

# CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



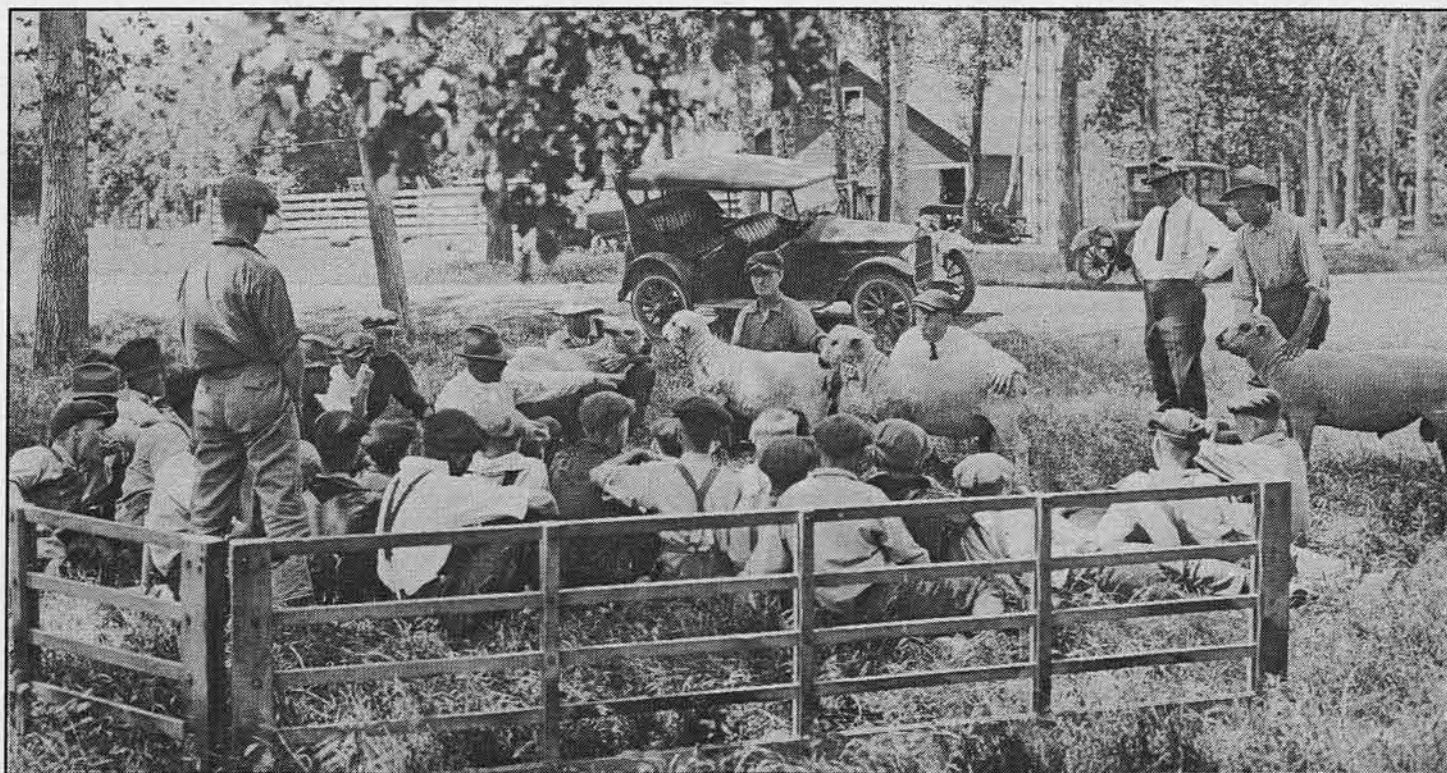

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**CCHS Newsletter      September/October 1998      Vol. XXI. No. 5**

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◆ We've had a FLOOD!! (See story and photos pages 8-13.)

◆ Gangster/Theater History Tour - October 14-15 (See pages 3 & 15.)

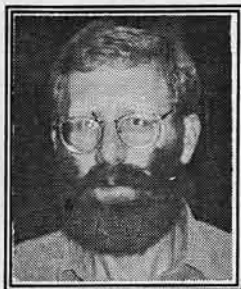


Did you or someone you know from Cass or Clay County attend this 1919 Farm Boys' Encampment at NDAC? The Encampment featured a *study hour among the "Shrops"* shown here. More on the Encampment on Page 7.

Photo courtesy of Clay County Extension

## President's Report

By Paul Harris, President  
Clay County Historical Society takes very seriously its charge to preserve the county's history. We do that by taking the very best care we can of artifacts that have been entrusted to us for use by this and later generations. Since even under the best of circumstances, things tend to degenerate over time, upheavals like a major construction project in the building make our staff particularly nervous.



When work started on the expansion of the Heritage-Hjemkomst Interpretive Center, we did everything in our power to gain assurances that risk to our collection would be avoided. Nonetheless, this summer our nightmare scenario was played out when an exposed water main burst and flooded our facilities.

How could this have happened? We have asked ourselves that question, but we must leave the answer to the responsible parties, their insurance companies, and perhaps the courts. The fact is that we have little ultimate interest in assigning blame. Our artifacts, because they are basically irreplaceable, are also practically uninsurable. When we lose something, the cost cannot be measured in dollar amounts.

That is why, rather than pointing blame, it was far more important to intervene as early and aggressively as possible to minimize the damage. Elsewhere in this issue, our staff describe those efforts and give their thanks to the many people who contributed to the largely successful effort to avert a real catastrophe. I merely wish to add my voice to the chorus and thank publicly, as I have done personally, all those wonderful people.

First and foremost, we owe a huge debt to Mardrie and Kenneth Fladgard, the residents of Riverside One who noticed that the construction pit had filled with water and proceeded to notify the authorities. Since it was a Sunday morning when no one was around the Center, the flooding could have been vastly more destructive without their timely and alert intervention.

I would also like to thank the many volunteers who came to help out over the next several days. Their assistance was vital to our efforts to get things dried as quickly and safely as possible. You know who you are; we know who you are. Thank you so much.

## Preservation Workshops set for Sept. 23 and Oct. 22

CCHS will present two heirloom preservation workshops in cooperation with the Moorhead Community Education program at the Moorhead Senior High School.

At the "Preserving Family Photos" workshop you can learn how to preserve your family photos for future generations to enjoy. Included will be storage and display ideas for old and new photographs. Special topics include color photos, slides, wedding photos, movies and videos. Mark Peihl, CCHS Archivist will lead this workshop on Wednesday, Sept. 23 from 7-8:30 p.m.

If you want to know how to take care of Grandmother's wedding dress or quilt, a sampler, doily or any textile you have inherited or purchased, attend the "Saving Grandma's Bustle" or Conservation of Textiles workshop on Thursday, Oct. 22 from 7-9 p.m. Bring articles from home for question and answer time. Pam Burkhardt, CCHS Collections Manager will lead this workshop.

### CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



202 1st Avenue North, Box 501  
Moorhead, Minnesota 56561-0501  
Phone 218-233-4604  
E-Mail mpeihl1@Juno.com

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# The one you don't want to miss - - - CCHS's fall history/theater tour!

The 1920s and 30s were a colorful period in the history of our state capital. Travel back to that time with CCHS on their October 14-15 "History Tour" to St. Paul.

Visit the haunts of some of the FBI's "most wanted" criminals, learn why St. Paul was a haven for these prohibition era gangsters, and dine in gracious surroundings, just as they did. Later we will check out the court houses where these gangsters met justice.

If a theater experience is tops on your list - this one is a show stopper. You bet! "How to talk Minnesotan" at the Plymouth Playhouse is a musical comedy created by Howard Mohr with material taken from his book by the same name. Mohr's fame goes back to the Prairie Home Companion made famous by Garrison Keillor.

An extended stop at the Minnesota History Center with many new exhibits and research options will round out the tour.

Who is this tour for? It's for you! If you enjoy history, theater, being pampered, great company, good food, a break in the routine, or all of the above, join us in October!!

Included in the tour cost are all attraction fees, motel, theater tickets, bus fare and most meals.

Join us October 14-15 for a great two-day getaway. Call 233-4604 for more information.



*The Clay County Historical Society thanks the following organizations and businesses for their financial support:*

## **PATRON (\$200 - \$499)**

Case Corporation, Fargo  
School Specialty, Fargo

## **SUSTAINING MEMBERS (\$100 to \$199)**

City of Hawley, Hawley  
Dilworth/Glyndon/Felton Schools  
First National Bank, Hawley  
Fischer Farms, Glyndon  
F-M Printing, Moorhead  
Hawley Public Schools, Hawley  
Korsmo Funeral Service, Moorhead  
Rapat Corporation, Hawley  
Sellin Brothers, Hawley  
The Forum, Fargo

## **SUPPORTING MEMBER (\$50 to \$99)**

Arkansas State Univ., Arkansas  
Bentley & Bentley, DDS, Hawley  
Cass-Clay Creamery, Inc., Fargo  
City of Barnesville, Barnesville  
DBA Acme Sign, Fargo  
Dilworth Wal-Mart, Dilworth

Eventide, Moorhead

Fevig Oil Company Inc., Felton

Moorhead Area Retired

Education Association

Gjevre, McLarnan, Hannaher, Vaa.,

Skatvold & McLarnan, Attorneys, Mhd

Gunhus, Grinnell, Klinger, Swenson and

Guy, Ltd, Moorhead

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Moorhead Trader & Trapper Inc., Moorhead

Norwest Bank MN, West N.A., Moorhead

Petermann Seed Farm, Hawley

State Bank of Hawley, Hawley

State Bank of Moorhead, Moorhead

Stenerson Lumber, Moorhead

Tenneco Packaging, Moorhead

United Electric Serv. & Supply, Inc, Fargo

Wahl Drug Store/Gift Shop, Hawley

Ward Muscatell Auto, Moorhead

Wright Funeral Home, Moorhead

## Outreach Displays

	Opens	Closes
Hitterdal Senior Center	September	January
Ulen-Hitterdal High School	September	January
Viking Manor, Ulen	September	January
Hawley Public Library	September	January
Glyndon Community Center	September	January
Moorhead Public Library	September	January
Barnesville Public Library	September	January

The June 30/July 1 outreach display changes were postponed due to construction at the Heritage Hjemkomst Center which impacted CCHS storage areas. Recovery from flooding (resulting from the watermain break on July 19) became a priority and other activities were postponed. We will be back on a more regular schedule as soon as possible.

The Hitterdal Senior Center will display **JUST A WHITTLE BIT** of wood carving from Scandinavia and Clay County.

A **CASE OF COKE** [display case, that is] will open at the Ulen-Hitterdal High School featuring collectibles and fun facts about this popular soft drink.

*Shake, rattle and roll* at the Viking Manor in Ulen with the **WHAT IS IT?** display.

The Hawley Public Library features the Clay County Fair as a focal point in **YOU'RE A WINNER!** This display highlights awards and prizes from fairs, shows and parades.

Glyndon Community Center is **CHOCOLATE CENTERED**. By the box or by the bar, this is a "sweet" display.

**LET'S HAVE COFFEE!** At the Moorhead Library. Artifacts include a coffee grinder, coffee server, coffee pot, cups - and a little lunch.



Look, look. See, see! Have **FUN WITH DICK AND JANE** at the Barnesville Public Library.

## Artifacts & Donors

**JULY/AUGUST 1998**

### Donors include:

Moorhead: Clay County Records Office, Ralph & Elsie Lee, Mel Johnson  
 Vadnais Hgts: Jim Pelissier  
 Fargo, ND: Grace Lutheran Church  
 Scottsdale, AZ: Carole St. Clair

**Artifacts include:** negatives and prints of snow and flood from Moorhead and Fargo; (7) Clay County Atlases 1964-1982; photos, newspaper clippings & Senate Chamber pass re: A.J. O'Laughlin; 4-piece set of Pyrex bowls ca 1947, (empty) Velveeta box ca 1963-1973; A.J. O'Laughlin's sheriff's badges, presentation watch; (2) Northern Transit Co. bus tokens; collection of bridge tallies from @1947 to present displayed on a screen, small barrel used as seating at the MSTC Campus School Library ca pre-1947 - 1972, civilian librarian's WWII uniform with cap, wedding dress (suit) 1944, collections of dollhouse furniture; and (2) cow magnets.\*

\* not refrigerator magnets with cows on them. A cow magnet is a cylindrical magnet @ 3" x 1" placed in the cow's second stomach [you need to make the cow swallow it]. The magnet attracts any metal they may have eaten. This prevents "hardware disease" which is the term used when a piece of metal punctures the stomach wall and other organs i.e. the heart.

## Monetary Donations

**JULY/AUGUST 1998**

Virginia Klenk, Moorhead  
 Hickson Women of the ELCA, Hickson ND  
 Hawley Firemen's Relief Assn., Hawley  
 Esther O. Olson, Moorhead  
 Richard & Kathleen Zaylskie, Fargo  
 Eventide, Moorhead  
 Myrtle Ellis, Crookston  
 Tops 262, West Fargo  
 Anonymous

## Memorials

In Memory of Helen Euren  
 from Faith E. Bennett, Moorhead  
 In Memory of Frithiof (Fred) Backman  
 from Doris Backman Kirkpatrick



# Moorhead Boy Scout Troops assist with flood cleanup

Boy Scouts from three Moorhead troops answered the call to duty in July when Clay County Historical Society's museum was flooded by a water main break.

On July 19, on duty Deputy Sheriff Tom Hall, a long time member of CCHS and 25 year Scoutmaster of Troop 640, St. Joseph Catholic Church, heard of the disaster on his police band radio and checked at the museum to see if help was needed. It was.

Hall contacted Audrey Smerud, a life member of CCHS and his troop Committee Chairman, and 'the rest is history.'

Brad Miller of Troop 637, Trinity Lutheran Church, assumed responsibility for providing scout work crews as his Eagle service project with Elliot and Eric Nerland helping with the phone calls. Together they were able to provide work crews of 11 Scouts on Monday and 10 on Thursday of the week following the flood.

Scouts assisting at the museum included: Troop 637, Trinity Lutheran Church: Brad Miller, Jeff Schneider, James Mayamo, Greg Miller, Michael Arey and James Nelson; Troop 644, Bethesda Lutheran Church: Luke Pladson, Matt Nyquist, Ray Raider, Jeff Knight; Troop 638, Our

Saviour Lutheran Church: Elliot Nerland, Eric Nerland, Adam Johnson, Nick Rahn and Tim Johnson. Paul Schneider, older brother of Scout Jeff Schneider, also assisted. Smerud was the adult scout supervisor.

All the troops are members of the Boy Scouts of America, Northern Lights Council, Many Waters District 6, Moorhead.

The CCHS Board of Directors and Staff wish to extend a heartfelt thanks to all the Scouts and their leaders for their quick response to this crisis. Their community spirit is a fine example of the Boy Scout programs.



Volunteer Boy Scouts work on cleanup of artifacts in CCHS's Main storage area. Because of the quick response of so many volunteers, permanent damage to stored artifacts was minimal.



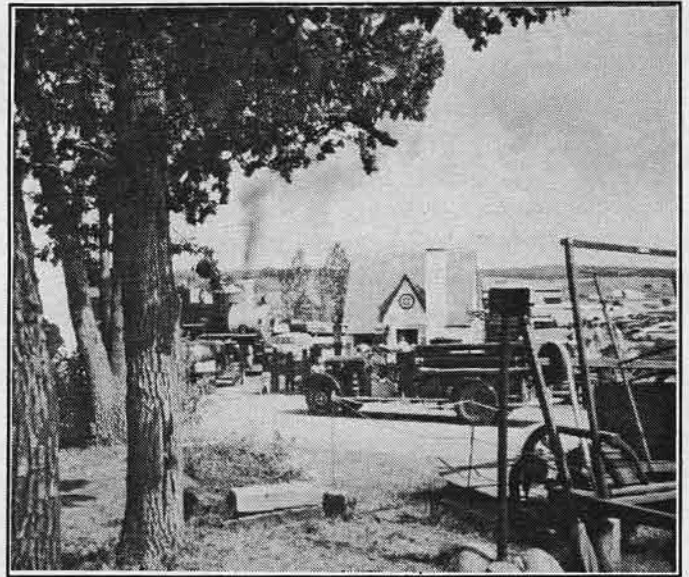
## Fire Truck finds new home

When the first Moorhead fire brigade was formed in 1872 the fire fighters used a hand-drawn hook and ladder apparatus. A team of horses was purchased in 1885 to pull the wagon and the first motorized truck was purchased in 1917.

Early fire trucks were designed for looks as much as utility and the 7-ton Buffalo pumper purchased by Moorhead in 1936 didn't disappoint anyone. The truck featured an open-air bench seat festooned with gold leaf decoration, chrome oil filters and headlights, and many other aesthetic enhancements.

But decorations notwithstanding, the truck was durable and served the City of Moorhead well into the late 1970s. Following its retirement the truck fell into disrepair and was deeded to CCHS in 1983. After appearing in several parades it was put in storage awaiting major repairs. The truck emerged again in 1994 and began making the parade circuit.

In 1997 WMSTR (Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion) was approached about storing the truck at Rollag where preliminary plans for a working fire hall and fire station are being discussed. The



The 1936 Buffalo Fire Truck drives by a cottage style service station from Walcott ND as it takes part in a parade at the WMSTR Labor Day Weekend, 1998.

Buffalo made its first appearance this Labor Day weekend as a record-setting crowd of approximately 100,000 visited the reunion grounds. By all accounts the Buffalo was a hit.

## CCHS Memberships - New and Renewals

### July/August 1998

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

### RENEWALS

Robert & Cheryl Abelman, Moorhead  
Mae Gee, Moorhead  
Pearl Grover, Moorhead  
William Prieb, Moorhead  
Maxine Shulstad, Barnesville  
Paul Skatvold, Moorhead  
Phyllis Wirries, Moorhead  
Aldrich & Meredith Bloomquist, Moorhead  
John Powell/Beverly Lake, Moorhead  
Galen & Sharon Vaa, Moorhead  
Neil & Paulette Hanson, Glyndon  
M/M Loren Ingebretsen, Felton  
Frank & Adrie Israelson, Wolverton  
Marlene Ames, Fargo  
Ione Diirro, Moorhead  
Neil Larson, Harwood  
Robert & JoAnn Nyquist, Moorhead  
Lois Selberg, Moorhead  
Virginia Klenk, Moorhead  
Owen & Fern Voxland, Moorhead  
Larry Nordick, Moorhead

Paul & Mardeth Dovre, Moorhead  
Dana Powers, Rochert  
Conn M. Bjerke, Moorhead  
William T. Fay, Cocoa Beach FL  
Morris & Ruth Lanning, Moorhead  
Steve B. Olson, Moorhead  
Edgar B. Peterson, Burbank CA  
Loretta F. Ramstad, Hawley  
Ardis & Milton Severson, Detroit Lakes  
Diane Haugen, Barnesville  
Arthur Nix, Moorhead  
Arvid Thompson, Barnesville  
Lloyd Sunde, Moorhead  
John Jenkins, Moorhead  
Dorothy Garven, Los Angeles CA  
Jeanette I. Longtine, Moorhead  
Esther Olson, Moorhead  
Allen County Public Library, Ft Wayne IN  
Richard & Kathleen Zaylskie, Fargo  
Jim Antonen, Moorhead  
Faye B. Wells, Vancouver WA  
Sherry & Tom Watt, Glyndon  
Tim McLarnan, Moorhead  
Karen & Joe Schneider, Moorhead  
Sam Rikhus, Ulen  
Ardee & Eunice Johnson, Moorhead  
Lawrence Kava, Barnesville  
Robert Loffler, Moorhead  
James Ross, Moorhead  
Anna E. Schneider, Moorhead  
Elaine Skatrud, Moorhead  
Robert & Selma Anderson, Moorhead

Helen Glawe, Barnesville  
J. Donald & Naomi Rice, Moorhead  
Roland & Bernice Saethre, Moorhead  
Ona May Brunsvold, Moorhead  
Sharon Doeden, Moorhead  
Roger Minch, Fargo  
Bart Cahill, Moorhead  
Adeline Corwin, Ulen  
Donna Merchant, Minneapolis  
Ruth & Howard Wagner, Moorhead  
Maxine Workman, Borup  
Roland & Carolyn Barden, Moorhead  
Viola Mallory, Pasadena CA  
H. Allen Ohrt, Fargo  
Harlan L. Rude, Moorhead  
Doug & Nancy Staiger family, Moorhead  
Arde & Emily Hougum, Moorhead  
Shirley Lontz/Steve Slabik, Moorhead  
Lois Bekkerus, Glyndon  
John & Nadine Glas, Moorhead  
Marion Gee, Moorhead  
Gustav Haug, Hawley  
Marion Gillespie, Moorhead  
Ruth Franzen, Fargo

CCHS welcomes the following new member:

### NEW MEMBER

Clair Haugen, Moorhead



# "1919 Farm Encampment" day camp featured livestock judging - lectures

The following article and photo was taken from a 1919 report by the county extension department. 4-H Clubs were first introduced in Clay County in 1914. Earlier and continuing while the new "4-H" designation took effect, there were Boys' and Girls' Clubs. These clubs were generally segregated by sex as with the "Farm Encampment." The title addresses BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK, but all the attendees were boys. The encampment was held at NDAC (North Dakota Agricultural College), now NDSU (North Dakota State University).

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## BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK.

Contestants from various parts of the county have been enlisted in many of the projects of club work. Most of them have completed their projects and have turned in their reports. Two "achievement days" were held. One at the Clearwater Consolidated School and the other at the Glyndon High School.

One feature of the boys' work during the past season was the holding of a Farm Boy's Encampment at the North Dakota Agricultural College. The encampment was held in conjunction with a similar encampment of the farm boys of Cass County, N.D. A total of thirty boys from both counties was enrolled and received instruction during the week. The nature of the work provided for the boys, consisted of daily lectures by instructors from the

agricultural college, as well as specialists from other sources.

A portion of each day was spent in visiting and getting acquainted with the leading industries available for that purpose in Fargo and Moorhead.

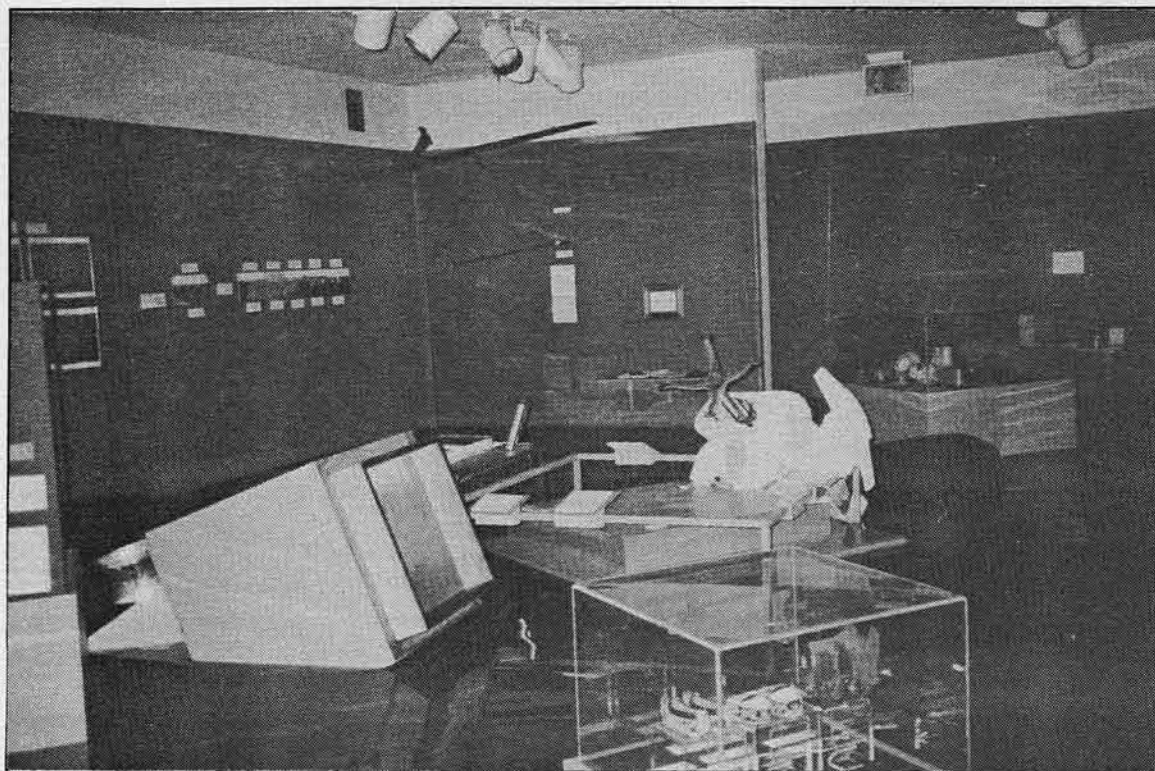
One of the strong features of the work was livestock judging and provided entertaining instruction for the boys. (sic) For this purpose, a use was made of the animals at the agricultural college as well as visitations to the nearby stock farms. Recreation was provided for the boys also, and a portion of the day was set aside for carrying on work of that kind. The plan for feeding was a "mess service" and was arranged with a down-town restaurant in Fargo. The boys marched to mess in drill formation or were taken down in autos and trucks. Taking the encampment as a whole, we are quite satisfied that it made a hit with the boys and that they got a great deal of good from the week's experience.



"At Ease" after a day's work at the Farm Boys' Encampment.

# A Flood and

By Pam Burkhardt and Mark Peihl



"Inside, Outside, Upside Down"? Our temporary exhibit lived up to its name on July 19. In the foreground case tiny decorated children's shoes sit high and dry, 2 inches above the water.

Many of our members have heard through the media that the museum suffered a flood last month. Sometime around 6 a.m. Sunday, July 19, a water main broke on the east side of the Hjemkomst Center sending water into the lower two floors of the Center which house our archives, office, artifact storage and exhibit areas.

Earlier the previous week, contractors had dug the basement for part of our coming new exhibit area on the east side of the existing building.



Sixteen inches of water turned exhibit cases over in our permanent exhibit. This is the Hawley section. Some artifacts got wet, but none were broken.



# the Recovery

Apparently on Saturday, July 11, heavy rain eroded down the clay bank of this pit leaving a buried water main without adequate earthen support. Vibration from water flowing through the pipe shook a connection loose. Water flowed out filling the excavation pit like a muddy swimming pool.

The path the water took into the building is still unclear. The Center has four levels. Level 1 is the top floor, where the Hjemkomst ship and auditorium are located. Level 2 houses the HHIC's traveling exhibits. Level 3 is where our offices and archives are found. It's also where most of our artifacts are stored. Level 4, the bottom floor, was home to our exhibits and storage for our larger artifacts, like furniture. Water from the pit may have filled the drain tiles under the building and overwhelmed the sump pump in the furnace room in level 3's northeast corner. At any rate, water poured out of the furnace room and flowed down the halls toward our exhibit area on level 4. Water pooled in this lowest level much faster than the sumps could keep up.

About 7:30 a.m. Kenneth and Mardrie Fladgard of Riverside One, the high rise next door to the Center, called authorities to report water gushing into the new excavation at the Hjemkomst Center. Their call was our salvation. Without this advance warning, water could have flowed into the building until the first staff person arrived around 10:30 that morning. We hesitate to think how high the water might have been at that point. We probably could have scuba dived in our exhibit area.

Authorities quickly notified Helen Frampton of the flood. Frampton is Executive Director of Eventide, the managers of the facility. Helen called CCHS Collections Manager Pam Burkhardt just before 8 a.m. and Pam called Archivist Mark Peihl moments later.

When Mark and Pam arrived at the museum a few minutes after 8, police and fire personnel, Helen and Kevin Bartram, architect for the Center's new construction, were already on the scene. Helen had a pump on the way from Eventide and a call was out to the Moorhead Fire Department for another to pump out the pit. Meanwhile, a workman in rubber boots

from the Moorhead Public Service Department was sloshing toward the electrical panel to shut off power. We couldn't survey the situation downstairs until the juice was shut off. The view from the top of the stairs was not encouraging. Water an inch and a half deep trickled down the hallway like a trout stream. Around the corner below us, it ran down the steps in a waterfall to our exhibit area. The bottom step was already covered. The delay was frustrating, but it gave us time to think about what might be impacted and how we should proceed.

Soon the pumps arrived and Mark went outside to help drain the pit. Pam called CCHS Office Manager Margaret Ristvedt, HHIC Director Bev Woodward, and potential volunteers, then dashed out for supplies. Ristvedt notified CCHS Board Members and contacted Sheriff Larry Costello for a possible work force before heading for the Center. Personnel from Eventide and crews from the Moorhead Parks, Sanitation and Public Works Departments arrived at the scene. While a 5 or 6 inch pump from Public Works worked on the pit, other pumps moved water out of the building.

By 10:30 it was safe for us to wade downstairs and assess the damage. Our archives fared pretty well. Water on level 3 reached only 1½ to 2 inches deep. Almost all of our archival materials were stored on shelves at least 3 inches off the floor and stayed dry. Only a few items directly on the floor got wet. These included some photographs, audio and video tapes and business ledgers from six different collections.

In the two artifact storage areas on this level, the situation was similar. Only artifacts resting directly on the floor were wet. But larger numbers of items were impacted. About 300 artifacts and two boxes of uncatalogued items got wet. Many of these were books and framed prints. In most cases the frames were damp but the prints remained dry.

But inspection of the vault where our Flaten/Wange negatives are stored revealed a bigger problem. We have cleaned and printed about 2/3 of the 15,000 negatives in the collection. These are stored in new acid free sleeves in metal file cabinets. The rest are still in photographer S. P. Wange's original sleeves



Volunteers carried out tons of flood damaged office supplies, props and junk.



Hundreds of soaked carpet tiles from our permanent exhibit wait to be hauled out so the industrial fans can do their job.



## Flood (Continued from Page 9)

and are stored in old metal document cabinets. About 1000 of the uncleaned negatives and 1200 cleaned negatives took water. The later included wet plate process negatives taken by O. E. Flaten. These are some of the earliest images of Moorhead we have. Mark has described the laborious wet plate process here before. The emulsion which holds the image on these photos is very water sensitive. The other negatives could remain damp for some time but the wet plate negatives would need immediate attention if we were to save them.

The museum level (4) was hardest hit. As soon as it was safe, Mark inspected the flooded exhibit hall. Armed with a flashlight, pen and paper and camera he waded in the 16 inch deep water moving slowly to avoid creating a wake. It was a surreal scene. Exhibit cases peeked up out of the water or laid on their sides, artifacts floating inside. One case stood upright, several children's shoes resting only two inches above the water lapping at the case side. Mark took notes and photos then moved back upstairs to attend to the negatives.

When the lights came on Pam was able to do a more complete inspection. She soon learned two things: the situation could easily have been much worse and the artifacts impacted were manageable. Of the 194 artifacts on display in our temporary and permanent exhibits, 72 took water. In our furniture storage area about 100 items got wet.

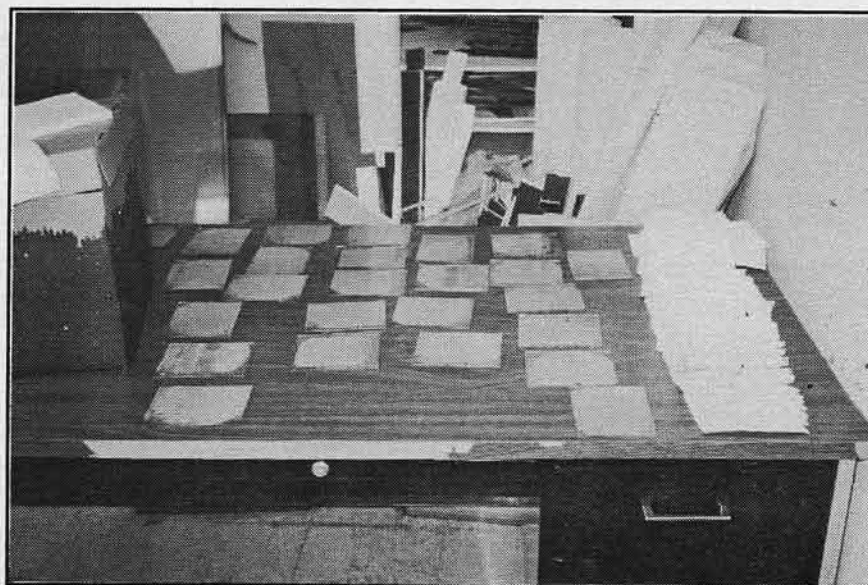
One surprise was the number of exhibit cases which tipped over. Their bases are hollow and water tight. As the water level rose they became buoyant, floated and tipped over like top-heavy balloons. Several cases contained very fragile objects - a glass bleeding cup and a egg-shell-thin cup and saucer, for instance - but none were broken! Our exhibit risers (4 to 5 inch high platforms to hold up artifacts) also floated up and heeled over. One riser supporting our oldest trunk (a leather one from the 1850s) rose and floated off like a raft. We recovered the trunk with little damage.

Back in the vault, Mark located as many wet plate negatives as he could (26 - two more showed up later), removed them from their sleeves and laid them to dry face up on a table. After being damp only 2 or 3 hours, the emulsions on about half were

already wrinkled like alligator skin, impossible to repair. Mark said that this was his lowest point in the whole ordeal.

Meanwhile, volunteers had arrived to help. By one or two o'clock the museum was pumped out. Volunteers pulled up wet carpet tiles from the floor, "squeegeed" water and silt into the sump holes and raised exhibit cases and large artifacts up on blocks to air dry underneath. Others carried trunks and other wet artifacts from our storage areas up to meeting rooms on the top level to dry or hauled wet office supplies and exhibit materials out to a central collection area. KVLV TV interviewed Pam and Mark spoke to KXJB, the first of many media reports we'd do. Margaret manned the phones and helped line up Signature Professional Cleaners to handle the bulk of the cleaning. Signature arrived immediately. By Sunday evening, the floors were mostly dry, and the exhibit cases containing wet artifacts had been emptied.

With the physical clean-up in the hands of professionals, we could turn our attention to our artifacts and exhibits. Pam and Mark stayed in regular contact with conservators from around the country. Kristen Cheronis of the Upper Midwest Conservation Association was particularly helpful. (Mark and Pam had met Kristen when the UMCA was in charge of artifact recovery at Grand Fork's Myra Museum after the 1997 flood.) Talking to Kristen helped keep the recovery focused. Our main concern was mold. In damp, warm conditions, mildew can cause havoc.



O.E. Flaten's wet plate negatives air dry on a table. About a dozen incurred significant damage.

## Flood (Continued from Page 11)

We had to lower the humidity as fast as we could. The building's air conditioning was turned on full blast. Sunday night the building roared with the cleaning company's heavy duty fans and dehumidifiers, a sound we would live with for the next few weeks.

Monday was garbage hauling day. The humidity levels got a major assist as the Moorhead Kiwanis carried out tons of wet office supplies and junk. (A newspaper account suggested that several computers and old records went out in the trash. Actually, HHIC disposed of several computer PARTS, including broken key boards, non-functioning terminals and ancient CPUs. We did throw out old exhibit copies of photographs, wet mounting board and old label copy but NO records or original materials.) A work crew from the Clay County jail carried load after load of wet carpet tile out to a dumpster. The Kiwanis also removed walls of our exhibit area. They were later wiped down and stacked for storage. The exhibit cases and risers were wiped off and placed up on blocks. (They would be washed by volunteers later.) A group of Boy Scouts wiped off and dried each item in the furniture storage room. A few finishes showed obvious water damage, most didn't and still don't. The water had been removed from the exhibit and storage areas before it had time to do more damage.

On Tuesday, Mark was able to turn his attention to the remaining damp negatives. He fashioned drying racks from old merchandise display bins and 2 x 4s. The rest of the week volunteers worked at carefully removing the wet negatives from their old sleeves, placing the glass negatives in the racks to dry, transcribing the information written on the old wet sleeves to new acid-free enclosures and returning the negatives to the appropriate new sleeve. It was exacting, tedious work, but 107 volunteer hours later, the task was complete.

On Wednesday afternoon cleanup efforts received a temporary but annoying set back. A toilet valve in a bathroom immediately above one of our storage areas broke, flooded the upstairs lobby and rained water down through gaps in the floor onto previously dry artifacts. However, these were quickly moved by another group of Boy Scouts who also helped mop up the water. The broken valve was unrelated to our earlier water problems. The plumber said the malfunction could have happened at any time.

At the end of the second week of cleanup, artifacts which needed drying had been dried. Temperature and

humidity readings had been returned to normal in a controlled manner. The need to quickly move artifacts from impacted areas and to clear storage areas for cleaning left many artifacts and other property temporarily stored in aisles, on shelves and wherever there was an empty spot. Cleaning and returning these items to their proper storage areas is ongoing.

We've made plans to create a temporary gallery out of exhibit walls in our old display area. It's almost ready for use. We will put up a few displays downstairs rather than wait until our new exhibit area opens next year. Also in the works is a new theater area for showing the Hjemkomst video in the north end of our old exhibit area. The archives are open and ready for researchers, though our darkroom will be out of commission for some time. Water sensors will be installed to give us warning if, God forbid, something like this happens again.

Currently, things are getting back to something like normal but the chaos of those first few days will take months to sort out. On reflection, things could have been MUCH worse. The water was relatively clean and we received quick notice. We got the water out of the building quickly. The toilet valve didn't blow at 4 a.m. and staff had experience with problems like this before. During the Flood of 1997 a sump pump pipe blew flooding our furniture storage area and a third of our exhibit area. Pam and Mark also gained valuable experience helping the Grand Forks museum recover. Most importantly, these events gave the staff a psychological edge when the flood occurred. Without this preparation, facing this trial would have been much more difficult.

It was heart warming to see the outpouring of support from volunteers, Clay County and the City of Moorhead when needed and the professional cooperation between the staffs of CCHS, HHIC, Eventide and Signature Cleaning. It's been a tough few weeks but we will be back, stronger than before.

## Volunteers Needed

◆ Special events ◆ Special Projects

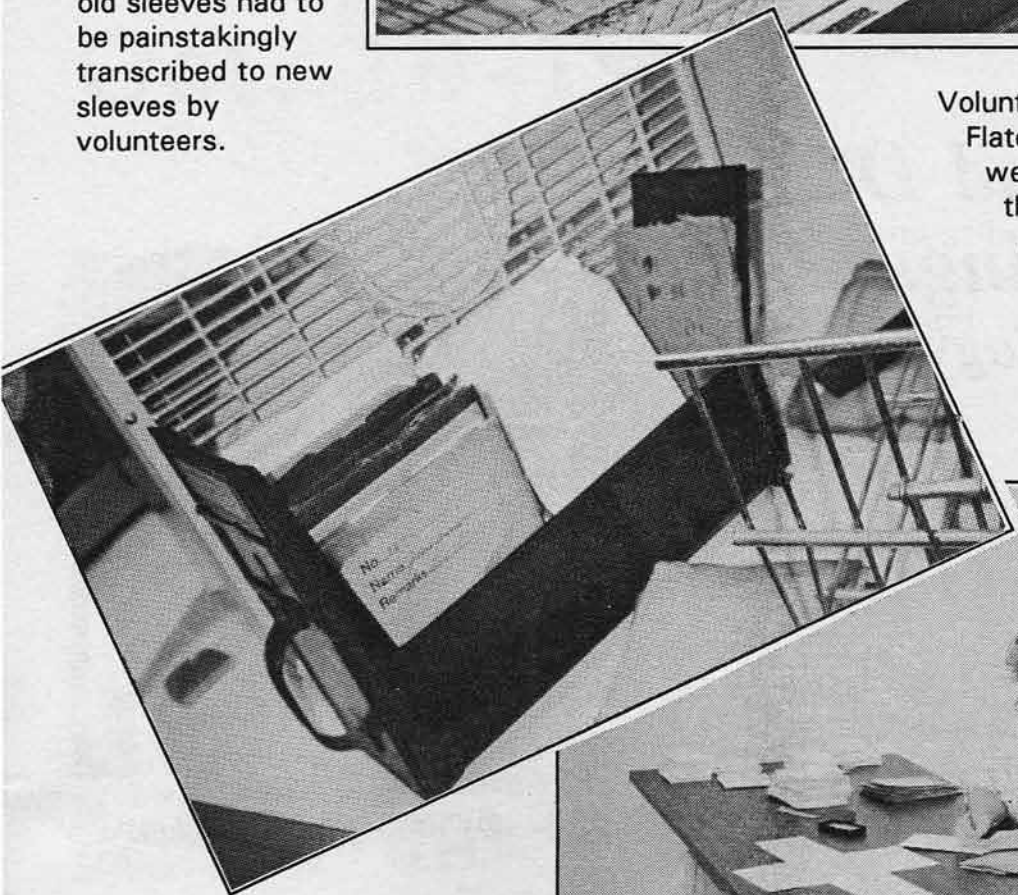
Call CCHS at 233-4604 for  
more information



Below: Wet Flaten/Wange glass negatives stand in old document cases awaiting drying. Important identifying information on the old sleeves had to be painstakingly transcribed to new sleeves by volunteers.



Volunteer Pat Fridgen carefully removes a Flaten/Wange glass negative from its wet sleeve. CCHS volunteers stood the negatives in home-made racks to air dry before placing them in new sleeves.



At right: CCHS volunteer Irene Hogan transcribes information from an old wet negative sleeve to a new dry acid free enclosure.



# CLAY COUNTY MUSEUM'S

*limited showing of*

## *"Bits & Pieces"*

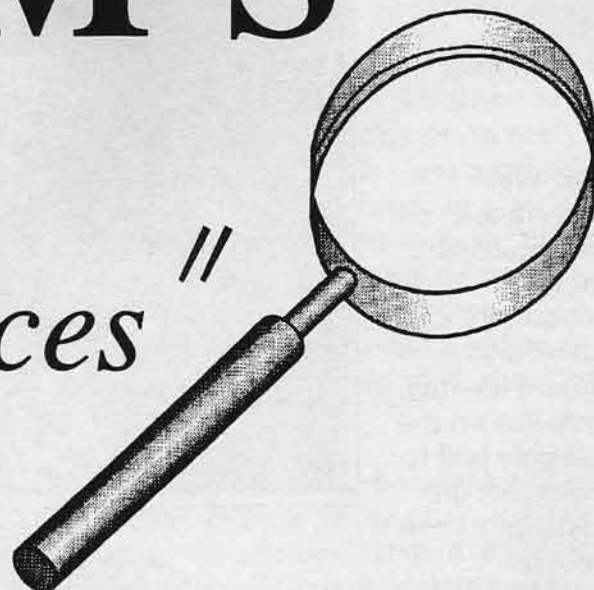
*including:*

*Flood photos*

*1972 Moorhead Diorama*

*"Forgotten Things"*

*an MSU archeology exhibit*



*and a*

## *"Stitches in Time"* preview

*"Stitches in Time" will open in early 1999. Watch for further announcements. The water main break flood of July 19 resulted in the necessity to dismantle the "Inside, Outside" exhibit scheduled to show through January. We regret the inconvenience this has caused and ask the public's patience as we prepare for the new museum space now under construction.*

**-- FREE ADMISSION --**

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

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



# CCHS Glistory Tour

including

Gangsters, courthouses,  
a musical comedy  
and topped off with the  
"History Center"

Wed.-Thurs.  
Oct. 14-15

(See Page 3 for more details)



You must be a CCHS Member to join us.  
Individual Memberships are just \$15.  
Join now by calling 233-4604!



includes all attraction  
fees, bus fare, motel,  
theatre tickets &  
most meals.

# \$145

Registration Deadline is: Wednesday, Sept. 30

For more information and/or to register

## Call 233-4604

Clay County Historical Society, Box 501, Moorhead, MN 56561

## 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-1998 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
- \* Discount on Photo Reproduction
- \* Voting Privileges
- \* Invitation to all CCHS events

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



202 1ST AVENUE NORTH

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MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA 56561-0501

Address Correction Requested