Reunion's Main Street.

As the Fall schedule of school, football games, etc., picks up, try to include a trip to the Clay County Museum in your plans. The "A Century of Cycling" exhibit is excellent. It features bikes that span over 100 years of riding. The show will close in November so make plans to see it soon. We all know how the time can get away from us and you wouldn’t want to miss it. Make it a point to stop in.

Sincerely, Kelly Aakre, CCHS Board President

**1936 Fire Truck soon ready to roll**

Fire truck committee members Loren Helmeke and Norm Bjorndahl report that the CCHS 1936 Buffalo Fire Truck, thought to be the Cadillac of fire trucks, should soon be in working order. The engine is being repaired by Monty Martin of Sabin.
CCHS’s youngest volunteers are big hit at parades

Parades are always fun, but being in a parade can be even more fun than watching it.

CCHS has participated in a number of parades/celebrations around the county this summer and some very young volunteers have been helping out.

On August 27, Clair (4) and Seth (10), children of Board Member Paul Harris, helped hand out brochures at the Barnesville Potato Days Parade. Others helping with the Barnesville Parade were the children’s mother, Cindy Palmer, and CCHS staff members Pam Burkhardt, Joan Erickson and Margaret Ristvedt. It was the first Potato Day Parade for Barnesville and drew about 130 entrants.

Clair and Seth got a surprise bonus following the parade when they were offered a ride back to the fairgrounds in one of the two ambulances that had been just behind the CCHS walking unit during the parade. Actually it was nice to have emergency expertise so close, especially since the ambulance directly behind us kept referring to a troublesome sticky accelerator. The second bonus came back at the fairgrounds when a kind cowboy with a beautiful palomino named "Misty" gave Clair and Seth rides around the fairgrounds.

Earlier this summer, Courtney and Meghan Coen, ages 5 and 9, along with their mother, Robyn Coen, of Tomah, Wisc. helped at the Ulen Turkey Days Parade. The girls are grandchildren of Office Manager Margaret Ristvedt.

Seth and Clair appear to have stepped right out of "Little House on the Prairie." The pair got a payoff after the parade when they rode in an ambulance and on a beautiful palomino named "Misty."

Newsletter ideas sought

Do you have a favorite topic or area of special interest that you would like to know more about? If there is something of general interest you have been wondering about, drop us a line and we will try to cover it in a future newsletter.

History has so many interesting stories to tell. Let us know which ones you want to hear!!

Curmudgeon Corner

"Events in the past may be roughly divided into those which probably never happened and those which do not matter."

- W.R. Inge
**Outreach Displays**

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SPINNING A YARN will be on display at the Glyndon Community Center. This exhibit contains wool cards, a hatchel, a shuttle, examples of hand dyed yarns and more.

School is open at Ulen Hitterdal High School, so it is appropriate to feature BACK TO SCHOOL. Text books, a ruler, an ink bottle and other school memorabilia will be shown.

LET'S MAKE MUSIC will be on exhibit at the Hitterdal Senior Center. A variety of sheet music and instruments such as a clarinet, harmonica and accordion will be displayed.

Hawley Public Library will feature HATS OFF! - A new display including both men's and women's hats from years gone by.

THOSE FAR AWAY PLACES will be shown at the Moorhead Public Library. Artifacts from all over the world will give this exhibit cultural diversity.

Viking Manor at Ulen will feature DARN IT! A collection of socks, stockings, a stocking knitting machine and other sock accessories will be on display.

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**Donations**

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

Anononous
Josephine Jacobson, Alamo, ND
Moorhead State University, Elder Hostel

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**Artifacts & Donors**

**July/August 1993**

**Donors include:**

Moorhead: Alvin Swanson, Phil Felde, Eva Felde, Lloyd Gunderson, Elsie Welter
Hawley: Margaret Ristvedt
Barnesville: Dorothy Garven, John Kava
Fargo, ND: Margaret Rostad, Donna Skaar
D. Moines, IA: John Malvey Family
Alex., VA: Charles A. Nelson

**Artifacts include:** A stock certificate for Moorhead Brick Co.; photo taken during the funeral of James Hill; photos of Malvey's Service station at 7th and Main, Moorhead; records from Kragnes Twp. and the Barnesville Farmers' Elevator Co.; 1950 Cho-kio (Moorhead HS Annual); 1929 program from the dedication of Riverside School in Moland Township; programs from the 1979 and 1982 Barnesville HS Reunions, Classes of 1900-1940; booklets from Concordia Church in Glyndon and Scandia Lutheran Church in Averill; Hawley Emergency Response Team jacket and photo of squad; commemorative issue of the June 8, 1939 Normanden featuring the visit of the Crown Prince Olaf of Norway; a Hitterdal Centennial play program; history of the Catlin Bros. Pharmacy in Barnesville; pre-1890 2 pc dress which belonged to Theresa Hedlund of Moorhead; 1952-53 soapbox derby car (See story on Page 5); souvenir thermometer from the Baker Garage, in Baker; and O.E. Malvey's Fire Department uniform coat, trousers and cap.
CCHS acquires soapbox derby car from the 1950s

Charles Nelson Jr. of Hawley ran his soapbox derby car in the Fargo Soapbox Derby in 1952 and 1953 and came in second in his heat both years. Forty years later he donated the car to Clay County Historical Society.

The 1953 race was the 5th Annual Derby in Fargo and had 116 entrants. Two other Hawley boys, Jon and Einar Bredeson, age 13 and 14 respectively, also competed in the 1953 race. Charles was 15 at the time.

Nelson spent many hours building the car under the guidance of his father, Charles T. Nelson Sr. "Although winning would have been nice, the real value was the experience in building, and the reward of racing the end product," said Charles in a recent letter to CCHS.

The 1953 Derby entrants along with their parents and sponsors were treated to a Fargo-Moorhead Twins baseball game, a picnic at Lindenwood Park and a banquet at the Elks Club. According to The Hawley Herald, a movie encouraging boys to enter the Derby was shown at Hawley High School in the spring of 1953.

Charles was sponsored by The Bankrupt Store while the two Bredeson boys were sponsored by A.R. Rushfeldt and Heimark Brothers.

Charles Nelson is No. 14 in the 1953 Fargo Soapbox Derby race. The race was won by Robert Sell, 14, of Fargo, who was then eligible to compete for national honors at Akron, Ohio.

Note: A.C. Hanson, founder of the original Bankrupt Store, sold the firm to Donald Larson of Casselton in 1968. In 1974 the store's name was changed to "Federated Store."
JUST FOR FUN
What about the --

By Pam Burkhardt

The first driving test was introduced in Paris on August 14, 1893, but the first driving lessons were not offered until June of 1900 in London! The first electric traffic light was erected in Cleveland, Ohio on August 5, 1914.

Around the turn of this century, William Phelps Eno was responsible for devising the regulations that govern modern traffic safety -such as one-way streets, stop signs, safety islands, and even taxi stands. He was called the father of traffic safety. He never learned to drive.

The Wright Brothers made their historic flight in 1903. Air traffic control centers didn't make their appearance until the mid-1930s.

First synthesized in 1853, aspirin was available commercially in 1899 by prescription only. By 1915, Bayer was marketing aspirin in packages of 20. The kazoo (A toy musical instrument in which a paper membrane is vibrated by the performer's voice.) was thought to have originated in Georgia in 1850. [Ever listened to an out-of-tune kazoo band?]

In 1912, a grocery store in California became the first supermarket where customers were invited to select their own items from the shelves. The shopping cart was invented in 1937 to replace the baskets.

The first . . . I SAID, THE FIRST ELECTRIC HEARING AID WAS PATENTED 1901! Because of its batteries, this device was the size of a small radio. To hear the amplified sounds, a telephone-type receiver was held up to the ear. The first wearable hearing aid worn in 1935 weighed 2 ½ lbs. The first opera was performed in Florence, Italy in 1597 and the first radio broadcast was relayed from Brant Rock, Mass. in 1906.

The first public restrooms opened in London in 1852. The men's facility opened in London on Feb. 2. The ladies restroom didn't open until Feb. 11. There was a small charge for their use.

The first movie theater to remain in operation for more than a brief period was in New Orleans in 1896. Popcorn wasn't served in movie theaters until 1911 in Philadelphia.

You could purchase the first commercially produced TV set in 1928. The first TV dinner (turkey with cornbread and gravy, peas and sweet potatoes) wasn't available until 1952.
carried by customers. [The inventor noticed customers stopped shopping when their baskets were full!]

In 1795, the first canned foods were actually "bottled," and tin plated cans for food storage appeared in 1812. A precursor to the modern can opener was patented in 1858. Before that time, if the shop keeper didn't open the can for you at the store [1], you used a hammer and chisel to open it at home.

Ice cream appeared in the 18th century. [Water-ice treats were developed much earlier.] Ice cream cones were first produced in 1896 but received little attention until the 1904 Louisiana Exposition when a sugar waffle was pressed into service as a make-shift cone.

Instant coffee, introduced in 1938, took eight years to develop.

Fannie Farmer published a cookbook in 1896 that contained scientific (standard) measurements for ingredients. This new system eventually eliminated more colorful measurements such as a pinch, a handful, a wine glass full and lumps of butter the size of a nutmeg or egg.

Although paraffin chewing gum was sold in the 1850s, gum made from chicle was first marketed on a commercial basis beginning in 1872. [What was stuck under school desks and theater seats before then?]

The US Post Office began implementing a 2-digit zone system on a limited basis in 1943. The 5-digit ZIP (Zone Improvement Plan) started in 1963. The 9-digit system started in 1978. The word zip means "to transport with speed."

The first museum (as an institution) was the Ashmolean Museum which opened in June of 1683 in Oxford, England. The charge was an exit fee determined by the length of time spent looking at the exhibits. The Clay County Historical Society began to accept artifacts on May 11, 1936 for exhibition in a room at the Moorhead Normal School. Admission was free.

Sources: Mothers of Invention by Ethlie Ann Vare & Greg Ptacek, Yankee Ingenuity by Harry Harris, and The Book of Firsts by Patrick Robertson.
Flaten/Wange Collection: A chronicle of Clay County

By Mark Peihl

The Flaten/Wange glass plate negative collection is the single largest and most important photograph collection CCHS holds. The 12,500 negatives shot by Moorhead photographer O.E. Flaten and Hawley’s S.P. Wange, provide a fascinating view of people’s activities and changes in those communities. After CCHS received the two photographer’s negatives in the late 1950s and early 1960s they were mixed together. Today it is often difficult to tell which photographer took which photo.

We know that the collection includes some 800 negatives shot in Moorhead-Fargo by Flaten. He arrived in Moorhead in 1879. Photography was barely 30 years old by that time. Flaten’s first negatives were made by the wet plate process. The photographer coated a sheet of plain glass with a heavy mixture called collodion. This volatile mix of alcohol, ether and gun cotton (an artillery propellant!) evaporated quickly leaving a sticky coating. Flaten light sensitized this coating with a silver nitrate solution. While the plate was still wet, he loaded it into his camera, hurried to his subject, made the exposure and rushed back to his dark room to develop the image - all before the plate dried. This cumbersome process resulted in lovely, cream-brown negatives of fine detail. By 1884 Flaten, like most photographers was using factory sensitized dry plates.

Flaten was conscious of his role as chronicler of his community and he was a good photographer. His negatives provide an important look at Moorhead as it grew from a still shaggy-at-the-edges town near the frontier into a modern center of trade in the late 1920s.

Most of the other negatives were taken by S.P. Wange in the Hawley area. Like Flaten, Wange was a Norwegian immigrant. Born in Gudbrandsdalen in 1866, he moved to America at age 23, settling first in Ada where he ran a photo studio. In January 1893, he relocated to Hawley, bought the photography shop of O.K. Lee and began a business that lasted over 50 years. Unlike Flaten, Wange could not make a living in photography alone. He had learned barbering in Norway as well as photography and built a barber shop in the basement of his studio. Hairy customers could get a shave and a trim then head upstairs to get their picture snapped.

Wange was a community leader, mayor and dedicated church-goer. He also had quite a sense of humor.

Around 1893 he made a fifty dollar bet that he would not cut his hair for one year. He won the bet, had his...
Wange's photos spanned several generations as shown by these two photos ca. 1900s and mid-to-late 1930s.

Mr. and Mrs. John Erickson and their children had their photo snapped in Wange's studio about 1900. The collection includes photographs of thousands of eastern Clay County residents.

(Continued from Page 8)

picture taken, then cut his hair. Wange would also bet travelling salesmen that he could lift a number of 100 pound sacks of flour off the floor with one finger. The bags were tied together with rope. He would stand on a box, hook his middle finger through the rope and lift the bags. He developed this talent by swinging from his middle fingers from rings set in rafters in a barn in Norway.

Like Flaten in Moorhead, Wange took many photos of Hawley and surrounding communities, but the vast majority (some 10,000) of his negatives are studio portraits of folks not only from Hawley but from Hitterdal to Rollag and Lake Park to Glyndon. When CCHS received his collection, most of the negatives were still in his original paper storage envelopes. On the outside Wange had written his own number, the name of the person who ordered the photo taken and sometimes a date. But for many of the negatives, we had no idea who the people in the pictures might be. These were handled first. They were cleaned, placed in acid-free storage sleeves, numbered and printed. The prints were exhibited in the Hawley Library and Community Center for older area residents to identify. We received identifications on about 25 percent of them. Those names have been indexed. The cleaning, printing and indexing of negatives with identifying sleeves is an

(Continued on Page 10)

Mr. and Mrs. Knut Omberg and their grown children posed for Wange in the mid-to-late 1930s.
Steamboats still plied the Red River when Flaten began working in Moorhead in 1879. Here wheat is augured out of a barge into the Grandin Line’s elevator while the J.L. Grandin waits nearby. The view is to the northwest from the Moorhead side of the river. Today the Center Avenue Bridge passes through the site.

Flaten/Wange Collection

ongoing process. (We may still be doing this in 10 years!) About half our researchers in the archives are genealogists and about half of those have relatives in eastern Clay County. It is rare when we can’t find at least one Wange photo for them.

Photocopies of Flaten/Wange photos are 10 cents each. Prints can be ordered at $7.50 for 8x10s and $5.50 for 5x7s.

Backs of two Flaten photographs, late 1800s.
Either you like it or you don't - That's Hair Artistry

By Pam Burkhardt

The fashion for hair jewelry began in the sixteenth century in the form of memorial rings and pendants. Early in the 19th century, sentiment turned the locks of a loved one's hair into not only tokens of affection but also decorative accessories. The Victorians thought nothing of displaying some outward signs of their inner emotions. Although hair was the most common object cherished, Queen Victoria had a bracelet made from her children's baby teeth rather than throw out any precious part of them. The popularity of hair jewelry reached a peak during the American Civil War and declined toward the end of the century.

The lock of hair could be kept inside a locket, watch fob or ring. But why not work it into a necklace, brooch and earrings, or turn it into the watch fob itself? The art of turning the raw material into a finished piece was actually a tedious process. A lady brushed her hair collecting the loose strands until a sufficient amount accumulated. [This might be preferable to cutting off any of her "crowning glory." ] She stored the hair in a toilet table accessory called a hair receiver - a bowl with a circular hole in its cover. This accumulation of hair* was boiled in soda water and borax, sorted by length and separated into strands consisting of 20 to 30 hairs. The work was accomplished on a round table with weights holding various sections in place. Tools and equipment included a china pallet to hold the hair, a curling iron, knives, and scissors. A jeweler would attach gold fittings to finish off the piece.

The watch chain was the most popular item. A chain of his lady's hair would remind a gentleman of that lady whenever he looked at the watch. A mother's bracelet would contain a lock of each child's hair worked into the design. If you didn't have the time or skills to make the jewelry yourself, help was at hand. The 1908 Sears, Roebuck catalog advertised it would braid the customer's hair into a chain at no extra charge when the mounts were purchased from them. For those who didn't want any of the bother, hair jewelry could be purchased through Godey's Lady's Book and at stores such as Simonson's Human Hair Emporium in New York City.

The hair wreath: a family get-together.

The hair wreath followed the tradition of two- to three-dimensional pictures made from such diverse natural items as insect wings, dried flowers, shells, feathers and woolen yarn. These hair wreaths often contained samples from many family members ranging from the finest baby hair to various shades of gray. At times, horse or dog hair provided extra shades needed for variety. These pictures could be augmented with beads, fabric leaves or feathers. Needlework with human hair dates back to the Middle Ages. Hair work called Point Tresse resembled knitting. Hair was twisted around silver or linen thread which was knitted and then worked into the piece.

*Beginners were encouraged to use horse hair. Being coarser, it was easier to work.

(Continued on Page 12)
Among the musical entertainment for the open house were selections by Dewey’s children, Paul Bergquist of Ashland, Wis. on the trumpet and Carol Bergquist of Prior Lake on the flute. Ron Johnson of Moorhead is playing the accordion. The family reunion was a complete surprise to Dewey.

Dewey Bergquist (far right) was a host for the Bergquist Pioneer Cabin open house in June. Dewey, a well-known former WDAY Television weatherman, posed with his son and daughter-in-law Paul and Ellie and their children, Phillip (standing) and John Paul, all of Ashland, Wisconsin.

Hair Artistry: (Continued from Page 11)

Hair embroidery: a stitch in time
In the time of Charles I, the hair in portrait miniatures was embroidered using the real hair of that particular subject. For example, the hair of Charles I was embroidered into portraits of him by Royalist ladies who obtained his hair for that purpose.

"A Century of Cycling"
now showing in the temporary gallery

What is an ordinary? Why and when was the ordinary replaced with the safety bike? What did "taking a header" mean? What is a skirt guard and why was it necessary? Find the answer to these and many other questions in the "Cycling" exhibit.

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
CCHS Fall Tour set for Oct. 13

CCHS is sponsoring a one-day tour to the Twin Cities on Wednesday, October 13. The new Minnesota History Center will be the focus of the trip with several other sites included on the agenda. Described as "...monumental in form, complex in function, and state-of-the-art in technology," the History Center has proved to be a crowd pleaser since its grand opening last October. Besides the "Minnesota A to Z" exhibit the Center is now showing "History By the Seat of Your Pants," "Home Place Minnesota," "Minnesota Almanac," "Saving Places," "Boxcar 137356" and "Manoominikewin: Stories of Wild Riceing."

David Nystuen, Minnesota Historical Society Field Representative will greet the group and give a short tour of the facility. There will be free time to view exhibits, use the archives, shop at the Center's two gift shops or grab a snack at Cafe Minnesota. (The cheese cake comes highly recommended, but don't delay - they must take earlier coffee breaks than we do because last time we got locked out.)

Besides the History Center the agenda includes tours of the Landmark Center in St. Paul and the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis. At the Landmark Center the guided tour of the Old Federal Building will be preceded by a luncheon amid the soaring grace of the building's cortile. The building's elegantly restored courtrooms were the site of famous gangster trials in the 1930s. A short tour of the Schubert Club's Keyboard Museum located at the Center will follow.

The American Swedish Institute mansion is a splendid example of a turn-of-the-century interpretation of stately Romanesque chateau architecture. Formerly the Swan J. Turnblad mansion, the home comes close in appearance to what a child would envision as a medieval castle. The institute also features a gift shop, a coffee shop and a book store.

The two tours sponsored by CCHS last year were very well received. As long as interest remains high, we will continue to offer these outings and invite you to join us. Deadline is Friday, Oct. 8, so call soon to reserve a spot.

CCHS Memberships - New and Renewals

July/August 1993
CCHS extends a very special thank you to the following individuals who have renewed their membership for another year.

Howard Roos
Lynn M. Slater
Morris Lanning
Aldrich & Merideth Bloomquist
Evalyn M. Hansen
Tim McLarnan
Allen County Public Library, Ind.
Helen Glawe
H. Allen Ohrt
Town & Country Flowers
Thelma Gylten

Lawrence Kava
Pearl Grover
Dorothy Garven
Mrs. Parker Erickson
Twin Valley-Ulen Telephone Co.
Sara Cook
Donald & Naomi Rice
Eldora Lunde
Linda Lawson
Donna Merchant
Cecil & Eleanor Johnson
June Dobervich
Marquerite Wardeberg
Jeffrey Pladson
Sherwood Peterson
Doris Backman Kirkpatrick

Robert & JoAnn Nyquist
Vincent A. Dolva
Cindy Palmer & Paul Harris
and family
Viola Mallory

CCHS welcomes the following new members:

Ione O. Diiro
Collin C. Peterson
CCHS FALL TOUR

to the

Minnesota

History Center

in St. Paul

on

Wed., Oct. 13

Plus:  *

Guided Tour and Luncheon at the Landmark Center (including a tour of the Schubert Club’s keyboard museum)

*  Guided Tour of the American Swedish Institute

See details on Page 14

$40

includes bus fare, luncheon, buffet supper, and all museum fees

Registration deadline is Friday, Oct. 8

For more information and/or to register

Call 233-4604

Sponsored by Clay County Historical Society

Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56560
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