



A Century Together

A History of Fargo, North Dakota
and Moorhead, Minnesota

This is number 1900 of 2000 copies

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Published in June, 1975
by the Fargo-Moorhead Centennial Corporation
to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary
of the chartering of Fargo and Moorhead.
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To the Citizens of Fargo and Moorhead:



The White House Washington

It is a special pleasure to join with you as you celebrate the one hundredth anniversaries of both Fargo, North Dakota and Moorhead, Minnesota.

The first pioneers of Fargo and Moorhead brought with them a spirit of enthusiasm, determination and cooperation along with an abiding faith in God and in themselves. These qualities not only helped to build communities with a rich heritage, but also contributed to the growth and prosperity of the United States as a great Nation. These characteristics were typical of early America, and they are vitally needed today. With this spirit I know that you will look to the future with pride and with hope.

With my congratulations and best wishes always.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerald R. Ford".

Gerald R. Ford



Office of the Governor State of North Dakota

It is truly a pleasure to greet the citizens of Fargo-Moorhead, and your many Centennial guests, as you observe 100 years of cooperation and progress based on a firm foundation of pioneer spirit.

The spirit is evidenced by the twin cities of Fargo-Moorhead served as the hub of the Dakotas area in early years, and continues to serve as an educational, cultural, agricultural and commerce center for the entire area.

The FM Twin Cities have a history as rich as the Red River soil. It is truly pleasing that you are commemorating your century together in such a fine manner. It is especially appropriate as our nation and state approach the 200th birthday anniversary of our country, the Bicentennial, that the century of progress of Fargo-Moorhead be recorded for the future.

Best wishes for a meaningful Centennial celebration which not only recognizes the meaning of our heritage, but looks forward to future accomplishments.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arthur A. Link".

Arthur A. Link



Office of the Governor State of Minnesota

It is my pleasure to send greetings to the citizens of Fargo and Moorhead celebrating the 100th anniversary of their twin cities.

Both North Dakota and Minnesota can be extremely proud of the century of progress made possible by these two cities working together.

I feel the symbol chosen to represent this memorable event is very appropriate — the shafts of wheat, the water and sun. Early settlers to this region, many of them Norwegian, took the treeless prairie country they found and developed it into valuable agricultural land.

Much has happened since a ferry first ran across the river between the two cities in the early days. I am confident that the two cities will continue to work together to assure future progress.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendell R. Anderson".

Wendell R. Anderson



Office of the Mayor City of Fargo

It is indeed a privilege and an honor for me to have this opportunity to congratulate all of the citizens of Fargo and Moorhead on this very special occasion — that of celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the founding of our two great cities.

The theme of the celebration, "A Century Together," is most appropriate, because every citizen, from our pioneers to those who are living in our communities today, has given so much to make Moorhead and Fargo the outstanding cities they have become.

I know that the pioneer spirit — the faith and trust in each other — will continue in the years ahead. I believe the people of these proud cities in the rich Red River Valley will continue to build for the future on the solid foundations of the past, and that even a greater spirit of friendship and cooperation is in store for us in the years ahead.

Again, my personal congratulations to every citizen of Fargo and Moorhead.

Richard A. Hentges



Office of the Mayor City of Moorhead

It is a great honor and pleasure to be Mayor of Moorhead, Minnesota, this Centennial Year. For one hundred years the cities of Moorhead and Fargo have grown and prospered together here in the heart of the Red River Valley.

Studying the history of our two communities leads us to a deep appreciation of those who had the courage to settle here. These early pioneers were followed by people with vision. This vision and hard work brought forth from two small settlements, a major metropolitan area.

While the first hundred years have been dramatic and exciting, the next hundred years should be just as exciting and equally as challenging. To meet these challenges, cooperation between the two cities must become even stronger. The mind of man today cannot conceive what new experiences lie ahead for our children and grandchildren. We wish them well as they take over where we will leave off. May they bind even stronger bonds of friendship and cooperation between our cities, Moorhead, Minnesota and Fargo, North Dakota.

Dwaine H. Hoberg



Office of the General Chairman, Fargo-Moorhead Centennial

I want to extend a very warm welcome to our guests and visitors and an invitation to all of you to participate and enjoy the 100th birthday celebration of Fargo-Moorhead.

We are grateful to the leadership of our two communities, to our investors, and to thousands of other people without whose support our festivities would not have been possible.

As a result, all of us have been happily involved in the biggest cooperative undertaking in the history of our century together.

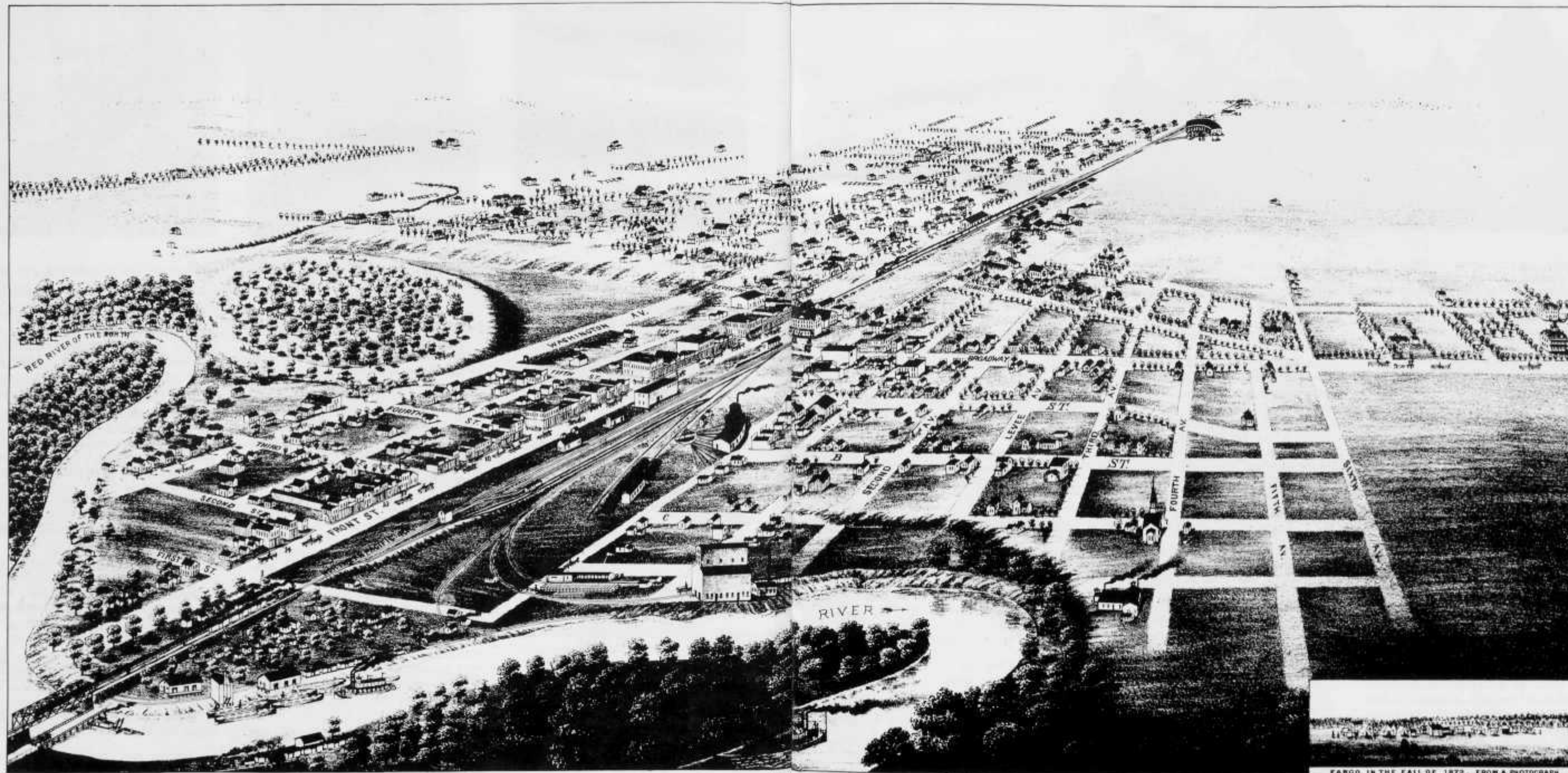
Fargo and Moorhead are entering a new era of great growth, marked by confidence and mutual respect. Such an attainment would be impossible without the enthusiasm, dedication, and continuing unselfish efforts of good neighbors.

As we pause on this glorious occasion to salute our pioneer forefathers for such a rich inheritance, we can proudly focus our attention on the needs of the future.

C. Warner Litten

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Fargo, North Dakota



FOR BY J. L. STOKER, HARBOR, MINN.

1. Court House.
2. Public Schools.
3. Moorhead, Minn.
4. Methodist.
5. Episcopal.
6. Presbyterian.
7. Lutheran.

8. Headquarters Hotel, W. H. Witt.
9. Sherman House, G. J. Kiser.
10. Merchants Hotel, John Kiman.
11. Reynolds House, B. P. Reynolds.
12. Park Hotel, John Pashley.
13. Scandinavian House, E. T. Moon.
14. Minnesota House, H. O. Kjos.
15. Lake Hotel, Butler & Peterson.

HOTELS.

BIRD'S EYE

FARGO, N. D.

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16. Farmers' Home, Frank Henter.
17. J. S. Campbell's Planing Mill.
18. White Bros. " & Lumber Yard.
19. Fargo Mills, Roberts & Perkins.
20. Custom Feed Mill.
21. Fargo Machine Shop, C. W. Roser.
22. William Ayimar, Soda Water Factory.

23. J. C. Winslow & Co's Lumber Yard.
24. Chesley & Lovejoy, " "
25. Crockett & Shotwell, Lumber & Coal Yard.
26. N. P. Stock Yards.
27. U. S. Land Office.
28. N. P. R. R. Round House & Shops.

FARGO IN THE FALL OF 1872. FROM A PHOTOGRAPH
DRAWN BY T. M. FOWLER

To the Reader:

There is one thing all of us who have worked on this "Story of Fargo" have learned. The time is ripe for a comprehensive, detailed history of the city.

Fargo has an unusually interesting history. It has survived against great odds — tangled land titles; many more than its share of natural disasters including floods, blizzards and tornados; a particularly high incidence of fires; and reliance on the greatest gamble of all — agriculture — as its economic mainstay.

All of these stories and the best story of all, that of its people, cannot be recounted as they deserve in a book of this size. We can only hope that in these pages someone finds the inspiration to use his or her time and talent to take advantage of the great wealth of material available and put together the "whole" story before it is too late.

We apologize to those many of you who gave us material that we were not able to include. Copies of our unused material, including photographs, is being placed in the Institute for Regional Studies at NDSU and the Dakota Room of the City Library for the use of the future historian of

Fargo. And we take this opportunity to urge any reader who has other information or photographs to give those materials to these institutions.

The story here presented is the product of many hands, heads and hearts. The History Section of the Fine Arts Club undertook the research and preparation of papers on the various sections of the book as its project for the year. It was a particularly appropriate group for such a task as many of the members themselves belong to early settlers' families. Their backgrounds were helpful; the project was meaningful to them.

Members of the group are: Mrs. Philip Vogel (Barbara) also a member of the Board of Directors of the Centennial Committee, Mrs. John Alsop (Louise), Mrs. H. R. Arneson, Jr. (Millie), Mrs. John Bennison (Jan), Mrs. E. G. Clapp (Geraldine), Mrs. Fred Hector, Jr. (Earlyne), Mrs. Leo Hertel (Elsa), Mrs. Oral Holm (Louise), Mrs. Seymour Landfield (Ruth), Mrs. Ray Larson (Allie), Mrs. Harris Mark (Betty), Miss Mary McKinnie, Mrs. John Percy (Lucille), Mrs. Sam Platkin (Fritzie), Mrs. F. Urban Powers (Becky), Mrs. Neill Provencher (Bonnie), Mrs. Stewart Schlipf (Ruth), Mrs. W. G. Suhr (Bunny), Mrs. Theodore Vavrina (Kathryn), Mrs. Grant Webster (Mabel).

After the research was done, the papers written and old photographs collected, Jerry Richardson, Director of the Communications office, NDSU, Marcia Busch, graphic designer and Dean Hanson, photographer, both from the same department, took over and "put it all together." Without them there would never have been a book at all. Betty Good and Lucille Campbell corrected our mistakes in grammar, spelling and sentence structure while typing our manuscripts. Jerry O'Keefe of Kaye's Printers gave us his wholehearted support and encouragement as well as his professional know-how.

Many, many people lent us photographs and told us their stories. To all of them we are grateful and hope that the end product justifies the time spent with us. We wish that every one of you could be listed by name. But named or not, the book would never have been realized without you, and we thank you.

Sincerely,

Geraldine Clapp
Mrs. E. G. Clapp

Indians



Indians presently living in Fargo agree that there were probably no permanent Indian villages on or near the site where Fargo was located at the time of the arrival of the first settlers because the Minnesota uprising of 1862 had driven them west and north into Canada where the remains of the vast buffalo herds had gone.

In February, 1872, there was a small encampment of Indians believed to be Santee Sioux in the Oak Grove area. They are the only known Indian encampment near Fargo, and they apparently stayed only one season. The cause of their departure may have been the visit at that time of a company of United States Infantry led by Captain William Stanley which was on its way from Fort Abercrombie to Fort Abraham Lincoln near Bismarck.

The early Sioux left no written records, but their culture and life style were carefully handed down from generation to generation. Before the white man came, the Indian lived a life that was orderly and well governed. Their religion was much like ours, with a belief in a Supreme Being, Holy Ghost and the hereafter. Their belief also included the great flood and a creation much like ours. The Indian felt a union with nature; he never destroyed needlessly.

Individual Indians owned no land. They believed they were their brothers' keepers and every one was welcome into their homes and shared their possessions as they do today. It was difficult for them to under-

stand the greedy white man who put a fence around his land and reached for the gun when an Indian asked for food and tried to help himself to apples on a tree or vegetables in a garden.

Indian mounds and relics dating from 2000 years ago are found along the Red River, but the Sioux came here from what is now Carolina, driven by Chippewa who had white men's guns. The process covered a period of three to four hundred years. The horse was acquired and made the plains Indians' life easier; they scattered over all of the Dakotas, Montana, Wyoming and Nebraska following buffalo herds.

Early writers say that the sight of an Indian village in the evening near a lake with birch trees nearby for wood was the most beautiful picture you can imagine. Each tepee with its fire inside would glow like a cone-shaped lamp. The tepee was 20 feet across and could withstand winds of hurricane force because of its shape and the long poles pounded down several feet into the ground. When the family moved, the tent poles became trav-wok (travois) for horses and dogs to pull.

Inside the tepee each member of the family had his or her own place — the mother to the right as you entered — the father across and facing the door, and the boys to the left as you entered. Indian women had much influence and sat on tribal councils. They were teachers and story tellers. It was not until the white man and

his whiskey came on the scene that she became a slave to prepare skins that the men sold to white traders.

Indians elected their chiefs from braves who met the rigid qualifications. A man became a chief because his father was one only if he had the qualifications. One Indian did not dictate or order his people. The will of the majority or the tribal council ran their affairs. White men took it for granted that an Indian chief could sign treaties, but the important decisions had to be made by the council. Each war party was led by a man elected to do so, and only those who chose to do so went along. The Indian looked with scorn on the white soldiers who must follow orders.

Each tribe had its own way of dress which could be identified at a glance. But they all prized long hair on the head. It was an insulting experience when young Indian boys were taken to reservation schools and had their hair cut. Hair on the face and chest, however, was disgusting to the Indian as he considered it animal-like.

The bitterness Indians feel today is understandable. The army crushed the survivors of the Little Big Horn to avenge Custer's death and the Sioux were rounded up and put on reservations. The reservations were prisons from which the Indians made desperate attempts to escape.

The climax came in 1890 when Big Foot's band of Sioux could no longer stand their semi-starvation and misery and stole away from their reservation hoping for better conditions. Troops



Area ceded to the United States by the Old Crossing Treaty

intercepted them at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, herded them into a knot and surrounded them. The Indians were cold, hungry and in rags and had no thought of resistance. They were disarmed, but somewhere a gun went off accidentally. The troops opened fire on them and from a hilltop above them, machine guns raked the swirling mass of people. Some sixty soldiers were killed, most if not all by their own men. Three hundred Indian men, women and children perished, and their bodies were thrown into a common grave. It was the last armed confrontation between Indians and whites. Since the final defeat to the tribes, however, life has not been easy for the Indian. Every act of Congress and every program of each administration that dealt with Indian policy have been designed to speed the assimilation of Indians into the mainstream of American culture. Indians have resisted, and today their resistance is coming more and more into focus.

Indian Claims to Fargo

In the fall of 1863, negotiations were conducted with the Pembina and Red Lake Bands of Chippewa Indians by which they ceded to the United States about three million acres of land in northwestern Minnesota and northeastern Dakota. This cession made possible the settlement of the Red River Valley. But the site on which Fargo was to be located was not included within this cession. (See map) Instead the site was a part of the reservation of the Sisseton-

Wahpeton tribes. It was widely believed that the railroad officials discovered the Indian claim and precipitated the raid on Fargo in the Timber which is described later in an attempt to remove the squatters from land the railroad wanted. Railroad officials, it is said, believed that the claim of the Indians could be extinguished, leaving the railroad in sole possession. Indeed, there is never any mention of any active claim by tribal councils to the land. The true story is not easy to discover.

It is true, however, that some of the settlers appealed to Governor Austin of Minnesota who in turn communicated with Senators Windom and Ramsey in Washington. They in turn secured an order from the Attorney General of the United States, allowing the actual bona fide settlers to remain in possession of their land until such time as a treaty could be entered into with the Sisseton and Wahpeton Sioux looking to the extinguishment of their title. This was done, and Commissioners Moses N. Adams, Wm. H. Forbes and James South, were appointed to negotiate a treaty with the Indians which was finally signed at Sisseton in June, 1872.

Under the terms of this treaty, the Indian tribes were to receive \$800,000 in ten annual installments of \$80,000 each, but not in cash. It was to be expended for goods, provisions, manual labor and public school houses, support of schools, erection of mills, blacksmith shops, for opening farms, breaking land, fencing, agricultural implements, oxen, milk

cows and other items supposedly helpful to the Indians.

This did not end the controversy, however. Some Congressmen found fault, and the bill which passed confirming the agreement contained amendments. This required another signing by the Indians. Eventually, on June 3, 1873, Congress ratified the amended agreement.

Nowhere is there any record of any payment to the Indians under the terms of the treaty.

The tract ceded, according to Government maps, lay between the Red, Sheyenne and James Rivers and extended from Lake Traverse to a point a short distance north of Devils Lake. Among the communities which lie within the area of cession are Minnewaukan, Fort Totten, New Rockford, Wahpeton, Forman and Fargo. Sisseton and Webster Reservations were not affected.

The Indian chief who actually gave up the land was Wah-Na-Ta, one of the great Sioux leaders. He was apparently a Santee Sioux; he was sent to a reservation in South Dakota.

In 1892, Major Alonzo Edwards proudly stated in the "Fargo Daily Republican" that, thankfully, not one Indian remains in the thriving community.

But, before that statement could be made, still another "Indian" claim had to be dealt with. A part Indian named Francis Peronto appeared claiming that he had settled on the future Section Seven which



was to be the original townsite before anyone else, and that the 151 acres of this land which covered the area from the railroad to University Drive and from N.P. Avenue to Third Avenue South was his homestead location. His claim was based on his habitation on the Fargo land within 10 rods of the railroad right-of-way somewhere along Second Street North on the river.

Mr. Peronto's lawyers estimated that the land he had settled was worth \$3,000,000 in 1880. This sum works out to \$19,865 per acre. With this claim Francis Peronto kept Fargo residents and the Northern Pacific Railroad uneasy for thirteen years. He said that he had settled on the land on October 5, 1871, and that the U.S. land office at Pembina had declined to accept and file his claim which he presented August 11, 1873.

His plea was turned down by the general land office in Washington, by

the Secretary of the Interior, by the district territorial court and the territorial supreme court before the United States Supreme Court gave a final decision as to his contention on November 15, 1886, and ended the suspense in which the railroad officials lived, as did all persons to whom they had sold land. Thus ended the last "Indian" claim to Fargo. (Picture abstract to 202 - 8th St. which shows Peronto signature).

Peronto was dead when the final decision in the long, drawn out legal battle was handed down. The final stages of the battle had been waged by his attorney and executor of his estate. Peronto was penniless; it was obvious that the court fight was carried on by his several lawyers who were inspired by the big stakes involved. They apparently received no reward.

Peronto is known to have reared a family in Fargo, and the names of

his children appear in early school records. He said that his father was a quarter breed and that his mother was white. He said further that his family never associated with Indians. Nevertheless he was classed as an Indian and treated as such.

Fargo has never had and does not now have a large Indian population. There are, however, several outstanding Indian residents here. One of them is Gladys Ray, a Chippewa Indian woman. She is a member of "Project Bridge," a group trying to correct textbooks being used in public schools and to help Indians in educational pursuits. Mrs. Ray received the Y.W.C.A. "Woman of the Year" award in 1973, and the Sertoma award for "Service to Mankind" in the same year. She is also the chairperson for "Indian Parent Advisory Committee" that assists in managing school funds for Indians.

FARGO
1872

Big Slough

DAKOTA
Territory

Fargo
on the
Prairie

Fargo-in-the-Brush" → North

Fargo
in the
Brush

Minnesota

Fargo
in the
Timber

additional Data

Note: Egbert's Tent Saloon stood north of
N.P. Bridge.

"on a cold day in March 1872 U.S. Commissioner Geo Foster
Describes Fargo - crossed River from Moorhead to the
Tant town of Fargo
(it is from Foster's description I draw above map)

Maun & Moore log house later moved South of the Johnson log house and is still standing in 1952 covered with Sidwig - called the Hester House - (later moved)

The above map was drawn in 1952 by Miss Orabel Thortvedt of Glyndon, Minnesota.

Early Settlers and Settlement

As early as 1834 a route was being explored for a railroad linking Minneapolis and Duluth to Puget Sound in Washington. The most favored route was to follow fertile river valleys and over the broad plains for most of the distance, then across the great barrier of the Rocky Mountains. The subject was before Congress intermittently for nearly a quarter of a century and finally in 1862 a bill was passed to aid railroad construction.

In the prior year, 1861, the Territory of Dakota was formed. It was an area of vast, rolling plains cut by rivers and dotted with lakes. It was the home of the Indian and the bison, unmolested by civilization. But the peace and tranquility existing on this vast land was to change.

In 1864 the Northern Pacific Railroad was created by Congress. The railroad was granted land along the proposed route of nearly two thousand miles to be resold to settlers to help finance the project. In North Dakota the grant consisted of odd sections of all unsettled land on each side of the railway line plus 200 feet on each side of the track, measured from the center of the track. It was not until 1870 that the Northern Pacific really got under way because of its financial problems.

There was no settlement either of whites or Indians at the present location of the city of Fargo until it became known in the fall of 1870 that the railroad had decided to extend its road west from Duluth, Minnesota, into the Territory of Dakota.

The railroad intended to lay out townsites at the crossing of each principal river. The city to be built at the crossing of the Red River was looked upon as being of great importance. Thomas H. Canfield, the director of the Northern Pacific Railroad who was charged with the selection of the route of the railroad, said that it was generally conceded that whenever the N.P.R. should cross the Red River of the North there would arise the next great city west of the Twin Cities in Minnesota, and "the live men of which there were not a few, were on the qui vive to ascertain in advance if possible where the crossing would be — and as it fell to my lot to be the pioneer director who had to precede the engineers and explore the country, my plans were closely watched and my travels shadowed by numerous parties."

Canfield, George B. Wright, N.P. surveyor, and a Mr. Linsley, N.P. engineer, decided in May of 1871 the location of the crossing, and Canfield said, "This settled the question which had excited the curiosity of the public for a year or more but which we did not then proclaim. Before it could be made public, however, it became necessary to secure the lands where Moorhead and Fargo now are."

The quarter-section of land where Moorhead is now located was already in the hands of a private citizen, but the railroad was successful in purchasing it. It was platted by the railroad and made available for purchase in lot sizes.

But the land where Fargo is was Indian territory, never surveyed, and could not be pre-emption, purchase, or a homestead be taken by anyone.

Again quoting Canfield, "I had provided myself, however, with some \$50,000 of Sioux scrip issued by the government which could be located anywhere upon unsurveyed lands, and as this scrip represented the Indian himself, I determined to locate it upon three or four sections on the west side opposite of Moorhead, taking the ground about which there was some doubt, that it would take precedence, whenever the Indian title should be extinguished over any other claim.

"The law required that at least half an acre should be broken on every quarter section and that large corner and section stakes should be placed, with the number of each scrip plainly marked on them. As this land was not surveyed, I had to guess at the section lines from those upon the Minnesota side across the river and getting as near to them as I could with subsequent surveys confirmed."

Canfield arranged to have Andrew Holes, who became a long-time Moorhead resident, cross to the Fargo side and put up a log shanty, ostensibly for himself and his wife, but actually to claim the land for the railroad. This was done about where the James Holes farm was subsequently located, presently North Broadway at about Fifth Avenue, where a daughter of James Holes, Mrs. Marguerite Finkle, still lives. Apparently, O. K. Hanson,



The Henry Hector house, the first house built in Fargo.

father of Mrs. Evelyn Baker of Fargo, had already taken a claim there as it is known that James Holes bought this land from Hanson.

Canfield further relates, "I engaged Maj. G. G. Beardsley . . . to prepare to locate the Sioux scrip . . . Maj. Beardsley was then ordered to move with his forces in the night in which he was favored by a full moon, and by 8 o'clock the next morning he had located the Sioux scrip, and made all the improvements required by law on the several sections where Fargo now is, and a messenger was on his way to Pembina to deposit the scrip at the land office."

Thus Moorhead, purchased at the beginning and platted for resale, had an orderly beginning. Title to the land on which Fargo was built was claimed in the beginning by the railroad, but as we shall see, this claim was not able to be realized, and a many-sided bitter legal battle ensued. Real progress in building the city was delayed until the final outcome of the struggle over the land.

Although Canfield did not mention it in his story, he was president of a land company called the Puget Sound Land Company, which had been formed to settle and develop land along the line of the railroad. Many of its officers and directors, as well as Canfield, were identical with the officers and directors of the Northern Pacific Railroad, and it has been called a subsidiary of the railroad. The Land Company denied its connection with the railroad. But, because of its success in correctly locating the sites

of the crossing of the Mississippi and Ottertail Rivers, its actions were also carefully watched by Canfield's "Live men of which there were not a few."

There were already a few settlers who had actually established a claim by this time on the west side of the river, O. K. Hanson, mentioned earlier, being one of them. Also one Harry Moore, a native of Wisconsin, came to the site of present day Fargo in 1869 to homestead, and with the aid of carpenter George Mann built a log house on the bank of the "slough," now Island Park.

This dwelling was later moved to higher ground (in the one hundred block of South Fourth Street at the site of the present First National Bank Drive-In) and was occupied by the Moores until 1879. In the beginning, it was shared by paying guests and became Fargo's first hotel. The house was later purchased by Henry Hector and is credited with being Fargo's oldest wooden structure still in existence. It now stands at Bonanza-ville where it will be protected as an historical relic. Relatives of Henry Hector are still residents of Fargo, and the airport stands on land given to the city for that purpose by Martin Hector and his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Fred Hector, Sr.

It is also known that in the spring of 1871, Ole J. Lee, Mikeal Herberg and Theodor Thoreson walked from Benson, Minnesota, where the railroad ended at that time, to what is now Fargo and settled on land which they claimed. The Thoreson claim shack

stood between the river and east of what is now Western States Life Building on South Seventh Street. Thoreson's land was later claimed by the railroad, either by pre-emption or by purchase, and the shack was destroyed. Herberg settled on what is now the Island Park Addition. His claim was bought by the Land Company for \$100 and a yoke of oxen. The Lee claim was extinguished, probably in the same manner.

During the fall of 1870, several deceptive moves were made by representatives of the Puget Sound Company, and the railroad displayed seemingly unmistakable signs of crossing at a point several miles from Fargo, since known as Bogusville.

Some of the wiser would-be settlers believed that this settlement was made for the purpose of misleading them, and three of them, Jacob Lowell, Jr., Henry S. Back, and Andrew McHench decided to keep a sharp lookout for the first indications of the railroad crossing. From early in April of 1871 until June 29, they patrolled the banks of the Red River from the mouth of the Wild Rice River to that of the Sheyenne to Georgetown, Minnesota, and from Georgetown to the Elm River, making the entire trip every day. On June 29, Jacob Lowell found a person calling himself "Farmer Brown" accompanied by three Scandinavian "settlers" who had squatted on what afterward proved to be the present townsite of Fargo.



Andrew McHench, first superintendent of schools



Capt. George Egbert, first mayor



George L. Foster, first Court Commissioner

"Farmer Brown" wore well-worn overalls. His face was sunburnt, and he wore a brown hickory shirt and an old brown hat. He sat with ease and unconcern upon the handles of his plow and talked wisely and interestingly of the great capacity of the Red River soil for wheat. But Lowell had his doubts, so he hastened back to give the alarm to his partners, Back and McHench. The three partners decided that "Farmer Brown" knew more about locating townsites than farming, and Lowell declared his intention of locating "right here."

On July 1, 1871, Jacob Lowell, Jr., did just that and staked his claim on the Southwest Quarter of Section 18, Township 139 North, Range 48 West, thereby becoming the first bona fide settler. Henry S. Back took his claim a few hours later, and on July 2, 1871, Andrew McHench took his claim nearby. These dates are disputed but are the ones used by the settlers themselves.

By then it became generally known that "Farmer Brown" was none other than Maj. Beardsley, a surveyor in the employ of the Puget Sound Land Company, whose duty it was to locate townsites for the company and pre-empt land there for it, and who Canfield told us, was his agent also.

Shortly after the three partners, others staked out their claims: Charles Roberts, Gordon J. Keeney, James Holes, Pat Devitt, A. H. Moore (the builder of the first house), S. G. Roberts and Mrs. Harriet Young. Some of these settlers have descen-

dants or relatives still living in Fargo, although not any one of the first three partners. The granddaughter of Jacob Lowell, Jr. is Mrs. Edward (Elizabeth) Leary who presently lives in Chicago.

It is interesting to note that Jacob Lowell's land was held by his descendants as farm land until 1953. This land lay between Seventeenth and Twenty-First Avenues South and between South University and South Fifth Street. No development of the city of Fargo to the south in this area was possible. A newcomer to Fargo would find it hard to believe that this fully developed area which includes Interstate Highway 94 was farmland until only twenty-two years ago.

Another recital of Fargo's beginnings is "Hubbards' Sure Tip". N. K. Hubbard, father of Mrs. Walter Lorshaugh — 503 S. 9th, in his address to the Old Settlers' Association, November 26, 1895, said: "It was my good fortune to be associated with our friend, Frank Veits. We came together from Geneva, Ohio, to make our fortunes in the West. We proceeded to Georgetown, seventeen miles north of Fargo, where we found Adam Stein occupying the old Hudson's Bay Hotel. Jacob Lowell, Jr., had also come on an invitation from A. B. Stickney that Georgetown was near the probable crossing of the Red River by the Northern Pacific. And Back, the friend, adviser, relative and representative of Horace Austin, then Governor of Minnesota, was also there. Walter J. S. Traill, for whom Traill County was named, was

agent at Georgetown for the Hudson's Bay Company. George Sanborn, a friend and acquaintance of William Windom, was also there. We were waiting and watching, and finally the glad tidings came from Cooke. Pitt Cooke, a brother of Jay Cooke, visited Georgetown and selected the crossing. The message was delivered to the Northern Pacific surveyors by me. The order was to locate the crossing at the mouth of the Elm, about eight miles east of Grandin. Veits and I were first to know it. Imagine my joy. We all went to the Elm River excepting Veits, wiser than the rest, who continued furnishing entertainment for man and beast. He paid Adam Stein \$100 to move out and let him in. Not for the property, for that belonged to the Hudson's Bay Company, but to give him possession and the opportunity to entertain the coming boats, for we all realized what a rush would come. We knew the country and correctly estimated its value. We all built log houses at Elm River and most of the party stayed there a whole year before Lowell, who made daily trips up and down the river in connection with Back and McHench, each having their beat for patrolling the river from Sheyenne to the Elm, discovered Beardsley at work on the townsites at Fargo. And the Elm River was abandoned. I had gone east after two months' waiting, and when I returned a jumper occupied my cabin and demanded \$600 before he would give possession. I let him keep it and engaged in business at Oak Lake. The crossing was not established for

a year later, and then twenty-seven miles south of the point named in my sure tip.

"This was in 1870. Then the entire white population of North Dakota would not exceed five hundred. There was a small settlement at Pembina, mostly Government employees connected with the custom house or the trader's store. There were two or three settlers at Grand Forks, among them Nick Huffman. Ed Griffin lived in Cass County, but Fargo was not located. Georgetown was the metropolis of the valley. The nearest land office in North Dakota where land could be entered was at Vermillion, South Dakota. But little land had been surveyed, and that about Pembina. Not an acre had been entered, not a bushel of grain had been raised in the valley for shipment abroad, and not enough to feed even the few families found scattered here and there along the river. The Red River cart was the only means of transportation that had been put on. L. H. Tenny and I came into the country on horseback from St. Cloud. Tenny settled at Glyndon and became the father of the Northern Pacific Elevator Company, with George S. Barnes, his practical worker, the moving force. Not until December, 1870, was there a single entry of land made in North Dakota. There was no Fargo or Moorhead. Not one settler had yet entertained the idea of occupying the rich lands in its immediate vicinity. Grand Forks was not even a voting precinct, and all of the valley was Pembina County, which was the only civil organization in what is now the

state. There was a postoffice at Pembina, Fort Totten, old Fort Ransom, and Abercrombie, but that was all. Much of the state was an unknown land, visited only by Indians, traders, missionaries and Government expeditions. Fremont visited Devils Lake in 1839. Catlin came and saw but went away without conquering, in 1841. Sully and Sibley visited parts in 1862 and 1863. Hatch's battalion occupied Pembina in 1862. Lewis and Clark had visited the Missouri River region in 1805, and it was their report which gave the world the first idea of the unparalleled resources of the Northwest and led to its general occupation by traders. The John Jacob Astor Company, formed in 1808, occupied the Missouri and the James River Valley for a time, but the War of 1812 forced their consolidation with the North-Western, which in turn was consolidated with the Hudson's Bay Company. Then came the Columbia Fur Company, which occupied all of this region for a time, but gave place to the independent traders who disputed the ground with the Hudson's Bay Company until the settlers of 1870 came into possession of a goodly portion of the land. The theme is interesting, but let us glance at the later development.

"Twenty-five years ago, in all North Dakota there were only watchers and waiters for the Northern Pacific Railroad crossing the Red River, bent on townsite speculation, and these could be counted on fingers of your two hands, outside the settlement at Pembina, and the occasional wood chopper or keeper of the stage sta-

tions along the river and those at the military posts.

"In the early history of the Red River Valley the Hudson's Bay Company had a line of vessels running from Hudson's Bay to England, which made annual trips, bringing the mail and supplies once a year and carrying back the following summer the winter catch of furs. In the mid-winter dog sledges were sometimes sent through to Montreal with later communications and orders for goods to be delivered the following August. Subscribers for the London papers received 365 copies at one time and even in our day the wife of our oldest settler, Mrs. Cavileer, a descendant of one of the original Selkirk settlers, informs us the subscriber read only one copy a day, that of the corresponding day of the year before. It was not until Commodore Kittson arrived at Pembina in 1843 and established a trading post, which soon led to monthly mails, that the system of yearly mails was improved upon."

The scene was now laid for the long and bitter fight over titles with three conflicting claimants to the land at and around the site of the railroad crossing. There were the "squatters" hired by the Puget Sound Land Company; there was the claim of the railroad through the Congressional grant; and there were the bona fide settlers who had actually settled on the land.

A contract for the survey and platting had been let in May, 1871, but it was not approved and returned to



Gen. T. L. Rosser

the land office at Pembina, Dakota Territory, the nearest land office, until July 25, 1873. No titles were secure until that date.

In the meantime there was work to be done, and people must live while waiting for proper weather to return.

A ferry was located at a point near where the Northern Pacific Railroad bridge is now, and General T. L. Rosser, Chief Engineer of the railroad brought across people, supplies and animals which would be necessary to survive the winter while waiting for work to begin on the railroad bridge that would cross the river.

Fargo's permanent name was announced in a telegram dated New York, September 22, 1871, addressed to J. W. Taylor, a railroad official, and signed by Thomas H. Canfield, also a railroad official. The text of the telegram read "Town on east side named Moorhead, on west side Fargo." Fargo was named for William G. Fargo, a director and financial backer of the railroad. It is not known that Fargo ever visited the city which was given his name. The first railroad engine to reach Moorhead was No. 5; it arrived December 12, 1871.

General Rosser's "headquarters" took shape in the fall of 1871. He settled his group of engineers and surveyors, along with the army officers who accompanied the railroad, in a location which is now Main Avenue between Fourth and Seventh Streets South. It was a settlement of tents, and law and order prevailed. It was



Fargo on the Prairie, 1871.



The bridge builders' office. This building appears in the photo above.



Gordon J. Keeney

called "Fargo on the Prairie," and there were about fifty tents and between eighty and one hundred people in the early settlement.

At the location of the ferry there grew up another settlement called "Fargo in the Timber." This was a different type of settlement altogether from General Rosser's. Gordon J. Keeney, Fargo's first postmaster, was a resident of "Fargo in the Timber," and he wrote in June, 1895, his recollections of the two settlements as follows:

"... from the ferry crossing to the prairie out on each side of a trail just wide enough for the passage of wagons were erected the huts, log houses, dugouts in the river banks, and underground caves of the residents... Fargo in the Timber and Fargo on the Prairie had little in common. The contrast was sharp, and the residents of one could not possibly be mistaken for those of the other. In the tents of Fargo on the Prairie could be found all that money could procure to make the days pass pleasantly, while the only thing Fargo in the Timber had in any great quantity was a fair quality of whiskey. This whiskey was usually drunk from a tin cup, and it is generally supposed that whiskey from a tin cup is more enlivening than if drunk from a glass. Whether this be so or not, Fargo in the Timber was a particularly lively place, and it was seldom, day or night, that someone was not trying to work off a "tin cup jag" as the plain drunks came to be called.



Taken from the west side of the Headquarters Hotel. City Hall appears at far right.

"... A large tent 25 x 60 was built well down toward the river, and here a dance was held as often as it was thought enough 'girls' could be found to make it interesting for the 'boys.' The house paid for the music, and the only expense was for the dancers to respond promptly to the call, 'Swing your partners half way round and saschay to the bar,' when the 'boys' who were sometimes gray haired men, would pay for the drinks or cigars for two. The 'girls' usually took cigars which they would sell back to the house next day.

"As might be supposed, between Fargo in the Timber and Fargo on the Prairie, or Headquarters as it was sometimes called, there was more or less feeling. General Rosser and the members of his camp had the utmost contempt for the squatters in the timber, and the latter were always looking for a chance to annoy the general."

It is well to note at this time that many bona fide, respectable settlers lived at Fargo in the Timber for the simple reason that there was no other place for them to live while waiting for their titles to be cleared, and another complication was about to be added to their problems.

Keeney continues, "But trouble was in store for the people of Fargo in the Timber. From the first the point was occupied against the vigorous protest of the agent of the Puget Sound Land Company, who claimed title to the land by virtue of Sioux half-breed

scrip locations, but neither the agent of the Puget Sound Land Company nor the squatters in Fargo in the Timber supposed they were trespassing on what was in fact Indian lands belonging to the Sisseton and Wahpeton Sioux Indians. But someone discovered the fact, and on the evening of February 16 (1872) a detachment of United States troops from Fort Abercrombie passed through Fargo in the Timber and were quartered at the tents at Fargo on the Prairie. It was generally supposed that these troops were going west to fight Indians, but the next morning before daylight the whole command was marched down into the timber, and as they passed the different saloons and other questionable resorts, two soldiers were detached to keep guard front and rear and keep the occupants from collecting to make anything like an organized resistance to the arrest and removal of the inhabitants and the confiscation of their property.

"Deputy United States Marshal Luther had warrants for the arrest of those engaged in the sale of intoxicating liquors only, and after these were secured, the other inhabitants of the settlement were allowed their liberty, but were warned that unless they removed to the Moorhead side of the river at once, they would be arrested, their buildings, tents and dugouts burned, and their property confiscated....

"Nearly everything belonging to the people arrested was confiscated and carried to Fort Abercrombie, the



View on Front Street with N.P. Park, published in *The Northwest Magazine*, March, 1886.

people carrying away with them all the whiskey in the place. Fargo in the Timber became a deserted village. A few lingered on until spring, but the high water of 1872 drove the last occupant out on the prairie, or on to the west end of the track . . . They were informed that they would be arrested as trespassers on an Indian reservation.

Not all were discouraged, however, and many an inhabitant of "Fargo in the Timber" stayed on and became a part of the small group of men who built the City of Fargo.

Gordon J. Keeney had given the name "Centralia" to the settlement by the river and arranged with U.S. Postal authorities for a postoffice there. It was opened in October, 1871, and he was its first postmaster and then became the first postmaster when the name was changed to Fargo. He refused to leave after the raid and said in a letter to the Postmaster General, "I refuse and hold my own." His success is a part of the later history of Fargo. Gordon Keeney, father of six children, had a son, who still lives at LaJolla, California.

H. S. Back and Jacob Lowell wrote to the Governor of Minnesota, who communicated with Senators Windom and Ramsey in Washington, who secured an order from the Attorney General allowing the actual bona fide settlers to remain in possession of their land until such time as a treaty could be entered into with the Indian tribes, which treaty was finally rati-

fied in June, 1873, and extinguished the Indians' title to the land. The details of the long negotiations which took place are given in another part of this story of Fargo.

Although any connection between the railroad and the Puget Sound Land Company was denied, land claimed by the company was transferred to the railroad, and again according to Canfield, "The directors of the (railroad) company finally, rather than to antagonize the settlers, withdrew the Sioux scrip and surrendered any claim they might have acquired through it, to all the land on the west side of the river. That upon the east side where Moorhead is being patented to Mr. Smith, there was no question as to the title — they retained and laid it out, naming it after Mr. Moorhead, one of the directors, as they did Fargo, after another."

There remained as an obstacle to the settlers' titles, the fact that none of them had been able to have their claims actually filed with an established land office.

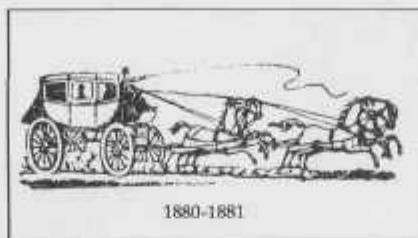
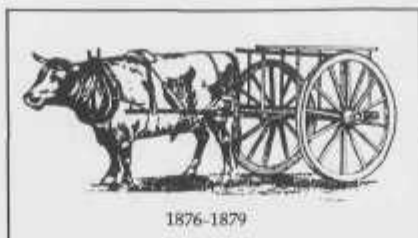
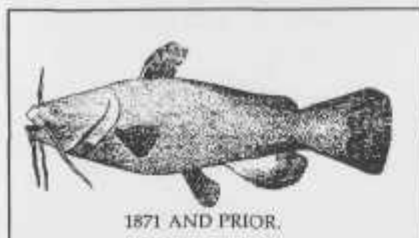
The original survey and plat which had been contracted for in May, 1871, was completed and sent to the General Land Office in December, 1871, but was not approved and returned to the local office at Pembina until July 25, 1873, but even then the settlers on the townsite of Fargo were frankly told by the Register of the Land Office that they could not make entry. In the *History of the Red River Valley*, 1909, we find the following account:

"Again the authorities at Washington were appealed to and in September, 1873, the Register entered up the filings in the books of the office (at Pembina) without any explanation as to why they had been refused in the first instance. He then took the first stage, leaving Pembina for the South, and the Land Office at Pembina was out of business until early in September, 1874, when it was opened at Fargo with C. B. Jordan as Register, when the bona fide settlers who were in fact the only ones who had made entry were in due time allowed to prove up on their lands . . ." Thus all problems regarding even numbered sections of land were extinguished.

In February, 1872, the Railroad filed a railroad plat of its road through Dakota Territory with the general land office in Washington. It asked that the land commissioner withdraw N.P. land grant acreage along the line from the "market, homestead settlement and pre-emption." Involved were the unsettled odd-numbered sections adjacent to the right of way.

Both Fargo on the Prairie and Fargo in the Timber stood on Section Seven. From all accounts, Harry Moore and Gordon Keeney had staked claims on this section and were forced to relocate. Apparently the rest of the section was cleared of settlers at the time that the Puget Sound Land Company staked the scrip claims.

The Original Townsite of Fargo was platted out of Section Seven by the Northern Pacific



N. K. Hubbard

Railroad and filed for record in the Cass County Deeds Office in January, 1874. It extended from the river to what is now South University Drive and from the Northern Pacific tracks south to Fourth Avenue. Squatters located in the area were allowed to purchase the lots on which they were located, and in 1887, the railroad deeded what is now Main Avenue from the River to South University Avenue to the city. At that time, it was discovered that several businesses encroached on the street, and they had to be moved.

At the time that the plat was filed, east-west avenues to the south were named Washington, Adams, Jefferson and Madison. In 1902, the names were changed to numbered avenues by city ordinance. It was not until 1955 that Front Street became Main Avenue. In the very early days, businesses were concentrated along the south side of Main Avenue, across from the Headquarters Hotel and the railroad offices and headquarters.

Island Park was a part of Section Seven, and through the intervention of Jacob Lowell, Jr., and J. B. Power, a land agent for the railroad, the Northern Pacific deeded this area to the city for a park. It is still being used by the people of the city for recreational and cultural purposes.

On the north side of the N.P. tracks, to University Avenue, the railroad held only the 200 feet from the center of the tracks which was a part of its original grant. By 1883, the Land

Office announced that all land in Cass County was surveyed and could be acquired by purchase only.

An Old Settlers Association was organized in December, 1879. Membership was eventually extended to those settlers who arrived in the area during 1881. There were four classes of members: The Honorable Aristocracy of the Catfish made up of those who arrived during 1871 or earlier; Voyageurs by the Dog Train which included those who arrived from 1872 to 1876 inclusive; Pioneers of the Oxcart or those who arrived during 1877, 1878, and 1879; and the late-comers, Passengers by the Stagecoach, which included those settlers arriving in 1880 and 1881. This organization lasted for many years; its records are the source for most of what we know about the brave men and women who came to this country and stayed despite the hardships and the uncertainties about the titles to the land they occupied. Many of those who, because of the time of their arrival, could have claimed membership in the "Honorable Aristocracy of the Catfish" were not bona fide settlers who came to stay, but were drifters who followed the railroad and who moved on as it did.

In 1876, only six hundred persons lived in Fargo.

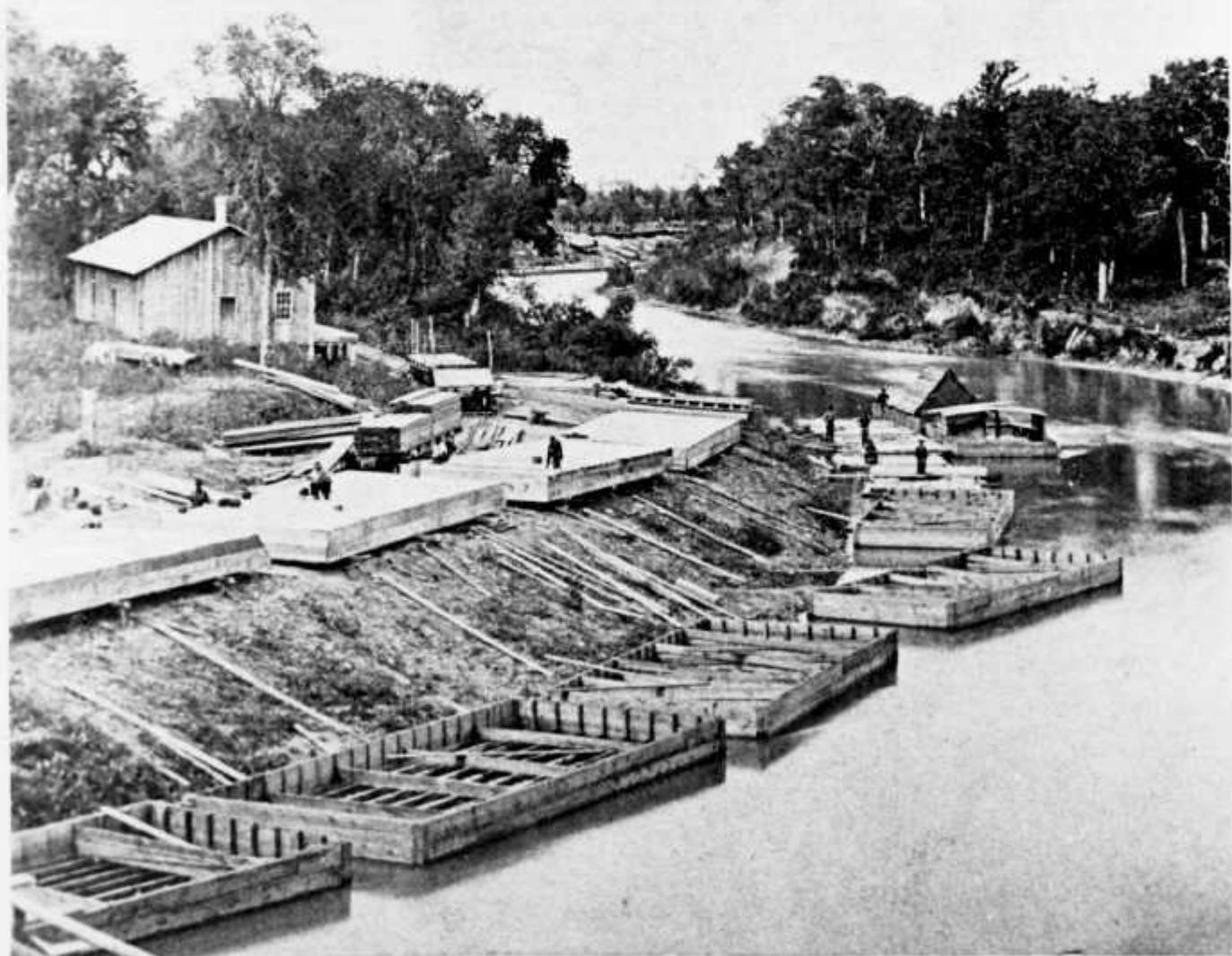
In addition to the persons already mentioned as early settlers, there were several others waiting and watching to see where Fargo would be located and who became a part of the infant community as soon as

the location was known. They included N. K. Hubbard, who brought messages from Pitt Cooke, brother of Jay Cooke, to Canfield. He was the father of Mrs. Walter Lorchbough, a resident of Fargo. Others were: George G. Sanborn; George Egbert, who became Fargo's first mayor; John E. Haggart, whose descendants are still residents of Fargo; Harry Fuller; N. Whitman; J. B. Chapin; Terence Martin; N. B. Pinkham and Brad Stevens. All of these people settled in what is now Fargo. John Haggart staked a claim at what is now West Fargo, and the area was known as "Haggart" into the twentieth century.

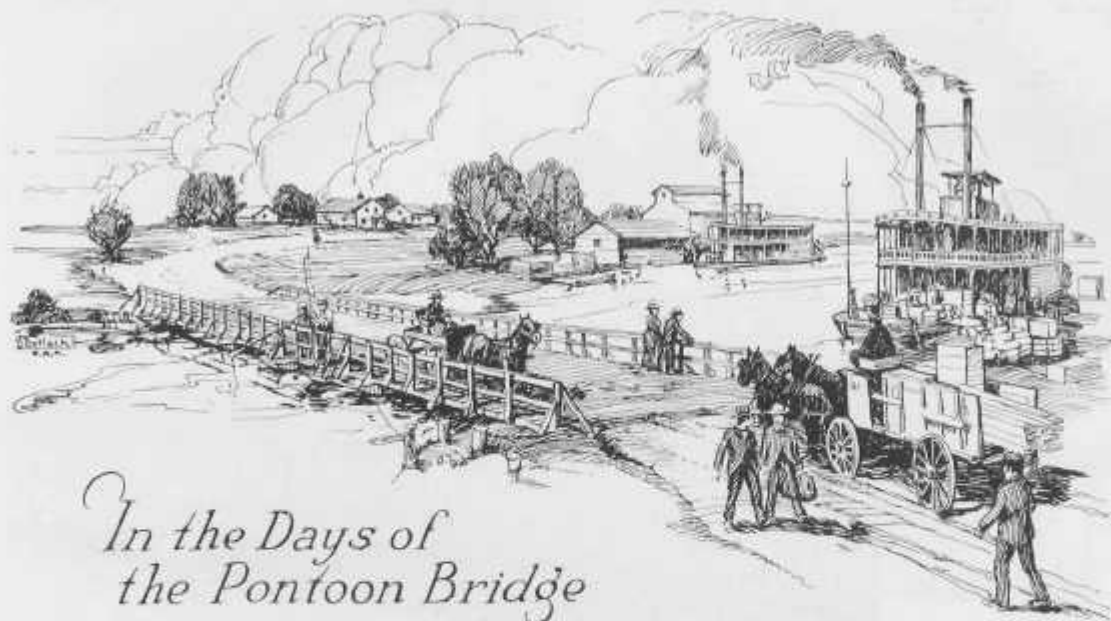


John E. Haggart

River Traffic in the Early Days



Barges being built at Fargo shipyards. The father of Fred Irish, long time Fargo banker, was one of the major shipbuilders on the Red River.



In the Days of the Pontoon Bridge

The first record of navigation on the Red River appears to be around 1820. Boating operations on all navigable streams of early America worked to capacity during the early periods of the settlement of this country. There were hundreds of unnamed streams which contributed to the country's growth, and because of these streams settlements developed far more rapidly.

Where the rivers were large, such as the Mississippi, the St. Croix and the Minnesota, flat-bottomed boats were used. They were built quickly, and almost as easily dismantled at the end of their journey; then the lumber was sold for other purposes — indeed a profitable business, for the lumber was sold at a good price.

The Red River of the North became one of these well-known streams. It arises near Wahpeton and Breckenridge, being formed by the joining of the Bois de Sioux and the Otter Tail rivers. The Otter Tail River has its source at Elbow Lake and the Bois de Sioux from Lake Traverse. As the two rivers become the Red River, it flows due north to Lake Winnipeg, which in turn empties into Hudson's Bay.

At certain times of the year when the water was high and the spring snows were melting, it was possible to travel from Hudson's Bay to the Gulf of Mexico without ever having to portage.

One could start at the Bay, cross Lake Winnipeg, ascend the Red River to where Wahpeton is now situated,

enter the Bois de Sioux, travel to Lake Traverse, and from there to Big Stone Lake, on into the Minnesota River, joining the Mississippi at St. Paul, then on to St. Louis and eventually to New Orleans.

At other seasons of the year it was necessary to portage only between Big Stone Lake and Lake Traverse unless the season was very dry.

During the winter of 1820 a group of men from Lord Selkirk's settlement at Lower Fort Garry came south to Prairie du Chine (now Wisconsin) to purchase seed grain. They made their purchase and started their return in April 1820.

They carried 200 bushels of wheat, 100 bushels of oats, and 30 bushels of peas. They made their return trip in Mackinaw boats, boats which were flat-bottomed and about 50 feet long. The boats could carry up to 15 tons and required only five or six crew members.

They traveled up the Mississippi River to St. Paul, then into the Minnesota River, which they followed to its headwaters at Big Stone Lake. They portaged the short distance from there to Lake Traverse, proceeded north by way of the Red River and home to Fort Garry by June. They returned home in time to plant the much-needed crops.

Around 1850 the need for a Fort Garry-St. Paul route by way of the Red River became evident. Captain Russell Blakely was sent by the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce to explore the feasibility of the idea. His enthusi-

astic report led the St. Paul businessmen to offer a reward of \$2,000 for the first person to place a steamboat on the Red River and operate it successfully.

Anson Northup, a navigator on the Mississippi River, owned a boat called the "North Star." The idea of being the first to pilot a steamboat on the Red River appealed to him. He undertook to transport his boat overland during the winter of 1850. To accomplish this difficult task, he dismantled the ship, took all the machinery, part of the hull, all the furniture, cabins, and pilot house, loaded them on sleds and wagons and proceeded to haul them across country to the Red River. The party was lost for a time because it had no guide, but finally arrived at Georgetown.

By June 1, 1859, the "Anson Northup," as the reassembled ship was christened, was ready for her maiden voyage. Nine days were required to reach Fort Garry. A week later the boat returned to Georgetown with 17 passengers.

The cost expended by Mr. Northup in putting this boat on the Red River exceeded the prize money paid him by the St. Paul merchants, but the honor of piloting the first Red River steamboat was his. He sold this boat for \$8,000 and the new owners employed a Captain Bell to pilot the boat. However, the timbers used in its construction had been green and the boat soon developed leakage trouble. In 1861 it laid up 30 miles below Fort Garry and was not used again.

The "International" was launched on the river in 1862 after being built at Georgetown by Blakely and Burbank of the Northwest Stage Company. Several years later the "Selkirk" was added to the boats on the Red River. It served for many years.

Moorhead was the terminus of the Northern Pacific Railroad for a period of two years. Freight entered Moorhead by railroad. Freight to be shipped to points north was transferred to the steamboats to reach its destination.

Red River transportation was used by persons settling in the northern part of the valley. Much business was brought to Moorhead and Fargo because of the river.

The Northern Pacific, in 1873, built an addition to its freight depot on the banks of the river in Moorhead to care for the increased business. A track was laid to the steamboat landing so the cars could be unloaded directly into the boats.

The Red River Transportation Company was organized during the winter of 1873-74. It had five boats and twenty barges in operation. In 1874 the Merchants International Steamboat Company was created to represent the interests of the St. Paul, Moorhead and Fort Garry sponsors who were dissatisfied with the operations of the Red River Transportation Company.

Boat building, too, became a profitable industry in Moorhead. The chief boat building yards were located near the river at the foot of Fifth Street



The levee, 1879

North. In 1875 the first two boats to be built here, the "Minnesota" and the "Manitoba," were constructed by the Merchants Transportation Company. They were claimed to be the best to ply the waters of the Red River. The Moorhead sawmill cut the timbers that were used in the construction of these boats.

The Merchants Transportation Company was under American management, although some of the stockholders were Canadians. The Canadian backers made it easier for the company to expand its business into Canada, where it was necessary to register the boats and become bonded before the boats were allowed to cross the border. The "Manitoba" arrived at Fort Garry on May 21, 1875, and became the pride of the residents of that city. On the initial voyage there were 283 passengers, 102 cabin and 181 deck passengers, and 365 tons of freight. Sometime later the "Manitoba" collided with the "International" and sank. Charges

were voiced that the sinking had been deliberate, but there was never an official investigation. The "Manitoba" was raised, repaired and continued to serve the owners well for some time.

The bonanza wheat farms which were developing in the Red River Valley shipped their wheat to Moorhead by boats and barges. The grain continued to market by rail. One of these farms, the Grandin farm, had its own private boat constructed by the boatyard in Moorhead. This boat became a familiar sight to early residents as it brought wheat in to the elevator. The Grandin farm also built a private elevator on the Fargo side of the river to facilitate storage of its produce until shipment to other markets was arranged. This elevator was demolished during the flood of 1897 and was not rebuilt. The Grandins also had five warehouses on what is now North University Drive, one of which is still in existence on the alley between First and Second Avenue North, off Fourteenth Street.



Pluck

The steamboats that plied the Red River were flat-bottomed and drew from two to three feet of water when loaded. They were wood burning and usually either pushed or had the barges in tow. A number of these boats could carry over a hundred tons of freight plus a number of passengers and tug a pair of barges alongside. It took an average of 60 hours or three to four days from here to Fort Garry, and about the same time for the return trip to Fargo.

The barges were about 100 feet long by 24 feet wide and had a capacity of 300 tons. The Alsop Line built two barges which were square, and named them the "Fargo" and "Moorhead." These barges had capacities of 250 tons each.

Large steamers for use in the British waters to the north were usually built in the boat yards of Fargo and Moorhead. This provided work for a large number of persons and brought in a steady source of revenue.

On April 27, 1875, five steamers, six barges and eleven flatboats were tied up at the Moorhead levee at one time. On the last day of April in 1877 sixteen boats were ready to leave Moorhead loaded with lumber, lath and shingles. Sightseeing passengers also enjoyed going on these Red River boats and provided revenue for the boat owners.

The year of 1878 saw an immense amount of wheat harvested in the valley. R. C. Munger of Duluth bought a large quantity of this grain.

When the old, established transportation lines refused to transport it, he had to find some other means to get it to market. The established lines refused to haul it because up to this time they had had a monopoly on grain buying in this territory.

A boat called the "White Swan" was at Brainerd. Its owner, C. H. Alsop, agreed to transport his craft to the Red River in order to transport the grain. This was accomplished by sawing the boat in two lengthwise, and hauling it by rail to Moorhead. It was ready by October of that same year, complete with barges. On the return of the first voyage the boat, loaded down with wheat, became frozen in the river near the Probstfield farm. The grain was hauled the remainder of the way into Moorhead by team, whereupon nature relented, the ice thawed, and the boat made her way into Moorhead.

This boat, which has been renamed the "Pluck," was a side-wheeler, and had been equipped with new machinery. In 1882 the boats of C. H. Alsop, who had by then acquired a small fleet of boats, were stopped at the Canadian border and not allowed to cross because they had not satisfied the law requiring all boats to be bonded before entering Canada. Pembina then became the destination for a number of the boats from Moorhead that were not bonded. During the year of 1882 the "Pluck" moved 51,000 feet of lumber, 500 cords of wood, and 4,000 tons of freight in addition to its passengers.

The "Alsop" was built at Moorhead

in 1881 and had a capacity of 150 tons. It continued to operate until 1886 when railroad competition caused it to go out of business.

The distance from Breckenridge to Winnipeg was 300 miles by rail, but about 900 miles when the curves of the Red River were followed.

The extent of the meanderings of the Red River may be better appreciated by a statement made by H. T. Alsop. He stated that he, as a boy, often jumped on a steamboat in Moorhead, rode 15 miles downstream, then jumped off and walked two miles back to town.

Although water transportation was inexpensive, it was slowed by the winding river and was often unreliable. So rail transportation was preferred when it became available.

About 40 miles north of Fargo the Goose Rapids began and ran for about 22 miles. In these 22 miles there is a fall of 21 feet. The first mile has a fall of 4½ feet which made it dangerous during the medium stages of the river and impassable when the water was low.

In 1879 a public meeting was held in Moorhead which was attended by a large number of people. A resolution was adopted demanding that Congress appropriate money to build proper locks and dams to make the Goose Rapids navigable at any water level. Congress, however, did not act on this matter before the railroad to Winnipeg had been completed and river transportation was on the way out.

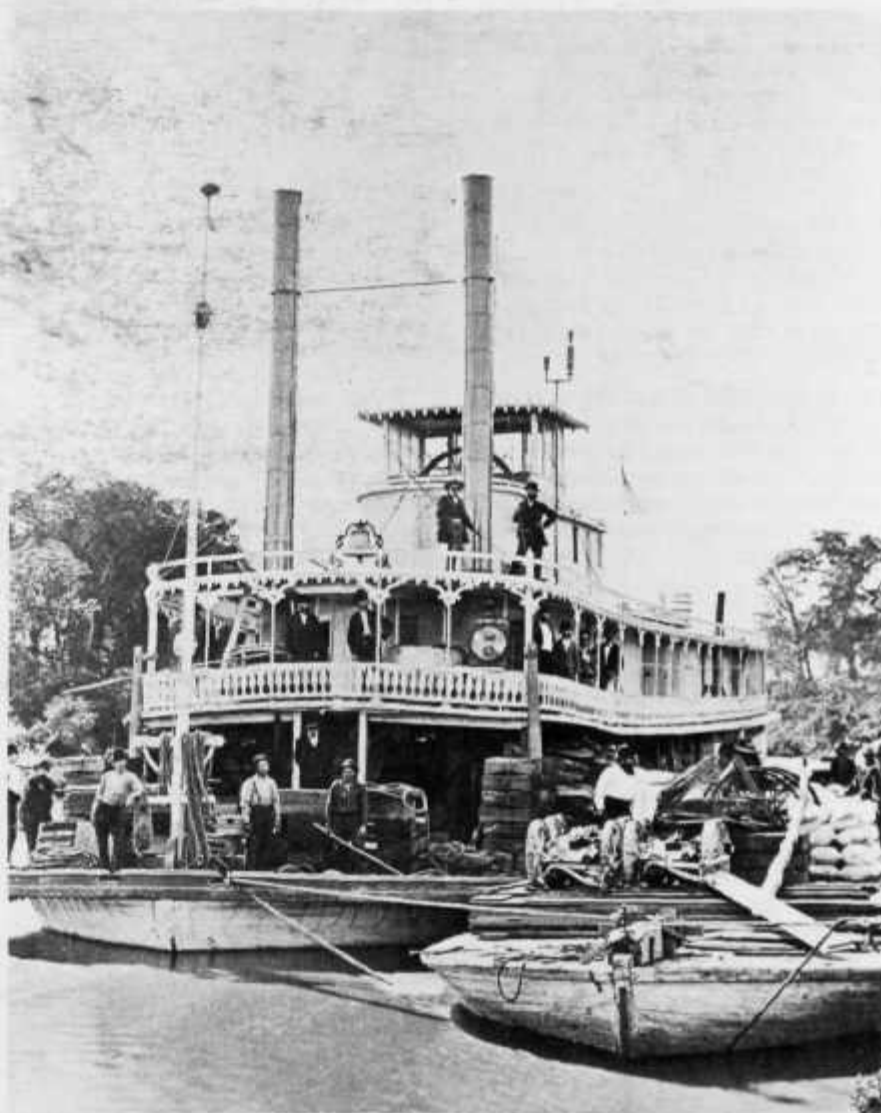


Steamer J. L. Grandin on the Red River, 1873.

Rumor had it as early as 1874 that either Moorhead or Crookston was to be made a port of entry into the United States from Canada. In discussing this possibility, the *Red River Star* compared the merits of the two cities with respect to this issue. At the last ten miles of waterway into Crookston could not accommodate any boat drawing over 12 inches of water, it did not seem likely that the port of entry would be located there. On the other hand, the proposed improvements on Goose Rapids would give free and unrestricted access to Moorhead at all times. All things considered, it was believed that if any city was to be made a port of entry, it would be either Pembina or Moorhead.

In 1890 a bill was introduced in Congress pertaining to this subject asking that Moorhead be designated as a port of entry. The bill was never acted upon. It is doubtful if anyone took this bill seriously.

The amount of business accomplished by the steamboats was extensive. It helped to settle the country, made the marketing of products possible, and provided employment for many people. The era lasted from 1871 to 1886. As soon as the railroad was built from Moorhead to Winnipeg, it became unnecessary to use water transportation, and the Red River steamboats became a thing of the past.



Seikirk

Railroads and other Transportation

Fargo was founded by the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1871. Before the railroad appeared, there were a few lone settlers along the Red River of the North. In 1858 a group of men arrived at a point on the river seven miles south of what is now Fargo and located the Townsite of East Burlington. Eleven miles south of Fargo near the mouth of the Sheyenne River, a townsite was being held for some St. Paul men on the Minnesota side. Across the river there was another townsite called Dakota City. Traffic and commerce were being conducted on the river at this time.

It was in 1870 that the banking house of Jay Cooke & Co. of Philadelphia became involved in the project of building the Northern Pacific Railroad. Cooke made a trip out to the Red River Valley, and what he saw made him most enthusiastic. He called it the Nile Valley of America and proceeded to sell railroad bonds to thousands of investors at home and abroad. Work laying track to the west was started in the present town of Carlton, Minnesota. At the same time, construction heading east started in Tacoma, Washington.

The railroad had an escort of squatters, land speculators, and rough men and their easy-going women. Some of these would continue on with the railroad and some would remain in the little towns that sprang up along the newly-laid railroad tracks.



Original N.P.R.R. bridge across the Red River, completed in May, 1872

A bridge across the Red River of the North was started in the early winter of 1871. A temporary settlement grew up on the west bank of the river next to the railroad's encampment. General Rosser, chief engineer for the railroad, organized the settlement of railroad personnel and army officers for the winter. This group was fortunate in being protected from the harassment commonly experienced by the other settlers on the riverbank. Mrs. Hubert Smith, wife of the commissary officer of the railroad, recalled that the tents were cheerful and cozy, despite the frightening blizzards. The storehouse was filled with canned goods as well as turkeys and chickens brought in from the East.



Carrying the mail in 1851

In the spring the area surrounding the railroad encampment was a vast garden of wild flowers, and people transplanted wild vines to climb up the tent posts. Drought beset the area in the summer of 1872. The sun baked the soil and burned the prairies a dingy brown.

In spite of the adverse weather and the difficulties posed by conflicting claims to the land, the railroad completed the bridge across the Red River in June of 1872, and the first engine crossed the river decked with flowers. Railroad officials and their wives came from Fargo and elsewhere to ride the first train across the new bridge.

The Northern Pacific Land Commissioner, J. B. Power, had a hard time selling land. The blizzards in winter, the droughts during the summer, and the September prairie fires frightened prospective buyers. People were selling land rather than buying. Land that did sell went for as little as 40 to 60 cents an acre. Many of the settlers left the valley, never to return.

By 1873 the N.P. Railroad and Jay Cooke & Co. were forced into bankruptcy, as the whole country was thrown into the Panic of 1873. Wall Street financiers felt that the worthlessness of the Red River Valley had caused the collapse of the N.P. Railroad Company.

Before its economic setback, the N.P. had built some 550 miles of railroad. The railroad had laid track as far west as Bismarck, but it did not continue its westward course, or any other major construction, for six years. And even between Fargo and Bismarck the railroad did not run in the wintertime.

In April 1874 General Lewis Cass was appointed receiver in bankruptcy for N.P. assets. The uncompleted property was operated for some years thereafter under the protection of the courts, and no plan of reorganization was devised until 1879. During the receivership, only a moderate amount of additional mileage was constructed. It was not until many years had passed that the system penetrated the mountains and reached the Pacific Coast.

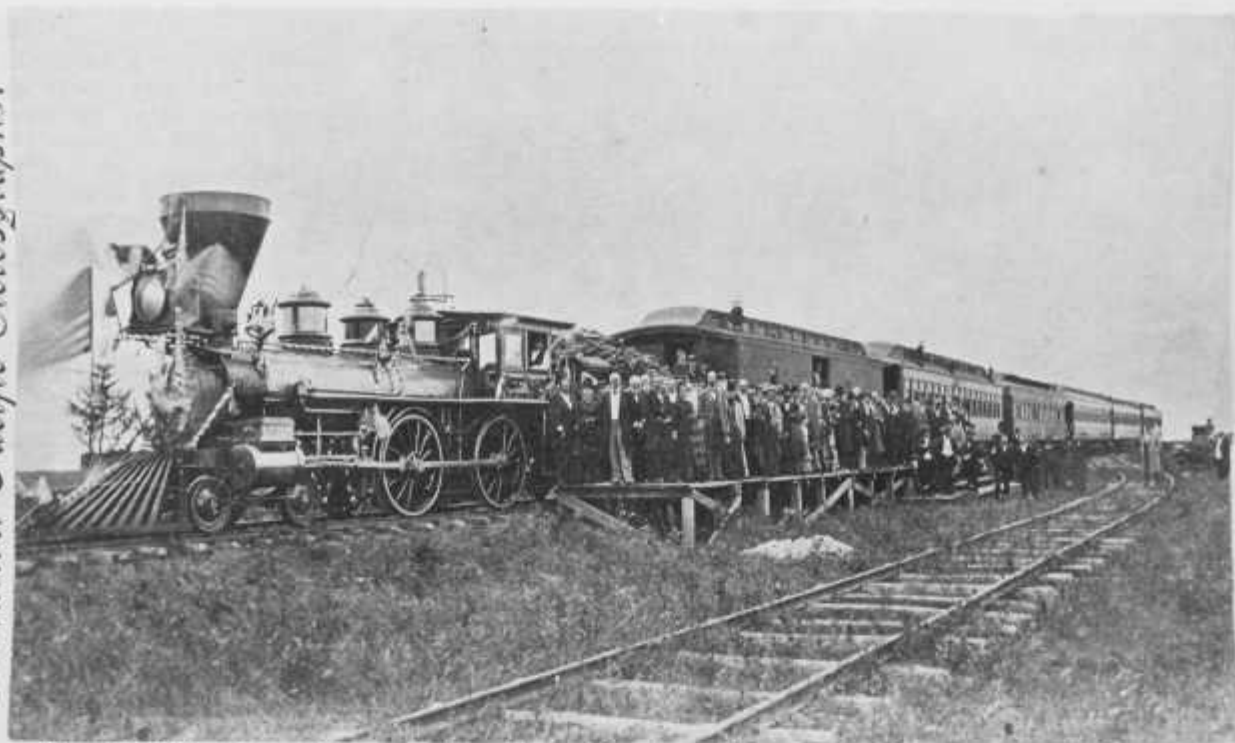


Old N.P.R.R. Bridge. Photo taken from Moorhead

But when the new company took possession in 1879, aggressive building was resumed, and for a time it looked as though the project would be promptly finished. However, in 1882 the company still had about 1,000 miles to construct in order to com-

plete its main artery. At this time financial difficulties reappeared. This period of economic stress was tided over only with the help of a business syndicate and the Oregon and Transcontinental Company.

Northern Pacific Stereographs.



E. Jay Haynes. Moorhead, Minn.

Presidential Excursion Party on the Northern Pacific Railroad, Sept. 6th, 1878.

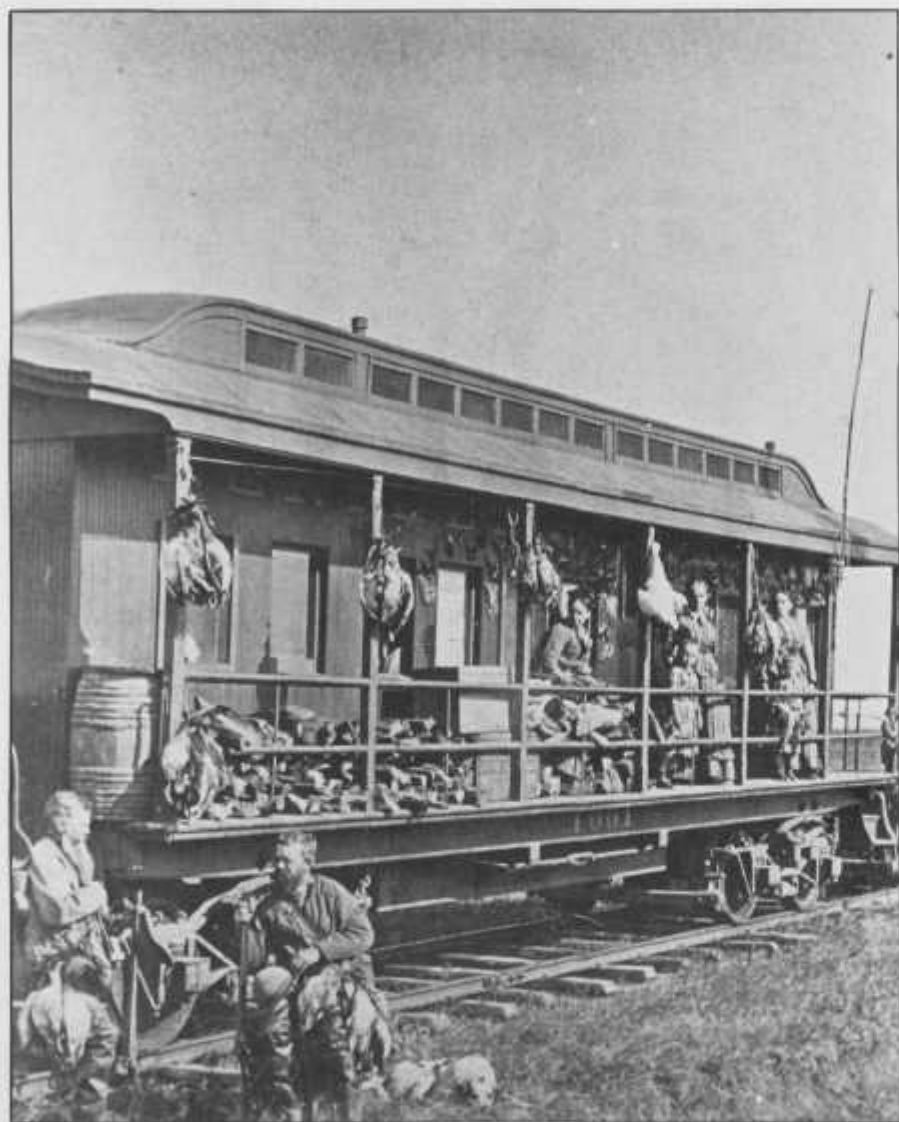
Other events along its completed route and elsewhere affected Northern Pacific during those years of trial and trouble, especially in the Red River Valley and Fargo. Crop failures in Europe created shortages of hard wheat which the Red River Valley was able to supply. The land agents for the railroad realized agriculture would help to settle the valley and, as a consequence, would help the financial condition of the railroad.

General Cass and a Mr. Chaney, a director of the railroad, conceived the idea of setting up and equipping a demonstration farm to be farmed on a grand scale. This first farm (later known as the Dalrymple Farm) became the first "bonanza" farm.

The opportunities offered by the Red River Valley were advertised by the N.P. Railroad, especially in Europe. Thousands of immigrants poured

into the area. Land was sold to the settlers for three to five dollars an acre, with the promise of a rebate when the land was put under cultivation. Families were carried on the railway in special cars. They and their animals, goods, and equipment were all transported by the railroad at half price.

Fargo and the surrounding area began to experience a boom. Soon



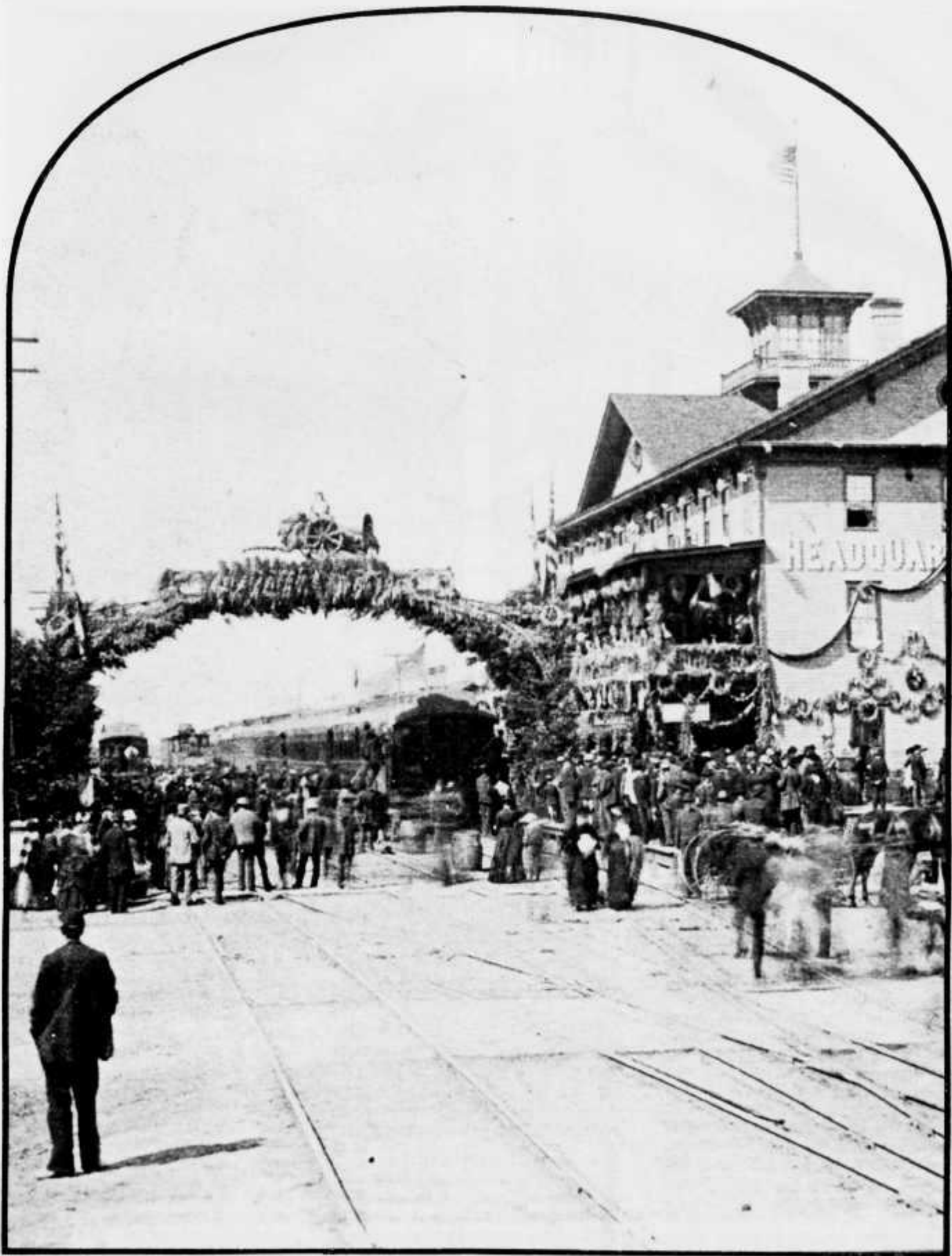
Railroad cars were used for lots of things in an earlier era.

there were over a hundred bonanza farms in the Valley. The small farmers were disgruntled by these huge farms because the railroad provided the large farm with a reduction in freight rates not given to the small farmers. This was the beginning of a battle between the railroad and the small farmer which was to continue for many years.

Fargo became the terminus for the N.P. and a freight car center. The Headquarters Hotel, home of the N.P. offices, became the social center of the area. Trains ran between Fargo and Minneapolis on a fairly regular schedule. Also, a roundhouse was built in Fargo. A very important subsidiary line was completed in 1882 by the N.P. which linked Fargo with Lisbon. New territory was thus opened for settlement.

The original N.P. bridge was replaced in 1883 and again in 1897. The present bridge was constructed in 1927 and has been reinforced several times to accommodate heavier equipment.

In 1883 the last spike was driven in the track near Gold Creek, Montana, and the line which connected North Dakota with the Pacific Coast was finished. It was a time for celebration. Special trains carried dignitaries to attend the great event. They were cheered along the way by the citizens of the little towns. In Fargo the expedition was welcomed by a floral arch.



The floral arch which greeted the train carrying dignitaries to the "Golden Spike" celebration in 1883



The Milwaukee Depot fire, December, 1974

The Northern Pacific Railroad still had many stormy days ahead. It did not continue a policy of rapid expansion. Instead, it remained a single track transcontinental route with a few branch lines. Through the years it paid out practically all its earned surplus in dividends rather than retain capital for expansion. In 1893 Henry Villard, who had been the dominating factor in the railroad for about ten years, was ousted from control. At that time, it was discovered that the company had no funds to pay its enormous obligations. Receivers were again appointed by the court. Reorganization was accomplished only after J. P. Morgan interested himself in it. The twisted tale of its financial history is too long to be followed in this story of the City of Fargo. However, it need be said that the Northern Pacific Railroad has been an integral

part of Fargo's history, and continues to be so today as one of the railroads merged into the Burlington Northern Railroad. Fargo was directly affected by the ups and downs of the railroad when the railroad was the primary medium of transportation. Its influence has been lessened since the railroad has been challenged by the advent of motor transport, bus lines, private automobiles and the airplane in the years since World War II.

The Fargo and Southern Railroad

In 1881 23 Fargo businessmen applied for and were granted a charter to start a railroad called The Fargo and Southern Railroad. By 1883 the line was completed to Ortonville, Minnesota, on the shores of the Big Stone Lake. The owners of the



Fargo and Southern Road constructed a brick railway station in Fargo that was the pride of the city. The Fargo and Southern ended because of financial difficulties, and was bought by the Milwaukee Railroad. The railway station continued to serve passengers until 1931 when passenger service was discontinued. Milwaukee used the building thereafter as a freight station. By 1961 the railroad vacated it entirely except for one small office. For ten years the building deteriorated. Finally, in 1971, Jack Akre and Associates bought the vacant building and gave it a general face lifting without spoiling its original charm. Several small businesses leased space in the building and operated successfully until the last Christmas season when it was partially destroyed by fire. Its fate remains unresolved at the present time.



St. Paul, Minn. & Manitoba depot in Fargo
Forerunner of the G.N.R.R.

The Great Northern Railroad

The Minnesota legislature, eager for rail lines in its territory, granted a charter in 1857 to the Minnesota & Pacific Railroad Co. This line was to be constructed from Stillwater, Minnesota, to St. Paul, and then to Breckenridge. Another line would run by way of St. Cloud to St. Vincent on the Canadian border. Financial difficulties caused the original charter to be sold to the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Co. which in turn went into bankruptcy during the Panic of 1873. At this point, James J. Hill and three partners stepped into the picture. They acquired the bankrupt railroad and formed a company known as the St. Paul, Minn. & Manitoba Line, the forerunner to the Great Northern Railroad.

James J. Hill was a Canadian who came to this country when he was 18. He started as a clerk in a Mississippi steamship company. By hard work and native intelligence, he worked his way into the ownership of an independent forwarding agency and warehouse. He learned all he could about land and water transportation for he was aware of what it could mean to the huge undeveloped territory south of the Canadian border all the way to the Pacific. He built the first wood structure at Fort Abercrombie as a trading post and became part owner of riverboats on the Red River.



1887. Dormitory cars for crews. These cars served the purpose well on plains of N.D. and Montana — but when the mountains were encountered they had to be "sawed down" to fit the tunnels. Courtesy of B.N.

The "Empire Builder" and "The Little Giant" were some of the names applied to this financial genius. After acquiring control of the Great Northern in his middle age, he was responsible for settling miles of North Dakota prairie. He was well known in Fargo and had many friends here, and in later years the state honored him for his achievements here.

Unlike the backers of the Northern Pacific, James Hill received no subsidies from the United States Government. His railroad became successful through careful and conservative management. He never forgot the settlers along his right-of-way. He worried about their welfare and imported seed and cattle for their use. Until such time as James Hill felt that the settlers could afford to pay more, he charged low freight rates. He was tight-fisted and domineering, but he felt a kinship with the workers on his line, and he knew them all personally. He knew the railroad business inside and out.

When the Northern Pacific was again in trouble in 1901, James Hill solicited the financial backing of J. P. Morgan, and the two of them acquired control of that road. It was no accident that the number one train on the Great Northern line was called "The Empire Builder."

In 1882 the Great Northern bridge was completed across the Red River. Construction crews started laying the track into the wild and uninhabited prairies of North Dakota. Thousands of workers endured hardships of

snow and ice in the winter, and heat and swarms of mosquitoes that chewed on man and beast in the summer, and shortages of supplies throughout the year. There were hostile Indians along the way. The Indians resented the iron horse which brought settlers who would drive away the few remaining buffalo. The United States Army, at one time under the command of General Custer, guarded the advancing railway line.

Laying the track on the prairies was a fairly simple procedure. The crews lived in dormitory cars (picture) which were almost four stories high. However, the dormitory cars had to be abandoned when the mountains were reached.

The Great Northern route ran to Grand Forks, across North Dakota to Minot, then on west to the Coast through Montana. The line to the Surrey Cutoff near Minot was completed in 1912.

Elevators became the distinctive feature on the landscape. As early as 1881 75 cars of wheat per day were arriving in Fargo from the west. By 1886 freight rates were half of what they had been in 1871. During this time the farmers of North Dakota organized the Dakota Farmers' Alliance which revolted against the outside exploitation by the railroads. One of the harsh realities of North Dakota life was the power of the railroads. The land grant of the Northern Pacific gave it a huge economic stake in the government. For years the



Great Northern Depot

farmers and railroads struggled against each other for control. The railroads wanted a profitable operation; others wanted low freight rates, good services and large tax payments from the railroads.

In 1895 in "The Record," we find the following summary of railroad service to Fargo, and an indication that at least a battle in the "freight-rate war" had been won: "The new freight rates which have been put into effect by the Northern Pacific Railroad Company make Fargo the most advantageous point for the distribution of merchandise in the Northwest. Neither St. Paul nor Minneapolis dealers can compete with wholesalers in almost every line in Fargo. . . . The Northern Pacific, Great Northern, Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railways have main lines entering here, and the 'Soo' reaches Fargo over the Milwaukee tracks with carload shipments."

In 1921, Fargo's Traffic Committee (Chamber of Commerce) challenged the freight rate structure in a case brought before the Interstate Commerce Commission. Hundreds of exhibits were prepared to prove discrimination by the railroads. For four years the case was argued in hearings held in Washington, Fargo and other centers. The Fargo Rate Case, decided in 1925, brought an entirely new rate structure for North Dakota.

The new rate structure was a major breakthrough for business in Fargo, for within thirty days Armour & Co. moved in. Dozens of other wholesale

firms followed. It was said that the new rate structure did not cost the railroads any money, but, on the contrary, increased their profits through greatly increased business.

By 1929 the citizens of Fargo could boast about the railroads' finest trains, the North Coast Limited and the Empire Builder. Traveling on these trains was a luxurious experience. During World War II the railroads were busy as a military supply line, the new records were made in both freight and passenger service. The first diesel engine was purchased in 1948. Soon the mournful whistle of the long, sleek steam engines was replaced by the loud horn of the diesel. In 1951 oil was discovered on Northern Pacific land in the Williston basin.

By 1958 the railroads were completely modernized. Passengers had their choice of two daily trains going east and west. The Great Northern also provided what was jokingly called "The Galloping Goose," a one-car train which streaked north to Winnipeg. It was said to be the fastest train in the country at the time. Modern technology was employed for the freight trains. Radios were put into the freight engines, and centralized traffic control was installed.

Net profits were booming for the railroads. However, within a few years they were losing much of their business to the airlines. The railroads decided to downplay passenger service in the hope that they could improve their declining profits. De-

pots were allowed to fall into disrepair, agents were instructed not to answer the phones, dining cars were replaced by snack cars which provided unappetizing food. Small towns were left without transportation when their railroads discontinued service. The public howled in protest, and North Dakotans were among the first to complain.

The Northern Pacific depot in Fargo became a casualty of the war against the passengers. The depot was built in 1898 from a design by the well-known architect Cass Gilbert. The depot boasted two huge fireplaces and a restaurant. It was a bustling, exciting place during the great days of the railroads. The Shotwell Floral Company was given a lease in the same year on the east side of the depot with the understanding that it would maintain the park which surrounded the depot. (Picture) In 1964 the park on the west side of the building was demolished, and a gas station was built. Shotwell's store and greenhouse exploded in 1968 and a parking lot was installed in its place.

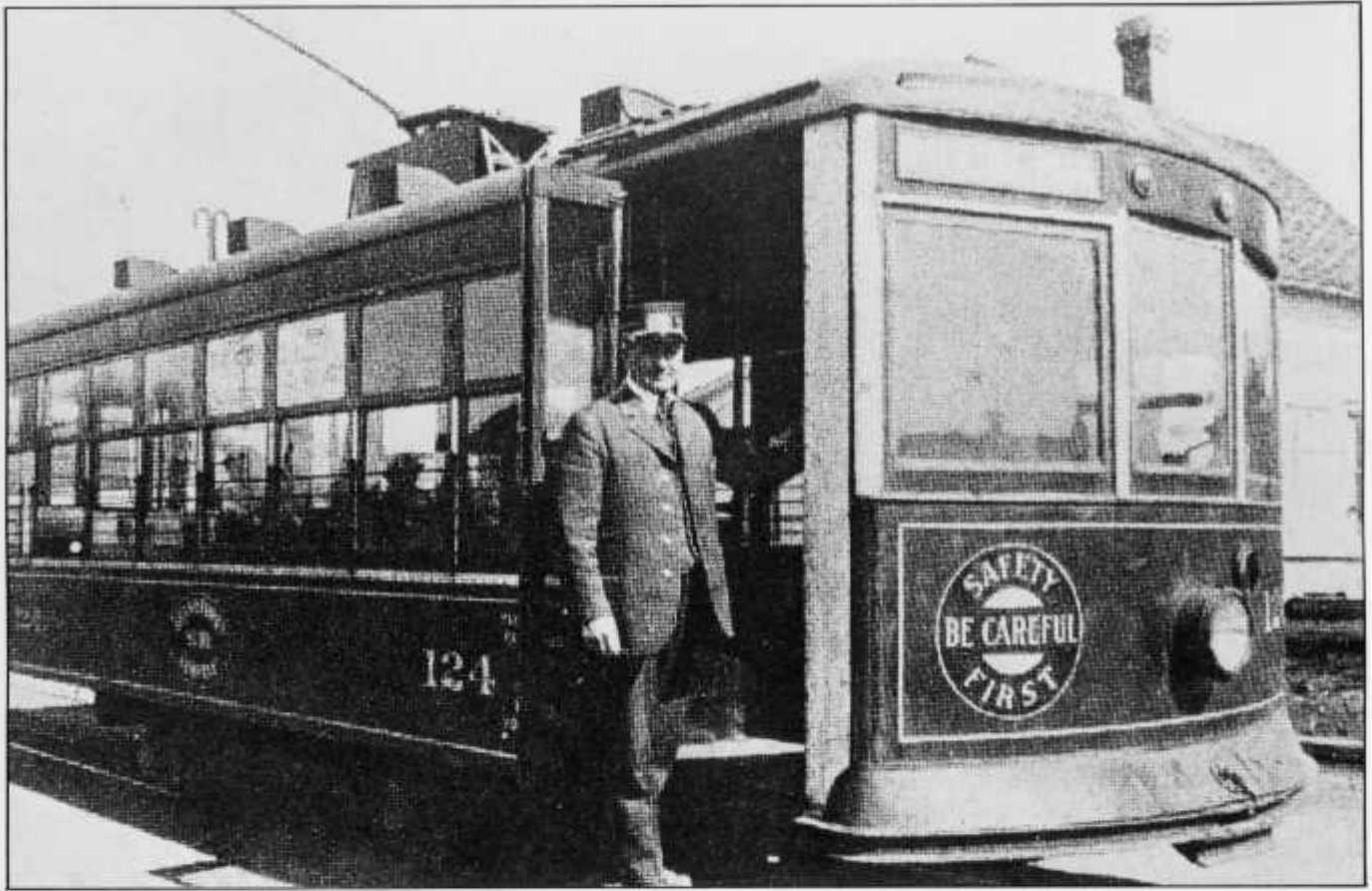
In 1971 an agreement was made between Fargo and the Northern Pacific Railroad which states: "The Railroad Company, in consideration of its friendly interest in the people of Fargo, has given the city its former passenger depot to be used for the purpose of a youth center and for other civic and community oriented programs . . . for a period of 20 years."



1915. The loss of N.P. park is mourned by Fargo residents. Hopes are that a park of this nature may again be created. Two buildings in the rear are deLendrecie's and the Waldorf.



Supposed to be the first auto in Fargo. Unfortunately there are no clues as to identity, date or location. "What this country needs is a good 5c cigar."



City transportation in Fargo from 1904 to 1935 or '36



Three kinds of transportation on Broadway near the turn of the century

What happened to the railroads? In 1968 an official of the Northern Pacific explained the problems the railways faced. He said that as early as 1957 the passenger revenues accounted for less than four cents of each dollar the railroad collected. Passenger trains died because the great majority of travelers preferred the convenience of the automobile or the speed of the airplane. Freight customers were charged greater rates to make up the losses in passenger revenue, which in turn caused a loss of freight business to motor transports.

In 1970 the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern merged to become the Burlington Northern Railroad. Freight trains are routed through Fargo on the N.P. tracks and passenger trains use the Great Northern tracks. The passenger business became part of the public corporation formed in 1971 which is called "Amtrak." It is designed to preserve the principal links of passenger service. Under a leasing contract with Amtrak, the Burlington Northern still runs the Empire Builder and the North Coast Hiawatha on a limited schedule. During the past summer the trains were busy, often filled to capacity. But the Galloping Goose is no more, and Fargo is completely cut off from Winnipeg by rail.

The trains started losing their mail contracts to the airlines in the late fifties, and by 1970 they were han-

dling very little mail. However, some postal contracts are again being received by the railroads. There has been an over all increase in freight business. It is again today a common sight to see miles of rolling freight cars loaded with coal and grain crossing the state on the same routes laid down by the construction crews of the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern more than 100 years ago.

Fargo is served by two airlines — Northwest Airlines and North Central Airlines. Northwest Airlines, however, has the only franchise for service directly to Minneapolis where connections can be made to any point in the world. Hector Airport on the north edge of town has runways which can handle air traffic by even the largest of transports. Charter flights for vacationers often start here.

The Greyhound Bus Line has a new terminal in Fargo and handles an increasing passenger and parcel service.

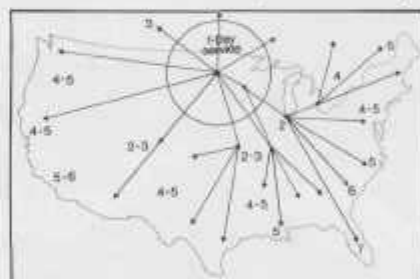
Fargo is also the cross point in North Dakota for Interstates 94 and 29. Interstate 94 runs west to Bismarck and beyond, and southeast to Minneapolis. It has been completed within the State of North Dakota for several years. Interstate 29 is completed south to the Cass County line and is practically complete all the way north to the Canadian border. This network of safe, modern highways increases Fargo's importance as a shopping and distribution center.



Intersection of Interstates 29 and 94



Dutch Meister at Hector Airport's first hangar



Truck service to national market centers

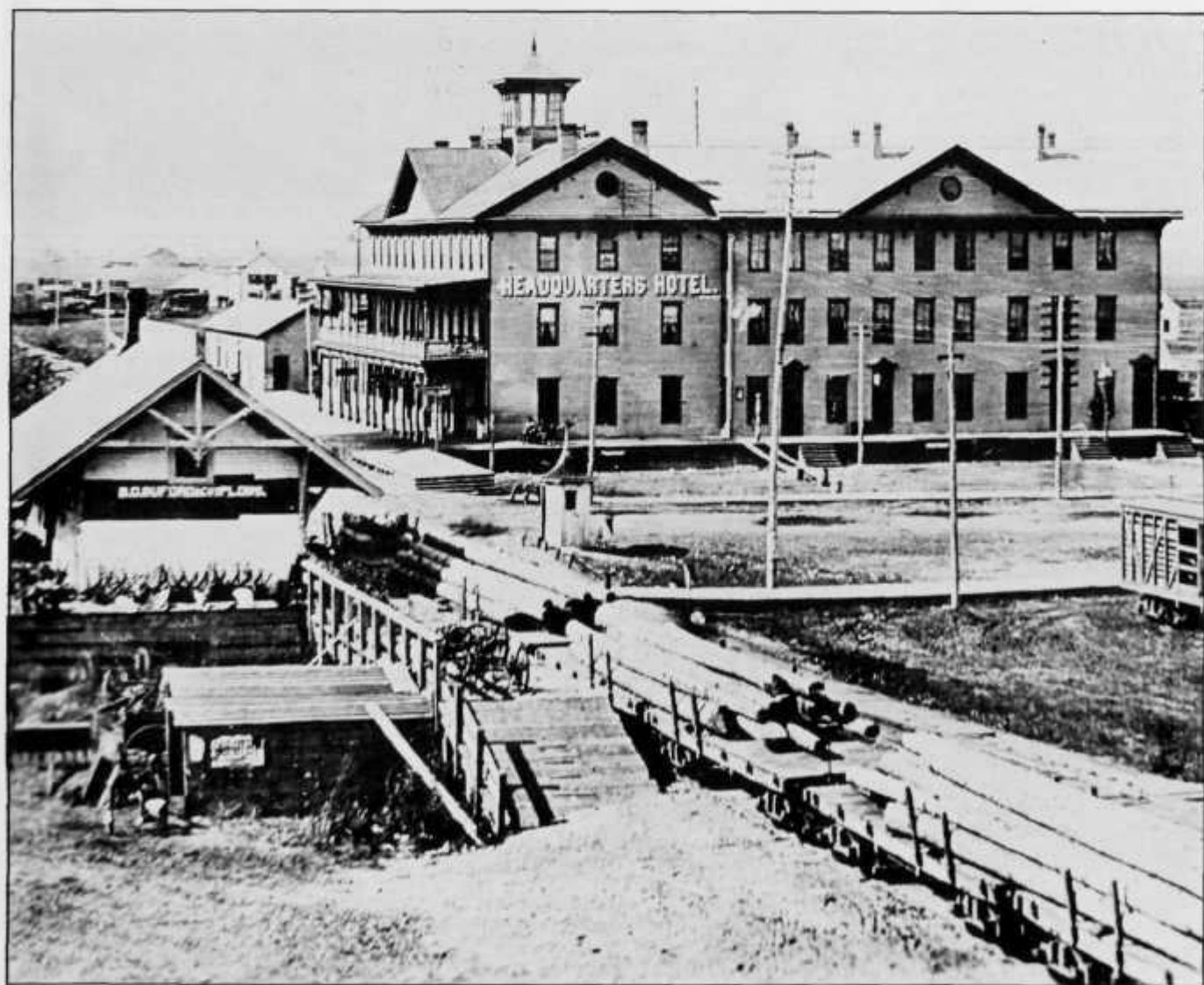


Air service to regional centers



Air distances from Fargo

Fargo's Early Hotels



Original Headquarters Hotel, 1872-1874

FARGO, D. T.



37



Lakeside Hotel, still standing at 1508 Main Ave



Fargo House



Sherman House built by Clarence Martin on the southwest corner of Front (Main) at Seventh. The Waldorf was later built on this corner. Note N.P. Park across the street.

Many hotels were springing up during these years. There was the Continental Hotel built in 1880 at the northwest corner of Second Avenue North and Broadway. The lobby of this hotel was the scene of many real estate deals. For the opening there was a dance and supper for which the tickets were \$10 each. A hail storm in 1880 soon after the hotel was built destroyed 50 windows. The hotel itself burned in 1884.

The Merchants Hotel was built in 1881 on Front Street between Third and Fourth Streets.

The Fargo House was built at 324 Front Street in territorial days by John McDonough. It was a three-story frame structure, later covered with a brick veneer. Mrs. McDonough continued to run the hotel after the death of her husband. In 1883 the hotel was sold to James Kennedy who operated it for a time. Kennedy later became a contractor and a multi-millionaire and one of Fargo's political bosses.

Mrs. McDonough built the Washington House one block south of the Fargo House. This was a truly beautiful building of remarkable construction, including a 30 by 70-foot span without a post supporting it. Mrs. McDonough ran this hotel until her death and then it was left to and operated by her nephew, William Early. The Early family lived there for a number of years. The property was eventually sold to Urban Renewal II. All Fargo mourned its passing.

The Sherman House was built in 1877 by Clarence Martin. It was a three-story building built to accommodate 125 guests. This was sold to a Mr. Kissner in 1879.

The Webster Hotel was built by Mortimer Webster in the late 1800s. Webster ran the hotel and the family lived there for many years. Mrs. Forsberg, whose son, Dewey, is still a Fargo resident, and Mrs. Baldwin bought it in the early 1900s.

The Forsberg name is prominent in early hotel circles. At one time the family operated a place called Travelers Inn on Front Street, where Levitz Furniture Store stood for many years. They also operated the Great Northern Hotel on Broadway where the Empire Tavern is now located.

R. A. O'Brien came to Fargo in 1883. In 1885 he leased and ran the Park Hotel on Front Street. He also ran the Washington House for five years while Mrs. McDonough was still living there. He then moved to Moorhead and operated the Debs Hotel.

The Columbia Hotel was built around 1890 and stood at Roberts Street and Second Avenue where the library formerly was located. A hotel later called the Prescott was built about this time, too. It was built by Major Alonzo Edwards for a printing plant and the *Fargo Argus* was published there for ten years. It was then converted into a hotel and run by Clarence Martin, and later owned and run by William Prescott who gave it his name. Later still it was called the

Shields Hotel and was a successful operation until the "Gummer Murder" took place there in 1921. It subsequently became the YWCA.

The first courthouse was built on the corner of Main Avenue and Seventh Street South and was later moved to First Avenue South and Seventh Street South. This later became the deVolne Hotel and operated as such for many years until it was razed by the operators of the psychiatric clinic to allow for expansion.

There were a number of small hotels, about which little is known, built and operated in the 1880s and '90s. For a small town it seems like an amazing number. Here is a list of hotels in addition to the ones already mentioned:

The First Avenue Hotel at 512

First Avenue North

City Hotel, 208 Front Street

European Hotel, 518 Front Street

Union House, 316 Front Street

Ottawa House, N.P. Avenue

Wisconsin House

Michigan House, N.P. Avenue

Minnesota House, which later became the Travelers House and later still became the Fargo Union Mission on Front Street

Flamer House, 407 First Avenue North

Hotel Webster, 503 N.P. Avenue

The Waldorf Hotel was built at 700 Front Street in April, 1889 on the site of the early Sherman House. This was a hotel on a grand scale for Fargo. It was operated originally by Sam Mathews, a veteran hotel man according to the *Hotel Monthly* — a respected hotel journal. R. K. Keller and W. E. Boyd



worked for Mathews and took over the whole operation when he retired to a ranch in Eugene, Oregon in 1908. Keller and Boyd operated the property very successfully for many years until they moved to Portland, Oregon, where they operated the Multnomah Hotel. Joseph Powers bought the Waldorf from them and lived there and ran it for a number of years. After he left it became the Milner Hotel, part of a chain, and later still was called the Earle under the operation and ownership of Earle Milner. In its heyday President Teddy Roosevelt came to the Waldorf. Mrs. Nettie Hunt, a sort of social arbiter around town, arranged a reception for him in the parlors of the Waldorf where several young children, including the Elliott children all held up Teddy Bears when the President entered the hotel. The Waldorf finally succumbed to fire.

The Metropole Hotel was built on N.P. Avenue in 1894 and operated by E. E. Cole. The Metropole was a very popular meeting place. It was particularly attractive to women meeting downtown because there were ladies' parlors where they could meet and visit. It also was the headquarters for both the Democrats and the Republicans. William Jennings Bryan was a famous guest. Fargo was dry at this time and Moorhead was wet and Cole said, "You would be surprised to know how much liquor is drunk in this house and I do not get a cent of profit from any of it. I have seen as many as 5,000 bottles at one time in my cellar

that have been left in the rooms. I suppose you would find 1,000 bottles there now if you went down. The bottles were mostly beer, gin, whiskey and wine. There is no pop."

Another unknown hotelkeeper is quoted as saying, "A guest of any Fargo hotel who wants his liquor telephones to Moorhead and in 10 minutes it is delivered to his room. Of course buying it this way it comes in its original package, virtually wholesale quantities, and much more liquor is drunk than if it were purchased by the drink in a bar."

The Cole Hotel, too, was built by E. E. Cole and was located at 407 N.P. Avenue. The Annex Hotel was located at 516 Front Street and the Donaldson at 521 First Avenue North.

The Graver Hotel was situated on the southeast corner of Roberts Street and 2nd Avenue North, on the site of the old opera house. George Black, whose family still owns the Graver, told the story of his early involvement with the hotel.

The Graver was apparently owned by the president of a Fargo bank who had a lease with the Parker Hotel chain. When the bank slid into financial trouble sometime in 1927 or 1928, the bank president offered to sell his interest to Black, and Black accepted.

The lease with the Parker Hotels continued for about a year, until Parker died suddenly. The Graver Hotel and the other hotels involved with the Parker chain were entangled in Par-

ker's estate. The estate landed in bankruptcy court before a fight between Parker's lady assistant and his wife was resolved.

The Graver suffered a decline during the three or four years of litigation before Black emerged the sole possessor. Without the managerial assistance of the Parker chain, Black took over and operated the business. As he described it: "I took over a business I knew nothing about. I wanted to run a clean and liquorless hotel. I was told it was impossible to attempt. I went ahead anyway and we finally got rid of the 'rough element' and began to develop a fine business."

The operation of the Graver Hotel has been assumed in recent years by William Schlossman, Black's son-in-law, who has done a lot to make the Graver an attractive hotel and popular eating place.

The Powers Hotel was built in 1914 and is the only concrete fireproof hotel in Fargo. James J. Hill came to Fargo to register as the first guest in the new hotel. It was built by T. F. Powers and leased by his brother Joseph Powers. Urban and Tom Powers took over the management of this hotel in March of 1925. Joseph Powers moved to the Waldorf at the time. In the 1930s most of the celebrities who came to town stayed at the Powers — Lynn Fontanne and Alfred Lunt, and Jack Dempsey among others. This hotel is now operated by Tom Powers and his sons.



The Martin Hotel, later to become the Prescott, and finally the Shields



The Prescott Hotel, present site of YWCA on Seventh Street South

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Elliott bought the Stanton House on N. P. Avenue between Broadway and Roberts Street. They operated a hotel and restaurant there for several years before the fire of June, 1893. The day of the fire they were on the N.P. platform waiting for the train, packed and ready to go on a trip. They smelled smoke and as it was a hot, windy day realized it would be a big fire. In fact, most of the town burned down that day. The Elliotts, rather than depart as scheduled, called St. Paul and ordered the largest tent available to be sent to Fargo on the night train. The next morning the tent was set up and the Elliotts served meals there to the residents of the burned-out town.

The Fargoan Hotel was at one time the YWCA. Urban Powers took this over and ran an upstairs hotel there before he moved to the Powers Hotel to manage it. Later it was revamped and the lobby added. The lobby was decorated by Karl Olson of Minneapolis and has had some little renown for its style of decoration.

The Viking Hotel was built by Chris Lindvig at 413 Broadway. After his death his son, Andrew Lindvig, operated it for several years. It changed ownership several times and was itself moved across the street and renamed the Bison. After being out of operation for some years it is being reconstructed as a craft and theatre operation.

The Gardner Hotel was built in 1909. This was "a most prestigious hotel



The Gardner Hotel, First Avenue North at Roberts Street

and did indeed claim the admiration of the whole Northwest." It was built by a syndicate of Fargo businessmen and this is how the story goes: These men, a Mr. Leach from Wahpeton, Frank Gardner and a Mr. Gamble, were all down in Florida in the winter. O. J. deLendrecie joined them and said he was going to sell his store. The men decided to buy it and raised the money among themselves. The next spring deLendrecie changed his mind and said he was going to stay in business. This group had the money all raised and so they decided to build a hotel. They bought this property and tore down the old stable and built the Gardner Hotel. It was named for Frank Gardner, one of the large stockholders. There was one floor of large sample rooms which was a necessity before the coming of

the airplane. In those days, traveling salesmen came and brought their wares, and the hotels served as the merchandise market. The rates were from \$1 to \$2.50 a day. G. A. Habner was the manager. He claimed that the lovely wood furnishings were easier to take care of, particularly the wooden beds the hotel provided, because they could be kept free of vermin more easily than the old metal beds. The hotel provided quarters for the help, the males situated on one floor and the females on another. There was a billiard room with six tables and an excellent refrigeration plant of which the steward was justly proud. Al Leimbacker was manager for many years and was a well known figure in Fargo. The Powers Brothers bought the hotel in 1932 and operated it until 1969.

Happy New Year.

1893.

STAG DINNER

Swart House, Dec. 31, 1892.



Compliments of

J. J. McManis
J. J. McManis
J. J. McManis
J. J. McManis

Guests

J. J. McManis
J. J. McManis
J. J. McManis
J. J. McManis
J. J. McManis
J. J. McManis
J. J. McManis
J. J. McManis

Menu.

BLUE WINGS FLAN THORNTON GUY

WHITEHEAD & Co. (Cooks)

Claret—St. Julien & Co. (Wine)

PAGE TURKEY, with Sweet Sauce
WOODHEAD OYSTERS, Baked Apples
MACARONI AND CHEESE

Roast Parrot & a Pig

OYSTER FATTIES—Buckley Style

Cheese—St. Julien & Co. (Wine)

Utens. Fruit

Fruit Pickling, with Wine Sauce

Village de France

Assorted Cakes

MACARONI AND CABBAGE STEAKS

Macaroni—St. Julien & Co. (Wine)

Macaroni—St. Julien & Co. (Wine)

Macaroni—St. Julien & Co. (Wine)

The war years were difficult for hotel operators. Help was almost impossible to get and the whole country seemed to be traveling. Many times the owners and heads of departments were doing menial tasks — making beds, sweeping out the cocktail lounges, waiting tables, etc. Guests were allowed to stay no more than five days. William Kenny purchased the Gardner from the Powers Brothers in 1969 and ran it until September of 1974. He sold the hotel to a religious organization which operates it not as a commercial hotel but as a residence for its followers and as a center for religious meetings and conventions.

Fargo was the divorce center of the country during the 1890s. A divorce could be obtained with a 90 day residence here. Many came and paid for a hotel room in advance and then left, returning in 90 days to receive their divorce. There were people here from all over the world — many Europeans and Easterners. A good number of them stayed the 90 days, and some remained as permanent settlers.

During the decade when divorces were liberally granted, the streets were full of women in beautiful clothes of Parisian design and men in high hats and swallow-tail coats. These people patronized the hotels in town. One favorite was the Swart House, a boarding house at 109 North Ninth Street which was owned and operated by Mrs. Swart. The Metropole was another favorite because of the elaborate table set there. Count Gibaco from Spain came for his divorce. He brought



with him his fencing master and many Fargoans took up this gentlemanly art. The fencing master stayed in Fargo after the Count left. Mrs. Jim Corbett was another visitor seeking divorce. She and others with well known names came incognito in order to avoid publicity. In 1899 the divorce law was amended and Reno, Nevada, replaced Fargo as the divorce capital of the world.

Technological advances have caused a revolution in most businesses and none more so than in the hotel industry. The automobile made it possible for people from the small towns to come in to Fargo and go back the same night. The airplane, of course,



changed the whole pattern of living, selling and buying. Tourist cabins, the forerunners of motor hotels, were built along the highways. They have developed into elaborate motels, exemplified here in Fargo by the Biltmore, Holiday Inn, Kahler and Town House. A new trend indicates that the large motels with all the comforts of a private country club are fast giving way to the economy motel, where the needs of the traveler are taken care of without all the frills and trimmings that have become so expensive. Motel 6, Econ-O-Tel, and the Royal 8, located outside downtown Fargo along the interstate highways, typify the latest trend in away-from-home accommodations.



Lobby of the Elliott Hotel on Broadway, with Mrs. Elliott and children seated at front, Mr. Elliott leaning on desk

HOTEL CONTRACT.	LEON W. WASHBURN'S GREAT R. R. SHOWS.	
	Circus, Museum, Menagerie, Roman Hippodrome, and Wild West.	
	I, the undersigned Landlord of the _____ Hotel, hereby agree to accommodate _____	Fargo Aug 26
	_____ in first class style for the above named establishment _____	16
	_____ advance people, more or less, at _____	20
	_____ cents per meal, also lodging for advance people that desire same at _____	20
	_____ Meals to be furnished at such times as desired. It is also further agreed that I will accept check for all meals and lodging, for said advance people on day of settlement named below.	
	Show advertisement for this city _____	Sept 6
	It is Further Understood and Agreed, that the same price in proportion to be charged should any desire to remain a longer or shorter period than one day, commensurate provisions to be made therefor. The manager not to be accountable for loss, damage, fire, or any charge not herein enumerated. Will not be responsible for money advanced to agents.	
	Signature and name of Landlord _____	Signature and name of Agent _____
	I certify that I have not been promised any free tickets.	

In 1894, Elliott and I. P. Clapp built the Syndicate Block on the west side of Broadway where the Crescent Jewelry, Stevenson's dress shop and other stores now stand (between First Avenue North and the alley to the south). This was a tremendous undertaking for the small burned-out town.

The lobby of the Elliott Hotel was in the middle of the Syndicate Block and the rooms covered the whole area above. Various shops filled the remainder of the ground floor. There were no rooms with bath and some of the rooms were built around a small court with a skylight rather than outside windows. There was a small wooden addition built on the back of the building where the maids without other accommodations stayed.

The Elliott Hotel was a popular hotel with most of the small town people who came to Fargo and many other travelers, too. The hotel set a good table with three kinds of roast meat, fish and all the trimmings, including several kinds of pie, all for 25 cents. The chamber maids doubled as waitresses at meal times and everyone worked, including Mr. and Mrs. Elliott. Also, Mrs. Elliott, who believed in church-going, went around on Sunday mornings knocking on the doors of the hotel rooms, trying to get everyone out for church.

The Elliotts lived in the hotel until about 1898. The property was sold to A. L. Moody in 1920 and the hotel was closed. The upstairs remained vacant for a number of years until some apartments were put up there and it is partially occupied now.



The second Elliott Hotel, built after the 1893 fire, at the present location of Broadway Pharmacy, Broadway at First Avenue North

Homes

Fargo is and has been since its earliest days a city of beautiful homes. In early days, most of largest homes were built on North Broadway and on the south side of the city along Eighth Street, Thirteenth Street (now University Drive) and Third and Fifth Avenues. Some lovely homes were also built in what is now the South Seventh Street area which was known as "The Heights" overlooking Island Park.

Architecture varied, but most of the houses were two-story wood structures with elaborate trim and detail. Many had porches in front and in back. The windows were narrow and tall, and the ceilings were usually eleven feet high. Since heating was done by fireplaces and wood-burning stoves, the rooms would be separated by archways hung with heavy velvet curtains that could keep the heat in the rooms being used. Quite a few houses had towers in front or on the side of the building, making possible elaborate circular staircases.

It is easy to see why the W. H. White Lumber Company survived through the years. And, indeed, the fire of 1893 which destroyed many of the earliest homes close to the business district gave impetus to the lumber business as well as other building trades.

The history of Fargo homes is an intensely interesting pursuit. There were an unusually large number of elegant homes for a frontier town, and in these homes a full social life was led. There were teas, dinner



S. G. Roberts built his home on 1880 on the present site of the Federal Building on Roberts Street. The house was moved in 1921 to its present location at 1115 South Eighth Street.



J. R. Haggart home, 1115 South Eighth Street

parties, club meetings and a regular round of social calls and dances. Also parties took place before and after the opera and theatre.

Some of these homes still exist, and a few are occupied by descendants of the original families. One well-known example is the S. G. Roberts home which was originally built in 1882 at 202 Roberts Street where the new Federal Building stands. This house survived the 1893 fire, and in 1920 it was moved to its present site at 1115 South Eighth Street. It was a greater undertaking than had been antici-

pated. Because of the thirteen rooms with eleven-foot ceilings, it was necessary to divide the house and to move it in two sections. The solid construction and heavy timbers of the home proved their worth then as they have since.

In this house, Gilbert Haggart, son of John E. Haggart, one of the earliest settlers, courted Ruth Roberts. There they were married in 1900 and the house continued as their home. Today J. Roberts Haggart, their son, and his family live in this lovely old home.



Farm of James Holes on North Broadway



Mabel Lorshbough, daughter of N. K. Hubbard in front of her playhouse. Mrs. Lorshbough and Elizabeth live at 503 Ninth St. S.

"Out in the country," at what is now 1233 Broadway, James Holes built his farm home in 1880. His daughter, Mrs. Marguerite Finkle, still lives in the original house. She has resided there from the time of her birth. It is now remodeled and has some apartments in it, but it still remains essentially the same. It features high ceilings, gleaming mahogany, walnut and other fine woodwork, wooden shutters and double storm windows. The building is of brick, laid in double walls with a three-inch air space between, making the walls fifteen inches thick. The iron grill work on the roof was blown off in an early cyclone. The house sat back half a block from Broadway with 18 beautiful trees planted in the front yard by James Holes. These trees were destroyed by the 1957 tornado. After that Mrs. Finkle sold off some of the land fronting on Broadway and changed the address of the house to 1230 North Fifth Street.

Many of the earlier homes had small playhouses in the yard for the entertainment of small daughters of the house. The Fred M. Hector, Sr. home at 720 11th Avenue South and the Clapp residence at 623 South Eighth Street each has one. The one at the Clapp home was built in about 1900 by the grandfather of Fred Schlanser, superintendent of the Northern Improvement Company, who has made many contributions to the welfare of the city. The little house was moved from the Third Avenue home of L. B. Hanna.

Some of the older houses along South Eighth, as shown in the 1883 City Directory, include: 202 South Eighth Street, a home built by the Evan S. Tyler family; sold before 1883 to Terence Martin, who in turn sold it to I.P. Clapp. After the demise of that family, the home became a funeral home. It was then bought by the Fortune family which has turned it back into a private residence. 611 South Eighth Street. The "Big House" built by the C. A. Roberts family has been occupied by many people in its long history. Mrs.

Roberts, one of the earliest residents of Fargo, could tell thrilling tales of pioneer days, of Indians and of her husband. One claim has it that she was the first white woman to cross the Red River. The Seventh Street hill nearest town was where her tent stood and later her first home. That house was struck by lightning and destroyed, so she built the Big House on Eighth Street just north of the ravine. Today the house has been made into apartments, many of which have one of the original six or seven fireplaces.



C. A. Roberts Home



The Lars Christiansons moved into their home at 823 South Eighth Street in September of 1885.

823 South Eighth Street. The Lars Christianson home was built in 1884. The Christianson family occupied it until just a few years ago when it was sold by Hans Christianson, son of Lars, to the Al Spielman family, who have enhanced the beauty of the original house.

714 South Eighth Street. The Dr. E. M. Darrow house, built before 1883, has been remodeled many times but the basic house is the same. The Vince Crays have enjoyed this home for many years.

Two houses existing in 1883 on South Eighth Street have since been replaced. The W. J. Ball home at 623 South Eighth was torn down and another built on its foundation in 1926. The S. G. Magill home at 715 South Eighth was moved to Thirteenth Avenue and Sixth Street South and is occupied by the John Lunde family. The house built in its place at 715 South Eighth is the home of the Episcopal Bishop of North Dakota.

The two churches on this street were in existence in 1883 — the Baptist Church at 108 South Eighth and the Christian Church at 224 South Eighth. It is indeed fortunate that these two churches have been carefully maintained for they are real landmarks in the city. The Masonic Block, occupied since 1890 by the Dakota Business College, was built in 1884.

The old Hollingshead house at 314 South Eighth was moved long ago to Seventh Street South, and a new home built by Miss Mary Mattson, instructor at the Dakota Business



Mary Darrow Weible and Elizabeth Darrow Edwards on Eighth Street South, late 1880s



E. M. Darrow, left, at home with his family



The Leonard A. Rose home



The Gokey house

College and social correspondent for Col. Lounsberry's *Record*. This house was a social center in the early days. Across the street from it were the homes of Dr. Paul Burton and Col. J. A. Montgomery, who shared in the cotillions and other dances which took place there. Hector Barnes was the master of the cotillions. It was this group that started some of the dance clubs which are still in existence today. The Bachelors and Benedicts Club, which succeeded the "German Cotillion Club," and the Century Club are the two oldest. Miss Mattson's home was at some time re-numbered as 308 and is now owned by Blue Cross-Blue Shield of North Dakota. The other homes in the 300 block, the home of the Joseph Cronins and the L. A. Roses, now apartments, have also been bought by Blue Cross-Blue Shield, which has its office building across the street where the homes of J. A. Montgomery, A. L. Moody and the Drs. Rindlaub once stood.

The pre-1883 home of O. W. Francis at 406 South Eighth and the D. H. Twomey residence, which formerly fronted on Eighth Street but which now has the address of 804 Fourth Avenue South, have been converted into apartments. For many years it was known as the Dr. I. N. Wear home. The homes at 415 and 423 South Eighth were not built by 1883, but are old nevertheless. Dr. J. D. McConnell built 415 before the turn of the century. It was lived in for many years by the Dr. Paul Burtons, and the home is now owned by Miss Lapp. 423 was built by the Rentschler

family, then owned by Dr. McFadden, and is now the home of the Victor Hennings family.

Two houses to the north of the E. M. Darrow home at 714 and one to the south all were built by members of the Darrow family. Dr. Kent Darrow and his bride built the home at 716 in 1916 and have lived there since. The Mark Sweeney family lives in home built by the Frank Darrows. The home occupied by the Frank Gokey family at 723 South Eighth was built at the turn of the century by F. F. Grant.

Many other houses along this historic old street have exceedingly interesting histories. Space limitations prevent further discussion of them, but, fortunately, the Fargo Heritage Society has been formed in order to preserve the character of the street and to preserve its elaborate history.

One Fargo house with an exceptionally interesting history is the former home of William Lemke, a United States Congressman for many years, located at 1222 South Ninth and presently occupied by the Mel Ulteig family.

In 1921, the Lemkes moved into their newly-built home. It was financed in part by a \$4,000 loan from the Home Building Association which was sponsored by the Non-Partisan League. The Home Building Association failed partially because of such loans. The maximum cost of houses for which the Association could lend money was \$5,000. The

Lemke home exceeded the maximum cost by \$15,000. The association also financed fifty-seven houses, fifty-one simply on oral contracts. Only a few clients made the required 20 per cent down payment.

In any event Lemke's home was a great political burden to him for many years. The Independent Voters Association charged Lemke with wrongdoing in connection with the house and raised so much feeling against him that in the fall of 1921 crowds surged about the house, burning Lemke in effigy. The IVA raised such a hullabaloo about Lemke's house that they made Lemke, a man of sterling integrity, seem like a shabby trickster.

Another interesting home situation is that of the Birch family and the Alex Sterns. In the early days, the Sterns lived at 202 North Ninth Street. Birches lived next door. Later the families built new homes, next door to each other again; the Sterns at 1102 South Ninth and the Birches at 1110 South Ninth. The Birch home is still occupied by members of the Birch family, while the Stern home is now the home of the Paul Jones family.

Two second generation homes were featured on the Red River Art Center tour of homes in 1974. One is the home of the Dave Scotts at 1119 Broadway. It was built in 1916 by Dr. Nils Tronnes, father of Mrs. Scott. This lovely old house is nearly sixty years old and has been lived in continuously by some member of the original family. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Powers at 629

South Ninth Street was built in the 1880s in Oak Grove, moved to Island Park, and finally moved to its present location. It was acquired in 1900 by Frank C. Gardner, Mrs. Powers' uncle with whom she made her home before her marriage. It has been her home ever since.

Completion of Major A. W. Edwards' new home on Seventh Street South overlooking Island Park, Island Park Heights, was announced on October 27, 1880. It was two stories high, 36 by 40 feet in dimension, and cost \$2500. The house had ten rooms and a tower. Two spacious parlors were added the following spring. This house, although it has been extensively remodeled, still stands on its original site.

Barrels of water from the Red River were once delivered daily for washing use. Melted snow was used in the winter, and an artesian well supplied drinking water. There was an ice house near the river where ice was stored. Some people had their own ice house next to the woodshed back of the house.

Changing times have erased from the Fargo scene a phase of living that held the spotlight through a number of years — the boarding house. One of the best known and largest in Fargo was the Swart House built in 1879. It was just north of the present day Elks Club. Later additions continued north along First Avenue and all the way back to North Eighth Street where wheat fields gave way to a three-story

addition called the "Big House." Between fifty and sixty roomers and boarders could be accommodated. Mrs. J. A. (Emma) Pierce, the Swart daughter who lives in Minneapolis, has given a good description of life as it was in the Swart House.

"There it was that many doctors, lawyers, nurses, clerks and office employees came to make their homes. Husbands and wives lived there while waiting for their homes to be built."

Into the personalities that made up the cross-section of life there was injected the exciting element of divorce seekers during the years when divorces required only ninety days' residence. There was a real "Lady" from England, a Spanish Count with his fencing master, and a charming brunette from Paris who wore pink silk nightgowns and was accompanied by her small daughter and her poodle, Mimi. There were also the show troupes who added excitement from time to time.

"Dining was elegant with the finest linen, china and glassware. The food was plentiful and well prepared with fresh milk and other dairy products from cows owned by the Swarts. A hired man took care of the cows and the horses, as well as forty stoves, which required filling four times a day. There were water cans to be cleaned and made ready for the daily visit of the water wagon, and the chambermaids were in charge of cleaning and filling the large lamps in all the rooms.

"In the evening there was much gaiety with singing around the piano, games and dancing. A euchre club called "The Silver Slipper" met weekly in the big hall and parlors of the house. By invitation, outsiders came to these meetings which for several years was one of Fargo's premiere social events."

The Jasper B. Chapin house was built on North Broadway in the 1880s. Because Chapin had placed a gilded horse on its cupola painted red, white and blue, it was called "Chapin's barn." It was destroyed by fire.

Fargo had a castle with a tower and beautiful stained glass windows. It was called "Tyler Castle" and was situated in the Oak Grove addition. Mr. Tyler built this dream house for his wife. While they were in Chicago buying furnishings for the new home, Mrs. Tyler died. Mr. Tyler never moved into the house.

G. S. Barnes bought Tyler Castle in 1883. The Barnes family lived in it until 1906. They sold it to Oak Grove Seminary which used it as an administration building until 1933. It has since been razed.

The daily *Argus* of October 24, 1882, gave a description of the house as follows: "Mr. Tyler's house is built of brick with a 75-foot tower and is two stories high above the basement. It has very high sloping roofs. It is 70 feet long overall and 68 feet wide. The walls are of cream-colored brick manufactured here, trimmed with



Tyler Castle

the best red pressed brick, and the window cappings and sides are of the same. Belts of the red parallelo-pipedons extend around the house on the line of the top and bottom of the windows. The chimneys are three in number and are very large ornamental structures of red brick. Several of the front windows have keys of sandstone with a monogram composed of the letters E.S.T. cut into their face.

"On the southwest corner is a circular tower 10 feet in diameter and 75 feet high. The roof surmounting this is round in form and very steep. Ornamental belts have been constructed at the height of each story, and on the south side, arrangements have been made for the placing of a sundial. The western surface is ornamented with a white marble bas relief.

"One of the most pleasant features about the entire building is the western veranda. This is built around the bay window."

Visitors to the house recall the blending of rich woods, the silk and velvet drapes in the parlor, lace curtains throughout, the large open fireplaces, the big dining room with cherry wainscoting, and the stained glass upper sections of the windows. The park in the area between the back of the house and the river attracted elk, deer and rabbits. The unique imported tiles bordering the living room and stairway delighted all of the children who came to visit. The picture of the tiles is now in the Clay County Historical Society museum in Moorhead.

The Greving house, as we speak of it today, was once the home of Jacob Lowell, Jr., at 507 Eleventh Street South. This land was part of the original homestead. A tea house in the back yard matched the house. The original house was remodeled in 1935 by Paul B. Greving's parents. After his parents died, the lovely home was replaced by a 36-unit apartment complex. It has been constructed in such a way that the surrounding iron fence and most of the trees remain. The black walnut winding staircase, chandeliers and light fixtures were saved. Also, the 39 by 15 oriental rug from the living room is being used today at the Sacred Heart Academy.



Fargo's high rise for the elderly

The boarding houses of former years have given way to other types of multiple dwellings — both apartments and condominiums. Many of the lovely homes of early Fargo have been torn down for apartment buildings or have simply been converted into apartments. Homes on Seventh and Eighth Streets South, among others, have not escaped this trend. One of the most luxurious new apartment complexes in the city is the Park Towers on the corner of Seventh Street and Fifth Avenue South. New apartment buildings and condominiums line Seventh Street South from the commercial district to well past Fifth Avenue.

New Horizons Manor at 2525 North Broadway provides specially-designed apartments for the physically handicapped. Fargo's tallest building is a high-rise apartment complex of over twenty stories located near the river just a little south of Main Avenue. It affords low-income apartments for senior citizens. Adjacent to it are the recently-built East Gate Apartments. These are very fine apartments overlooking the river. Around these two apartment buildings is the Park East shopping center. All of these new buildings along with the Professional Building, the First National Bank Building, the Fargo National Bank's new building at the foot of Broadway, are on the site of Urban Renewal II. It has completely transformed the area from one of blight to an expensive and handsome addition to the City of Fargo.

Also, in the Golden Ridge area of Fargo there have been built many houses for low-income residents. They were built with aid from the federal government and have bettered the standard of living for a great many people.

There are, too, hundreds of fine new individual homes in the City of Fargo. Indeed, Fargo has not lost its reputation as a city of beautiful homes. Southwood Addition, built next to the golf course of the Fargo Country Club and around a bend in the Red River, is just one of the sites for new and elegant homes. The city has now been platted from Thirty-second Avenue on the north to Thirty-second Avenue on the south, and other annexations to the city are planned in the west. Riverside locations have been developed far beyond the city limits, both to the north and south. Apartment complexes are found in all parts of the city. They vary in beauty and utility, but all offer a nice home without the cares of home ownership.

The style of architecture has changed drastically since Fargo's first fine homes were built. There are now very few outside frills and ornamentation and no porches on the new homes, but very much in evidence are two or three-car attached garages. Many of the houses are stark and built in cubist style. In addition to the many new homes of the luxury class, there are also hundreds of less expensive one-story dwellings of the "ranch style" which offer fine living for many Fargo families.

Finally, the story of housing in Fargo is not complete without mention of the many homes for the care of the elderly. The Fargo Nursing Home (Fargo's first), the Elim Home, the Americana, and the Bethany are some of the larger of these residences which provide nursing care as well as shelter.

City Government and Services



S. G. Roberts in his office where city government of Fargo was organized April 12, 1875.

Although the County of Cass was organized in 1873 with Fargo designated as the County Seat, city government in Fargo did not start officially until April 12, 1875, at a meeting held at two o'clock that afternoon in the office of S. G. Roberts, an attorney whose name is remembered by Roberts Street and Roberts Addition to the City. The meeting was held in response to an act of the Territorial Legislature approved by the Legislature on January 5, 1875, and entitled "An Act To Incorporate the City of Fargo."

The first organization was a simple one. There were six aldermen present, each holding a certificate of election as such issued by election judges as a result of an election held in three wards of the city on April 5, 1875.



This building was used as City Hall before the present Civic Center was completed. It is now the location of the central fire station.

In this election George Egbert received 86 votes to his opponent Patrick Devitt's 51, and Egbert was proclaimed mayor. John E. Haggart was elected city marshal; Terence Martin, clerk; and W. A. Yerxa, treasurer. The vote count for the first election in the City of Fargo was 137 votes.

The mayor-council plan of government remained in effect in the city until 1913, with an elected mayor and a council composed of aldermen from each ward in the city. The original aldermen were S. G. Roberts, W. D. Matlocks, J. H. McCarty, H. C. Kvello, G. A. Strout and E. A. Grant.

In 1912 Fargo had nine polling places in seven wards, with the fourth and fifth wards having two polling places each. 2312 legal votes were cast in the general election in that year.

Petitions were then circulated calling for a special election in which the voters of Fargo would decide whether or not the city should become incorporated under a commission form of city government. 441 persons, well over the necessary ten per cent, signed the petitions.

A letter to the mayor and council from the Fargo Trades and Labor Assembly requested postponement of the special election until July 1, 1913, in order to give citizens of Fargo more time to study and understand the recently passed state provisions and acts which allowed a city to adopt this alternative form of government.

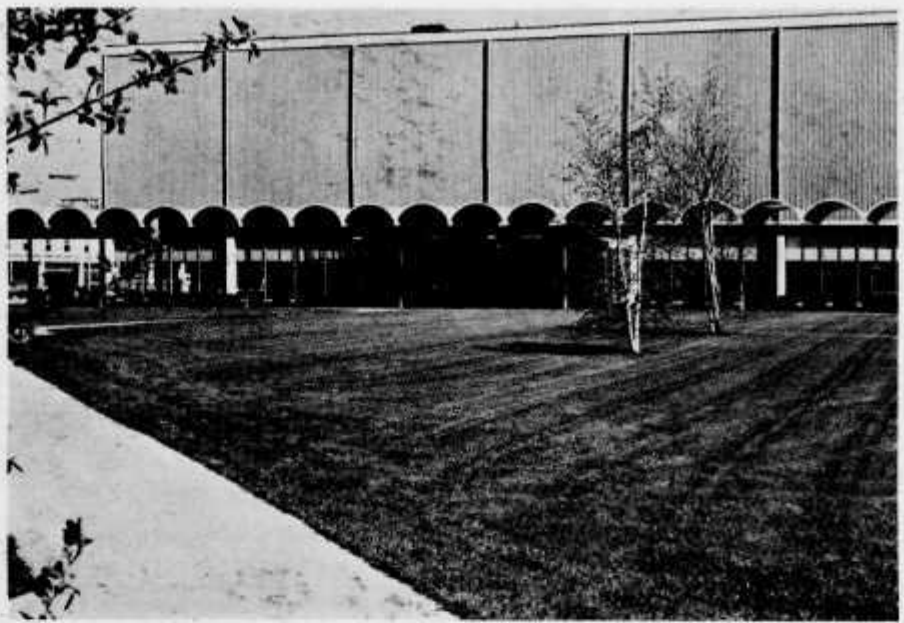
Evidently the council saw no reason to delay the election as it was held on April 7, 1913, and resulted in Letters Patent issued to the City of Fargo under the commission form of government. There were 1499 votes cast. Of this number, 1300 were in favor of a commission form of government and 199 against.

The plan adopted called for five commissioners to be elected at large for a term of four years. Two commissioners are chosen at one city election, and three commissioners two years later so that there are always at least two commissioners who serve as holdovers, thus assuring continuity and familiarity with pending business at all times. One person is chosen by the electorate as chairman of the commission, he is generally referred to as "the mayor."

The commissioners as a body hire and fire all officials and employees, including the Chief of Police, the Fire Chief, the City Attorney, City Auditor, City Assessor, policemen, firemen and other subordinates, none of whom is elected except the Municipal Judge.

Commissioners holding office at the present time are: Richard A. Hentges, Chairman of the Commission, elected in 1974; Roy C. Pederson, also new to the commission in 1974; and Nicholas F. Schuster, Jacque Stockman, and Gib Bromenschenkel.

These commissioners have plenary power in conducting city affairs. Their power over departments and em-



Fargo's Civic Center

ployees is contained in a few words, "Commissioners, by a majority vote, are required to appoint such officials and employees and to create such departments and make such regulations for departmental management as seems reasonable and necessary."

Each city department is headed by one of the commissioners, who is responsible for that department in its day-to-day operations. He is assigned to his department by the Board of Commissioners, and usually each commissioner has two or three departments to supervise. If his department is running smoothly, the commissioner is not disturbed in the discharge of his duty.

Commission meetings are held weekly. These meetings sometimes concern controversial matters and have many times been the forum for the airing of grievances of citizens and commissioners alike. Complaints of individual citizens are heard and considered, permits or refusals are given to persons desiring to deal in affairs affecting the public interest.

For example, the commission licenses liquor dealers. During the early history of Fargo, sources of revenue were a major concern, so the Board started licensing liquor dealers for \$100 per year. Gambling houses and saloons did a thriving business during these early days. By January 3, 1882, 28 liquor licenses had been assigned to retail liquor dealers when the population was about 5,000 citizens. In 1974, there were 23 on-sale liquor and beer dealers, plus off-sale and private club licenses for 53,000 citizens.

At their weekly meetings, the commissioners give and receive reports concerning individual departments; they plan and put into effect general policies of city business and deal generally in problems of public interest. They also act as a legislative body, adopting by majority vote such ordinances as the general welfare may require. These ordinances must not be in conflict with superior law, but they have the same force and effect as legislative or congressional enactments. Ordinances affect the lives of the people of Fargo more intimately and more continuously than any other law.

During July of each year, the commissioners meet as a budget board. They hold public hearings to determine the amount of tax money to be apportioned to each department for the coming year and to ascertain the total sum to be charged to the people as taxes for the annual expense of operating the city.

The public schools of the city are managed by the Board of Education, a separate corporation; the system of beautiful parks and playgrounds is managed by the City Park Board, also a separate organization; and the Parking Authority, also separate, plans and manages downtown parking and other planning. These bodies operate in a similar fashion, but for the most part are wholly independent of the city commission.

Many city employees remain at their posts for long periods of time and make very valuable contributions to the city. One example of this is W. P. Tarbell, who served 42 years in the engineer's office. His studies, reports and recommendations and his foresight regarding future problems furnished the commission ways and means of meeting problems connected with city growth.

City offices are housed in City Hall, part of the Civic Center which grew up in the area of Urban Renewal I.

Fargo has been served by 25 mayors (or chairmen of the City Commission) in its 100-year history. George Egbert, W. F. Ball and W. D. Sweet each served at two different times, and J. A. Johnson served three non-consecutive terms. Herschel Lashkowitz has the distinction of serving the longest, a term of 20 consecutive years in office. Other mayors have served only one term, and in the early years many served for as little as one year. At the first election for mayor there were 137 votes cast, and in the last election in 1974, 16,088 votes were cast. The mayor is presently paid a salary of \$9,816 a year.

Other services provided by the city include up-to-date police, health and fire departments, the maintenance of a sewer and sewage treatment system and filtration plants, city streets and lights, and the collection of garbage.



1898. Fargo Police Bicycle Squad in front of old Post Office, First Ave. North at Roberts St. L. to R.: Chief Fred Bowers, Capt. Gabe Grant, Gabriel Barnes, John Scanlon, Charles Nystrom, Louis Dahlgren, Jacob Duncan, J. K. Bingham, Ole Korsmo, Swan Johnson, Dr. Martin Flanigan, Park officer Samuel Townsend.

The departments of city government and their present heads are:

City Auditor — Frank Fahrlander
 City Attorney — Wayne Solberg
 City Judge — Thomas Davies
 City Treasurer — Orville Olson
 City Engineer — Wilbur Michelson
 Garbage — Peter F. Graber
 Water — Kenneth Ruby
 Health — Dr. D. H. Lawrence
 Fire Chief — William T. Stewart
 Police Chief — Edwin Anderson
 Street — Earl Olson
 Planning — Keith Burkholder



Fargo Police Department

When Fargo was organized in the spring of 1875, John E. Haggart was elected town marshal for the 600 inhabitants then here. This was the birth of the City Police Department.

By 1881 the department had grown to a sergeant and eight patrolmen. The marshal became the Chief of Police. In 1896, a detective and a park policeman were added, and that same year all of the men on the department were issued "Crimson Rims" bicycles. Mechanization had come to the Police Department.

The success of the department's dealing with crime through years is reflected in the statistics of the last two years. In 1973 Fargo was rated as one

of the 50 safest cities in the United States. During 1974 a crime rate increase of five per cent should at least keep Fargo in the contest.

In 1973 there were four incidents of rape; in 1974 there were seven. Other types of assault were down. Incidents of robbery, burglary in residences, and larceny increased over the previous year.

Thirty-one men have headed the Police Department through the 100-year period, with four men having held the office for 45 of those years. Louis Dahlgren coped with crime in Fargo for eleven years, Charles W. Albright for fifteen, and J. Walter Olson for ten years. Edwin Anderson has been Fargo's Chief of Police since 1966 and already holds fourth position in terms of longevity.



Frank Fahrlander Wayne Solberg Thomas Davies Orville Olson Wilbur Michelson Peter Graber



Kenneth Ruby D. H. Lawrence William Stewart Edwin Anderson Earl Olson Keith Burkholder



Members of the Fargo Police Motorcycle Squad in the Thirties. L. to R., Mons Helmersen, Lars Lund, Henry Hagen, Doc Gardner (shop owner), Lee Hanson. Location is the present site of Dakota Plate Glass.

Chief Anderson has an Assistant Chief, Wallace Gwynn, to assist him in the administration of seven departments, including the Detective Division headed by Captain Henry McCormick; Records and Identification, Captain John T. Hewitt; Narcotics & Vice, Carl Schulz; Planning, Research and Training, Arnold Rooks; Crime Prevention and Community Relations; John Pavcek; Patrol Division, Captain Algot Anderson; Traffic Division, Captain Robert Roscoe. One hundred four men and women and the latest crime detection and prevention equipment and facilities are available to the residents of the City of Fargo for their safety and protection.

Fargo Fire Department

April 12, 1875, marked the official beginning of the Fargo Fire Department. On this day Mayor George Egbert appointed Barney Griffin and L. B. Cornwall as fire wardens. The only fire fighting equipment available in those days were some buckets and whatever water might be available.

Two years later Fargo purchased its first piece of fire apparatus — a hook and ladder rig. Also at this time Fargo's first volunteer company, the Pioneer Fire Company, was organized. Soon other companies were organized — the Hook and Ladder No. 1 Hard, Continental Hose Company, Protective Fire Patrol, Fargo Hose Company No. 2, Yerxa Hose Company No. 3 and the Rescue



Ed Manning at the reins of the fire department hose wagon in front of Headquarters Fire Barn on N. P. Avenue. Fargo's City Hall was built later on the vacant lot next to the station.

Hook and Ladder No. 1.

For 26 years Fargo was to depend on these inspired and dedicated men for its fire protection. Each year the city council appointed a fire chief from among the existing companies. John E. Haggart of the Hook and Ladder No. 1 Hard had the distinction of being Fargo's first Fire Chief. You will remember him also as the first town marshal.

By 1884 horses were being used to help the firefighters pull the apparatus to the fire. During those years the "fire laddies" kept in trim by competing in firemen's tournaments against companies from surrounding areas. Fire tournaments were usually the big social events of the year and would last for several days. The Yerxa Hose Company at one time held the world's record in the hose race.

June 7, 1893, would prove to be a never forgotten day to Fargo's firemen as well as to all of Fargo's citizens. At 2:15 in the afternoon of that day a fire broke out in the vicinity of Herzmann's Dry Goods Store on Front Street that was to destroy much of the city before it was brought under control. When the smoke had cleared, 160 acres of the once proud city lay in ashes. Over 31 blocks of businesses and residences were destroyed. Six and one-half miles of wooden sidewalk burned. The Fire Department, under the leadership of Chief C. B. Wade, was helpless in attempting to control the conflagration, even though assisted by men

and equipment from Moorhead, Casselton, Grand Forks and Wahpeton.

If Fargoans were stunned by the tragedy, they were not defeated. The city council quickly passed a building ordinance to prevent a recurrence of what had happened. Within a year's time 246 new buildings had been erected. An improved water system was installed. A new fire station was built and new fire fighting equipment purchased to replace what was lost in the fire. In many respects the fire proved to be a blessing in disguise.

The volunteers continued to serve their city until 1903, when the city decided a paid department would be a more effective fire fighting force. J. W. Sutherland was chief of the new, salaried department, which consisted of four men. Later that year it was increased to ten men.

The Fargo Fire Department in 1975 consists of 85 men headed by Chief W. T. Stewart. Four stations boasting the latest in fire fighting equipment are strategically located throughout the city. In contrast to the early days, much of today's fire department activities is centered on fire prevention programs. Fargoans indeed have a right to be proud of their fire department, past and present.



Aftermath of the great Fargo Fire of 1893



Firebell N.P. hose house looking northeast from corner of N.P. Ave. and Roberts St.



First Federal Building. Hancock Brothers, architects, NW corner of First Ave. North at Roberts St.

Post Office

Since June, 1970, Fargo's Post Office has been located in the new Federal Building on the northwest corner of Roberts Street at Second Avenue. This is the location where the S. G. Roberts home stood before it was moved in 1920 to Eighth Street South. Don Fraser, who had been Postmaster since 1953, was still in that position at that time. He became district manager in August, 1971 and retired in June, 1972. The new building houses offices of Judge Charles Vogel, Judge Myron Bright and Judge Ronald Davies as well as the offices of Senator Quentin N. Burdick, Congressman Mark Andrews and a host of other federal government offices, including Social Security, Small Business Administration, the Internal Revenue Service and many others.

This modern, spacious facility is a long way from the original post office, housed in a tar paper shack or tent in "Fargo in the Timber" owned by Gordon Keeney, the first postmaster, and known as Centralia.

John W. Crimi, Fargo's present postmaster, wears two hats. In addition to being the head of the post office in Fargo, he is also district manager with supervision over postal affairs in the whole of North Dakota and two Central Sections, Detroit Lakes and Thief River Falls in Minnesota. The two jobs became one on August 31, 1974; Crimi who had been district manager, took over as Fargo Postmaster also at that time.



GSA representative giving new Post Office key to Don Fraser, June 26, 1970.



Federal Building and Post Office, NW corner of Roberts St. and Second Ave. No.

The Courts, the Legal Profession and Political Figures



Charles Vogel



Myron Bright



Ralph Maxwell



Roy Redetzke



George Duis



Paul Benson



Ronald Davies

Justice in the days of Dakota Territory was dispensed by federal circuit judges. Appearances of these judges in the area which is now Fargo were infrequent before the Northern Pacific Railroad crossed the Red River of the North. The Territorial Assembly of 1870-1871 established a northern judicial district with the court located at Pembina, Dakota Territory. Chief Justice George W. French was the judge, George I. Foster, whose grandson still resides in Fargo, was the clerk and later the marshal. The territorial or federal court was subsequently located in Fargo under an act of the territorial legislature introduced by Andrew McHench and passed in 1874.

Judge Peter B. Shannon was in office from 1873-1882. It was during his time on the bench that a location for the courthouse was arranged with General Cass, receiver of the Northern Pacific. He also called the first grand jury ever to convene in Fargo.

When North Dakota became a state, the Act of Congress provided for a United States District Court, judge, attorney and clerk of court to be located temporarily at the capital city. The provision for establishing the court temporarily in the capital city apparently never was fulfilled. An Act of Congress passed on April 26, 1890, which act divided the state into four judicial subdistricts which have undergone some modifications, but today the United States Judicial District of North Dakota still has four locations where court is held — Fargo,

Grand Forks, Bismarck and Minot. Alfred D. Thomas, a Fargo attorney, was the state's first federal judge after statehood. Today there are two federal district judges in North Dakota — Judge Paul Benson, who resides in Fargo, and Judge Bruce Van Sickle, judge of the western division. Judge Ronald Davies, retired, still has offices in Fargo and hears some cases.

Two judges of the Eighth Circuit of the United States Court of Appeals live and have offices in Fargo — Judge Charles J. Vogel and Judge Myron H. Bright. Judge Vogel served as United States District Judge from 1941 to 1954 before being elevated to the Court of Appeals. Sessions of this court are usually held in St. Louis, Missouri. These federal judges, except for Judge Benson, have offices in the new federal building on the northeast corner of Roberts Street and Second Avenue North. The federal courtroom and Judge Benson's offices are located in the old federal building on the northeast corner of Roberts and First Avenue North.

Cass County was organized in 1873 with Fargo selected as the county seat. In 1874 the first county courthouse was built on a site where the Northern Pacific depot is now located. This building was removed to First Avenue South near Seventh Street. It was used as a YMCA for a while and then as a boarding house before it was finally torn down in 1967. The second county courthouse built in Fargo burned down in 1903. The third and still-existing courthouse was built fol-

lowing the fire at the same location. In this building the County Judge, who is also the Probate Judge, has his offices and courtroom. Judge George Duis, County Judge, has been in office since 1974.

Also housed in the Cass County courthouse are two judges of the First Judicial District of the State of North Dakota. Judge Roy Redetzke is the senior judge of the district and for many years was the sole District Judge in Fargo. The workload became so great that a second judge, Judge Ralph Maxwell, was authorized. Judge Maxwell is now the presiding judge. Together the two judges have been able, by dint of extremely hard work, to prevent any large backlog of cases. However, the time is approaching when a third judge will be necessary to insure timely justice.

Two county officials who have served many years have recently left their duties to others. Abe Friedman was Register of Deeds from 1936 until his death in the summer of 1974. He kept detailed records on all property within the county. The records from 1875 to 1972 have been preserved on microfilm and placed in a vault specially prepared in Hutchinson, Kansas, for such records.

Theodore (Ted) Hanson served as Clerk of the District Court in Cass County from the 1920s until his recent retirement. Mr. Hanson saw many changes take place during the time he was in office. He says that the basic practice of law has not changed but the volume and type of



First Court House — moved from site of N.P. Depot to First Ave. between Seventh and Eighth Streets South.

cases have. He noted the large number of divorce cases, cases involving taxation, and personal injury lawsuits resulting from automobile accidents.

Perhaps the Juvenile Court most accurately reflects the results of urban growth in the Fargo area. Arthur Lieb has been the Juvenile Commissioner since 1951. He was Cass County's first professional in the field. Prior to that time, juvenile cases were handled by one probation officer and one secretary. Today Mr. Lieb heads a large staff of trained probation officers who deal with a variety of problems affecting juveniles. The Juvenile Commissioner also has the services of interns, either students from UND Law School or graduate students in social work. He also has started using specially trained volunteers to assist the paid staff in handling their growing caseload.

There are other signs, however, of the problems caused by the increasingly urbanized life in Fargo. Agencies have been established which work closely with the courts and law enforcement officials providing counseling and assisting in the solution of urban problems. Family Service and the Southeast Mental Health Clinic are examples of such agencies.

There are legal assistance offices in Fargo which help those who otherwise could not afford legal services, including a newly-created program to provide legal aid for senior citizens. Private attorneys in the City of Fargo assist by volunteering their services.



First Court House used as YMCA after it was moved

The Municipal Court in Fargo is presided over by Judge Thomas Davies, who has established an imaginative and successful program of sentencing persons convicted in his court to perform desirable services to the city instead of paying the usual fine. His courtroom is located in the civic center along with other city offices.

From its inception Fargo has had many attorneys. The first attorney who "hung out his shingle" in Fargo did so on a tent in "Fargo in the

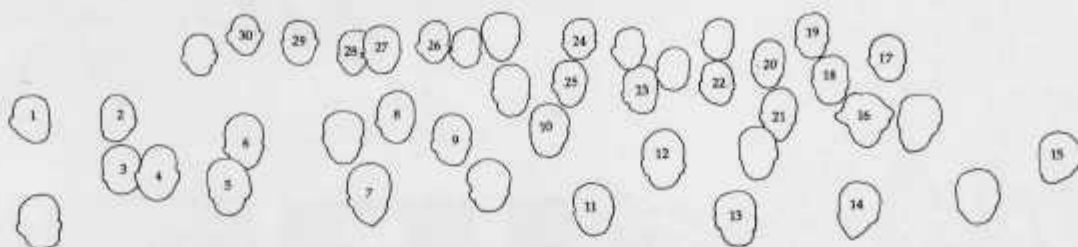


Fargo's second Court House burned in 1903.

Timber." He was Gordon J. Keeney. S. G. Roberts, Jacob Lowell, H. S. Back and N. B. Pinkham were other early attorneys in Fargo. The divorce business from about 1879 until 1899 and legal proceedings in establishing land titles created plenty of work for early attorneys. The city directory of 1883 listed thirty-one practicing attorneys in the City of Fargo. Today's directory lists over one hundred. Two of the largest law firms in the state are in Fargo. They are Vogel, Vogel, Brantner & Kelly, and Nilles, Hansen, Selbo, Magill & Davies, Ltd.



Cass County Courthouse, at Ninth St. South



Pictured below is a lawyer's convention held in Fargo. The exact date is unknown. 1 Seth Richardson, 2 Judge Daniel B. Holt, 3 John D. Farrand, 4 A. G. Divet, 5 — Miller, 6 W. C. Green, 7 Judge Charles A. Pollock, 8 T. H. McEnroe, 9 A. R. Bergeson, 10 B. G. Tenneson, 11 W. C. Barnett, 12 Judge A. T. Cole, 13 Francis X. Kirsch, 14 Robert M. Pollock, 15 Aubrey Laurence, 16 L. L. Twitchell, 17 E. T. Conmy, 18 Supreme Court Judge B. F. Spalding, 19 Smith Stimmel, 20 Fred M. Hector, 21 L. U. Stambaugh, 22 J. E. Hendrickson, 23 Judge (?) Charles M. Cooley, 24 A. W. Cupler, 25 — McIntyre, 26 H. F. Horner, 27 H. F. Nilles, 28 Judge John C. Pollock, 29 A. W. Fowler, 30 Matt Murphy (?)





William Lemke



Edwin Ladd



Mark Andrews



Quentin Burdick

Politicians

Only one Fargo resident has been chosen as governor of the state since 1889. L. B. Hanna, who moved to Fargo from Page, North Dakota, in 1898, was elected to the governorship in 1912. He served two terms. Before being governor Hanna had served two terms in the House of Representatives of the United States Congress. Burleigh Spalding, a Fargo attorney, and Thomas Hall served terms in Congress in the very early days. William Lemke of Fargo served in Congress from 1933 until his death in 1959. Mark Andrews of Fargo and Mapleton is presently North Dakota's only Congressman.

Only two Fargoans have been elected to represent North Dakota in the United States Senate during the city's 100-year history. Edwin F. Ladd, the "crusading professor" from the then NDAC, was elected in 1921 and served until his death in 1925. Quentin N. Burdick, a Fargo attorney, was elected to the House of Representatives in 1958, then won election to the Senate in a special election in 1960 and has served continuously since that time. He was North Dakota's first Democratic senator.

This relatively small number of elected officials from Fargo, always the state's most populous city, perhaps illustrates what Elwyn B. Robinson called "the undercurrent of antagonism between country and town people within the state," caused by "feelings of inferiority (among country people)

which were long an important part of the emotional life of thousands of North Dakotans . . . they felt like country cousins toward the cityfolk of the nation."

It is apparent that this feeling has

been rightfully overcome by North Dakotans since two members of the present delegation to the United States Congress call Fargo their home. "Imperial Cass" has finally met its long-deserved demise.



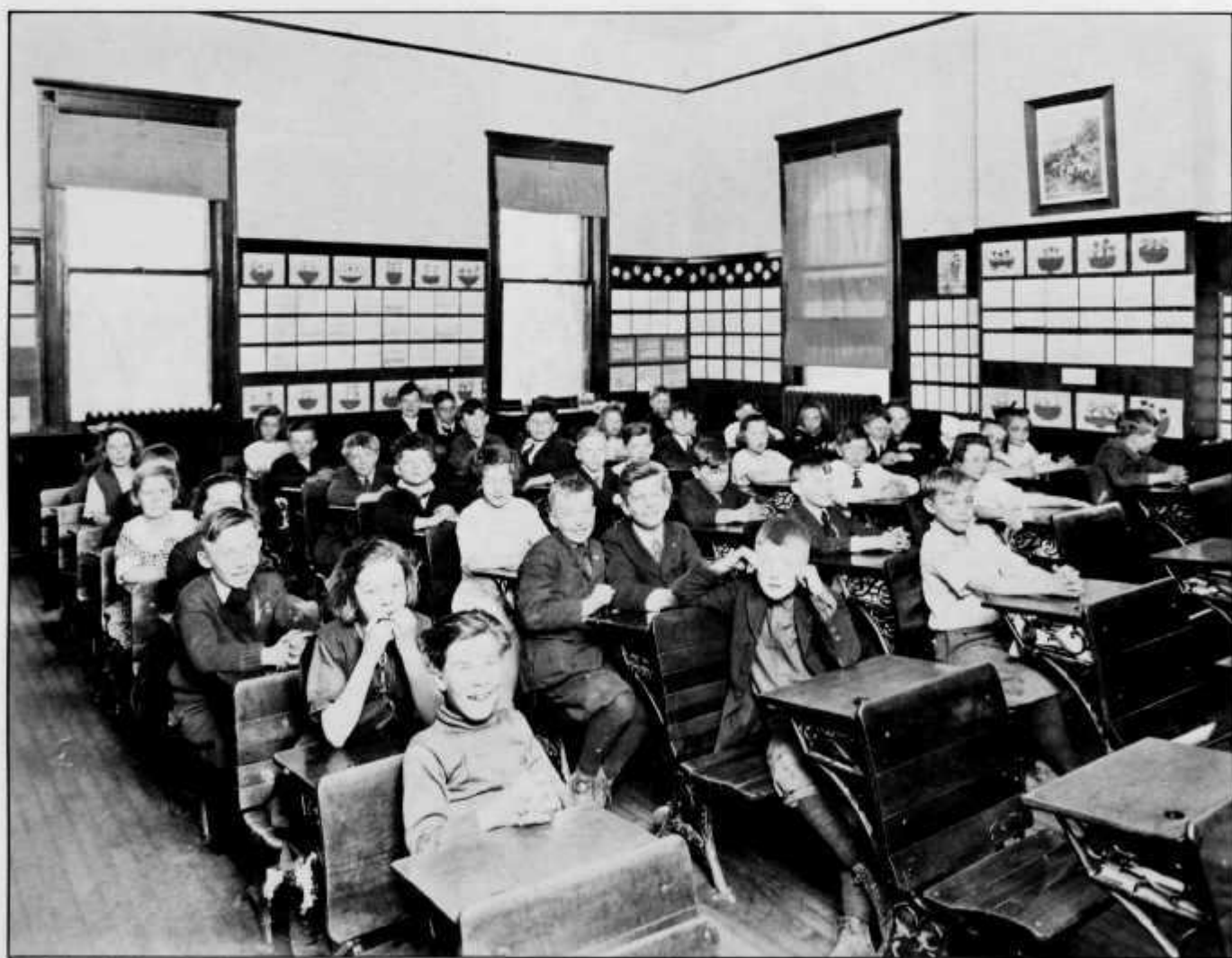
L. to R. Wm. Jennings Bryan, Gov. Burke, Hector Barnes, E. M. Darrow, 1908



Dedication of Fargo College Library — Teddy Roosevelt, 1910



Education



Jessie Wyckoff's fourth grade class, Hawthorne School. Row 1 (left) front to back: Jack McNair, —, Bobbie Parrot, Margaret Rutherford, —, —, Irene Aarhus, —. Row 2: Dick Fowler, Elmer Landblom and Richard Vogelsang, Rose Wimmer, David Minard, —. Row 3: Bill Murphy, Martell Haugen, Dick Walsh, — and Clarence Bechtel, —, Robert Flint, —. Row 4: Francis Martin, Selmer Espelund, Charlotte Klinsman, —, Laura Ball. Row 5: (a boy from Texas), Ann Herroid, Sylvia Headland, George Nichols and Tommy Conmy, Aurora Haas, Arnold Wee.

A survey of formal education gives a very good picture of the values, interests and the progress of a city as a whole. In Fargo, the desire to establish a school went hand in hand with the staking out of the first claims in the unpopulated area on the west bank of the Red River of the North.

Unfortunately, many school records were lost in the fires which destroyed the Court House in 1903 and the High School in 1916.

We do know that the first school on the Fargo side of the river was taught by a fifteen-year-old girl, Mercy Nelson, later Mrs. Eben Knight of Lisbon. There was also a school taught by Mrs. MacDonald Hughes and referred to as a "select public school." In 1873, a school (no doubt sponsored by parents) was held in Pinkham Hall at the corner of Fourth Street and Front (Main Avenue) with fifteen pupils. Classes were taught by Frank Pinkham and his sister, Alvina.

Andrew McHench, already mentioned as one of the earliest settlers, interested himself in the establishment of schools for the new area. He was appointed on February 16, 1874, as the first county superintendent of Cass County Schools. He organized School District No. 1, Fargo, which was bounded on the east by the Red River and extended quite far in the other three directions, so far in fact, that the district had to be made smaller to conform to the city limits when it was platted.

On April 22, 1874, at a meeting of legal voters of the school district, the first school board was elected with S. G. Roberts as director. Francis Pinkham moved that a tax of 2.5 mills on the dollar be levied on the assessed valuation of the property in the district for school purposes during the ensuing year.

A Miss Giddings was the first person licensed by McHench as a teacher. She was hired by the board as a teacher for the summer term of three months for \$45 per month. The first public school session was held in a clapboard house bought from McHench and moved to a lot donated by the Northern Pacific Railroad at the northwest corner of South Ninth Street at Second Avenue. The building served until another building was completed at the location of the high school building which burned in 1966. Later, the Board of Education sold the lots on which the original school stood to the Unitarian Church Society. The building was moved to "lower" Front Street, on the north side of the street and about a block west of the bridge. It served as a free kindergarten and nursery for the small children of that locality for many years. Later the building was moved again, this time to a location north of the Washington School which was located at that time on the corner of Front and Fourth Streets. When the kindergarten was discontinued the building was given to the City of Fargo for use as a day nursery and moved to a location between Third and Fourth Streets on First

Avenue South. There it stood until it was destroyed in the process of clearing the area for Urban Renewal II.

Another version of this story suggests that the building used as the day nursery was the original Hawthorne Elementary Building rather than the original clapboard school.

Professional requirements for teaching were not very rigorous, and the teachers' education was sometimes very meager. Yet pupils were often urged by their parents to bring their textbooks home with them so that the mother and father might learn right along with the children.

After Miss Giddings, the next teacher hired was George Traut. McHench was followed by J. R. Jones, S. G. Roberts and Jacob Lowell, Jr., each for one term as County School Superintendent.

In 1882 it was decided that teachers' salaries should not be less than \$40 nor more than \$60 a month. The superintendent's annual salary was to range from \$1500 to \$1800, and the high school principal's from \$1000 the first year to a maximum of \$1300. Substitute teachers received \$2 per day. A janitor was hired for the north side school (Lincoln at that time) at \$40 per month. He was to cut all the wood for that house and to properly heat and clean the building. Teachers were required to attend the teachers institute for two weeks in the High School for the purpose of familiarizing themselves with the methods to be put into operation during the ensuing year.



L to R: Alice Gallagher, —, Hermione Mitchell, Mildred Tilden, Erna Burdick, —

The propriety of teachers taking part in dramatic exercises was discussed by the board in 1883. It was decided that it was inadvisable for teachers to take active part in public dramatic entertainment; nor were teachers to be allowed to take part in public dances. Nor was that all; a board resolution "prohibited the use of tobacco by teachers, pupils or janitors."

The year 1880 saw the election of William P. Burdick as Fargo's first superintendent of schools and the start of the building of "ward school houses." Fargo by now having grown to the point that it was divided into wards. The schools were common frame building heated by space-heater stoves and barely comfortable in winter. Lincoln elementary school was built at Fourth Street South at Sixth Avenue and the Longfellow elementary school, commonly known as the Douglas Terrace School, on the corner of Tenth Street North at Fourth Avenue. These were "compromise schools" intended to settle the enmity between north and south sides, an enmity precipitated by the location of Central High School on the south side. Their construction was completed in 1882.

The original Central High School and Grade School, also built in 1882, was built on the full block between Ninth and Tenth Streets South and faced south on Third Avenue, beautifully located on

a fine piece of property in one of the finest residential districts. It was constructed at a cost of \$70,000 and stood until December 1916, when it was destroyed by a spectacular fire witnessed by thousands of persons in eight degrees below zero weather. It was not until 1921 that a new Central High School building was ready for occupancy. It was a fine new building erected at the same site and which stood until April 19, 1966, when it, in its turn, was partially destroyed by fire. It was demolished after it and the land on which it stood were purchased by the county.

There are two replacements to old Central High. In 1965, a new building, North High School, was ready for occupancy at 17th Avenue on the north side. In the fall of 1967 a new South High was opened at 18½ Street South. Both buildings were built according to the same architectural plans and utilizing the latest fashion in school architecture. They are large and well-equipped, and in spite of some initial problems, have proved to be well designed for their purpose.

In addition to these two public high schools, there are two private, parochial high schools — Shanley High School, named for early-day Roman Catholic Bishop John Shanley, and Oak Grove Lutheran High School situated in Oak Grove near the river on the north side of the city. Fargo youth are abundantly supplied with educational opportunities.



Fargo High School. Built 1882, destroyed by fire 1916



Sacred Heart Academy on North Broadway, no longer used as a school



Oak Grove Seminary for ladies, built by E. S. Tyler in 1882 and owned by G. S. Barnes. It was later demolished.

FARGO SCHOOLS

Special Schools

Opportunity School
1620 16th Avenue South

Business Colleges

Dakota Business College
11 South 8th Street
Interstate Business College
114 Roberts

Elementary Schools (Public)

Carl Ben Eielson
1035 South 16th Street
Clara Barton
1417 South 6th Street
Hawthorne
555 8th Avenue South
Horace Mann
1025 North 3rd Street
Jefferson
315 South 16th Street
Lewis & Clark
1729 South 16th Street
Lincoln
2120 South 9th Street
Longfellow
20 29th Avenue North
Madison
1040 North 29th Street
McKinley
2930 North 8th Street
Roosevelt
1026 North 10th Street
Washington
1725 North Broadway
Woodrow Wilson
315 North University Drive

Junior High Schools

Agassiz
1305 9th Avenue South
Ben Franklin
1420 North 8th Street

High Schools

North High
801 17th Avenue North
South High
1840 15th Avenue South
Oak Grove
124 North Terrace
Shanley
705 13th Avenue North

Parochial Schools

Grace Lutheran School
1025 South 14th Avenue
Holy Spirit
1441 North 8th Street
Nativity
1825 South 11th Street
St. Anthony of Padua
719 South 9th Street
St. Mary's Cathedral School
619 North 7th Street

Keeping pace with the growth in the high schools are the other departments necessary to an adequate educational system. There are two junior high schools — Benjamin Franklin on the north side, and Agassiz on the south side. There are thirteen public elementary schools, the one farthest south is Lincoln School at 21st Avenue South, and on the north are Longfellow Elementary School at 29th Avenue and McKinley Elementary at 2930 North Eighth Street. The elementary school system extends west to Madison Elementary School which is on North 29th Street. Lincoln and Longfellow take their names from the two oldest public schools which during the course of time have been demolished, or moved and given new names.

Fargo also has four Roman Catholic parochial schools and one Lutheran. The education of special students is also available at the Opportunity School located at 1620 Sixteenth Avenue South.

The present superintendent of the Fargo Public Schools is Vern Bennett. He is the head of a system which includes 9761 students and 823 teachers and staff. The budget for the school year of 1974-75 is \$10.5 million.

Members of the Fargo Public School Board are: Dr. Donald Lamb, Mrs. Jo Miller, William Moher, John Q. Paulsen, Dr. Les Pavek, James Runsvold, Mrs. Winnie Sandal, Lyle Selbo, Dr. Trueman E. Tryhus.

The present availability of quality education in all areas of study is the



Dakota Business College, formerly Fargo's first Masonic Temple, built in 1884

product of dedicated efforts by citizens who have given liberally of their time and treasure, and by professional educators who have used their knowledge and talents wisely.

As a part of the post-secondary education available in Fargo, there are two privately owned business colleges. The Dakota Business College in the old Masonic Building in the first block of Eighth Street South is the oldest existing post-secondary educational institution in the city. It was started by F. Leland Watkins in 1890 with five students. It has persisted through many decades since and has always been owned by the same family. F. Leland Watkins, Jr., followed in his father's footsteps and is still active as an instructor at the college. He has, in turn, been joined by his son, F. Leland Watkins, III, and Dakota Business College is a busy, thriving institution at the present time. Many of the prominent businessmen of the past and present got their initial training at Dakota Business College.

The Interstate Business College, which is owned by Jens Fossum, was established in 1912 with an enrollment of six students. It is located on Roberts Street in what was the A.O.U.W. Building. It offers a full curriculum of training and has produced many well trained people during the years.

Fargo boasts other training facilities for nurses, beauticians, barbers, auto mechanics and many other trades and professions necessary to carry on modern society.



Dill Hall, Fargo College

Fargo College, 1887-1922

Fargo College has its source in an idea. That idea is the necessity of the Christian college for the perpetuity of our free institutions and democratic form of government." This statement was made by Webster Merrifield, then President of the University of North Dakota, when he wrote the history of higher education in the Red River Valley in 1909.

The idea for the Christian college was first mentioned at the meeting of the "General Association of Congregational Churches" meeting at Fargo in 1882. It was not until 1887, however, that the college was formally established and opened. First classes were held in the "Masonic Block" which is the present home of the Dakota Business College on South Eighth Street.

The formal charter of the college was granted March 28, 1888, giving it the right to teach a college preparatory course as well as a four-year college course leading to the B.A. degree. There was also a conservatory of music which played a large part in the cultural life of the town.

Jones Hall, Fargo College's first building, was dedicated in 1890. It was a large handsome building on a beautiful location overlooking Island Park. The college campus was on Seventh Street South where the Western States Life Insurance Company is now. Dill Hall, the second building was

first occupied in January, 1908. Three hundred ten students and twenty faculty members made good use of these two buildings. Laying the cornerstone of the third and final building was the occasion for a large celebration. Theodore Roosevelt was the featured speaker. The Fargo newspaper reproduced on its front page, a cartoon of a grinning Roosevelt with a cowboy hat on his head. The picture was captioned, "Welcome home, Roosevelt." It headlined, "30,000 North Dakotans greet Teddy with wild enthusiasm."

In his speech, Roosevelt said if it had not been for his experience as a rancher in the Badlands of North

Dakota, he would never have been president. He spoke for an hour that morning in drizzling rain. Opening remarks and the introduction were made by C. C. Creagan, President of the college, who gave principal credit to Hon. L. B. Hanna, former Governor of North Dakota and a Fargo resident, for raising the money to make the building, a library, possible. Hanna then handed a small silver trowel to Mr. Roosevelt while the crowd cheered. Many Fargo residents of today remember that big day, and it was reported that the college on the hill with its beautiful buildings looked friendly and impressive.

But the days of the college were numbered. In 1922, it was forced to close for lack of funds. Its existence was short-lived, but its impact on the town was great. It was an integral part of the community from its beginning and influenced the lives of many Fargo residents. In the few short years it operated, Fargo College produced four Rhodes scholars — an astonishing record.

Judge Charles F. Amidon, for many years a trustee of the college, said, "Fargo College was poor in everything except honor." His daughter, Beulah Amidon Ratliff, a student of the college said, "It was a fine tradition. The doors closed . . . but it will endure for it was built into the lives of many people."

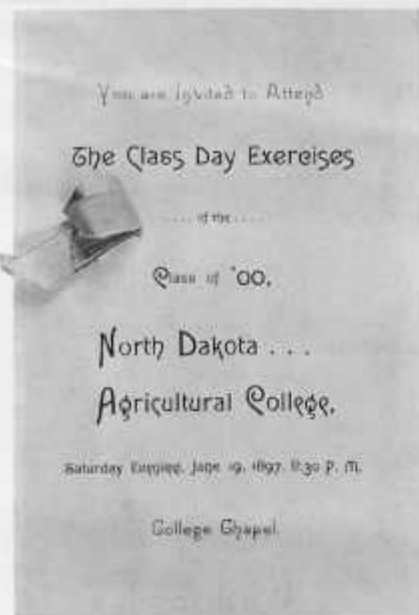
All physical traces of the college are now gone, except for the Conservatory of Music which is now the Fine Arts Club Building.



Fargo College library dedication, 1903. L to R: R. C. Lewis, Teddy Roosevelt, R. S. Lewis



Maypole Dance at Fargo College, 1912



C. S. "Doc" Putnam



H. L. Bolley



C. B. Waldron



Edwin Ladd

North Dakota State University

Fargo College was established in response to the wishes of the town's citizens. That was not the case of the North Dakota Agricultural College, as NDSU was known until November, 1960. Webster Merrifield tells the story: "An agricultural college was first located at Fargo in 1883 by an act of the Territorial Legislature, when the University, the Hospital for the Insane and the Penitentiary were respectively located at Grand Forks, Jamestown and Bismarck. The act locating this college at Fargo named a board of trustees and imposed conditions as to procuring a tract of land. The importance of this institution did not then appeal to the people of Fargo; the trustees would not qualify, and nothing was done."

Due to the foresight of S. G. Roberts, a member of the Territorial Legislature, the act was kept in force until 1889 when the Constitutional Convention and the following first State Legislature permanently located and established the North Dakota Agricultural College at Fargo.

NDSU was organized in October, 1890, and its first educational work was carried on in rooms rented from Fargo College. An Agricultural Experiment Station was also organized, financed with \$15,000 in funds from the Federal Government. It was to become of major importance in the development of agriculture in the state.

It was not until 1892 that NDSU had its first building. This building is still in existence and is known as "Old Main." Plans were drawn by Hancock Brothers, architects, and the building built by Bowers Construction Company.

H. E. Stockbridge was appointed as the first president, and a site was chosen for the Agricultural College one mile north of the business center of the city of Fargo, on a one section grant of land from the state. An authorization of \$25,000 was also made by the legislature. Tuition was free to all residents of the state and furnished rooms cost \$3 to \$8 per month, laundry about 55 cents per dozen pieces, and board from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per week. The college did not agree to supply either room or board but was willing to do both if such arrangements should be found possible.

Although NDSU began with only four faculty members in addition to President Stockbridge, those first four proved to be men of considerable stature.

C. B. Waldron, 24, a horticulturist, forester and landscaper, was responsible for ornamental plantings on the campus, in many Fargo parks, and at public institutions throughout the state.

H. L. Bolley, also 24 at the time of his appointment, was a botanist. Bolley organized the state's Agricultural Experiment Station and would later be described by a North Dakota farmer as the only man in the state

worth more to the state than a million dollars.

Edwin Ladd, 31, was a chemist with a strong bent toward consumer protection. Throughout a long career at NDSU he waged war on the sellers of paint that wouldn't stick, watered whiskey and adulterated foods, ultimately becoming known as the father of America's pure food and drug laws. Ladd, who was the founder of NDSU's internationally known Department of Paint Chemistry (now Polymers and Coatings), was one of only two Fargoans to be elected to the United States Senate.

It is impossible to list them all, but another early NDSU faculty member of note was L. R. Waldron, a younger brother of C. B. Waldron, who joined the staff in 1899, and whose pioneering work with wheat research was subsequently credited with earning more money for the people of North Dakota than it cost to operate NDSU for its first 75 years.

NDSU was principally known for its work in agriculture during its early days, but two other men, Clarence S. "Doc" Putnam, who founded the Gold Star Band, and Alfred G. Arvold, who launched its widely known Little Country Theatre, made significant contributions to the cultural life of the community and state, which have carried down to this day.

One man whose career at NDSU spans nearly the school's entire history is Dr. O. A. Stevens, who joined the faculty as an assistant professor of botany in 1909, and



NDAC Class of 1904. Front row L to R: James McGuigan, Sopha Ione Thomas, Edith C. Fowler, Mary H. Darrow, William Westergaard. Back row: Dora Jensen, G. Ross Fowler, Katherine Jensen

remains an active, emeritus member of the faculty today. Dr. Stevens is widely known for an exhaustive collection of North Dakota plant specimens, insects, and other forms of life collected over 66 years as a botanist. He was once described as "a modern Audubon of the plains."

NDSU's College of Pharmacy had been launched in 1901, under Dr. Ladd. It became a separate school in 1919 with Dr. W. F. Sudro as dean.

Other names prominently associated with NDSU during its formative years were those of its second president, Dr. J. H. Worst, who served from 1895 to 1903, T. D. Hinebaugh, a veterinarian, H. W. McArdle, a horticulturist, and Edward S. Keene, who founded what is now the College of Engineering and Architecture in 1892. The first course in domestic economy (now Home Economics) was taught by Mrs. W. M. Hays, a faculty wife; Dr. Leunis Van Es was a pioneer in veterinary science research, and Haile Chisholm, who taught blacksmithing, is credited with creating practically all of the decorative iron work found in Fargo homes, including NDSU's main gate. J. H. Shepperd, who headed the Agricultural Experiment Station during its years of greatest growth, later became the University's fifth president.

NDSU's first annual catalogue, issued in 1892, made it clear that "the end of the institution is not restricted to the education of farmers. The college is dedicated to the principle that

the men who live on our farms require, are entitled to, and can utilize an education equal in all ways to that required by the followers of other pursuits. The object of the institution is not the making of farmers but rather the making of men and women and then to equip them so that they can be successful anywhere, including on the farm."

North Dakota State University was organized as a land grant college under the Morrill Act of 1862, and received a grant of 90,000 acres of land for its endowment plus 40,000 acres from the state. The University continues to receive federal monies for its agricultural research and other related pursuits.

The history of North Dakota State University is one of steady growth in size and excellence with the expected setbacks during wars and depressions. Today, the University's physical plant is valued at more than \$50 million with more than 60 major buildings on a campus of over 2,300 acres. There are approximately 6,600 students enrolled in the University's seven colleges.

In the words of the present catalog of the University, "NDSU has three basic functions — resident education, research and extension. As a research center, the University's efforts are directed toward the improvement of the social and economic life of all citizens.

"Research is an integral part of the work of each of the colleges.

"Every department and office of the University is concerned with the extension of its services to the entire state through information programs, off-campus courses, summer programs, special short courses and activities of the Institute of Regional Studies."

In 1960 through an initiated amendment to the North Dakota Constitution, the NDAC became officially North Dakota State University.

During the intervening years, the attitude of the citizens of Fargo has undergone a complete change, and NDSU is now recognized as being of the greatest cultural and economic value to the City of Fargo and the area surrounding it. The members of its staff and faculty are recognized and valued for their contributions to the community. There is no town-gown cleavage in the City of Fargo.

In 1963, during the administration of President H. R. Albrecht, a successful effort was made to revitalize NDSU's sagging athletic fortunes. Under Coach Darrell Mudra, the Bison football team, which had lost all of its games the previous season, made a strong comeback, finishing undefeated in Mudra's second season as head coach. For many Fargoans, especially in the city's business community, the Bison football team provided a rallying point for support; and these efforts are credited with further helping to thaw the coolness which had long existed between the University and the community.



President L. D. Loftsgard

That growing interest in NDSU on the part of the Fargo-Moorhead community was manifested in a very tangible way when, in 1965, Reuben W. Askanase, a former student at NDSU who had become a highly successful entrepreneur, offered to match, dollar-for-dollar, any money raised in the F-M community toward construction of a theatre on the NDSU campus. That effort was culminated in 1968, with the dedication of Askanase Hall, a new home for NDSU's historic Little Country Theatre, and involving more than \$150,000 collected in the Fargo-Moorhead community and matched by Reuben and Hilda Askanase. Fred B. Scheel of Fargo headed the fund drive effort.

Byron Jackson of Fargo, an NDSU alumnus, subsequently coordinated a drive which collected \$315,000 toward construction of a new Field House on the NDSU Campus.

With the inauguration of Dr. L. D. Loftsgard as NDSU's 10th president in April, 1969, the involvement of alumni and friends of NDSU was further formalized through a program known as Project SU'75, which, among other things had the goal of raising \$4 million in private support for capital construction on the campus. To date, more than \$3.3 million has been raised, with Homecoming, 1975, as the target date for its completion. Long-time Alumni Association President Paul M. Gallagher of Fargo has spearheaded the fund-raising effort, with Reuben Askanase again providing strong leadership and becoming heavily involved himself.



Askanase Hall

Again, this effort has drawn heavily upon support from the Fargo-Moorhead community. Robert Dawson of Fargo headed a campaign which raised more than \$1 million in the F-M community.

During six years as president, Dr. Loftsgard has been instrumental in the pursuit of continued growth and increased excellence. He is the first native-born North Dakotan to be selected as the president of this important institution.

Current vice presidents of NDSU are Drs. David Worden, academic affairs; K. E. Gilles, agriculture, and F. L. Pavak, student affairs. H. D. Stockman is vice president for business and finance. Deans of the seven colleges are A. G. Hazen, agriculture; Frank Mirgain, engineering and architecture; Katherine Burgum, home economics; James Sugihara, graduate school, Loren Hill (acting) science and mathematics, Archer Jones, humanities and social sciences; Philip Haakenson, pharmacy, and Neil S. Jacobsen, university studies.

Dr. Myron Johnsrud is director of the Cooperative Extension Service, and Dean Hazen is also director of the Agricultural Experiment Station. Burton Brandrud is director of admissions; G. A. Richardson is director of communications and university relations, and George Wallman is director of school relations. Dr. Robert L. Sullivan is director of special projects. These people constitute the University's Administrative Council.

A recent development in higher education in the Fargo-Moorhead area has been the cooperative effort of North Dakota State University, Moorhead State College and Concordia in joint education known as Tri-College University. Through this effort, students of one college are encouraged to take courses in either one or both of the other two at no extra cost. All three faculties and libraries are available to all students. Continued and expanded growth and benefits are expected from this joint effort. Dr. Albert Anderson is the Tri-College University Provost.

Fargo Churches

The first religious service held in Fargo was conducted by a Presbyterian missionary minister who was stationed in Moorhead. A tent located in Fargo in the timber was the scene of this first service. To insure that Reverend Oscar H. Elmer would have an audience, a man ran through the settlement ringing a bell and announcing the service — there also seems to have been the further inducement of a drink of free liquor after the service. If the meeting was a success or not is hard to tell, for there is no record of its being repeated. One might assume from this that the first Presbyterian Church to be established in North Dakota would have been in Fargo. Such is not the case. The first Presbyterian Church was in Bismarck in 1873; it was not until 1877 that the Presbyterians built a church in Fargo. The church was built on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Roberts, at 1st Avenue and 7th Street North. Reverend R. C. Stevens was the first minister. In 1882 he was succeeded by Reverend H. A. Newell. When the church celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, a letter was received from Mrs. Newell, recalling her days in Fargo: "We had some humorous things occur . . . for instance, young Scotch maids, six the first winter, came to meet the lads they were to marry. These lads had taken up claims and had built cabins and then sent to the old country for their lassies. We had some of those maids with us for a week to several weeks if the weather was real cold. Each month brought brides from across the sea and only

one was returned to her mother, as the man she was to marry came to the manse quite intoxicated. The manse could not see a sweet innocent girl united to such a man. The man was angry but the maid was very grateful for her release." It is hard to tell from this if the girls knew their future husbands or the marriages were arranged by their families. One sentence in Mrs. Newell's letter makes one wonder? "Good mothers always sent a note to the minister asking him to take care of their lass and keep her until the lad appeared and to be sure they were correctly married."

Where do old churches go? When the second Presbyterian Church was built in 1906, the question was answered, at least as far as one church was concerned. "The old church building was sold to Mr. P. T. Tondick and moved to 3rd Avenue and 11th Street North and remodeled into a duplex." In 1929 Fargo needed a new post office; the government decided to build it on the block between Roberts Street and 7th Street. The Presbyterian Church property was traded for a lot on the corner of 7th Street and Second Avenue North — the third church was built and still serves as the home of the First Presbyterian Church — a lovely building — which today faces Fargo's new Post Office.

Let us go back to 1871. Reverend James Curley, a Methodist minister who was stationed in Brainerd came to Fargo to hold a service in Pinkham's Hall. J. B. Chapin,

sometimes called the father of Fargo, heard the Methodists were uncertain if they should establish a church in Fargo or Moorhead. Chapin, who was never known to attend a church, owned a lot of property in Fargo. He knew churches brought people to any town. This assured Reverend Curley of a large audience, for Chapin paid 50 cents to anyone who would attend the church service. The hall was full; Moorhead could not compete. Thus it was that the Methodists built the first church in Fargo. It was completed July 1, 1874. It was a little church, 30 by 50 feet located on the corner of 1st Avenue and 9th Street South, where the present church stands today. Built at the cost of \$1,200, the building material was a gift from the Northern Pacific Railroad and was hauled free of charge. By 1880 the congregation needed a larger building. The little church was sold to the Catholic Church and moved to 6th Avenue North, where it was used by the Catholics until the Cathedral was completed. In the summer of 1894 the new Methodist Church was destroyed by fire. The congregation held services in the County Court House until the present brick structure was completed. There the Methodist Church stands today. Through the years many additions have been added including an educational building which houses the Methodist Pre School, one of the largest and best in the city.

Money seems to have been a problem for all churches. Congregations



Gethsemane Cathedral interior, 1900



Gethsemane Cathedral

were small. Most churches had fewer than 20 members when they were organized. Competition for members and funds was intense. Basket socials in the winter and strawberry socials in the summer were only a few of the methods used to raise money and entice new members; thus the early churches contributed to the cultural growth through numerous lectures and social entertainments.

The Episcopal Church can probably claim the honor of having held services each Sunday from August 29, 1872 until the present day. Other congregations were at first served by missionary ministers, and aside from meetings held in the homes of the members, were held only when the missionary was in the area. The first service held by the Episcopalians was conducted by Reverend I. A. Gillfillian in a dining tent lent by the Northern Pacific Railroad. The following Sunday, and for many Sundays thereafter, a lay reader, B. F. Mackall, held services in the same tent, which came to be known as the Church at the Crossing, as it was located on the corner of N.P. Ave. and Broadway. On the occasions when the railroad needed its tent, the services were moved to Pinkham's Hall, a small building at the corner of Front Street (Main Ave.) and 3rd Street. It was Mackall who began the drive to raise funds for a church building. General Cass donated the land, a lot which he purchased from the Northern Pacific railway, at the corner of 9th Street and 2nd Avenue South, where the present church stands today. In 1884

the foundation was completed but there was no money to complete the building. Early in 1885 the church got its first resident minister, Reverend Wainright. He had previously been a missionary in Labrador. To raise money for the church he gave a series of lectures at the Headquarters Hotel. Rev. Wainright's lectures were so popular that by the end of 1875 not only was the church completed, but a rectory was built to house the pastor. This is not hard to understand when we read a contemporary report of a lecture, "Reverend Mr. Wainright gave a lecture on how the missionaries in Labrador traveled. He used for an illustration a dog sled and a 40 foot whip. Mr. Wainright is an expert at the use of this whip. At the conclusion of the lecture he stood 40 feet from a glass filled with water and with his whip he flicked the water out of the glass without upsetting it." Even today Mr. Wainright would be a hard act to follow.

The Episcopalians were evidently very lucky in their first clergymen. Their first bishop promoted the church with an idea which would be novel even in this day and age. The Reverend William D. Walker was appointed Bishop of North Dakota in 1883, when the church held a Missionary Convocation in Yankton. The convocation divided Dakota Territory, for church purposes, along the 46th parallel exactly where it is today. Bishop Walker chose Fargo as his See City and Gethsemane Church became the Gethsemane Cathedral. The territory was large, churches were few and transportation was a problem.

How Bishop Walker solved these problems is best explained in this account from the February 1890 issue of "The North Dakota Churchman:" "Bishop Walker has ordered from the Pullman Palace Car Company a Gospel Car with a seating capacity of 80 and supplied with a robing room, pulpit and organ. The bishop will be able to conduct services in the barren country where few churches exist." The car arrived in Fargo in December, 1890. The bishop set out on his travels, and from the report of his first trip we read: "Wherever it stopped, people flocked to services. Often the people present equalled the entire population of the town. Bishop Walker took complete care of the car, even making his own bed, and at half of the services, he had to play the organ himself." The railroad hauled the car free of charge, but did charge rent of \$50 a year for the land on which the car was parked in Fargo. Bishop Walker served the state of North Dakota for 13 years. After he left, the car fell into disuse. It probably was next used as the Haynes Photography Car, again hauled free of charge by the railroad, for Mr. Haynes was the railroad's official photographer. By 1898 the cathedral was literally falling down. It did not provide adequate shelter in either summer or winter. Twice it had been blown off its foundations by prairie winds. A new church was planned. It was to be constructed of Red Sandstone. That same year the foundation was completed. It proved to be a very expensive project as the sandstone had to be hauled from



St. Mary's Cathedral

Ortonville and it was impossible to complete the building as planned. Consequently, the building was completed as it is today. Within the past few years many new additions have been added to the old building for social and educational purposes. First services were held in February 1900. The growth of the Church has been steady through the years. In the mid-fifties a church to serve the North side, St. Stephens at 2009 2nd Street North, was constructed.

The Catholics were in North Dakota doing missionary work before Pembina was founded. The first Catholic missionary definitely assigned to the Cass County area was Father James B. Genin. This was in 1863. His territory was large, 300 miles long and 100 miles wide, over which he travelled in a Red River cart drawn by a team of horses. It was not until 1867 that he established the Wild Rice Mission House on the Minnesota side of the river. It was later moved to the Dakota side, but in 1872 moved to Moorhead and was established as the St. Joseph Church. It was not until 1877 that the first mass was said in the city of Fargo. It was held in the old Opera House which stood on the corner of Front Street (Main Ave.) and Broadway, and conducted by Father Charles A. Richard. In 1880 Father Richard was appointed parish priest of Fargo. Immediately plans were drawn for a church; but funds were limited and after the plans were drawn it was discovered that the old Methodist Church was for sale. Plans for the new church were abandoned. The building was



St. John's Hospital



Sacred Heart Academy

bought from the Methodists and moved to 6th Avenue North. By 1889, in spite of many additions, this building was too small. On November 18, 1891 the cornerstone was laid for the new church. Plans began proceeding, the foundation was laid and funds were being raised to complete the building. Fargo was at the height of its prosperity; many new buildings were being constructed. But all this ended on the afternoon of June 7, 1893, the day of the great Fargo fire. More than half the city was destroyed. The morning after the fire a relief fund was set up and the Catholics donated a part of their building fund to the cause. This delayed construction. Another thing also contributed to the delay. Bishop John Shanley moved from Jamestown to Fargo, thus Fargo became the See

City of the North Dakota Diocese. Now a much larger building would be needed and plans were drawn for a Cathedral. It was not until May 30, 1899 that the dedication services were held. This building now stands on what was known as 'the Diamond,' purchased by Bishop Shanley in 1891. The Catholic Church has grown greatly since the day in 1877 when the first mass was held. Today, besides the Cathedral, there are three other Catholic churches serving the city of Fargo. Two of them have been built within the last 25 years, The Nativity Catholic Church on 19th Avenue South and the Holy Spirit Church at 1420 North 7. The Catholic school system has kept in step with the growth of the churches. The Sisters of the Presentation arrived in Fargo in 1882 and established St. Joseph's Academy, which later became the Sacred Heart Academy on North Broadway. This school had grades through high school and was destroyed by the tornado of 1957. It was not until 1921 that St. Mary's School, on the corner of 7th Avenue and 7th Street North was completed. Today there are four Catholic grade schools, Shanley High School and the Cardinal Muench Seminary located north of Fargo. In 1900 when Bishop Shanley moved into his new home beside the new Cathedral, the Sisters of St. Joseph Carondelet opened St. John's Hospital in the bishop's old house in Island Park. Today with the last large addition to the hospital, the bishop's house has disappeared. St. John's has grown with the city.

First Baptist Church, Fargo, N.D.



First Baptist Church, Eighth Street and First Avenue South. Replaced in the sixties. Note first court house, minus cupola, on the left.

By 1879 Fargo was a thriving town, a town of frame buildings which straggled off into prairie grass, a town of unpaved streets where horses floundered and wagons sank to their axles in the bottomless mud holes of spring." This description of our city was taken from the Baptist church history. It was in January of that year when the first Baptist Church was organized. That winter the church members met in each other's homes, but by summer they were meeting on the second floor of the Opera House, which was located where the Dakota National Bank now stands. Each Sunday the men of the church carried the pulpit up the long flight of stairs for the service, then carried it down again to be stored in a member's home until the next Sunday. In 1881 the church building was started. It was completed that fall and the congregation moved in. In 1904 a new building was built and the old building moved to the east side of the lot and incorporated into the sanctuary of the new church. In 1925 the educational wing was constructed. It more than doubled the capacity of the plant. The first old church remained a part of the sanctuary until 1958 when it was condemned and the present sanctuary built on the same location. Thus since 1881 the First Baptist Church has occupied the Baptist Corner at 8th Street and 1st Avenue South, one of the few churches in the city which has remained in its original location.

The First Congregational Church was established in 1881. Its founders had come from New England. The first meeting place in October, 1881 was above Morrison's Saloon, which stood where Scheel's Hardware is now located. In January 1882 Mr. Morrison decided his hall could make more money as a card room. The church was asked to vacate. So in February it moved to McHench Hall on the corner of Front Street (Main Ave.) and 5th Street. By August the congregation was again evicted, "because the saloon man underneath wanted the hall for a billiard room, variety theater and a beer hall." After this second eviction the Congregationalists found a safer meeting place in the court house. A lot had been purchased at 3rd Avenue and 1st Street South, and funds were being raised to build a church. In the summer of 1882 Reverend Orville Clark was sent east to raise funds for the building. He returned in October with \$2,250. One can well imagine the shock felt by the congregation when he resigned from the parish and announced he wished to use the money for a new mission on the north side. But this was permitted and the north side mission became the Plymouth Congregational Church. In May of that year the board had voted to erect a \$10,000 church, but in October the same year, the board voted for a \$2,000 building, which was completed in December, 1882. On July 6, 1890 the church was destroyed by a windstorm. This was followed by the completion of a new \$15,000 building in 1892, a building which was to be the home of the

congregation for over 70 years. During those 70 years there were other misfortunes. In 1887, the year of the great flood, the building was badly damaged. In 1905 a fire destroyed the organ and did other extensive damage, but the building was repaired and enlarged. In 1949 the oil burner exploded, and large and expensive repairs were needed. It speaks much for the First Congregational, that after all these misfortunes, plus an interdenominational argument of large proportions, the church has grown. The old church was sold in 1962 to the First Christian Church of Fargo for \$35,000. Again the First Congregational occupied rented quarters, this time in the Lewis and Clark School, until a new building on 17th Avenue and 11th Street South was completed. The first services were held in the new church on January 6, 1963.



Plymouth Congregational Church



English Lutheran Church



Swedish Baptist Church
NW corner Fourth St. and
Third Ave. No.



First Norwegian Baptist
Church, Fourth St. and
Second Ave. No.



Pontoppidan Norwegian Lutheran
Church, SW corner Fourth St. and
Fourth Ave. No.

The great majority of North Dakota early settlers came from the Nordic countries, Norway, Sweden and Germany, and were predominantly Lutheran. The migration was so great it has influenced both the religious and political sectors of our state. These people were intensely nationalistic and transferred much of their Nordic heritage and customs to their new world. Their religious services were held and their newspapers were published in their native languages. In any pioneer community, churches and schools were among the first things established. It was the schools that integrated the Nordic races into the new world.

As late as 1942 some services were still being conducted in the Norwegian language in the lower auditorium of the Pontoppidan Lutheran Church. The Elim Lutheran church had its last Swedish Service in 1938. Usually the adjustment of services from a foreign language to English was a grave problem. Many tried holding half the services in English, but this was a solution that pleased no one. For all the foreign language churches the Sunday schools were the greatest problem. The children were attending English speaking schools, their friends spoke English, English was the language of the business community; their native language was used less and less in the home. The elders of the churches finally realized that if they wished to keep their young people and not lose them to other Christian sects, they would have to convert to English.

The Calvary Baptist Church is an unusual example of language difficulties, unusual because when this church was organized in 1883 as the First Scandinavian Baptist Church it was made up of two nationalities, Norwegian and Swedish Baptists. A small chapel was built on the rear of the First Baptist lot that same year. Services were held in Norwegian and this caused great dissension within the church. As a consequence, the Swedish members withdrew in 1891 and formed their own church, the First Baptist Swedish Church and built a building on the northwest corner of 3rd Avenue and 4th Street North. The Norwegians became the Norwegian Baptist Church. By 1925 both parishes were holding services in English. Again, they decided to merge and formed what is now the Calvary Baptist Church. The present church building was built in 1938 at 802 Broadway, it was completed in 1950. Within the past ten years a large educational wing has been built on the church.

One of the oldest Lutheran Churches in Fargo is the Pontoppidan Lutheran Church. Its first meeting was held in December of 1877, and by 1879 the first church was built on 3rd Street North on property now used by the Great Northern Railroad. The Our Savior's Lutheran Church, which had been organized in Moorhead, moved to Fargo in 1878. After the new Pontoppidan church was built, Our Savior's Church rented it for services. In 1890 the union of two Lutheran synods placed these churches in the same synod. This brought about

talk of a merger of the two churches. It was a merger which never took place, for the Pontoppidan congregation owned the church which they would have had to deed to the property of the new church. 1893, the year of the fire, was a difficult year for many of Fargo's churches. Many congregations lost their buildings, among them the Pontoppidan Church. Not only was the church gone but most of its members lost their homes and nearly all their possessions. Only the bell of the church was saved. Four days after the fire, plans were being made for a new building. The church had been insured for \$3,000, \$800 of which was used to purchase a new lot at 4th Street and 4th Avenue North. While the new church was being constructed services were held in the Swedish Lutheran Church which stands on the corner of 5th Street and 6th Avenue North. By October the new building was completed and ready for use. The next ten years were marked by a steady growth of the church. The years between 1903 and 1910 were marked by two great events. Under the leadership of Pastor S. L. Romsdahl the Oak Grove Ladies Seminary was established, a school still very much in existence today though now it is the Oak Grove Lutheran High School. Shortly after this Pastor Romsdahl had the pleasure of seeing a Lutheran hospital established in the city of Fargo. It is St. Luke's Hospital, which has become one of the largest hospitals in the area. The Pontoppidan Church was to move once again in



Immanuel Lutheran Church



Olivet Lutheran Church



First Lutheran Church

1917 to the corner of 3rd Avenue and 4th Street North, where with many additions the present church is located.

The congregation of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, which so nearly united with the Pontoppidan Lutheran Church, was formed in Moorhead in 1872. The first church was built in 1874 at the cost of \$750. The membership was too small to support the building so they were forced to sell it in 1878. Immediately there was talk of a new lot and another building, but before anything was done the congregation moved to Fargo. During the Moorhead years the church was called the Moorhead Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, but after the move to Fargo it became the Our Savior's Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church. They met in a store building and in other churches, among them the Pontoppidan Lutheran Church and the Swedish Lutheran Church. 1892 saw another name change and the congregation became the First Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church. It was incorporated in North Dakota under this name in 1893. The group's first church in Fargo was built at the corner of Roberts Street and 4th Avenue North.

The St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized in 1903 having purchased the Swedish Lutheran Church at 5th Street and 6th Avenue North. Again in 1917 two Lutheran Synods combined, and St. Paul's found itself in the same Synod as the First Norwegian Church. In July of that year the two congregations

merged and formed the First Lutheran Church. At once the new congregation began looking for a building site and purchased the corner at Broadway and 7th Avenue North for \$10,000. There the present church was built in Gothic style. By 1972 the church had expanded until it occupied the whole block, one of the largest congregations in Fargo in 1972, with a membership of more than 3,300. This church has placed emphasis on ministering to all age groups in the congregation and has added facilities to take care of all of them.

There are many Lutheran churches in our area. So far we have told about the Swedish and Norwegian churches. The Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church is a German Lutheran Church and was established in 1898 in Fargo. Its members rented the Swedish Lutheran Church until their first church was built on 4th Street and 1st Avenue North in 1905. All services were in German until 1911, when evening services began being conducted in English. In 1924 all services were conducted in the English language. The Grace Lutheran sponsored the first broadcasts of worship services in 1928, a program that later became the Lutheran Hour. In 1929 the old church was sold and a new building built at 5th Avenue and 9th Street South, and dedicated on December 7, 1930. The Grace Lutheran is one of the few churches in Fargo which supports its own school. The Day School was opened in 1908 and it continued until 1916 when it closed for lack of children. The school was reopened in 1948 in a new building

at 1025 14th Avenue South. It began with a kindergarten but a grade was added each year. The building was enlarged until today the school offers all the primary grades, plus grades seven and eight.

In all these stories of the Lutheran Churches, one church is mentioned frequently and surely could be called the Mother of the Lutheran Churches, for at one time or another it has sheltered all of them. That is the Swedish Lutheran — a little church that still stands, though it is no longer used as a church, on the corner of 5th Street and Sixth Avenue North. It must be one of the oldest church buildings in Fargo, for it was in existence before 1893.



Swedish Lutheran Church

The churches of a city are the people of the city. From the pioneer days to the present they have played a large part in the social and cultural development. In the beginning, as they are now, they were the social centers. The ladies held church suppers, strawberry socials, basket socials, white elephant sales and bazaars in an effort to contribute to the building and maintenance of their churches. Things have not changed today. Each fall the Forum publishes lists of bazaars which are being held for the same reason they were held 90 years ago.

The last 25 years has seen a great growth in our religious establishments. The Fargo Hebrew Congregation was organized about 1894, holding services in the Union Hall for several years. We read that in 1909 "their beautiful Temple was nearly completed." Today that building has disappeared into the Main Avenue urban renewal area and two new churches have been built, the Fargo Hebrew Congregation at 901 9th Street South, and the Temple Beth El at 809 11th Avenue South.

Most of the older churches have purchased the land around their buildings on which they have built additions and parking lots. Provisions for Sunday schools have been enlarged, and not one but three or four ministers serve a single congregation and offer everything from family counseling to recreation facilities for young and old.

In 1950, when Fargo celebrated its 75th Anniversary, The Diamond Jubilee Edition of the Forum listed 32 places of worship in the city. Today, the telephone directory lists 51, an increase of 19. In the space allotted it would be impossible to tell the story of all the churches. One of the lesser known congregations within our city, the Moravian Church, had its beginnings in 1457 and arrived in America in 1735. But it was not until 1943 that a Moravian church was established in Fargo. The church's first meeting was held in the YMCA, but in September the church members rented a house at 10th Street and First Avenue North, to be used as a parsonage and a meeting place. This soon proved to be too small so they purchased a larger house at 1429 7th Ave. South. This house was rapidly outgrown so meetings were moved to the YWCA on 7th Street South. Meanwhile, plans were going forward for the building of a church. Lots were purchased at 11th Street and 12th Avenue South. In 1950 the board voted to build a brick structure, but this proved too expensive and it was decided to erect a frame building at the cost of \$65,000. The zoning and building problems were many, but finally, in spite of a bankrupt contractor, the first service was held in the new church on January 1, 1951. Year-by-year, the membership of the church was increased, and the church has been improved, but not without some problems. The furnace, christened by the members "Tornado



Messiah Lutheran Church

Pete," proved to have the unpleasant habit of exploding, the last time was in 1957; then it was converted to gas, which the members hope has settled the problem. All this sounds familiar. With only a change of dates, the Moravian Church history varies little from the history of the early churches.

Last, let us look at a church which might be termed the child of an older congregation. The Messiah Lutheran Church which just celebrated its 25th anniversary. This church is literally a child of the Depression. In 1932 the Lutheran Missionary League, an organization supported by various Lutheran churches, found in a survey that many children on the north side were not attending Sunday school because the churches were located too close to the center of the city. It was Reverend C. E. Clauson, pastor of the Elim Lutheran Church, who decided something should be done. In October, 1932 the Sunday school opened on the north side. Its location was two rooms over a grocery store, and 24 children attended the first class. This was the middle of the Depression; funds to maintain the school were almost non-existent. By appealing for donations, no matter how small, Reverend Clauson managed to build a small school on land donated by J. E. Haine, at 16th Avenue and 10th Street. For 16 years Elim supported the school. It was not until 1948 that the Board of Lutheran Missions reentered the picture. It then sponsored the idea that a

congregation should be established in conjunction with the Northside Sunday School. Parents of the children made up the first regular church service in June, 1949. It was not until January, 1950 that the Messiah Lutheran Church was organized. Reverend Vernon W. Johnson was the first pastor. His creed was simple: "Today is too late." Three months after his arrival Messiah had acquired property at 16th Avenue and 5th Street North, conducted ground breaking ceremonies for the new building, and mobilized the parishioners into a work force to help with the new structure. The building was completed by September 21, 1952. Within ten years Messiah had a new slogan, "Messiah on the Move!" and indeed it was, for the present church, at 21st Avenue and North Elm, was dedicated January 12, 1964. Messiah has been on the move for her congregation, which started in 1950 with 57 adults and 43 children. Today the church has more than 2000 members.



First United Methodist Church



First Christian Church

CHURCHES IN FARGO

First Assemblies of God
1002 S. 10th

Baha'i Faith
1517 N. 5th

Bible Baptist Church Independent
2901 7th Avenue N.

Calvary Baptist Church
802 Bdwy.

First Baptist Church
108 S. 8th

Temple Baptist Church
28th Ave. & Bdwy.

Holy Spirit Church
1420 N. 7th

Nativity Catholic Church
922 19th Ave. S.

Saint Anthony of Padua
710 S. 10th

St. Mary's Cathedral
Bdwy. and 6th Ave.

First Christian Church
224 S. 8th

Christian Science Church
21 S. 9th

Church of Christ
1401 S. 13½ St.

Church of God
1419 S. 17th

F-M Church of God
1633 N. Univ. Dr.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day
Saints
1501 17th Ave. S.

First Congregational Church of Fargo
17th Ave. & S. 11th

Plymouth Congregational Church
901 Bdwy

Knollbrook Covenant Church
3030 Bdwy.

Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral
204 S. 9th

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
2009 N. 2nd

Bethel Evangelical Free Church
1602 S. Univ. Dr.

Free Methodist Church
1501 10th Ave. S.

Kingdom Hall (Jehovah's Witnesses)
2102 6th Ave. S.

Atonement Lutheran Church
Hwy. 81 S.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
613 S. 16th St.

Elim Lutheran Church
321 N. 9th

First Lutheran Church
619 Bdwy.

Golden Ridge American Lutheran
8th Ave. N. & 27th St.

Grace Lutheran Church
821 5th Ave. S.

Hope Lutheran Church
2900 Bdwy

Immanuel Lutheran Church
13th Ave. N. & Bdwy.

Messiah Lutheran Church
21st Ave. & N. Elm

Olivet Lutheran Church
1330 S. Univ. Dr.

Peace Lutheran Church
1011 12th Ave. N.

Pontoppidan Lutheran Church
301 N. 4th

St. John Lutheran Church
1710 S. 5th

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
670 4th Ave. N.

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
1530 S. 16½ St.

St. Paul's Free Lutheran Church
1603 N. 5th

Fargo Moravian Church
1130 S. 11th

First Church of the Nazarene
3010 10th Ave. N.

First Presbyterian
111 N. 7th

Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter Day Saints
121 S. 9th

Seventh Day Adventist
2415 Broadway

Unitarian Fellowship
18 S. 8th St.

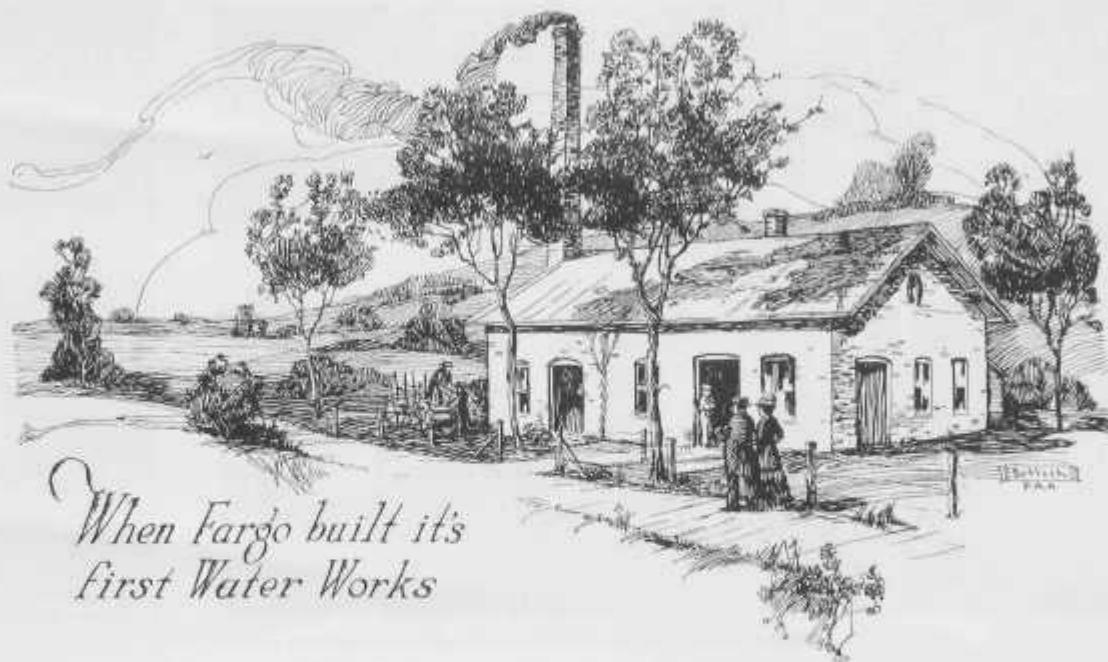
Calvary United Methodist
2802 S. 12th

Edgewood United Methodist
85 Forest Ave. N.

Faith Methodist
909 19th Ave. N.

First United Methodist
906 1st Ave. S.

Health Services



*When Fargo built its
first Water Works*

Public Health

The history of public health in this area begins before North Dakota became a state. The movement for public health service was launched in Massachusetts in 1869 and reached here in 1885 when the territorial legislature passed a bill establishing a state board of health and providing for county boards.

A "vital statistics" bill was passed in 1907, a state tuberculosis association was formed in 1909, and in 1923 public health services were set up in a form that has changed little since then. Public health records have been kept since 1922.

The first board of health in Fargo was formed in May, 1880. Efforts to secure passage of an ordinance providing for inspection of milk supplies were blocked until 1905 when the first ordinance was passed. Water was obtained from the earliest days of Fargo's history from the Red River when water was transported to residents in carts. The Holly System was used beginning about 1880, but the water was untreated. In the words of Mark Twain, the water supplied "nourishment as well as drink." The city purchased the system from the Fargo Water and Steam Company in October, 1890 but continued to furnish raw water until 1912 when purification equipment was installed. Before then residents were admonished not to drink the water without first boiling it.

In 1911 the women of Fargo strongly

urged the City Council to secure a city nurse. In a short time, Miss Grace Robinson, described as a fearless young lady, became Fargo's first city nurse. She made a survey and reported to her sister that four conditions greatly retarded the personal cleanliness of some Fargoans — lack of bathing facilities, lack of privacy, lack of water, and lack of desire. Lack of desire was the most critical condition.

The gentler sex resolved to improve the situation. They descended on the Board of Education, which granted them permission to use the bathing facilities at Washington School. Miss Robinson personally scrubbed Jewish children on Friday and Gentile children on Saturdays. Numerous adults used the tubs by special appointment.

The facilities at Washington School followed Board of Education action on January 4, 1911, when "It was moved and seconded that the committee on health be instructed to investigate plans and secure data on the installation of baths or a swimming pool in the Washington School." In March, two baths, a shower, water heater and electric lights were installed in the basement of the school at a cost of \$297.75. Miss Robinson reported that 160 baths were taken at Washington School during the month of May.

Fargo's City Health Department proceeded largely on an informal basis until 1923 when a general reorganization of health services occurred. The revamped department was the result

of a five-year public health demonstration project financed jointly by the city and the Community Fund of New York, a privately endowed foundation. Community Fund organizers felt that smaller communities were lagging behind in health measures, so they staged demonstrations in four sections of the country. Fargo was chosen one of the demonstration cities not by chance but through the dedicated work of Dr. Paul H. Burton, Mrs. E. J. Weiser, the Commercial Club (Chamber of Commerce), Fargo's other service clubs, and the local medical profession.

One prerequisite to becoming a demonstration city was the appointment of a full-time health officer. This requirement was met when Dr. B. K. Kilbourne was appointed Fargo's first full-time health officer in September, 1923.

The plan provided for a family health service beginning with newborn babies. School children were given medical examinations and were instructed in proper health and dietary habits. Control of communicable diseases was facilitated by rigid requirements of reporting and isolating and by vaccination and other preventive steps. Water, milk, and food supplied were subjected to rigid inspection and careful records were kept for evaluation purposes. At the end of the five-year demonstration, the city took over the program and has continued it in the same vigorous fashion ever since.

Fargo's Department of Health has

been under the administration of Dr. D. H. Lawrence since 1954. His department handles the prevention and control of communicable diseases as well as the other necessary and usual functions of such a department. It is a well-run department with high standards and serves the people of the City of Fargo well.

Miss E. Louise Gronlund is the head of the Division of Nursing. She and her twelve nurses are responsible for school nursing, home nursing, family planning and many other necessary nursing services. A well-equipped laboratory serves the needs of the department.

The Division of Sanitation is run by Clarence Bradley and six assistants. The division is responsible for the inspection of restaurants, bars, milk plants, food plants, and swimming pools, sampling water and controlling mosquitoes.

Epidemics

Epidemics of one type or another were a hazard of life in Fargo for many years. In the falls of 1881, 1882 and 1883 Fargo was afflicted with smallpox. Mass vaccinations became routine, pest houses were constructed, a dump ground was established, the first sewers laid, and the first city scavenger appointed.

Diphtheria and scarlet fever were prevalent until 1894 when a diphtheria antitoxin became available.

The most shocking of epidemics was the "Spanish influenza" seige of

1918, an epidemic which touched the entire nation. In Fargo over 10,000 cases of flu were reported, resulting in more than 100 deaths at a time when the city's population was about 21,000. Flu epidemics have persisted and are not unknown even in this day when smallpox, diphtheria and scarlet fever have succumbed to medical advances. But 1918 will be remembered as the year which brought the largest and also the most dangerous flu epidemic ever known in this part of the world.

In 1941 there was an epidemic of encephalitis or "sleeping sickness." 106 cases of encephalitis were treated in Fargo clinics that year. Fargo residents accounted for 32 of the cases and eight deaths.

Poliomyelitis was the last serious epidemic in the Fargo area. This disease usually struck the young. It was a disease which sent panic through the citizens of any area it attacked. This dread and crippling disease was brought under control by a vaccine developed by Jonas Salk which was introduced in 1959, a miracle which brought relief to millions.

Hospitals

The Cass County Hospital, one of the area's earliest hospitals, was started by Dr. E. M. Darrow. This hospital is said to have been located at Front and Twentieth Streets, but because Dr. Darrow established a hospital in Moorhead in 1893, the continuity of the Cass County Hospital is unclear.



The Spence-Magill Hospital, North Broadway

Another early hospital was the Spence-Magill Hospital, a private hospital located on the northwest corner of Fifth Street and Ninth Avenue North. It was organized and managed by Miss Spence and Miss Ida Mildred Magill, both nurses. Miss Magill had come to Fargo from Ontario for the express purpose of founding a health facility. Her brother-in-law, Sir F. Phippin of Winnipeg, who was interested in a projected railroad through Fargo, told her of this thriving young town which was without such a facility. Miss Magill later married C. A. (Art) Bowers. Their son, E. A. Bowers, still resides in Fargo. Bowers, his father and brothers, were contractors. Their firm built many of the prominent buildings in Fargo, a number of which still exist.

St. Olaf's, a 16-bed hospital founded and operated by Dr. Tannes Thams, was located on Seventh Avenue South about a block southwest of St. John's Hospital. Dr. Nils Tronnes joined Dr. Thams when he arrived here from Norway. Subsequently, Dr. Thams moved to Maddock, North Dakota, and St. Olaf's was closed. It is believed that this hospital was the successor to the Spence-Magill Hospital on the north side of town.



Dr. Olaf Sand and nurses

Later Dr. Tronnes and Dr. Olaf Sand opened a new St. Olaf Hospital known as the Sand-Tronnes Hospital which was at 623 Seventh Street South and which remained open until the two doctors moved their practice to St. Luke's Hospital.

A maternity home was established in 1905 by Mr. Oscar S. Camp and his wife, Jennie, at 901 South Tenth Street. The maternity home also served as the Camps' residence after it was built in 1897, about two years after the Camps moved to Fargo from Lisbon. It existed as a maternity home until there was adequate space for maternity patients in local hospitals. It was then converted to a home for aged ladies, which it remains today. Miss Bertha Camp, the Camps' daughter, operates the home in the original structure which has had many later additions.



Mr. and Mrs. O. S. Camp



Fargo's first Red Cross chapter, started at St. John's Hospital in 1917

St. John's Hospital was officially opened on April 17, 1900, by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in the former residence of Bishop John Shanley. All the sisters were experienced and trained nurses except the Mother Superior Madeleine. The sisters were from St. Paul, the home of Bishop Shanley. The Bishop had invited them to found a hospital in Fargo when the new residence was built on North Broadway. It had a capacity for 25 patients. Mother Madeleine was assigned as the first superior and superintendent. Accompanying her were Sister Adele and Sister Isabell, followed shortly by Sisters Julietta, Florentia, and Emily. Three nurses also joined the staff: Agnes McClarey, Margaret McGuigan, and Mary Currie.

Dr. E. M. Darrow, Dr. R. E. Weible, Dr. E. P. Rindlaub, Dr. I. N. Weir, and Dr. A. C. Morris formed the first medical staff. The chaplain was Father J. A. LeMieux. The very first patient was a typhoid fever victim.

November 1, 1904, a hospital was built in Island Park with an 87-bed capacity. A training school for nurses was maintained in connection with the hospital. It required a full course of three years for graduation.

Most of the patients cared for at St. John's were surgical cases; only about 15 percent were medical patients.

In 1916, a Nurses' Residence was built across the street from St. John's. For a time, the top two floors were

used as part of the hospital. Ten years later the West Wing and two stories of the North Wing were built. Two more stories were added to the North Wing in 1940. The nursery was housed in this wing for awhile. By 1949 a new power plant and laundry were added. A new ambulance garage and new emergency rooms (which included a new elevator that opened to the outside) were built in 1958. The next year the Women's Auxiliary was formed. By 1961 a new convent and chapel were built. The original hospital (the former Bishop Shanley residence) was razed when the dike along the Red River was completed. When Dakota hospital was built the sisters of St. John's announced they would have to close as a general acute hospital by January, 1964. A big factor in this decision was the loss of the Dakota Clinical Medical groups who would serve Dakota Hospital primarily thereafter. These doctors had provided most of the medical staff for St. John's.

An area committee gathered support for the continuation of the hospital and plans were announced for a shift in direction. St. John's moved into the extended care and alcoholic treatment aspects of hospital work and reduced its general acute care beds.

Independent physicians stepped into the breach left by the other doctors' departure. A large percentage of these independent doctors who use St. John's facilities are located in the new Professional Building at 100 Fourth Street South, only four blocks from the hospital.



Dr. R. E. Weible operating. Note ether being "dropped."

In 1966 work was completed on a large new wing and two old wings were demolished. One older wing was completely remodeled. The new circular area is used, featuring rooms "in the round" for better observation of patients. St. John's new Extended Care Nursing Center provides for post-acute hospital patients. Also there is a new intensive care unit. Two more floors were added in 1970, and, in 1971, an alcoholic and chemical dependency unit was started. St. John's includes a pathology lab, a pharmacy, physical, occupational, inhalation and X-ray therapy, a social service program and a coronary care unit. It has 130 beds. There are now 35 physicians and courtesy physicians serving St. John's.



New addition to St. John's



St. Luke's Hospital in 1908

The first recorded minutes of the planners of St. Luke's Hospital were written in Norwegian by the Rev. S. Romsdahl at a meeting on March 22, 1905, in the offices of Dr. Nils Tronnes and Dr. Olaf Sand at No. 10 Broadway over the Christianson Drug Store. Present at this meeting were: Dr. C. Kachelmacher, A. A. Trovatten, Lars Christianson, W. O. Olson, the Rev. O. O. Funkelsrud, Rev. Ramsdahl, Dr. Tronnes, and Dr. Sand. Rev. N. O. Grunden and Judge G. Hanson were also founders. A committee was appointed to look for a site for the proposed hospital.

On May 25, 1905, the committee planned to buy eight lots in Oak Grove. Then in July the five lots on North Broadway turned out to be a better investment. On July 12, the five lots south of Eighth Avenue North and fronting on Broadway were purchased at a price not to exceed \$2,825. In June, Pierce and Tenneson were retained as solicitors.

On September 11, 1905, Rev. Grunden resigned and Dr. Paul Sorkness was elected Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors. Rev. Funkelsrud was Chairman of the Board.

To raise money, the founders incorporated the Lutheran Hospital Association with a capital stock of \$50,000 to be sold at \$25 per share. Of the 2,000 shares issued, no more than 40 per cent of the stock was to be held by non-Lutherans. The remaining 60 per cent of the stock was to be sold to members in good standing of a

Lutheran congregation. The corporation was to be run by a very strong board.

By October, 1905, \$5,075 worth of stock had been sold. Fargo-Moorhead physicians had bought \$1,375 worth and some stock was sold to laymen. In February, 1906, there was an all-out stock-selling campaign in Fargo. St. Luke's Hospital was the name chosen and on October 8, 1906, the contract for the foundation of the hospital building was awarded to the firm of Johnson and Powers.

By February of 1908 the building was completed at a cost of \$42,000. There was a capacity of 40 to 50 beds. The third day after opening it was entirely filled. About 200 applicants were turned away the first two months of operation.

From the minutes of the meeting of the Board of February, 1909:

"The question whether the association should conduct the Hospital on the Deaconesses' plan or to have trained nurses only was discussed pro and con and after due deliberation, Professor H. H. Aaker, one of the original founders employed at NDAC, and John Martin were elected a committee of two to draft a resolution setting forth the wishes of the Board, and they presented the following motion:

"As St. Luke's Hospital has been built by and is patronized by church people, the Board of Directors hereby wish to go on record in favor of employing as far as possible only sisters trained and educated in Deaconess homes controlled by Lutheran Church people. Upon being put to vote, the motion was unanimously carried."



St. Luke's Hospital

Sister Osa Oppedahl, a Deaconess from the Norwegian Lutheran Church in Chicago, and her two assistants, Sisters Sina Howland and Sister Grace Hogan, arrived and opened a school for nurses' training.

The first class of nurses graduated on May 3, 1910. The second class graduated in 1911. In 1913 the Sisters of the Norwegian Lutheran Deaconesses withdrew from the hospital.

In 1916 an elevator was installed at St. Luke's. By 1917 the increase in hospital services made necessary the building of a larger wing. When the wing was completed in 1920 at a cost of \$90,000, the hospital was doubled. The fourth floor was used as the maternity department.

The first group of staff doctors at St. Luke's Hospital were Dr. Olaf Sand, Dr. Nils Tronnes, Dr. O. J. Hagen, Dr. Arne Oftedahl, Dr. Sverre Oftedahl, Dr. C. N. Callendar, Dr. Skelsey, Dr. K. Wadell, Drs. Martin, John and Elizabeth Rindlaub, Dr. Verne and Dr. Thornby.

The founders of St. Luke's Hospital knew that, "Except the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain." The Lutheran pastors of the city organized and carried out a religious program of visiting the sick in the hospital. They also taught Bible classes, giving the students a firm foundation on which to build their careers. Each morning a devotional period started the day, as the nurses gathered around the organ on the first floor of the hospital. Their singing could be heard through-

out the hospital, giving the patients new hope for the day. Christmas morning was a momentous occasion as all the nurses marched through the halls in their caps and uniforms carrying lighted candles and singing Christmas carols.

When the hospital first opened, the average number of patients each month was 24. By 1916, patients numbered 1040. In 1973 the number of patients served reached 13,224.

Between 1967 and 1969 four more stories were added on the main wing and the number of beds was increased to 354, plus the nursery. Construction to be completed in 1975 should raise the number of beds to 425.

Some of the care and treatment provided at St. Luke's include: High risk nursery for pediatricians caring for tiny babies; open heart surgery; besides the School of Nursing there are School of Anesthesia for Registered Nurses, School of X-ray Technology, School of Medical Technology, School of Respiratory Therapy; training for students for hospital chaplaincy is provided; internships for physicians, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and for pharmacists are provided; St. Luke's also has a blood bank, a pathology lab, and rehabilitation in-patient unit.

St. Luke's Hospital presently has 1100 employees. The active staff and courtesy staff of physicians number 90. Byron Jackson is the administrative head of St. Luke's Hospital, with John Finney as his associate. The

present Board of Directors are R. Douglas Larson, President, Harold Madson, Charles Thompson, Secretary, Gale Stenerson, Vice Chairman, Clark Fredrikson, Roger Lindblom, Douglas Schnell, Dr. Laurel Loftsgard, Dr. Robert Ivers, Dr. Henry Norum and Dr. Robert Jordheim.

The Neuropsychiatric Institute Hospital, known as T.N.I., is a part of the St. Luke's Hospitals complex completed in 1964. It is an 80-bed hospital, but averages 88 beds a day by borrowing beds and sharing hospital facilities with St. Luke's.

The radiation center, where cobalt therapy is practiced, is located under the T.N.I. Hospital. Full facilities for neurosurgery, neurology, and psychiatry are available there. There is also a school for E. E. G. Technicians to learn how to operate the machines for electro encephalograms and a clinical-pharmacy program in cooperation with NDSU and Dr. Al Edwards for fifth year students. Consultation services provide information and results to patients from the doctor, and to the doctor from the patient. A post-graduate education residency program is provided. In July, 1974, the first resident in neurosurgery is Dr. Gayle Hazen, son of NDSU's Dean Arlon Hazen. Investigation of research and disease and the treatment by specialists is taught by fifteen physicians in Medical Specialties.

T.N.I. and T.N.I. Hospital cover a very large service area including South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, Canada, and even Alaska — a very large volume of patients. The same



Dr. Nils Tronnes



Dr. Axel Oftedal



Dr. Sverre Oftedal



The Neuropsychiatric Institute, on First Avenue South



T.N.I. Interior

volume of patients, nearly 1200, are treated by the cobalt machine here as at the University of Minnesota Hospital. Because of its specialized work, future plans for the T.N.I. Hospital include a Leniar accelerator, a radiation machine to provide supplementary treatment to cobalt; a new neuro-intensive care unit for preventive treatment; a five-year medical school; and a new addition within St. Luke's complex to increase the number of beds from 78 to 112.

Medical Group Practice

The famous Drs. Mayo of Rochester, Minnesota, are probably responsible for the establishment of clinics in Fargo. They trained many early day physicians who set up practices here. Today there are more than 120 doctors in Fargo, most of whom are specialists. Many are affiliated with the city's clinics.

Fargo Clinic is the city's largest clinic. It was organized June 24, 1919, by Dr. Nils Tronnes, Dr. Olaf Sand, and three Drs. Ofetdal — Sverre, Axel and Arne. Financial assistance was obtained from Lars Christianson and several other laymen. The clinic had a difficult time getting started because the idea was a revolutionary change from the family doctor tradition. A number of the early doctors defected and went back to their former way of practicing.

Dr. Tronnes and Dr. Sand were both born in Norway and received their medical training in Oslo. Both came to this country in answer to advertisements for physicians — Dr. Tronnes to Fargo to practice with Dr. Thams and Dr. Sand to Pelican Rapids. Dr. Sand soon moved to Fargo in order to serve a larger community. He and Dr. Tronnes began a partnership that endured for 47 years.

Together the two opened a new St. Olaf Hospital in Fargo known as the Sand-Tronnes Hospital at 623 South Seventh where they continued to practice until they moved their pa-

tients to St. Luke's Hospital. Their hospital may have been the old home of Major Edwards which is still in existence.

It was about that time that they made the startling announcement that they could no longer respond to country calls and would handle obstetrics cases in the hospital. They explained that it was their duty not to absent themselves from their hospitalized patients. It was Dr. Sand's vision and foresight to interview all of the doctors in Fargo and Moorhead and persuade them to take up different medical specialties and thereby create a unified clinic. Under the Sand arrangement, specialists were to be all under one roof, and patients must come to the doctors' offices in the clinic instead of the doctor traveling to the patients' homes.

In 1921, a Fargo Clinic building was built next to the St. Luke's Hospital. Both the building and the medical staff have been enlarged many times since.

The three Doctors Rindlaub — John, Elizabeth and Martin — agreed to take over the eye, ear, nose and throat specialty; Doctors Callendar and Fortin shared the orthopedic work; Dr. O. J. Hagen did general and thyroid surgery; the Oftedals were joined by a fourth brother who practiced obstetrics. A few years later Dr. W. C. Nichols joined as a cardiologist and Dr. W. F. Baillie as a urologist. Dr. Albert Hallenberg was a dental surgeon at the clinic. He



lived on South Eighth Street and was responsible for the old fashioned lights on that street which are highly valued by the residents. They were paid for by contributions of the residents.

The story of these early doctors is an interesting one. They and the doctors in the Dakota Clinic set the stage for the present eminence of medical care in the Fargo area.

Dr. Tronnes, Dr. Sand and the Oftedals were a medical-surgical team made to order for the Scandinavian migration which had turned the Red River Valley into a new "Norway-Sweden." They spoke Norwegian and German and were familiar with the culture of the transplanted Scandinavians. Both Dr. Tronnes and Dr. Sand became United States citizens and were very proud of their adopted country. Both received Knights of St. Olaf crosses from King Haakon VII of Norway.

Most of the early Fargo Clinic doctors were born in North Dakota, Minnesota or Wisconsin, but Dr. Baillie was born in Lone Head, Bonney Rigg, Scotland. He interned at St. Luke's Hospital and then went to Hunter, North Dakota, before coming back to Fargo and the Clinic in 1927.

The Drs. Rindlaub were long prominent in Fargo affairs. Their beautiful home on South Eighth Street was torn down only recently.

The work of these early doctors has resulted in a clinic which today has 70 practicing physicians. They, to-

gether with the other clinics and independent doctors, examine several hundred thousand patients annually.

The administrative heads of the clinic are C. Warner Litten and John Q. Paulsen.

The Dakota Clinic was opened in 1926 at 700 First Avenue South. Four of its original members were related. Drs. Kent and Frank Darrow were brothers, Dr. P. H. Burton was married to the sister of Mrs. Kent Darrow, and Dr. R. E. Weible was married to Mary Darrow. Dr. William H. Long from Dickinson completed the group.

The father of Drs. Frank and Kent Darrow, Dr. E. M. Darrow, was one of Fargo's earliest physicians. In the spring of 1878 he began his medical practice in Fargo, and the next year brought his bride, Miss Clara Dillon of Appleton, Wisconsin, to Fargo.

Dr. Darrow often was required to go to the smaller towns and even country farms, where he operated on kitchen tables. With him he took his instruments, sheets, dressings, and gloves, and all were boiled in an old fashioned wash boiler. After the patient had been prepared and draped with wet sheets, one of the family or the country doctor would drop chloroform, and later ether, on gauze or on an open mask, and the operation would proceed.

Dr. Kent Darrow, Dr. E. M. Darrow's son, said, "I was greatly surprised when I went to Johns Hopkins in 1909 to see ether being poured into a tight cone, which was slapped on the

patient's face, practically choking him, the patient struggling violently and often turning blue. My roommate would not believe me when I told him that our patients seldom struggled when we used the open drop method."

Drs. Kent and Frank Darrow both graduated from John Hopkins as did their brother, Dan, who became Professor of Pediatrics at Yale University. Dr. Frank Darrow was with the Clinic until his death, and Dr. Kent practiced at the Dakota Clinic until about five years ago. He remains the sole living co-founder of the Clinic. Dr. R. E. Weible, Jr., is still associated in active practice at the Clinic.

At first the doctors had offices on the fourth floor of the deLendrecie Building before constructing their own offices at 700 First Avenue South, the present location of the Neuropsychiatric Clinic.

The present Dakota Clinic is owned by Medical Properties, Inc., which leases the fine new clinic building at 17th Avenue & South University which was built in 1957 to the clinic. Its affairs are handled by an Executive Committee composed of five practicing Clinic physicians.

The doctors of the Dakota clinic did most of their hospital work at St. John's Hospital until the new Dakota Hospital was built.

By 1957 when the new clinic was constructed, the staff had grown to 16 physicians and 30 employees. The present staff of 36 doctors has made



Dakota Hospital

it necessary to add space to the original building. A great deal of space at the clinic is given over to a large orthopedic section that serves a large number of patients.

The McGregor, Hanna and Clay Clinic, later the Hanna, Clay and Lancaster Clinic, was organized in 1920 by Dr. Murdock McGregor and Dr. J. F. Hanna and Dr. O. J. Clay. It was located at 114 Roberts Street in the A.O.U.W. Building, now the home of Interstate Business College. Dr. McGregor specialized in surgery, Dr. Hanna in obstetrics and diseases of children, and Dr. Clay in X-ray and diagnosis and surgery. Dr. William Ewart Gladstone Lancaster became a member of the clinic in the latter 1920s as a pediatrician, coming here from Wahpeton, North Dakota.

This clinic was dissolved in 1943.

T.N.I. Hospital developed from T.N.I. Clinic at 700 First Avenue South. It was incorporated in July, 1955 as a non-profit corporation by Dr. Lee A. Christoferson and Dr. Maynard B. Gustafson, neurological surgeons, Dr. Marvin Geib, psychiatrist, and Charles Bailey, layman. The Institute

is run by a 17-member Board of Governors, five of whom are physicians. A Board of Education at T.N.I. is responsible for the specialized educational programs for the research projects undertaken by the Institute. The Board of Education is made up of qualified representatives of education, medicine, and the sciences.

The Neuroscience Department of Medicine is located at T.N.I. at 700 First Avenue South, the old Dakota Clinic. There are also the Biofeedback Laboratory and the Neurophysiological Laboratory offering psychometric tests and test batteries designed to fill various needs for the evaluation of brain dysfunction. Both are under the direction of Larry Fisher, Ph.D. The Southeast Regional Mental Health Retardation Center is also housed here.

Future plans include an expanded addition to the Diagnostic Building and a 700-square-foot addition for doctors' offices on First Avenue South.

The Dakota Hospital opened in November, 1964. It was a completely modern hospital with 80 beds offering surgical, medical, obstetrical, and pediatric services, and a rehabilitation center and emergency room. The hospital is staffed by both area physicians and Dakota Clinic physicians.

Within two years expansion was necessary. A new four-floor, 40-bed medical facility was dedicated in 1966 in tribute to Dr. Kent E. Darrow, the only surviving founder of the first Dakota Clinic. A major addition was a four-bed intensive care unit for heart patients. This unit is expandable to eight beds and is equipped with the latest monitoring equipment. Specialty care for acute and chronic kidney failure is provided, and the Fargo-Moorhead Kidney Unit is kept here.

Dakota also offers X-ray, radium, physical and inhalation therapy, a blood bank, dental services, a social service, and an in-patient rehabilitation program. It is also authorized to use bone cement in total hip replacement in its orthopedic department.

The first Veterans Bureau office was established in Fargo in the Emerson-Brantingham Building on N.P. Avenue in October, 1921. In 1926 the Veterans Administration purchased a 50-acre tract adjacent to the Red River for \$12,500 for the construction of a 59-bed Veterans Hospital. Construction began July 1, 1928, and was completed in 1929. The first patient was admitted in June, 1929. Dr. Nils Tronnes was the first chief surgeon.

By 1932 a north wing was added, raising the bed capacity to 100. A south wing was built in 1938 which increased the bed capacity to 176. The present main hospital building was authorized by the federal government in 1945 and completed in 1947. Total bed capacity was increased to 400. In 1954 the downtown regional office was combined with the hospital to establish the first R. O. Hospital Center. Hospital bed capacity was reduced to 228. The V.A. opened a Nursing Home Care Unit here in 1964. Its patient capacity was expanded to 50 beds the next year. A four-bed Intensive Care Unit was opened in 1970 within the existing hospital, and a 20-bed Respiratory Care Center was opened in 1971.

The V.A. Center is limited to patients who qualify for veterans' benefits. It

has served veterans from all over North Dakota and Northwestern Minnesota. In addition to medical care, its services include a clinical laboratory, dental treatment, radiology, a pathology laboratory, a pharmacy, occupational and physical therapy, psychiatric emergency care, a rehabilitation in-patient unit, and a social work department. 400 people are employed at the Center, including 16 staff doctors.



Veterans Hospital

A large percentage of independent doctors, those not affiliated with a specific clinic, have their offices at the new Professional Building located at 100 South Fourth Street. Many of these physicians serve patients admitted to St. Ansgar Hospital in Moorhead as well as St. John's. The "open staff" policy here permits qualifying physicians to practice at all four hospitals, and many do. The building also includes dentists' offices, a pharmacy, an orthopedic appliance office, a fully equipped X-ray lab, and facilities for the radiologists.



Professional building

Early Newspapers



Major Alonzo Edwards and family

It is difficult but rewarding to try to tell the story of early newspapers in Fargo. They developed during a period when there was enormous activity in the area: new settlers arriving daily, new businesses starting, schools, churches, and banks springing up, and political parties at each other's throats. As we look back on those years, it seems that a few dollars, an empty building and some political ambitions were all that were needed to start a newspaper. This often resulted in the Republicans being across the street from the Democrats, and there was no doubt about the loyalties of either. This trend continued well into this century, and the *Fargo Forum* carried the additional title and *Daily Republican* until the 1950s when it was quietly dropped.

When the need for a mouthpiece for Fargo became obvious, Gordon J. Keeney, then of Glyndon, and about ten others organized the Fargo Express Printing Company on April 5, 1873, which published Fargo's first newspaper, the *Fargo Weekly Express*, on January 1, 1874. Another prominent figure, William J. Fargo, had offered a reward of \$500. for such an endeavor, but since the operation began in Glyndon it is doubtful if the bonus was ever paid.

The building for the new venture was located in the middle of Broadway at the N. P. intersection. Keeney described the newspaper as a profitless venture but one that was important to the statement in that is spread the news of the wonders of the Red River Valley. When he felt that the

Express had served this purpose, he sold it to E. B. Chambers of Glyndon, who also acquired the *N. P. Mirror* of Fargo and consolidated the two with the *Red River Gazette*, a Glyndon paper established in 1872. The result of these mergers was the *Fargo Times*, established in 1875.

The *Fargo Times* is part of the ancestral line of the *Fargo Forum* and *Daily Republican*. Typical of newspaper offices of that day, it was first housed in a two-story frame house which had living quarters on the second floor for the editor and his family. Pictures of the building can be seen in newspaper articles from that day, but the location cannot be determined. Open prairie around the building indicates that it was on the edge of what town there was at that time.

When the *Fargo Times* was sold in 1880 to E. D. Barker, it was immediately converted to a Democratic paper. Later it was merged with the *Fargo Republican*.

There was, of course, much newspaper activity out in the state during these years, and much of the early history that was saved and much that was lost centered on such activity. An example was *The Plain Dealer*, published in Grand Forks in the late 1870s. When the building in which it was housed burned in 1881, a great deal of early history of the Red River Valley north of Fargo was lost.

By the process of consolidation, then, the (weekly) *Fargo Express* was succeeded by the *Times*, which was later

consolidated with the *Fargo Republican*, of which Major Alonzo Edwards, another prominent figure in pioneer journalism, was the founder. This was sold on November 17, 1879, and the *Daily Argus* was established in 1880, the first daily paper in Fargo and the Valley.

Of that paper it was said that probably no paper has ever wielded or ever will wield a greater influence on the politics of a territory or state than that exercised by Major Edwards through the *Daily Argus* in the early days. The *Argus* employed several men to manage the paper, the state Republican committee took a hand, and many local journalists worked on it. It had a rather stormy career. Competition was keen, politics was ever changing, and tremendous economic activity made a daily newspaper a real challenge.

Major Edwards retired from the *Argus* to become the editor of the *Forum*, which made its bow to the public on November 17, 1891. Lewis Crawford said in his "History of North Dakota," "The *Forum* now dominates the English language field in Fargo and the state." The *Forum* was the second daily established in Fargo and the fourth in North Dakota.

*Morning papers, morning papers!
All the news and social capers!
Fargo Forum and Morning Call!*

This was a common and favorite chant of local newsboys in the early 1900s. The street newsboy, so much a part of the early scene, is another institution that disappeared along with competition.



When The Forum was first sold on Fargo Streets

The *Morning Call* was established during these years and was an important Red River Valley paper until 1909 when it was bought by *The News*, which had been established the preceding summer as a Democratic daily. *The News* became *The Courier News*, established as an organ of the Nonpartisan League, and many remember when *The Courier News* was the morning paper and *The Forum* the evening paper in Fargo. With the decline of the Nonpartisan League, *The Courier News* also declined. It was sold and its name changed to *The Fargo Tribune*.

In the booklet, *Miracle at Your Doorstep*, the *Forum* tells its own story of its beginnings and brings up to date the newspaper situation in the 70s. This paragraph is the *Forum's* summary of the story:

"The original progenitors served the little pioneer town on the west side of the Red River Valley in the days when the railroads were being projected toward and into the territory, and some fifteen years before North Dakota became a state. The growth of the *Forum*, up through the years, is reflected in the growth of Fargo, Moorhead, and the vast area which is its logical field."

Just as individual names are important in the development of the early newspapers, so are names necessary in telling the story of newspapers in this century. The beginning of the modern day *Forum* dates back to one day in April, 1917, when Norman B. Black purchased it and became its

publisher. He was the first of three generations of the Black family to lead the newspaper. In 1924 his son, Norman D. Black, and H. D. Paulson, editor, became minority stockholders and the three of them purchased *The Fargo Tribune* (originally *The Courier News*) which eventually became the morning and Sunday editions of *The Forum*. The *Forum* (morning, evening, and Sunday) of 1924 was published in a two-story building where the *Forum* parking lot is now located. It had been Black's dream that the newspaper should have a home built for its special work, and in 1926 operations began on the present structure, a three-story building which was later increased to five stories. Construction of the building was personally directed by Norman D. Black.

When Norman B. Black died in 1931, his wife became president of the company and her son, Norman D. Black, took over as publisher. Their years in those roles were 1917-1931 and 1931-1944. On the death of his father, Norman D. Black, Jr., became publisher and held that office for 25 years. When he died in 1969, his

son-in-law, William C. Marcil, became publisher of *The Forum*.

Many changes occurred during these years. Three building expansion programs were completed and three new presses were installed, each running faster and printing better and more color than its predecessor. In 1954 the *Forum* purchased the *Moorhead Daily News* and operated it as a separate paper until 1957, when it was merged with *The Forum*, which then became the only daily paper in the area. In the last 25 years circulation has grown from 36,000 to 62,000, and a continual modernization program has been maintained to keep up with developing newspaper technology. *The Forum* is an independent home-owned paper published twice daily on weekdays and once each on Saturday and Sunday. It is a continuation in more or less direct line of all the dailies and early weeklies that ever operated in Fargo.

There are today several attempts at competition in the form of weekly papers, *The Midweek Eagle* being the most successful. It now delivers 32,000 copies in Fargo, Moorhead and sur-



Norman B. Black
Publisher 1917-1931



Norman D. Black
Publisher 1931-1944



Norman D. Black,
Jr. Publisher 1944-
1969



William C. Marcil
Publisher 1969-

rounding towns and is supported solely by advertising. Basically, however, *The Forum* today dominates the newspaper field in the Fargo area as extensively as it did in the 1890s.

In case you have wondered how it happens that you have an opportunity to vote for a newspaper as the official organ for Cass County, it was in 1919 that the State Publication and Printing Commission was created, which took over the duties of the commissioners of public printing and was charged with the administration of the law which read: "In each organized county of North Dakota there shall be elected and designated one newspaper in such county which shall be the state, county, and municipal official newspaper therein, such official newspaper being selected in each county by a vote at a general election." This story is told in Lewis Crawford's *History of North Dakota, Early Schools, Churches and Newspapers*. *The Forum* has appeared for many years on the ballot and often *The Casselton Reporter* has also been listed.

Today when we are overwhelmed with books, magazines, newspapers, and radio and television programs on every conceivable subject, it is hard to realize that in the 1880s newspapers were almost the only adult reading matter. There were few books in home libraries and, of course, no public libraries. Newspapers became an index of the intelligence of the community and evidence of a live and growing town.

When North Dakota came into the

Union there were 125 newspapers published in the state. The compiler of the Statistical Abstract for 1889 boasted that North Dakota had more newspapers than Vermont and Delaware combined, more than Montana and Washington combined, and "No better illustration can be given of North Dakota and the general prosperity along the entire line of the Northern Pacific Railroad than to call attention to the daily newspaper establishments," to quote the *Bismarck Tribune*.

And from the same source, quite possibly a prejudiced one, "The rapid multiplication of printing presses in North Dakota during the decade of the '80s was one of several factors that raised the general level of intelligence among the people beyond that attained by the citizens of other states at the time of their admission to the Union."

Three commercial television and one public television station are available to residents of the Fargo Area.

WDAY-TV, Channel 6, went on the air on June 1, 1953, after a wait of nearly two years for approval of its application for license. The founders were Earl C. Reineke, president-founder of WDAY Radio, Norman D. Black, Jr., publisher of "The Forum" and H. D. Paulson, editor of the same newspaper. Operations began with studios and transmitters on Highway 81 South where KFME is presently located. Production studios were at 303 Roberts.

It was nearly fourteen months before WDAY-TV had network facilities; all programs were done live or were sent from the networks on film. Old-time staffers tell stories of the many comic happenings with live programming and commercials. Today the station is affiliated with the National Broadcasting Company, with studios in the American Life Building at 207 North Fifth Street which has been the station's home since 1955. The transmitter tower is at Amenia, North Dakota.

Jack Dunn, executive vice-president of WDAY-TV has been with the station since its beginning as have Sumner Rasmussen, Roy C. Pederson, Pat Kelly, Norm Schrader, Jim Wayman, Buddy Nulph, Ken Kennedy, H. W. Shield, Lee Stewart and Jack Lester, general manager of the station.

There are 78 full- or part-time people working for WDAY-TV. The major



KXJB studio with Jim Adelson, Doug Moore and Barry Lillis



WDAY studio



KTHI tower and transmitter, Blanchard, N.D.

on-the-air personalities are newscaster Marv Bossart, weatherman Dewey Bergquist, sportscaster Boyd Christenson, "Noonday" host Ken Kennedy and "Party Line" hostess Verna Newell. Norm Schrader is news director; Lee Stewart supervises sales; local TV traffic supervisor is Pat Kelly, and head of the engineering department is Sumner Rasmussen.

KXJB-TV, Channel 4, a CBS affiliate station, was issued its license for Valley City on July 12, 1954. John W. Boler, a pioneer in the field, is president and chairman of the board of directors of the station.

Channel 4's program service first went on the air on August 12, 1954, transmitting from a 1085-foot tower at Pillsbury, then the third largest television tower in the world. "Live" network television began September 26, 1954, by way of a microwave relay station system from Minneapolis. Since March 4, 1966, Channel 4 has been transmitting from a 2060-foot tower near Galesburg, North Dakota.

During the past twenty years Channel 4 has developed a most active local TV Sports Department, featuring a minimum of 40 hours of color coverage each year of local sports activities, including the State High School Class A and B basketball tournaments, plus the annual KX amateur golf tournament which was initiated in 1963. Jim Adelson is Channel 4's sportscaster.

Other major on-the-air personalities are Doug Moore, newscaster, Barry Lillis, weatherman and Sally Hilleboe.

Studios and offices are located at 4000 West Main Avenue in Fargo. In 1972, KXJB-TV opened a fully equipped color auxiliary studio in the West Acres Shopping Center. It features a glass front which enables shoppers to watch the production of Channel 4's local live television programs. KXJB-TV was the first television station in North Dakota to produce local programs in color.

Channel 4, now in its twenty-first year of service to the area, reaches 237,200 television homes in North Dakota, Minnesota and South Dakota.

KTHI-TV, Channel 11, was first known as KXGO-TV and was a part of the North Dakota Broadcasting Co. with KXJB, Channel 4. The station first began operation on October 11, 1959. It was then sold and became KEND-TV with the same ownership as KCND in Pembina, North Dakota.

In July, 1962, Polaris Broadcasting acquired the station and built "the tall tower," and KTHI-TV went on the air in February, 1964.

Now operated by Spokane Television, Inc., the station operates with 304,000 watts visual power and 45,700 watts aural power from an antenna built atop a tower 2063 feet high.

KTHI-TV has fully equipped studios in Fargo at 1350 Twenty First Avenue South and at 314 Ninth Avenue North in Grand Forks.

KFME-TV, Channel 13, a public television station, is the product of a massive effort by local educators, broadcasters and civic-minded people in Fargo, all sparked by the late Dr. Theodore L. Donat, Fargo physician.

Back in 1959 Dr. Donat became aware of a young public television station in St. Paul and thought, "Why not in Fargo?" He began to study and plan and enlist the aid of interested persons, or persons whom he could make interested. He realized the advantages that Educational Television could bring to the area and was successful in forming the North Central Educational Broadcasting Association with the idea of public broadcasting in mind.

But for four years the idea remained just that — an idea. During those four years an extensive search for money, equipment and staff was carried on. But, finally, in January, 1964, KFME-TV became a reality, with studios on Highway 81 South at the former site of WDAY-TV. WDAY-TV generously sold its tower to the new station for \$1 and is leasing the land on which the station is located for \$1 per year rental. WDAY's support is typical of the support received overall by the public broadcasting station.

KFME's early years were in association with NET, National Educational Television, broadcasting programs to be used in the classroom for the most part. NET evolved into the Public Broadcasting Service in 1970. This meant a change in emphasis from classroom to living room programming.

Fargo-Moorhead was the smallest community in the nation supporting a public television station. KFME was and is non-profit, non-commercial and non-tax-supported, although for at least the last two sessions of the North Dakota legislature, an unsuccessful attempt has been made by other North Dakotans who also want public broadcasting to establish a statewide tax-supported public television. Had this attempt been successful, KFME would have become a part of the statewide network.

KFME has managed to beat all odds and stay alive in a area within a sixty-mile radius of Fargo. In 1973 KFME

underwent the worst financial crisis of its existence. It was very near the end of its resources, and it was contemplated that broadcasting would have to cease. But the people of the area responded to the crisis with an additional \$48,000 in donations and kept the station on the air. Communities in the viewing area from Winnipeg to Wahpeton and from Rugby to Thief River Falls assisted local communities in saving the station.

KFME's Country Auction each year has become a tradition. Merchandise donated by area merchants is auctioned off to viewers in a week-long auction. Together with the sale of memberships and private donations, the Country Auction has become a financial mainstay of public television in the area.

In 1974 KGFE, Channel 2 in Grand Forks, became North Dakota's second public television station. Built without state money and operating as a KFME satellite, KGFE became the nation's 250th PBS station.

People in the area are proud of their public television station.


In addition to the television stations, this area is served by several radio stations. WDAY Radio is the oldest, having commenced operation in May, 1922. It is now a 24-hour-day station and has an FM station as well.

To this oldest station through the years have been added KFGO, a CBS affiliate station with its studios at 405 South Seventh Street, and KFNW AM-FM Stereo-UPI Audio Station at

3713 Motor Drive. KFNW is known as the Good News Station. NDSU also operates its own station, KDSU-FM.

Ample and good listening and viewing opportunities are offered to the people in the area.



THE 
ELECTRIC
 **COUNTRY**
AUCTION
 october 21 thru 26

Cultural Activities, Clubs and Organizations



Dedication of Rollo Statue near GN Railway Station

Before 1880 inadequate transportation and theatre facilities prevented most theatre companies from visiting Fargo. The entertainment that was available was typical of frontier towns everywhere. The Reynolds' Variety House on lower Front Street was a low-ceilinged, long, narrow firetrap with a saloon in front. Admission was fifteen cents. "Girlie shows" were the main entertainment.

After 1880, however, culture came quickly to the struggling little frontier town. In 1880 a Mr. Reynolds and his partner named McCauley built the Coliseum at 420-422 N.P. Avenue which featured nine box seats and two proscenium boxes. This theatre presented vaudeville primarily. Other vaudeville theatres were opened during the period, including the First Store Theatre, Second Store Theatre, The Star and The Owl. More than 450 individual performers or acts were scheduled during this period.

As the growing town's conscience changed, vaudeville waned. Anti-saloon leaguers and prohibitionists combined in active opposition to the rowdiness of vaudeville audiences with girlie-type shows that went into the wee hours. In any event, liquor was outlawed at the time of statehood in 1889, and combination liquor and entertainment establishments perished.

McHench Hall was the first formal theatre in town. This second-floor theatre had a very small stage. During its first season in 1880 it pre-

sented eleven productions — three minstrel shows, two variety shows and six dramatic offerings.

The next year Chapin Hall, located above Luger's Furniture Store and Beneteau's Feed Store on the corner of Broadway and N.P. Avenue, was built. It became known as the Fargo Opera House two years later and supplanted McHench Hall as the major theatre hall. McHench Hall became a gymnasium. The Opera House seated 800 persons. Its stage was 16 by 24 feet and an 18-foot proscenium opening. There were nine sets of scenery and four dressing rooms. Before it was destroyed by fire seven years later, 393 presentations were given there. Many of them were by the Andrews Opera Company from Mankato, Minnesota. It lasted until early in 1888 and ran continuously with six to eight performances a week.



Opera House

Other cultural entertainment available during the period included 315 touring plays including 36 productions of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," seven Shakespearean shows, and 66 operas. Minstrel shows were also popular, and prices were the same as for the regular theatre: fifty cents, seventy-

five cents and one dollar.

The great fire of 1893 destroyed the first opera house. C. P. Walker started a new opera house within the month on a site where the Graver Hotel is now. He organized the Red River Valley Circuit known as the "Bread Basket Circuit" which included Fargo, Grand Forks and Winnipeg. W. S. Hart, Eddie Foy, Anna Held, James O'Neill, Otis Skinner and Richard Mansfield appeared here. "Faust," "East Lynne," "Rip Van Winkle," "The Count of Monte Cristo" and "Uncle Tom's Cabin" were favorites.

The Opera House orchestra was under the director of A. O. Rupert and played the score for all but a few of the comic and grand opera companies besides playing an overture and numbers between acts. Mr. Rupert also directed a 75-member concert orchestra and had a dance orchestra which played dance clubs, wedding receptions and other social events.

Thirty-two different stock companies, which usually stayed a week and played seven shows, came to Fargo during those years. A special train on the N.P. took theatre-goers from Moorhead to Fargo and back from 1899 until the electric trolley cars started operation in 1904. The second Fargo Opera House was destroyed by fire in 1912 and was never replaced.

Legitimate theatre began in Fargo, as elsewhere, with the introduction of the new medium, the movies. The



Pathe weekly came to Fargo for the first time in September, 1911. The first combination of moving pictures and vaudeville was at the Bijou Theatre which opened in 1906. It enjoyed a long and successful business. In 1911 a four-piece band was added. The Ideal Theatre, 115 Broadway, opened in 1906. It seated 400. Nerhaugen's Union Orchestra played there for many years. The theatre changed hands in 1910 and its name was changed to The Savoy.

In 1912 George Webster, manager of the Grant Theatre, went to New York and selected nine actors for a permanent stock company. They played tabloids of well-known shows twice each evening. The company received good reviews and was successful. Part of the time a five-piece woman's orchestra was employed.

The entrance of the United States into World War I in 1917 saw the end of permanent stock companies. However, one member, Milton Weston Hyatt, stayed on in Fargo to form a dramatics club and direct plays for various other clubs.

Movies flourished during the period from World War I to World War II. Their decline began when television became available to most people. However, in the last few years the cinema has shown a remarkable comeback. Some of the older movie theatres have disappeared, but the Fargo and Broadway continued in existence. One new downtown movie house, the Lark, as well as the Cin-erama south of town on Highway 81 and two side-by-side theatres in

Members: Mr. W. A. McKimble, Piano; Mr. W. M. Northing, Sax; Mr. H. Sawyer, Mr. T. W. Davidson, Mr. S. K. Kottler, Mr. R. J. Peterson, Drums; Mr. W. H. Ahlman, Mr. A. Bergeson.



North Dakota Mandolin and Guitar Club.
Mr. W. H. Sawyer, Third row.

the West Acres Shopping Center have been opened within the last five years. All appear to be doing well.

Music

Music and the dance have always been a strong entertainment factor in the Fargo community. Mme. Ernestine Schumann-Heink and John McCormick both appeared in Fargo in 1917. Grand opera companies performed three different times from 1914-1920, and Evelyn Nesbitt Thaw's Tango Dancers were held over for three extra performances in 1914. Pavlova and her company of 80 dancers were the hit of 1915. Walter Damrosch conducted the New York Symphony Orchestra in Fargo in 1916 and returned the next year.

The Minneapolis Symphony played here several times during the same period and was brought back annually during the fifties and early sixties by the Concordia College's Artist Series. The North Dakota Agricultural

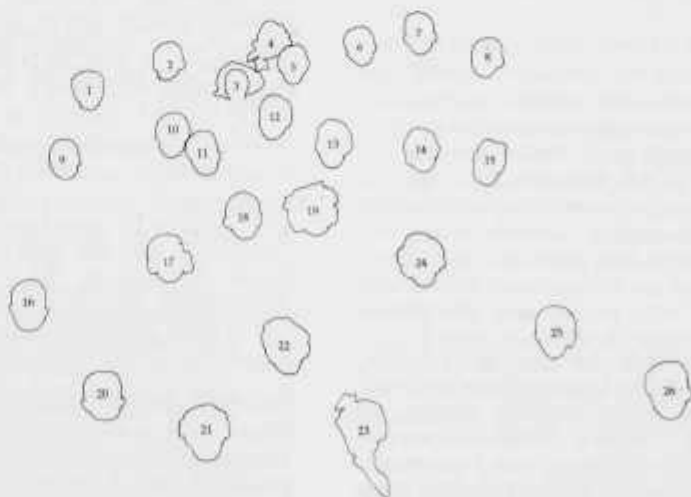
College Lyceum and the Fargo Concert Association both arranged entertainment, with Fritz Kreisler, the New York Philharmonic, Iva Kitchell and Eva LeGallienne among the attractions.

Both music and drama have been strengthened by the fine arts departments of the local colleges. Professor E. A. Smith of Fargo College gave instruction in instrumental music, theory, harmony and voice. He and his pupils presented a series of musicals on Friday nights. They had performed 81 times by the end of 1897. His Conservatory of Music was housed in a lovely old building given to the college by Mrs. J. S. Watson, who, when Fargo College was forced to close, gave it to the Fine Arts Club of Fargo-Moorhead. It is located at the corner of Seventh Street and Fifth Avenue South and is appreciated by every member of the present-day club.

The Little Country Theatre was founded by Alfred G. Arvold in 1914 on the second floor of "Old Main" at the then NDAC. It literally became famous around the world. Its principal function was "to stimulate good drama and original entertainment among people in country and village life, in order to help them find themselves; that they may become satisfied with the community in which they live." It became a source of inspiration to hundreds of country communities. Its work is continued today under the direction of Frederick Walsh in the beautiful Askanase Hall. During 1975, its players toured American military bases in Europe as part of the United Services Organization (USO) troupe.

The Fargo Musical Society was founded in 1894 by Professor E. A. Smith. Mrs. J. A. Jardine was one of its early presidents. She later became president of the National Federation of Music Clubs. The name was changed to the Fargo Music Club in 1920. There were four sections originally; research and voice are still operating, but the string section and organ group are no longer part of the club. The organ group is now affiliated with the Red River Valley Chapter of Organists, and the string section formed the nucleus of the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony, organized in 1931.

Sigvald Thompson was conductor of the symphony for 37 years. His wife, Isabelle, was concert master for 27 of those years. Both of the Thompsons were teachers as well as performing



Tom Thumb Wedding at NDAC's Little Country Theatre in 1915, with the children of faculty and staff: 1 —, 2 Edwin Minard, 3 Eloise McArdle, 4 Elizabeth Ladd, 5 Marie Smith, 6 Lawrence White, 7 Milton Ladd, 8 Earl Kraft, 9 Kathleen Ince, 10 Newhall Rindlaub, 11 Don Bolley, 12 Rebecca Keene, 13 Madeline Parrot, 14 Lois Minard, 15 Barbara Ince, 16 Sterret Trimble, 17 Dorothy Donahue, 18 Philip Keene, 19 Virginia Ladd, 20 Dudley Stevens, 21 Dorothy Smith, 22 Virginia Keene, 23 Elizabeth Trimble, 24 Julia Bell, 25 Edward McArdle, 26 Robert Parrot.



Isabelle and Sigvald Thompson



Dr. J. Robert Hanson,
Conductor FM
Symphony



Interior of FM Community Theatre, Island Park

soloists until their retirement. They have trained many, many students who are now performers or teachers in the field of music.

The symphony has grown in size of members and in number of yearly concerts. In the 1973-74 season there were 25 concerts, 13 public and 12 youth programs. The orchestra has 600 works in its repertoire. The concerts are free to the public and are usually well attended. Chamber concerts are also a part of their program.

Dr. J. Robert Hanson succeeded Mr. Thompson as conductor in the fall of 1974. The orchestra under his leadership is experiencing a very good season.

Shortly after the Second World War, in February, 1946, the Fargo-Moorhead Community Theatre was organized for the purpose of providing an outlet for talented adults in the dramatic arts and furnishing wholesome entertainment for the community. Aubrey Hook was the group's first president and Marvin Hannibal the first director. Mr. Hook's finesse with people and Mr. Hannibal's genius as director were a combination that put "the show on the road." Their first production, "My Sister Eileen," was an immediate success.

First rehearsals were held in a room at the YWCA and the first production in Moorhead High School. The second floor of the old Arena in Island Park was then rented and used for rehearsals, construction of



George Nassif and Jerry Mulready in "Time of Your Life," FM Community Theatre

sets, and an apartment for the director. Performances were held in Weld Hall at Moorhead State College.

Marvin Hannibal remained as director for five years. The caliber of productions during this period was outstanding. The next decade saw many ups and downs in the life of this community endeavor. School auditoriums, both college and high school, the old Fargo Auditorium and a remodeled church served as successive homes until October, 1964, when ground was broken for a theatre in Island Park.

This was a dream come true — a home of their own. The Community Theatre is the only organization of its kind to have its own home. The F-M Symphony and the F-M Civic Opera must still search for a place for productions. This is a serious handicap to both organizations and reflects a need left to be filled in the future.

The Community Theatre building in Island Park is the result of contributions, financial and physical, of many people. Robert K. Herbst donated the initial sum in honor of his mother, Emma K. Herbst, for whom the theatre is named. Wayne Candor, a Fargo contractor, persuaded the members of the unions in the Fargo-

Moorhead Trades and Labor Assembly to give the unique gift of building the theatre, and their reward has been that of being the audience for all subsequent first nights.

Two husband-wife teams have been indispensable to the theatre. Paul and Corrine Airheart have been active in the theatre in many capacities since it started. And without George and Hazelle Nassif the theatre might well have ground to a halt. For over twenty years the theatre's welfare has been their concern. They have done necessary tasks in practically every phase of theatre, and through the years all reservations have been made through them.

John Tilton served as director for five years. His wife, Shirley, was also deeply involved. Then followed a period in which many different directors directed one or two plays. Dustin Hoffman, soon to achieve acclaim as an actor on Broadway and in Hollywood, directed two FMCT plays in 1963. For the 1974-75 season, Dr. James Rockey is director and David Phillips, technical director. The Civic Opera Company has given some of its performances in the theatre, and the lobby of the building has held the work of local and other artists since it was completed.



Linus Carlson and Elizabeth Smith in *Pagliacci*. Mr. Carlson now sings the role of Silvio for the Metropolitan Opera Co. of N.Y.

Civic Opera

We have seen that Fargo once had an opera house which provided space for touring opera companies. Unfortunately, the local civic opera company was not organized until long after the opera house had disappeared.

On December 11, 1968, the F-M Civic Opera Company was incorporated by Hale Laybourn, John Carlson and John Miller. \$7,000 was solicited from businessmen in the area for the first production. James Christiansen, an artist-in-residence at MSC, was engaged as artistic director. He and Kurt Knudsen, a local artist and part-time director of the Community Theatre, staged the production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Gondoliers," on April 17, 1969.

The first production was well received and the Board of Directors and company were encouraged. Four operas were successfully produced the next season, including "Carmen," but in the 1970-71 season major financial difficulties made cancellation of the third opera necessary. An emergency fund drive headed by Fred Schlanser saved the company from dissolution.

For the 1971-72 season the company changed direction in two significant ways. Mrs. LoAnn Kana successfully headed a membership and advertising campaign to broaden the financial base of the company. The finances are now based upon a subscription season supplemented with business

donations, a benefit dinner, ticket sales, private grants, and grants from the North Dakota Council on the Arts and Humanities and the City of Fargo. The company retained a professional artistic director, David Martin, a man with extensive professional training and background in opera. Also professional young singers are cast in the leading roles of the major productions.

Since this change in direction, the company has experienced three financially and artistically successful seasons, and young professional singers used by the opera company have gone on to perform successfully with major national companies. Lucille Jonassen, Jan Reddick and Elaine Pavlick have performed with major national companies, and Linus Carlson, a North Dakota native, made his debut with the Metropolitan Opera Company in the role of Silvio, a role he performed for the first time with the F-M Civic Opera Company.

The company hopes for the future to be able to establish an artist-in-residence program for talented young singers, to expand its season with more and varied productions, and to assist in the establishment of a performing arts center for its productions and for other performing groups in the area.

Art

A physician and philanthropist at the turn of the century, Dr. Herman O. Fjelde, was was primarily responsible for the

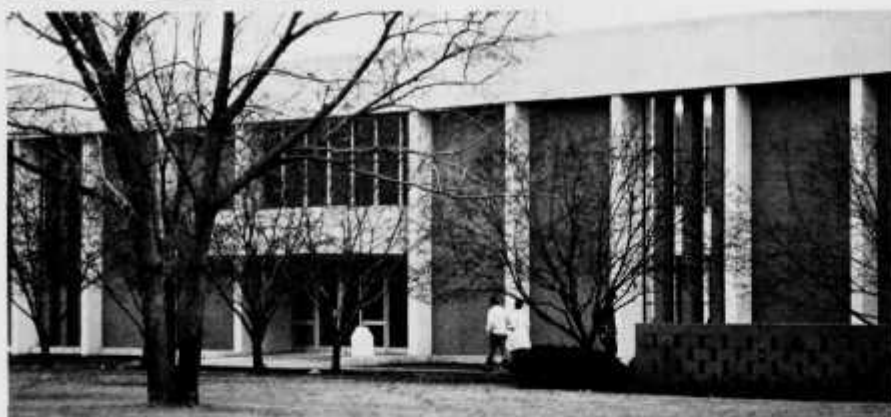
erection of the first statues in Fargo and Moorhead. The "Bauta Sten," a memorial to the Norwegian poet and the Ibsen bust are both on the campus at NDSU. The Ibsen bust was modeled by Dr. Fjelde's brother, Jacob. Jacob's son, Paul, is North Dakota's most famous sculptor. His bust of Abraham Lincoln was presented to the people of Norway by the people of North Dakota in 1914 and stands in a park in Oslo. A replica may be seen in Hillsboro, North Dakota. A statue of Rollo (1911) stands near what was the Great Northern tracks, and a statue of Henrik Wergeland, Norse writer, is in Island Park.

Ann Brown Bolin has been called the "dean of area artists." She was chairperson of the Art Department at NDSU from 1933 to 1944. A retrospective of 24 pieces of her work was exhibited in October, 1974. Her sculpture of a bison won third place and a purchase award in a regional exhibition at the Walker Art Center in 1946. Her favorite medium was North Dakota Badlands' cedar, but she worked in marble, clay and stone. The award-winning bison is carved in granite.

Mrs. Bolin gave great credit to Cyrus Running's influence in promoting the importance and enjoyment of art in Fargo-Moorhead. Also, WDAY-American Life's purchase of art for a new building was a great incentive to local artists. She watched the growth of private collections of art and public displays from the lean years of the depression until recently.



The Carnegie Library



Fargo Public Library

The Red River Art Center and the Rourke Gallery are located in Moorhead. Fargo residents and artists help support both, and in December, 1974 the Rourke Gallery opened a branch gallery in the Black Building in Fargo. One of its early shows was a group of photographs of the architectural work done by the Hancock Brothers, long a reputable and creative architectural firm in Fargo. They designed many buildings here and in other parts of the state, some of which still exist.

There are many good local artists and an increasing number of places to exhibit their works. The Olivet Lutheran Church, the NDSU Library and Student Union Galleries, Crescent's Gallery and, until recently, the Upstairs Hall in the Old Milwaukee Depot are only a few of such outlets. Many Fargoans exhibit the works of local artists and sculptors in their homes.

The City Library

As early as 1897 the several women's clubs in Fargo were successful in getting the question of a library put on the ballot for voters' decision. The vote took place during the great flood of 1897, and several polling places were submerged. It is said that many women stuffed their ballots down the chimney of the Water Works polling place, as that was the only part that was above water. The tax levy for the library was defeated.

However, the clubwomen started a

library anyway. They bought books and gave from their private collections. The books were first stored in the office of Mayor Johnson and later moved to the basement of the Masonic Temple.

A Library Board was officially established in 1900 by volunteers in the offices of Thomas Baker, Jr., an early Fargo insurance man. It was at this time that Andrew Carnegie was giving money away for libraries, and there had to be a library board before a grant could be authorized, along with a site and a municipal guarantee of \$2500.

The site selected was a debris-filled lot where fire-ravaged Columbia Hotel had stood. On January 26, 1903, the Andrew Carnegie Public Library opened its doors to the public. The contributions of volunteers to this project cannot be overemphasized. It was not until 1910 that Miss Ida Schaefer was appointed the first full-time librarian. Lumber dealers donated materials; carpenters donated labor; the Roundtable gave a valuable and ornamental electrically-wound clock; the Northwest Telephone Company furnished a free telephone, and everyone gave books and furnishings.

There is a new library now located on the corner of Fourth Street and First Avenue North in the Civic Center. It is a beautiful building with lovely, modern facilities which include a wonderful children's reading room and a North Dakota Room given over to a collection of North Dakota's

history. This room, with glass-covered shelves, was furnished by Mr. and Mrs. Max Goldberg.

Richard Waddington heads a staff of professional and dedicated librarians. It is a facility of which Fargoans can be justifiably proud. There is an art and film rental program, and concerts of various types of music are given at regular intervals.

Organizations and Events

Fargo is a well-organized town. Persons with nearly every interest imaginable have banded together to form numberless organizations. There are organizations exclusively for women, organizations exclusively for men and a combination of the two.

Women have always been prominent in cultural activities and in promoting civic and social reform. Mostly, they have formed themselves into clubs in order to accomplish their goals.

The Literary Tea Cup was perhaps the first women's study club organized in Fargo. Its publication, entitled "Tea Leaves," begun in 1893, says "Owing to the very bad condition of the roads, the attendance was small. Mrs. deLendrecie read to us the platform of the single tax. The rest of us brought all our mental faculties together in order to listen well and profit thereby." The oldest study club still in existence is the Woman's Club, founded in 1884. Mrs. Josephine Folsom organized the Fortnightly Club

in 1895, and Mrs. R. B. Blakemore and Mrs. E. B. Davis organized the Roundtable in 1897 at the Webster Hotel Parlor and had 25 charter members. Also organized about the same time were the New Era Club and Entre Nous Study Club.

It was not unusual in the early days to have two programs an afternoon, each an hour long, on such subjects as Voltaire, Lowell, Hegel, Schopenhauer's "Essay on Woman," etc. Present day members dare not extend their remarks much over a half-hour and one paper an afternoon is considered sufficient. Television may have broadened our horizons, but it has shortened our attention spans!

Bella Thomson Webster, North Dakota's first "Hello Girl," was a charter member of Woman's Club and often referred to it as her college education. Such clubs were in great part responsible for the establishment of a public library, day nursery, kindergarten, the civic theatre and other projects, and the appointment of a policewoman and a school nurse.

Art was not neglected, and the June, 1895 issue of the "Record" tells of the following function: "The Fargo Art Amateur Club gave (their) second annual reception for two days closing with a grand ball." Each member exhibited. Many of the exhibits were of hand-painted china; others were pictures in watercolors or oils. Mrs. Howard Moody had the largest display of china, watercolors and oils. Miss Luger had a watercolor of grapes. Mrs. S. G. Magill and Mrs. Henry

Magill exhibited a large table of china, all very nicely painted, as well as watercolors. Mrs. Alex Stern showed a great variety of china, and Mrs. Herbst's tray decorated with grapes was much admired. Mrs. Martin Hector had some very dainty bits. The Mandolin Club furnished music during the evening.

The Fine Arts Club was organized in 1911 by 96 women into five sections of interest — drama, literature, sociology, art and music. Mrs. Thompson, the first president, served for nine years. Much of the leadership in the different sections was found in the local colleges. In May, 1915 the club sponsored an exhibit of paintings by Nicholas R. Brewer, shown in the writing room of the Gardner Hotel. Portraits of local people painted by the artist were featured and the exhibit was open to the public.

In the same year, a benefit to aid the North Dakota Children's Home entitled "Enchantment of the Seasons" was presented in the Grand Theatre. It was an interpretive dancing recital under the direction of Juliet deLendrecie and featured the seasons of the year attended by Rain, Wind, Sleet, Snow, Jack Frost, Flowers, Butterflies and Leaves. The princely sum of \$110 was realized.

In May, 1916, to celebrate Shakespeare's tercentenary, a festival week for Fargo-Moorhead was planned by the Fine Arts Club, which was unprecedented in scope. It involved the entire community and was called "a daring venture" in an editorial of

the day. The Forum reported "thousands" lined the street to view the parade which started from St. Mary's Cathedral and moved south on Broadway, across the Front Street bridge to Moorhead, back to Fargo on the Northern Pacific bridge and ended up in Island Park. There, Shakespeare, played by A. G. Arvold, presented to Queen Elizabeth, the costumed characters of his plays as they stepped off the floats. Seven Shakespeare plays were presented during the week by different groups. "Hamlet" was given by Sacred Heart Academy; "Merchant of Venice" by Moorhead Normal School; "Much Ado About Nothing" by North Dakota Agricultural College; "The Taming of the Shrew" by Fargo College; "As You Like It" by Fargo High School; "Twelfth Night" by Western School of Expression; and "Midsummer Night's Dream" by Hutchinson School of Expression. The entire week was called "one of the most significant events in the history of the city." Stores were closed from 12:30 to 4:30 Saturday afternoon to enable employees to view the parade.

Another all-community effort of local talent given in 1918 was an extravaganza called "The Storm King" which was presented in the Orpheum Theatre. The script was by Jessie Jepson Remington and the dances, directed by Juliet deLendrecie, had a cast of 135 persons. Some idea of the nature of the show and choreography can be gained by the advertisement which follows: "Come and see the flowers spring up and bloom at the call of the sunbeams."



Imagination



Imagination



The Imagination Paint Pen

A Grand Lecture course organized by a group of interested citizens presented Sunday night programs early in the twentieth century. Some of the well-known Fargo residents who appeared were Professors Minard, Waldron and Arvold. Frederick Koch, Sylvia Pankhurst, Eugene Debs, Lady Gregor, Lincoln Steffens, Clarence Darrow and Irvin Cobb were among the well-known outside speakers. This series continued up to the beginning of World War I.

In 1930 the Fargo-Moorhead Open Forum came into existence, developing from a study group of five to an administrative membership of more than forty and a public membership of thousands. During the next 29 years, the Forum conducted approximately 200 meetings and sponsored many others throughout the State of North Dakota and in nearby Minnesota communities. More than a thousand people heard Dr. Ralph Bunche speak in 1949. Admiral Chester Nimitz attracted an even larger audience the next year, and in 1953 Eleanor Roosevelt drew more than 6,000.

September, 1971 saw the beginning of a new cultural event which promises to be a part of community life for many years. Called "Imagination '71," it was designed to stimulate interest in the arts in both children and adults. Held in Island Park, the first year's events were so successful that, in 1972, the five-day event expanded to eight. The North Dakota Council on the Arts and Humanities and the National Endowment for the

Arts helped fund the activities which included dancing from jazz to ballet, painting from abstract to stark realism, young and adult theatre, poetry reading, opera, macrame, music from rock to symphony, plus food booths where ethnic food was sold. School children from surrounding communities are bussed in by the thousands to observe and participate. The week has become an outstanding event.

Daughters of the American Colonists North Dakota Society

This organization is a chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Colonists which has its headquarters in Washington, D.C. Those eligible for membership must be descended from men or women in the American Colonies who performed civilian or military services prior to 1775 or who were recipients of land grants from the British Crown.

In addition to supporting the projects of the National Society, Chapters serve their communities in patriotic and historical areas. The North Dakota Society has sent girls to Camp Fire camp as well as made contributions to the Fargo Veterans Hospital and to the Cass County Historical Society for its museum.

The North Dakota Society was organized in 1947 with Mrs. E. G. Clapp as Organizing Regent. The present membership is 22, and the Presiding Regent is Mrs. Ellend J. Palmer.

The devotion of the chapter to matters historical was proven by a cash contribution for pictures in this book. It is gratefully acknowledged.

Daughters of the Dakota Pioneers

This group was organized in 1934 as a chapter of Pioneer Daughters, a project of the North Dakota Federation of Women's Clubs. Mrs. H. W. McArdle (Elita Olson), later Mrs. A. E. Minard, was the organizing president. Later the connection with the NDFWC was severed, and the Daughters of Dakota Pioneers was established.

Membership was offered to descendants of all Dakota Territory pioneers who were living in the Territory before statehood.

The Daughters have been a force in historical work for the community. They were active in the organization of the Cass County Historical Society and early established the Cass County Museum which they maintained and staffed for years.

As Pioneer Daughters they collected many local Pioneer Mother biographies which are on file in the State Historical Society. Currently they maintain a two-story log cabin at Bonanzaville. Money is available from the dues of 203 active members and the sale of clothes pin dolls at the museum. They act as hostesses at many Bonanzaville affairs. In addition to the active membership there are 37 honorary members.

Mrs. Henry W. Koslofsky is president. Meetings are held each month from September until June with interesting programs in a historical vein.

P.E.O. Sisterhood

The P.E.O. is an educational, cultural and philanthropic organization of women organized nationally. There are eight chapters in Fargo. The first chapter, Chapter E, was organized in 1914. The eight Fargo chapters have 304 members and have produced several state presidents. Meetings are held twice each month from September to June.

Daughters of the American Revolution, Dacotah Chapter

As early as 1897 Fargo women obtained a charter for a chapter in the national organization of the Daughters of the American Revolution. It was called the Bunker Hill Chapter and was organized by Mrs. C. A. Lounsberry. At some time through the years this chapter disbanded, and it was not until 1919 that, under the auspices of Organizing Regent Mrs. M. A. Hildreth, the Dacotah Chapter came into existence.

The chapter is charged with the official responsibility to search out the location of graves of members of the Armed Forces who took part in the War for Independence. Members

must be directly descended from men or women who served the cause in the War for Independence in either military or civilian roles. The purpose of the Society are patriotic, historical and educational.

Dacotah Chapter has marked three historical sites. They are the first cemetery at Wild Rice, a campsite of the Sibley Expedition, and the site where General Sheridan and General Grant met beside the Northern Pacific tracks. The Chapter has made hundreds of awards for historical essays and has carried on many other activities of a historical import.

The present membership is 75. Meetings are held each month from October through May. Miss Elizabeth Alsop is Presiding Regent.

Fargo Organizations

Fargo organizations as listed in the directory follows, with the name of their President and Secretary. Their purpose is an improvement of skills, personal or professional, in addition to fellowship and service.

ADVERTISING CLUB OF
FARGO-MOORHEAD
Larry Gauper, Pres.
Ron McCullough, Sec.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY WOMEN
Nora Olmstead, Pres.
Lorraine Kahler, Sec.

AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S
ASSN.
Rennay Brown, Pres.
Mabel Crooks, Sec.

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF
FARGO-MOORHEAD
William H. Wyatt, Pres.
W. D. Syverson, Sec.

AMERICAN LEGION
Robert Long, Com.
Burton Maxwell, Vice Com.

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL
WOMEN
Susie Thieman, Pres.
Rita Faul, Sec.

NORTH DAKOTA HUMAN
SERVICE AGENCY
Phil Watson, Pres.
Harry S. Myers, Exec. Dir.

DOWNTOWN BUSINESS
ASSOCIATION
Wayne Meyers, Pres.
Ken Umbehocker, Exec. Sec.

EL ZAGAL SHRINE
Lyle W. Plambeck, Pres.
Bob Haas, Club Mgr.

ELKS
Thomas Serrin, Exalted Ruler
John E. Faruolo, Club Mgr.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
RETIRED PERSONS
George H. Johnson, Pres.
Agnes Beck, Sec.

FARGO CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB
Robert Roel, Pres.
Mrs. Eric Flaten, Sec.

FARGO KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Myron LeDoux, Grand Knight
Richard Callahan, Sec.

**FARGO-MOORHEAD
AMBASSADOR CHORUS**

John Roux, Pres.
Dave Sogge, Sec.

**FARGO-MOORHEAD BOARD
OF REALTORS**

Lowell Wagner, Pres.
Ron Bergan, Sec.

**FARGO-MOORHEAD CAMERA
CLUB**

Dr. Stan Thompson, Pres.
Agnes Berg, Sec.

FARGO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Col. E. G. Clapp, Jr., Pres.
Ken Larsen, Exec. Dir.

**FARGO-MOORHEAD ENGINEERS
CLUB**

Richard D. Anderson, Pres.
Robert Muscha, Sec.

**FARGO-MOORHEAD HOME
BUILDERS ASSN.**

Ron Rothhouse, Pres.
Ed Welle, Sec.

F-M INDIAN ASSOCIATION

Maxine Gourneau, Pres.
Christine Nelson, Dir.

**F-M AREA RETAIL GASOLINE
DEALERS ASSN.**

Ted Veen, Pres.
Charlie Burnham, Sec.

F-M SNO-KATS

Keith Rockwell, Pres.
Jeannette Renstrom, Sec.

F-M STAMP CLUB

Edward Higgins, Pres.
Mrs. Reta Kallel, Sec.

**FARGO-MOORHEAD SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA**

Wayne W. Meyers, Pres.
Mrs. Ralph Brakke, Sec.

FARGO TOASTMISTRESS CLUB

Anna Keim, Pres.

Kay Roath, Sec.

**FARGO-MOORHEAD TRAFFIC
CLUB**

Arthur Carlson, Pres.
H. A. Vannote, Sec.

**FARGO WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN
TEMPERANCE UNION**

Miss Pearl Elofson, Pres.
Mrs. Clara Haaland, Sec.

THE FINE ARTS CLUB

Mrs. C. M. Fossum, Pres.
Mrs. Kenneth Sornsin, Sec.

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES

Dennis Mjones, Pres.
James E. Levin, Club Mgr.

**INSURANCE WOMEN OF
FARGO-MOORHEAD**

Verona Burbeck, Pres.
Linda Routledge, Sec.

GERMAN AMERICAN CLUB

Edmond Mayer, Pres.
Mary Schroeder, Sec.

**GREATER NORTH DAKOTA
ASSOCIATION**

George Johnson, Pres.
Richard Crockett, Exec. V.P.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
THE FARGO AREA**

Mrs. Janice Johnson, Pres.
Mrs. Delores Merrill, Sec.

LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE #1410

William J. Mayer, Pres.
Marvin E. Mickelson, Sr., Club Mgr.

**NATIONAL SECRETARIES
ASSOCIATION**

Shirley Mariferen, Pres.
Rose Mary Anderson, Sec.

**NEIGHBORHOOD TOASTMISTRESS
CLUB**

Barbara Schmidt, Pres.
Janet Nickel, Sec.

**NORTH DAKOTA LIFE MEMBER
CLUB, TELEPHONE PIONEERS
OF AMERICA**

Mrs. Hellen Bartels, Pres.
D. S. McArthur, Sec.

NDSU WOMEN'S CLUB

Mrs. Hazel Ebeltoft, Pres.
Mrs. Norma Hill, Sec.

**NATIONAL ASSN. OF RETIRED
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES**

C. J. Heltemes, Pres.
Mrs. Bertha M. Skaarer, Sec.

**REALTORS MULTIPLE LISTING
SERVICE, INC.**

Ralph Martin, Pres.
Al Wieland, Sec.

**RED RIVER VALLEY HANDICAPS
CLUB**

Edna Hudson, Pres.
Judy M. Flaten, Sec.

RED RIVER VALLEY COIN CLUB

Andrew Herman, Pres.
Axel Nelson, Sec.

**SALES & MARKETING
EXECUTIVES OF F-M**

Jim Fay, Pres.
Lee Timm, Sec.

**SONS OF NORWAY — KRINGEN
LODGE 25**

Carl Hovey, Pres.
Genevieve Froisness, Sec.

**SOUTHEASTERN N.D. COMMUNITY
ACTION AGENCY**

Shelley J. Lashkowitz, Pres.
Sylvia Hove, Exec. Dir.

**TELEPHONE PIONEERS OF
AMERICA**

A. K. Pauls, Pres.
Eleanor Erdahl, Sec.

GATE CITY TOASTMASTERS

Howard Thorson, Pres.
Dennis L. Larive, Sec.

KC TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Morris F. Raile, Pres.
Richard K. Lingle, Sec.

LINCOLN TOASTMASTERS

Aaron Geller, Pres.
M. W. Boeder, Sec.

TOPS CLUB

Dorothy Nordick, Information
Pat Schmidt, Secretary

**UNITED WAY OF FARGO-
MOORHEAD-DILWORTH**

Michael Herbst, Pres.
Reay A. Dolezal, Exec. Dir.

VFW ROY CHANDLER POST 762

Paul Pedersen, Pres.
Gene Johnson, Sec.

WELCOME WAGON

Mary Ellen Cummings, Pres.
Arlene Payne, Hostess

**FARGO-MOORHEAD LEGAL
SECRETARIES ASSOCIATION**

Marlene Peterson, Pres.
Susan McKigney, Sec.

**Fargo Service
Clubs**

Fargo Service Clubs and the name of their president and secretary are listed in the organization directory of the Chamber of Commerce, January 1, 1975, as follows. Fellowship and service to the community are their basic purposes.

COSMOPOLITAN CLUB

Roy H. Johnson, Pres.
Ken Ludemann, Sec.

EXCHANGE CLUB OF FARGO

C. Elmer Anderson, Pres.
Evald A. Carlson, Sec.

FARGO ALTRUSA CLUB

Alice Petty, Pres.
Marjory Fridland, Sec.

FARGO JAYCEES

Bob Deutz, Pres.
Al Jaeger, Sec.

FARGO MRS. JAYCEES

Mrs. Pat Kramer, Pres.
Mrs. Sandy Alexander, Sec.

FARGO LIONS CLUB

Robert G. Gramm, Pres.
Gus Wieland, Sec.

F-M QUOTA CLUB

Mrs. Florence Eichmiller, Pres.
Mrs. Loehle Gast, Sec.

**FARGO-MOORHEAD SERTOMA
CLUB**

Lee Lichtsinn, Pres.
Adam Thiel, Sec.

FARGO OPTIMIST CLUB

Marv Swan, Pres.
Jack Evje, Sec.

FARGO ROTARY CLUB

Richard K. Herbst, Pres.
J. G. Newton, Sec.

GATEWAY LIONS CLUB

Donald E. Anderson, Pres.
Ray F. Thieman, Sec.

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF F-M, INC.

Mrs. James Dillard, Pres.
Mrs. Ward Cater, Sec.

KIWANIS CLUB OF FARGO

Carl H. Cummings, Pres.
H. O. Anderson, Sec.

LAKE AGASSIZ KIWANIS

John M. Riley, Pres.
Wes Megrund, Sec.

RED RIVER SERTOMA CLUB

LeNoel Lichtsinn, Pres.
Adam Thiel, Sec.

ROUGHRIDERS KIWANIS

Harry Jackim, Pres.
Gene Beckwith, Sec.

**SOROPTIMIST INT. CLUB OF
FARGO**

Mrs. Bernice Rasmussen, Pres.
Mrs. Sydney M. Schossow, Sec.

Y MEN'S CLUB

Duane Brasch, Pres.

Y'S MENETTES

Mrs. Rae Benson, Pres.
Mrs. Jean Lee, Sec.

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

Mrs. Carol Rogne, Pres.
Kay Geier, Sec.

Business and Agriculture



The oldest business in Fargo, now Interior Lumber Co.

If art is truly the signature of civilization, then surely business and, in this area, agriculture are not only the salutation but also the life-blood of this community and its citizens. Fargo is justifiably proud of its varied and active cultural opportunities, intellectual challenges, healthful climate, clean environment and friendly people, but is no less proud of its sound financial and successful economic bases. Geography is the initial influence on an area; the interests and activities of its inhabitants as they react to their environment nurture continued growth by providing incentive and funds.

Fargo is known as "the largest little city in the world," and the Red River Valley as the "bread basket of the world." One hundred years ago this section of the North American continent was known to millions of Americans as part of the Great American Desert. When a group of venture-some men started a railroad line across this desert, they were jeered for their folly.

For some time after the railroad line was started, it appeared as though these pessimists had been right, and in the early days the Northern Pacific Railroad was known as "Jay Gould's two streaks of rust."

Fortunately, as we have seen, this pessimism was not shared by thousands of sturdy pioneers who came on foot, by boat, by covered wagon drawn by oxen, and then by the railroad itself. These pioneers settled along the two streaks of rust, broke

open the virgin prairie and soon there went pouring out over those rusty rails a flood of golden grain of a quality that opened the eyes of the wheat milling world — for it was wheat that had never been equalled for bread-making qualities — the famous "No. 1 Hard" that spread the fame of North Dakota around the world.

Back over those no longer rusty rails came pouring another golden flood in payment for this high quality wheat — a flood of wealth which changed the so-called desert into one of the wealthiest agricultural sections of the world.

Because of its geographical location, North Dakota has one hour more sunshine per day than states in the latitude of Illinois and Iowa. This extra hour of sunshine comes in the growing season of June, July and part of August, and because of it, sweet corn, sugarbeets and other crops which contain much sugar are sweeter and of a higher quality than those products grown in states with less sunshine.

Even today well over 95 per cent of the land around Fargo is farmed. Small grains, potatoes, sunflowers, soybeans and sugarbeets are the main crops. And today as never before in the history of our country, these crops have assumed an overriding importance. Ill-nurtured and starving peoples of the world look to us for a great portion of their food.

In addition to its agriculture, Fargo and Moorhead have from their earliest days served as a point of transshipment of goods for all points down the Red River to Winnipeg. With the westward expansion of the railroad, Fargo was in a uniquely fortunate location for early growth. Settlers branched out from the Fargo area, thereby increasing the importance of the city. Fargo was the supply center for the early settlers and was later nationally famous during the period of bonanza farming. As the population increased, there was an increasing need for the goods and services furnished by Fargo.

A healthy agricultural economy, continually reaching new levels of efficiency and productivity as a result of research done at the Agricultural College and Experiment Stations, went hand in hand with a thriving business community. Farm-related industries thrive in Fargo; the processing of agricultural products, the handling of seeds, the manufacture of farm implements, as well as the distribution of goods into an area extending into Canada to the north and corresponding distances in other directions.

Other industry does equally well; the light and heavy construction industry, wholesale foods, meats, beverages, and baked goods, drugs, dairy products, insurance services, dental and optical goods, automobiles, trucks and their parts, fuels, sporting goods, mobile homes, glass, paint and other construction supplies; and on and on goes the list including clothing,

COST OF WHEAT GROWING

Facts and Figures
A plain and Concise Statement
The Cost to Raise Wheat in North
Dakota

Taken from *The Record*
June, 1896

The question has often been asked, "What does it cost per acre or per bushel to raise wheat in the Red River Valley? As a partial answer to that question I submit the following facts:

I have raised about 1,500 acres of wheat this year at my farm ten miles north-west of here (Fargo), and have kept an account with each separate piece of land, charging up to the land every item of expense attendant upon making the crop and crediting the land with the number of bushels of wheat produced thereon at 44 cents a bushel, the price at the time the crop was ready to be delivered.

Northwest quarter of section 24 — 125 acres:

Men seeding	\$14.83
Stock, seeding	36.00
Seed wheat	117.00
Pulling mustard	1.80
Men, teams and machines, har-vesting	112.91
Men, threshing	168.31
Teams, threshing	87.00
Twine	18.57
Use of threshing machine 1½ cents per bushel	76.51
Plowing	125.00
Total	\$757.96

Counter — Wheat produced on the north-west quarter of section 24 — 125 acres:

5,103 bushels at 44 cents	\$2,245.32
Deduct the cost of making the crop	757.96
Leaves	\$1,487.32

Or about \$11.89 an acre net profit. You will notice that this makes the cost of producing a bushel of wheat on this tract of land a fraction more than 15 cents per bushel, the cost of farming an acre \$6.06. This field made the largest yield of wheat per acre of any that I raised. The following account is that of the northwest quarter of section 14 — 140 acres — which made the smallest yield of wheat of any I raised during the season:

Men, seeding	\$13.58
Stock	32.25
Seed wheat	126.00
Pulling mustard	1.85
Men, stock and machines, har-vesting	89.80
Twine	23.80
Men, threshing	121.62
Stock	66.45
Use of threshing machine, 1½ cents per bushel	45.48
Plowing	140.00
Total	\$660.83



William H. White

W. H. White, long a Fargo resident, established the White Lumber Company in 1873. In an interview with "The Argus" in its Fire Anniversary Edition in 1894, Mr. White said, "It is fully established that I am the sole owner and operator of the oldest established mercantile business in North Dakota, having conducted continuous lumber trade from 1872 to date." He sold lumber to the N.P. Railroad for the "construction of the first bridge that admitted civilizing influences into the State." His business was succeeded by the Interior Lumber Company, 842 N.P. Avenue, which has been in continuous existence to the present time. It is the oldest lumberyard in Fargo and has a good claim to being the oldest business of any kind. It is a family business. John F. Alsop, the current president, succeeded his father in that position; Elizabeth Alsop, his sister, is secretary and has been in the business since 1932, and his son, John Richard Alsop, is vice president.

Of the others mentioned as early businessmen, Newton, Whitman, McChesney and Ross were identified in the 1883 City Directory as blacksmiths; Terence Martin was still a resident; but it is known that he went west and did not long remain in Fargo; Eustis, the brickmaker, was not listed, and although several Wards appeared in the directory, none of them was identified as a brickmaker. A Maddocks and several Manns were listed, but it is impossible to identify them as the former store owners; Mr. Pashley is also listed but

medical services, banking and other financial facilities.

As has been seen earlier, conflicting claims to land titles and the financial hardships of the Northern Pacific Railroad were reasons Fargo got off to a slow start. This was not all bad, however, for the usual "boom and bust" period so harmful to many new western towns did not affect Fargo. Its growth during its earliest years was slow but solid, substantial and conservative. Fargo had a foundation laid for the boom brought on by the great bonanza farms.

In the very beginning Fargo businesses were housed in tents. A sign over the entrance of one tent indicated Gordon Keeney ran the post office; another sign announced his land office (an unofficial one); and a third sign announced Mr. Keeney's law office. Also on lower Front Street in Fargo in the Timber there were several necessary but short-lived establishments operating from tents. Charles Mulherin's Grocery, Terence Martin's Grocery and A. Pinkham's Boarding Tent. Newton and Whitman and Ross and McChesney operated wagon and blacksmith shops.

The first store was built by Maddocks and Mann in the fall of 1871. When it failed, it was succeeded by the establishment of N. K. Hubbard and E. S. Tyler. Terence Martin built his store later in 1871, and the following spring Pashley and Martin erected a second store. By the fall of 1872 the Headquarters Hotel was nearly completed, and Eustis and Ward were manufacturing bricks.



One of Fargo's early saloons, located on First Avenue North across from the present Forum building. Date unknown. Names on the photo are Bob McTruby, Ed Watkin and Sue Scruch.



Lower Front Street during the flood of April, 1897

no occupation is given as is the case with Pinkham. Both N. K. Hubbard and E. S. Tyler are listed as being engaged in the real estate business.

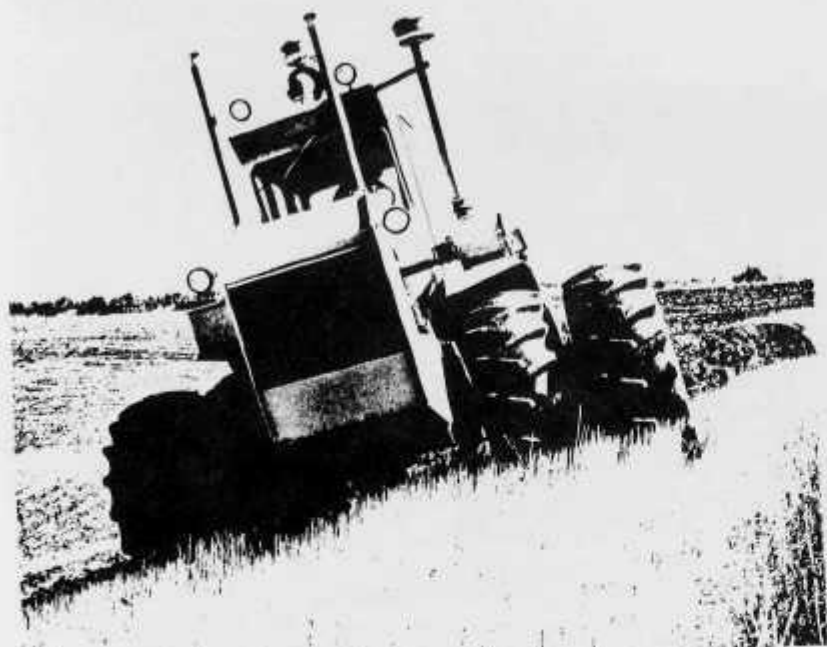
It is hard not to philosophize at this point as to the transitory nature of human endeavor in business in a raw frontier town, particularly in view of the economic panic of 1873 which struck down the N.P. Railroad for three years and posed difficulties for small new businesses.

But W. H. White's business was not the only survivor in Fargo of the 1870s. deLendrecie's Department Store, for more than sixty years a family-owned store, opened its doors

in 1879. Under other ownership deLendrecie's is still in business at the West Acres Shopping Center. The First National Bank was organized in 1878 when Fargo had a population of only 900 people. Luger Furniture Company, established in the 1870s, has disappeared as a business. Its last store building still stands on Broadway as a part of Herbst Department Store, but the undertaking part of the establishment was bought by the Boulgers and has continued in operation until the present time. It is presently the Boulger Funeral Home at 123 South Tenth. Although unconfirmed, it is believed that the Fargo Rubber Stamp Company has been continuously in existence since 1875.

The history of the farm machinery and equipment business in Fargo is the history of big business. Many of the early settlers brought mowers and reapers with them, others came without. As they began to cultivate farms and open new lands in the valley, and as immigrants began to flock in at a great rate, many representatives of the mowing and reaping machine companies invaded the territory and established agencies. As the trade grew and demand for machines increased, many companies moved their headquarters to Fargo. As early as 1879 several farm machine companies opened branch houses in Fargo.

This great valley of the Red River of the North is the birthplace for many of the valuable improvements that have been made on agricultural machines during the last quarter of a century. It was here that the manufacturers sent their new machines for field trials. As early as 1871 the Verity Company gathered information on the operations of its first plows sent to the lower Red River Valley. On the basis of the information gathered, the firm designed the Verity Number 14 for prairie conditions and soon captured a large share of the market. The Massey Company developed seed drills and larger reapers for the prairie region. The McCormick Company's Fargo agency received the entire daily output of the Chicago factory of self-binding reapers, diverting machines here that were destined for other points, to meet the demand. The McCormick twine binder, first marketed in 1881, was sent to this area



for field trials in August of 1880. One-wheeled reapers were sent out with the twine binders in 1880; experimentation with bundle carriers was begun during 1884, and field trials for knotters were carried out in 1884 and 1885. Many of the photographs illustrating the sales catalogs of farm machinery companies were taken on our fields.

H. L. Walster, a former dean of agriculture at NDSU, said in 1950, "Fargo of 1900 was in the very heart of the bonanza spring wheat belt. Farm implements of all kinds were in great demand. Twenty-four firms or individuals advertised in the city directory of 1900 that they sold agricultural implements. Eighteen of them represented manufacturers. Front Street (Main Avenue) and Northern Pacific Avenue vied with each other as 'Machinery Row.' The huge steam engine, often a straw burner, was the prime-mover of that day, for the gas and diesel tractors had not yet arrived. A Buffalo-Pitts; a Gaar-Scott; or a Nichols-Shepard plowed the field and drove the big threshing machines."

The presence in Fargo of branches of most of the known farm machinery companies had made a continuous economic impact on this area through the years.

At present there are several manufacturers of farm machinery and equipment located in Fargo. In 1969, Steiger Tractor Company moved to Fargo. That year they manufactured 100 giant four-wheel drive tractors.

Production has doubled annually since that year. Sales for 1975 are predicted to be over \$70 million. Steiger markets its products throughout the world. A ten-acre plant is being readied for the F-M Centennial year as an addition to their firm's presently existing large plant. Steiger, under the leadership of Eugene Dahl, has become one of Fargo's major businesses and North Dakota's largest manufacturing plant. Steiger, which employs 800 people, and Versatile Manufacturing Company, which employs 100, represent the potential growth to make Fargo the "Four Wheel Drive Tractor Capital of the World." Alloway Manufacturing Company produces mainly sugarbeet equipment; and many small manufacturing firms supply parts to these larger factories. All told, there are presently more than 30 firms dealing in farm machinery and equipment in the Fargo area.

Seed, Feed and Grain Business

In Fargo's early years, surplus grain was shipped by boat to Hudson's Bay for market. With the coming of the railroad, and farm machinery, wheat became the prime crop. It was stored either at Fargo for shipment later or loaded directly into railroad cars and shipped to Minneapolis and Duluth. Elevators were built when there was enough grain produced in the valley.

G. S. Barnes and Major L. H. Tenney operated a grain business for a

couple of years and then built sometime in 1879-80 the Union Elevator "open to all who desired" with both a river leg for loading grain barges as well as railroad trackage, at the southeast corner of First Avenue North and Second Street on the riverbank. Grandin Farms had built a private elevator, also on the riverbank midway between N.P. Avenue and the N.P. tracks in about 1878. Major Tenney died in 1880; his place was filled by Col. S. G. Magill. H. E. Magill was with the family company (then Magill & Co.) from 1887 to 1936. W. H. Magill entered the business in 1913 and continued until about 1939. This company handled a variety of sidelines. The building still marked Fargo Seed House on the northeast corner of Main Avenue and Fourth Street is now owned by Interstate Seed and Grain Company.

The Interstate Seed and Grain Company was originally started in Moorhead by Herman Wilk and Associates. It was incorporated as a North Dakota corporation in 1917 with Herman Wilk, R. F. Gunkelman and Herman Landbloom among the principal incorporators. It was a wholesale seed company, processing and distributing such seeds as alfalfa, sweet clover, corn, grasses and other field seeds. Later additional lines were added including the West Fargo Elevator, started in 1928 and continuing as a grain elevator until 1971, when it became a sunflower processing plant. In the mid 1920s the distribution of seed treatments and inoculants became part of the Interstate's services.



Max Goldberg in front of his father's store

In 1943 the interest of R. F. Gunkleman was purchased by the Wilk interest and Mortimer Wilk became the president, Felix Moses, vice-president and Ted Klugman, secretary-treasurer. Mortimer Wilk died in 1966 and Charles Moses became the president.

In 1971 the Farmers Elevator of Arthur, North Dakota, acquired interest in the Interstate. Present officers are Charles A. Moses, president; Joe Peltier, vice-president; Fredrick Burgum, treasurer; and Ted Klugman, secretary.

Sunflowers and particularly the growing of sunflowers for seed purposes has become one of the firm's major operations, but it still continues to process and distribute field seeds, seed treatments, farm chemicals, twine and fertilizer.

Early in 1877 a small flour mill was erected by Charles A. Roberts and Perkins which was soon destroyed by a tornado, rebuilt and then destroyed by fire. The mill stood at the present site of the Fargo Mill, now in disuse, across from the Fargo Foundry.

Horses were the power source for all early enterprises. Elevators were also originally run by horsepower, then by steam engines, next by gas and diesel engines and now all are electrified.

By 1900 flat land dominated by a country elevator was a typical sight. Many small towns grew where elevators were needed along the railroad. Though there have been some

lean years, there has never been a total crop failure in the Red River Valley.

There are three grain dealers in the metropolitan area of Fargo-Moorhead: the Red River Grain Company at Moorhead and West Fargo; Goldberg Feed and Grain Company of West Fargo, and Kragnes Farmers elevator Company at Moorhead.

Isadore Goldberg arrived in Fargo in 1901 and became associated with a Mr. Lund in a small feed store at 808 Front Street. In 1903 Goldberg acquired Lund's interest and moved to 818 Front Street in 1908. When Goldberg became ill in 1911, his oldest son, Max, entered the business full-time. I. Goldberg died in 1915. In 1919 Max bought the Moorhead Farmers Elevator Company and went into the grain business. By then the second son, Jacob H., had joined the firm; and a third son, Louis P., joined his brothers in 1922. The retail seed store remained at 818 Front Street (now Main Avenue) from 1908 until 1939 when the grain and feed manufacturing operation called Goldena Mills was begun at West Fargo. The second generation of Golbergs operated grain, feed and seed plants in North Dakota and Minnesota with main offices in Moorhead. In the 1930s when grass seeds such as sweet clover and alfalfa were grown on peat land not suitable for other crops, the Goldbergs' Moorhead Seed and Grain Company, then operating in northern Minnesota and Canada, installed facilities which made it the largest handler, processor and distrib-

utor of sweet clover and other legumes as grass seeds in the United States. When sweet clover, used for fertilizer, reaches the blossom stage, nitrogen is produced. It is then plowed under to provide both nitrogen and humus to the soil. Present farming techniques use synthetic fertilizers for this purpose.

In 1953 Jacob Goldberg left the firm. When the business was acquired by Basic Products Corporation in 1962, it became the Red River Grain Company, now under other ownership at the same location.

Two third-generation Goldbergs are active in agribusiness. Economist, writer, teacher and international consultant, Dr. Ray A. Goldberg, son of Max, who with Dr. John Davis coined the word "agribusiness," is Moffett Professor of Agribusiness and head of that department at the Harvard Business School. Richard W., son of Jacob H. (deceased in 1969), is president of Gold Label Feeds and Goldberg Feed and Grain Company of West Fargo, two independent companies started by Jacob in 1953. The companies manufacture livestock feeds and distribute throughout a four-state area. Additionally they process malting barley for the brewing and malting industry.

Other Fargo Businesses

Other Fargo businesses have seen many years of growth; several established in the 1880s still exist. The First Federal Savings and Loan Company, 1880;



Christianson's, at 402 Front Street in 1886. Lars Christianson, second from left



John Monson before 1889 at 63 Broadway, the present location of Siegel's

Shotwell Floral Company, established in 1888 and continuously owned by the Shotwell family; A. L. Moody's Department Store, owned by Moody in partnership with Emil Sgutt until Mr. Moody's death in 1881 and now operated by the Sgutt family; and Christianson's Drug store, later a liquor store, on the corner of Main Avenue and Fourth Street until it was vacated because of Urban Renewal II. This family-owned business now operates the Plaza Liquor Store in the K-Mart Plaza on Highway 81 South. Doyle's Livery, now Doyle Checker Cab Company, started in 1884. Concrete Sectional Culvert Company, originally Jardine Bridge Company, 1882, was owned and operated by the Jardine family for nearly 80 years. It is still in existence under other ownership. Freeman's China Hall, established in 1881 by George R. Freeman, was the parent company of two businesses still in existence — Kuehn, Pearson, Rufer Institutional Sales, food brokers, and Aslesen Company, hotel and motel equipment and supplies.

George R. Freeman was one of the first people back in business after the 1893 fire because he was the fortunate owner of a carload shipment of goods, still unloaded, which escaped the fire. His great grandson, Russell O. Freeman, is a Fargo attorney today.

Lloyd Monson tells in his own words the story of Monson's Luggage. "John Monson came to Fargo, D. T., in February, 1882. Snow was hip deep on the depot platform. The

depot and Headquarters Hotel were in the same building north of the tracks where the NSP power plant used to stand.

"His first store was a small place with about a 12 or 14 foot frontage on Broadway. It was between a brick building on the north and Dick Field's saloon on the south. This was in the area now occupied by Siegel's Clothing. The big sign he had above the store front said, 'The Largest Stock of Trunks and Valises in the Territory.'

"The next location was a one-story frame building on the corner of Broadway and First Avenue North where Straus Clothing is now. This was the store that burned in the big fire of 1893. Since the fire started on the east side of Broadway and Front Street (Main Avenue) and before a very brisk southeast wind arose, he had time to haul out some of his stock before the fire jumped to the west side of Broadway.

"He secured temporary quarters in a storeroom that is now part of the ground floor of the Dakota Business College. Later he formed a partnership with a Mr. Kinnear who had a shoe store. The firm was known as Kinnear and Monson. They sold shoes, trunks, valises, and also bicycles which were coming into fashion. Their store was on the corner of N.P. Avenue and Broadway where White Drug is now. Part of selling bicycles to ladies was teaching them to ride, running down the sidewalk holding them up till they got the hang of it.

"It is uncertain when the partner-

ship was dissolved, but by 1900 the trunk store had moved into the 600 block of Front Street. There John Monson started to manufacture the trunks he sold and incorporated as "Monson Trunk Factory." At 618 Front Street he had five men making trunks for the retail trade. The business was at this location when he turned the store over to his son, Lloyd, who had just returned from serving overseas in the First World War.

"The advent of the automobile as a means of travel adversely affected the trunk business but the dip in trunk sales was balanced by the increase of luggage sales. The corporate name was changed to Monson's Luggage to reflect the shift in business. When deLendrecie's wanted to expand, the luggage store was moved to 606 Main Avenue. It is now managed by Bill Prentice, son-in-law of Lloyd Monson."

A. T. Shotwell, W. B. "Jack" Shotwell, J. W. Shotwell, present owner of Shotwell Floral, and his son, J. W. Shotwell, Jr., who joined the firm in 1972, comprise the four generation family ownership of this company. They have been in several locations, including the land now occupied by Herbst Department Store. In 1898 Shotwell's moved to Broadway at Front Street where it remained until March, 1968, when on a quiet Sunday an explosion completely demolished the building and its contents. After a short time in a temporary location, Shotwell's retail store was relocated at 614 Main Avenue. It also has a retail outlet at West Acres. Shotwell



Interior, Shotwell Floral Co., 1911. A. T. Shotwell in rear. Large desk was lost in 1960's explosion. Business began here in 1896.



has two greenhouses, one since 1908 at 13th Avenue and 8th Street South and one at #10 Lower Terrace on the north side of Fargo.

Herbst Department Store at 16 Broadway was founded in 1892. It is still owned and operated by the grandsons of the founder and has several locations in North Dakota other than the original downtown location. The Herbst family is active in civic and business affairs in Fargo and has made many contributions to the community.

The Siegel Clothing Company at 65 Broadway, a men's clothing store, was founded in 1891 and is also still owned and operated by the Siegel family.

The Straus Company, 102 Broadway, is also a men's store. It is the continuation of Swanee's Esquire Shop and the Globe Clothing Store which was bought from Hugh Stern, a cousin of Alex Stern. Hugo Stern founded The Globe in 1899. Straus Co. is presently owned by Edward R. Stern, son of Herman Stern of Valley City, who, although he has the same name, is not related to the original owners.

Knight Printing Company, 16 South 16th, commenced operation in 1890; the Fargo National Bank at the foot of Broadway was established in 1897; the Merchants National (then State) Bank, 502 Second Avenue North, was organized in 1890; Northwestern Savings & Loan at 720 Main in 1893; the T. F. Powers Construction Company, 910 6th Avenue North, was

also established in 1893 when its founder left the Bowers Construction Company. The Standard Oil Division came to Fargo in 1893.

Many of Fargo's present-day businesses were started shortly after the turn of the century. One of the largest was the Fargo Foundry Company at 92 N.P. Avenue, started as a machine shop in 1905 by Kalmen and Parsons at the corner of N.P. Avenue and First Street North in the old street-car barn. The firm had 12 employees. The two original partners were joined first by Tom Sykes, then by Arthur G. Kinney, who was general manager of the company until 1940. The P & K stationary gasoline engine, the Dakota oil burner, the Fargo sprayer, storage tanks, Gray iron castings are only the most famous of the products of this company. Today the Fargo Foundry has one of the largest payrolls in the city with more than 90 different job skills and more than 180 employees. Its total manufacturing area is in excess of 60,000 square feet, its storage area is approximately 130,500 square feet, and the total plant area is about ten acres. Edward Simonson is president, Paul Gallagher vice-president, and V. B. Paulson secretary-treasurer.

Other firms started shortly after 1900 were the Cook Sign Company, the North Dakota Paint & Decorators, and Reinhard Brothers, Inc., all in 1902; The Pierce Company in 1903; and the Union Storage and Transfer Company in 1906. Meinecke-Johnson Company started business in 1908 and has been a successful firm of

contractors since that date. Bergstrom & Crowe, established in 1908, is probably the oldest household furnisher in Fargo. It now has a beautiful and spacious store on Highway 81 South using the "complete room concept" of displaying furniture.

Financial Institutions

Fargo has four national banks, two state banks, and four savings and loan associations.

The first bank in Fargo was a private bank opened in 1877 by A. J. Harwood and J. F. Hummel. In 1878 it was known as the Bank of Fargo, and later the Citizens National Bank. It failed in 1896.

The first bank opened as a public bank was The First National Bank, which was born in Parlor A of the Headquarters Hotel by Ezra B. Eddy, George Q. and Massena B. Erskine, Harry C. and Cicero B. Stevens, E. C. Eddy, Newton K. Hubbard, Evan S. Tyler and Samuel G. Roberts. Its doors were opened for business in March of 1878, when the charter was received, in a small twelve by six foot building one door west of the southwest corner of Broadway and Front Street (Main Avenue). Later that year a two-story brick building was built on the corner of Broadway and Main at No. 602. It cost \$13,000 and at the time was one of the finest in the West. After about a year the bank moved to the corner of Broadway and N.P. Avenue, just one door north of its present location. This building burned in the



After its beginning in a 12' x 6' shack next door, First National moved to 602 N.P. Avenue in 1878. Said to be Fargo's first brick building, it is now the home of Shotwell's Ladies Shop.

fire of 1893 and was rebuilt and remained the home of the bank until 1926 when its present building was built at a cost of \$300,000.

The Red River Valley National Bank, which had been organized in 1881, consolidated with the First National Bank in 1906. In 1928 a trust department was added. In the same year eight northwest banks, including the First National, formed a holding company which became the Northwest Bank Corporation. Many great banking names have been connected with the First National Bank during its long existence either as directors or officials — W. H. Crosby, Seth Newman, M. Webster, W. D. Hodgson, L. B. Hanna, W. A. Scott, William F. Graves, Max Goldberg, Albert Birch, Fred Irish, E. J. Wiser, L. R. Buxton, S. H. Manning, Tom Baker, Jr., Peter Elliott, James Kennedy, R. S. Lewis, Peter Luger, J. A. Montgomery, A. L. Moody and J. S. Watson.

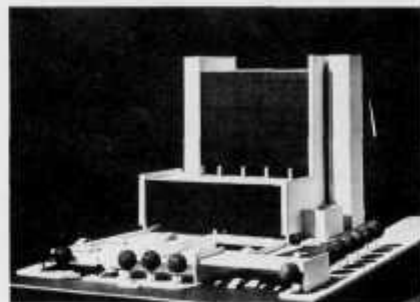
January 6, 1973, marked the grand opening of the First National Auto Bank located at 404 Main Avenue in Fargo. The one-story structure features five drive-in lanes, plus three walk-up windows. Robert D. Harkison has been president of the First National Bank and Trust Company since 1966. Its present directors are Laurel Loftsgard, Carl Cummings, J. W. Shotwell, Byron Jackson, John Alsop, Prentiss Cole, Jim Reed, Paul Greving, Bob Dawson, George Howe, Jack Tanner, Sid Cichy, Dick McCormick and E. A. Simonson.



NW corner, 5th Street and 2nd Avenue North, since 1965

The Merchants National Bank and Trust Company of Fargo is 85 years old during this Centennial Year. In 1890 a fledgling financial institution then known as Merchants State Bank opened for business at the northeast corner of N.P. Avenue and Broadway. In 1906 Merchants became a national bank; there were six employees, one adding machine and \$400,000 in deposits. Another major change took place in 1921 when the bank moved to a new home in a remodeled building at the southwest corner of Broadway and Second Avenue North, its home for the next 43 years. The Merchants moved to its present home in a new three-story building at 505 Second Avenue North in 1965. This new building incorporated a three-tier ramp, the first ramp parking facility in North Dakota. The Merchants Bank has had a trust department since 1929, at which time it became affiliated with First Bank Stock Corporation of Minneapolis.

Again many great banking names have been associated with this fine institution — H. W. Geary, Frank R. Scott, Clarke Bassett, as presidents, with many prominent citizens holding directorships through the years, including its present directors C. Warner Litten, Edward R. Stern, William Schlossman, Charles G. Bertel, Dale L. Haakenstad, Frank R. Jones, William C. Marcell, Robert E. Pile, Darrol G. Schroeder and Lyle W. Selbo. Al K. Simpson has been the president of Merchants Bank since 1964.



Fargo National, at the foot of Broadway

Back in 1897 when it was founded, the Fargo National Bank purchased from the receiver of the defunct Citizens National Bank its property on the northwest corner of Broadway and N.P. Avenue. In 1911 the bank built a new three-story building at the same location, but after several expansions of this new building, it still was no longer adequate, and in 1958 the Fargo National Bank bought the site of the old Waldorf Hotel on the southwest corner of Main Avenue and Seventh Street South, which location was its home until 1973 when the building at the foot of Broadway in the Urban Renewal District II was built.

This is a most distinctive and beautiful building; incorporated with it are a parking ramp built by the Fargo Parking Authority on a long term lease and an office tower built above the bank. The office tower belongs to ten individuals and contains 48,000 square feet of leasable space. The air rights transaction involved between the Fargo National Bank and the owners of the office tower is the first of its type in North Dakota.

All of the above described physical changes were caused by the continuous expansion of the holdings and business of the bank. The original capital was \$50,000, and there were five stockholders. Today the bank has 144 stockholders, a capital account of more than \$5 million and total assets of over \$54 million.



The first president of the Fargo National Bank was Martin Hector, one of the bank's founders. He served until his death in 1938, a period of 41 years. His son, Fred M. Hector, Sr., then became president and served until his untimely death in 1939. Earl Shaw was president from January, 1941 to 1961, at which time he was succeeded by D. W. Palmer, who served until 1967. W. R. Braseth, the present chairman of the board, then took over as president until C. S. Miller, the present president, went into office in January, 1974. Miller is also serving as the president of the Fargo Banks Clearing House.

At the end of 1974 Fargo National Bank opened a new drive-in bank across the highway from the West Acres Shopping Center. The bank and its new facility are an independent bank.

The present board of directors include Dr. Lee Christoferson, Fred B. Scheel, James W. Crowe, Donald L. Johnson, E. M. Kvikstad, Harry M. Malm, C. S. Miller, I. A. Myhra, Dan J. O'Day, Loren Oliver, E. F. Sexton, Douglas K. Schnell, George Paul Smith and Harold R. Tait — a forward-looking and progressive board.

On December 14, 1908, Alex Stern, James Kennedy, G. W. Haggart, R. S. Lewis and other business associates organized a financial institution for the purpose of receiving savings deposits and performing other services connected with the banking business. The origi-

nal capital investment was \$100,000. From this institution the Dakota Savings Bank of Fargo was organized in December, 1916, accepting all the deposits of the original organization. It was located on the west side of Broadway in the first block north of the N.P. tracks.

The Dakota National Bank and Trust Company in its present form was organized in 1921 and has always been at its present location on the northeast corner of Broadway and N.P. Avenue, which is supposed to be the first building on which construction was started after the great fire in 1893.

The building was built and owned by Alex Stern who had first started business in the clothing store in 1880. He served as its president until his death in 1934. At that time William Stern, his son, who had been a director and officer of the bank since its inception, became president, a post he held until January 1, 1964, the time of his death. Since that time A. M. Eriksmoen has been the chief executive officer of the bank.

No member of the family of Alex Stern lives in Fargo at the present time. One son, Edward Stern, lives in Washington and New York. Alex Stern was one of Fargo's builders. He was the builder of the Edwards Building, now a part of Herbst Department Store, and the Kaufman Building. He also constructed scores of residences. He was a member of the legislature, the city commission, and mayor of Fargo, as well as a



Union State's branch at West Acres

director of many of the city's largest business institutions.

The Dakota National Bank has added a trust department and has a branch bank on South University Drive. It has also added to its sound financial structure for more than 50 years. Its directors are A. J. Daveau, Henry Gilbertson, Robert B. Herbst, J. L. McCormick, Jim Onstad, Robert J. Reardon, S. A. Stapher, Edward A. Stern, Philip Vogel and W. W. Wallwork, Jr.

The two state banks are the youngest banks in Fargo. The State Bank of Fargo was founded in 1966 and is located on Twenty-fifth Street North at the edge of the Northport Shopping Center. Its president is Eugene Rich, and its board of directors include G. Wilson Hunter, William W. Corwin, Oral Holm, Vernus Loberg, Thomas Snortland, Thomas Mikal Snortland and Norman Tenneson.

The Union State Bank of Fargo was incorporated in February, 1972, and opened its doors for business in the West Acres Shopping Center. Its president is J. P. Bennett, and the board of directors include E. G. Clapp, Jr., Paul P. Feder, Charles H. Corwin, Dr. George R. Thompson, A. M. Krider and Noel Fedje.

First Federal Savings of Fargo, the oldest savings and loan association in North Dakota, is located in an attractive building on the corner of Fourth and Broadway. It has roots that reach down to the very early days and history of Fargo.



For many years, First Federal and Northwestern Savings and Loan were side by side on Broadway. Both moved in the fifties.



Fifth Street North at Second Avenue, 1956

In March, 1880 when Fargo was a new settlement on the west bank of the Red River, people from many parts of the country and the old world were coming to the little town at the very edge of a vast unsettled area. These people wanted to find a new home for their families, but there were serious shortages of materials, supplies and ready money.

A small group of men with faith in the future of Fargo and its surrounding area decided to pool their finances for the purpose of making funds available to those new settlers. In March of 1880 the Fargo Building Association was organized. The original location was on Front Street between Broadway and Eighth Street South.

Charter members and first board of directors were Major A. W. Edwards, C. A. Roberts, John J. Shotwell, E. B. Eddy, W. F. Ball, G. Marcellus, E. A. Grant, E. B. Chambers, R. R. Briggs, A. J. Harwood and E. S. Tyler. The object of the association was stated as being "to afford its members an opportunity for a safe investment of their savings to facilitate the acquisition of a homestead and to secure to them the advantages usually expected from a savings bank and like institutions." Assets of the association were about \$50,000.

The first loan of \$1,000 was made April 27, 1880, to Charles F. Foster "for the purchase of Lots 2 and 3 of Keeney and Devitts Second Addition to Fargo, D.T.," probably the first loan of its kind in North Dakota.

This was only the first of many, and many of the homes built in Fargo since 1880, along with land purchases, have been financed by First Federal. By 1883, some 60 houses had been built in Fargo by the Association.

In 1922 the name of the Association was changed to Fargo Building and Loan Association. Its federal charter was obtained in 1935, and its name was changed again to First Federal Savings & Loan Association of Fargo. In 1953 the Association moved to 2 Broadway. In 1963 First Federal purchased property on the southeast corner of Fourth Avenue North and Broadway. Construction of the new headquarters was started in 1964. The new building was occupied in September, 1965.

In January, 1965, C. A. Williams, who had been with the Association since 1925 and president since 1957 when he succeeded Bradley Marks, was elected chairman of the board and his son, J. W. Williams, was named president. Under his guidance the Association had adhered to its policy of helping to build and purchase homes, offer financial consultation and provide a safe place to deposit savings. The present directors of First Federal are J. W. (Jack) Williams, L. B. Nordby, Dr. C. M. Hunter, Harris Lowe and Vincent Cray.

In 1924 a group of eight citizens (W. D. Gillespie, Allen Wood, J. L. Graves, M. M. Hendrickson, Thomas Greenshield, N. C. Rusk, N.

Y. Young, and W. G. Mahon) organized Gate City Building and Loan Association, which was chartered on July 2, 1923. Gillespie became the first president and its first office was housed in the Graver Hotel Building. Its assets at the end of 1923 were a little over \$17,000.

Through the tough years of the 30s Gate City continued to grow and by 1940 had become one of the leading savings and loans in the northwest. In 1940 with assets around \$1,800,000, the association moved to its own building on the southeast corner of Broadway and First Avenue North.

In 1955, when the resources of Gate City Savings had grown to \$26,500,000, the officers of the association made the decision to build a new six-story structure at Fifth Street and Second Avenue North (Gate City's present location). The \$1½ million building was to have four tenant floors with Gate City occupying the basement, main and mezzanine floors. By 1956 Meinecke-Johnson Company had completed the project and Gate City Savings had a new home.

In 1957 the association opened its first branch office in Minot, North Dakota, and is presently operating 13 offices across the state.

At the end of 1965 Gate City Savings' total assets reached \$85,921,142. Today, the largest savings and loan in North Dakota, Gate City's assets total at the end of 1974 were \$275 million.



215 North Fifth Street

Directors of the association are: John S. Whittlesey, president; John Aalsma, executive vice president; L. P. Sherwood, J. D. Runsvold, R. H. Tallman, Jacque Stockman and O. A. Holm.

Organized 49 years ago in September of 1926, Metropolitan Federal Savings and Loan Association of Fargo has shown tremendous growth climaxed in 1965 with construction of its eight-story office building at Fifth Street and Third Avenue North.

In 1926 Metropolitan's total assets were \$25,000. As of January of 1975 the figure had climbed to over \$210 million.

Original officers and directors were J. H. Dahl, president; Oscar H. Kjarlie and G. J. Hoff, vice presidents; Martin Jones, secretary and manager; W. E. Black, Treasurer; Maurice H. Jones, assistant secretary.

Gunder Olson, who was prominent in political and business circles, became president in 1928, and served in that capacity for a number of years. Gunder had been a resident of North Dakota since 1881; he had been a state senator, collector of internal revenue and was sergeant-at-arms of the first North Dakota legislature.

Martin Jones was the founder and one of the organizers of Metropolitan with the charter granted on September 24, 1926. He served as secretary and general manager until January, 1953, when he retired and was succeeded as president by Maurice H. Jones, his son.



H. H. Woledge and Gerhardt Krogh at Northwestern Savings and Loan, 1906.

Maurice H. Jones was president from 1953 to 1967, and then became chairman of the board. Norman M. Jones, Maurice's son, was elected president in 1967.

First offices of Metropolitan were on the third floor of the former Fargo National Bank Building at Broadway and N.P. Avenue. Three years later the association moved to the corner of Roberts Street and 1st Avenue North, and five years later moved to the first floor of the Universal Building, 5th Street and Fourth Avenue North.

The association stayed there for ten years, moved to 609 1st Avenue North, then moved into a new building at the corner of Fifth Street and Third Avenue North, just across the street from the eight-story structure it now occupies.

Metropolitan now has added nine full-service offices located in Wahpeton, Grafton, Grand Forks, Langdon, Lisbon, Minot, Valley City, West Acres and Bismarck.

Northwestern Savings was organized on May 17, 1893, by L. L. Champine, William B. Douglas, C. C. Schuyler, M. C. Fleming, Herbert Loomis, R. A. Shattuck and J. E. Kimmel, who was appointed general manager. In the tradition of many Fargo organizations since that time, H. F. Miller was absent from the first meeting and was elected president.

The corporate minute book makes interesting reading, sometimes comic,

occasionally tragic. Here are some items from the minutes:

The second monthly meeting of the board of directors was held on the sidewalk in front of the proposed meeting headquarters, which had just burned down.

The first loan made proved to be a mistake and had to be foreclosed a year later. Modern comparison — as of late 1974, Northwestern had not had to foreclose a mortgage loan for more than six years.

The first manager was hired at \$25 a month, and when he requested a raise to \$200 a month a few years later his resignation was immediately accepted.

A mortgage loan of \$5,000 was approved in 1897, "to be filled as soon as we have the money."

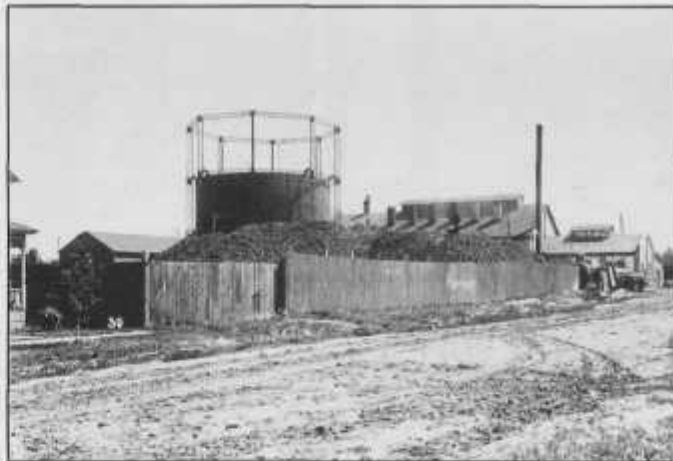
Savings interest rates ranged as high as 12 percent in 1900.

Three Fargo families had a long record of association with the firm. Herbert Loomis was one of the original incorporators, serving first as a director and later as president for a combined total of more than 40 years. His son, Charles, later served as a director for 25 years. Charles Loomis is presently a resident of St. Paul and Scottsdale, Arizona.

H. H. Woledge was an early employee and later president, serving the firm for over 50 years. Two of his sons, Hal and Bill, were also with the firm for long periods, Bill eventually serving as president.



Broadway looking North, showing the street lighting tower



Fargo's first coal gasification plant

A. M. Cornwall also served the association as an active officer for 50 years, succeeding H. H. Woledge as president.

Northwestern, which claims to be the longest continuously operating savings association in the state, is proud of its record of having paid its savers uninterrupted interest on their funds since its organization in 1893.

After many years in a building at 11 Broadway, Northwestern moved to its present location at Main and Eighth Street South in 1959. The firm currently has branches at Bismarck, Mandan and Wahpeton.

Directors now are John M. Grove, president; Donald T. Nicklawsky, vice president and secretary; Mrs. Irene Fraser, president of Cass County Abstract Company; Edward Powers, retired; and Robert Gibb, president of Robert Gibb & Sons. Charles Loomis and Lee Follett, after many years of active service, are directors emeritus.

Ten years after the first settler came to Fargo, the city fathers granted a franchise to the Fargo Gas, Light and Fuel Company. One week later, on November 7, 1881, a franchise was granted to another company, the Fargo Electric Light and Power Company.

The first company apparently never exercised its franchise, but Fargo Electric Light and Power built the first electric generating plant in Fargo in 1882. It seems to have been located

somewhere in the area of 8th Street and N.P. Avenue.

One of the principal uses of the new electricity was for street lighting. A tower 160 feet high was erected at Broadway and N.P. It had five 4,000 candlepower arc lights supported by a ring which could be lowered for trimming. The franchise specified that the tower provide light of sufficient intensity so that coarse print could be read at a distance of one-half mile. A second tower was erected on Broadway at about Fourth Avenue North during the next year. In 1897 these towers were destroyed by a tornado and never rebuilt.

Manufacture of gas was added to the generation of electricity. A coal-gasification plant was built on N.P. Avenue at Eleventh Street North. This manufacturing plant included a holding tank that was a local landmark for years. Apparently the first gas was delivered to the gas mains in 1885. In 1913 an injunction was brought against the company — Fargo's first anti-pollution suit. An exhaustive photographic record was compiled by the company at that time which showed not only that the area near the plant was clean and unpolluted but that the water filtration plant, the Kennedy Asphalt Company and the Northern Pacific locomotives chugged smoke to a far worse degree than did the gasification plant. The defense was apparently successful, for the gasification plant continued. In about 1922 the method of producing gas was changed to water-carburetion which required a new plant and new

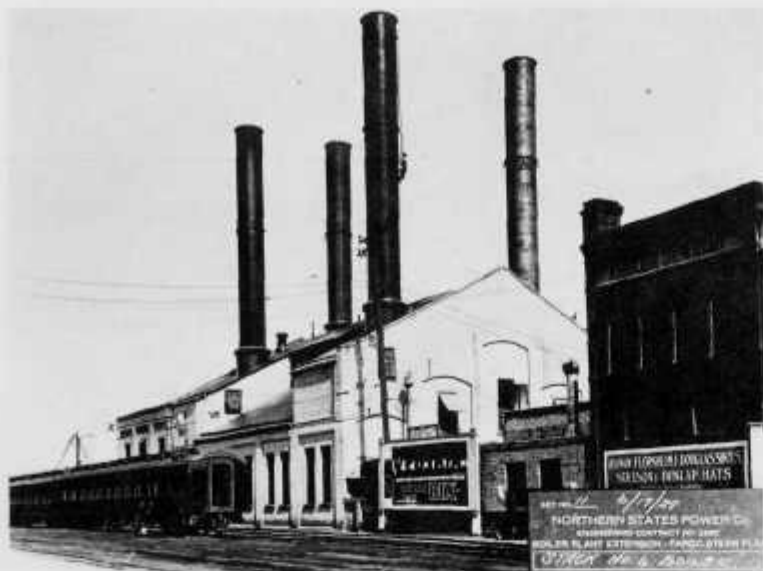
holding tank. Natural gas came to Fargo in 1960, and all traces of the old gas manufacturing plants and holding tanks are gone. This makes a particularly interesting story in light of the present day interest in coal-gasification. There is nothing new under the sun.

When the coal gasification plant was built the electric generating plant was moved into a building right next to it on N.P. Avenue. It had much larger equipment than the predecessor plant.

But competing companies began to be a problem. In May, 1888, a franchise was granted to the Fargo Incandescent Light Company. It seems to have built no facilities, but apparently merged its franchise with Fargo Electric Light and Power Company to form the Fargo Gas and Electric.

Also, in 1898 the Hughes Electric Company was granted a franchise. The Hughes Electric Company constructed a generating plant behind Herbst next to the N.P. tracks on grounds leased from the railroad. This was the location of the electric generating power plant until 1971 when its production capacity became overburdened. The plant was destroyed and electricity is now supplied to Fargo through power lines from sources outside the city.

The Hughes company grew rapidly because of alert and progressive management and constantly upgraded equipment. The Hughes family was a very prominent and successful one. One brother organized an electrical



Electric power generating plant. N.P. train and tracks in foreground



Telephone Exchange Co. employees, 1909. The building, on First Avenue North at Fifth Street, now houses the Lutheran Hospital and Homes Association.

appliance company which eventually became Hotpoint, the appliance manufacturing subsidiary of General Electric.

In the meantime in Fargo, competition between the Hughes Company, which had changed its name to Fargo Edison Company, and the Fargo Gas and Electric grew very bitter, with each company trying to steal the customers of the other. Even the poles were not safe from pilfering. Finally, in 1903, the two companies merged to become the Union Light, Heat and Power Company. The Fargo Edison Light & Power Company generating plant was torn down.

The Union Company was granted a steam heating franchise, and mains were constructed to furnish many of the downtown buildings with heat. This continued until dismantling of the power plant in 1971.

In 1910 the Consumer Power Company, which became Northern States Power in 1916, acquired the Union Light, Heat and Power Company but continued to operate under the Union name until 1937. Through the years the power plant was continually upgraded to furnish more power; the plant expanded from one stack to six stacks. Tamarack cord wood, flax straw, wood shavings, and finally North Dakota lignite coal were the fuels used to produce power.

The F-M Street Railway Company, which had been organized in 1902, was acquired by the Union Company

(itself owned by NSP) in 1911. The Moorhead end of the line was finally extended all the way to Dilworth. The Street Railway in Fargo had its best years during the late teens and twenties, although it continued to operate certain lines until its final abandonment in 1937.

In 1926, the Union Company (NSP) organized a bus company, the Northern Transit Company, which was later sold in 1937.

At the present time NSP serves 25,900 electric customers and 16,700 gas customers in the Fargo area. There are 336 miles of gas main and 130 miles of high voltage transmission lines, 440 miles of overhead distribution lines, and 120 miles of underground distribution lines.

Heads of the NSP in Fargo have been M. L. Hibbard, who eventually became the head of the Minnesota Power & Light Company; J. F. McGuire until 1945; Allen S. King, who eventually became president of NSP; Harry L. Silk; Donald McCarthy, who is presently executive vice-president of NSP; and Robert E. Pyle, the present head of the company, who came to Fargo in 1964. These men, without exception, have been civic-minded members of the community and have contributed much to its welfare.

NSP is presently located in the 2300 block on Great Northern Drive where it has concentrated its service and administrative functions.

In 1880 the Fargo Telephone Exchange Company was organized, and during the next year service was established. Mrs. C. E. Webster (Miss Bella Thompson) was the first telephone operator in Fargo and in North Dakota. The first telephone was installed in the James Holes farm home which was then in the 1200 block on Broadway — way out north of town. When the Holes placed a call, it was received by Miss Thompson at the telephone office in the attic of the Headquarters Hotel.

The first move came in 1883 when the telephone exchange was purchased by the Northwestern Company with new offices on the second floor over a livery stable located at N.P. Avenue and Roberts Street. The Central Fire Station is located there today. From 1902 to 1917, the telephone exchange was located at Fifth Street and First Avenue North in a building built specifically for their use. That building is now occupied by the Lutheran Hospital and Homes Association.

The move to the present location of the telephone company came in 1917. In 1924 the North Dakota Independent Telephone Company and Northwestern Bell Telephone Exchange merged with the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company. In addition to their own buildings, Northwestern Bell occupies three stories of the Forum Building. In these locations are housed the most modern facilities to handle the 76,791 installed telephones from which are placed 7800 long distance calls and 457,215 local calls daily. 810 employees are neces-



Northwestern Bell building, First Avenue North and Fourth Street

sary to provide this service, a far cry from the 113 telephones in Fargo in 1886, and 85,000 local calls and 713 long distance calls in 1937.

Northwestern's North Dakota headquarters are located in Fargo. The vice president for North Dakota is Richard McCormick and the local manager is J. E. Steinkopf.

In the May 1895 issue of "The Record," published by C. A. Lounsberry from 1895 to 1905, we find mention of the first organization of businessmen. Frank H. Irons, secretary, tells the story: "The Business Men's Union of Fargo is an association lately organized for the purpose of bringing Fargo 'to the front,' and as an auxiliary of the business men of the city is promoting the interests of the city. The officers are: R. S. Tyler, president; I. P. Clapp, Thomas Baker, Jr., and W. H. White, vice-presidents; P. C. Crenshaw, treasurer; and Frank H. Irons, secretary."

In 1902 The Commercial Club of Fargo was incorporated by Wm. D. Sweet, H. C. Plumley, J. C. Hurter, L. B. Hanna, T. A. Whitworth, W. J. Price, W. C. Macfadden, A. L. Wall, Hubert Harrington, S. G. Wright, G. W. Wasem, R. S. Lewis, H. W. Gearey, Morton Page, and C. A. Everhart. By amendment of its charter, this organization became the present day Chamber of Commerce in 1927.

The Commercial Club had a building of its own located on 1st Avenue North with facilities for commercial



Parlor of the Commercial Club, north side of First Avenue North, between Broadway and Fifth Street



Fargo Chamber of Commerce, 321 North Fourth Street

travelers. Its purpose was to promote the commercial and manufacturing interests of the city and assist in municipal improvements.

Today the Chamber of Commerce has its headquarters in its own building at 321 North Fourth in Fargo and is still extremely active in promoting the welfare of the citizens of Fargo. Large voluntary groups of interested citizens serve as its board of directors and committee members. E. G. Clapp is president in 1975 and Ken Larsen is its full-time executive director.

Fargo is the center for a large insurance business. Several life insurance companies have their home offices in Fargo — American Life & Casualty, a stock company at 207 North Fifth Street, Gordon Heller, president; Lincoln Mutual Life & Casualty Insurance Company at 711 North Second Avenue, C. C. Koltes, president; Pioneer Mutual Life Insurance Company, the oldest and successor of A.O.U.W., at 203 North Tenth Street, Carl Cummings, president; Security International Insurance Company, a stock company in the Manchester Building, Dave Johnson, president; Surety Mutual Life & Casualty Insurance Company at 402 South Eighth, Frank C. Gokey, president; and Western States Life Insurance Company, a stock company at 700 South Seventh Street, Dale Haakenstad, president.

In addition the home office for Nodak Mutual Insurance Company is at 1101 First Avenue North. Francis Simmers is president, and Harold

Grommesh is general manager. The North Dakota offices for Blue Cross, Hale Laybourn, president, and Blue Shield, Don Eagles, president, are located at 301 South Eighth Street.

Among the many thriving insurance agencies in the City of Fargo, Baker Insurance has the distinction of being the oldest. The firm has been in continuous existence since 1881, when it was established by Thomas Baker, Jr., who came to Fargo from Vermont. The agency was in the hands of the Baker family continuously until 1941. Thomas Baker died in 1916, and his sons, Julius and Roy, took over. Julius died in 1930 and Roy retired in 1943, having moved to California in 1941. Clay Smith became president and Claire Simpson vice-president when Roy Baker retired; they served in those capacities until Simpson took over in 1961. He retired in January, 1975, and John F. Dixon is the new president of Baker Insurance, which is now located at 810 Sixth Avenue North. There are 12 employees and the firm handles all types of insurance.

Other agencies (listed by date of founding) are:

Warner & Company, 1911, founded by Ray D. Warner. This insurance agency was the original tenant in the Black Building but has for about 12 years been in its own building at 318 Broadway. Harry Hayer heads the firm, which is owned by the employees. The business also includes real estate.

The Cosgriff Agency, 1914, headed



The Bakers, with Clay Smith and Claire Simpson of Baker Insurance. Photo taken at the company's 75th anniversary in 1956

by John Cosgriff, son of the founder. Its offices are in West Acres Shopping Center.

Dawson Insurance Agency, Inc., 1917, is a family agency founded by Charles Dawson. James and Robert Dawson, his sons, and Thomas C. Dawson, his grandson, are presently with the agency. Offices are at 20 South Eighth Street.

Fargo Insurance Agency, Inc., 1928, handles all types of insurance and has a realty department as well. Frank R. Jones is chairman of the board of the Agency. Fargo Insurance is one of the owners of the office tower over the Fargo National Bank and has its offices there.

Dixon Insurance Agency, 1953, founded by its present head, James E. Dixon, is at 1304 13th Avenue South.

In addition to being a wholesale and distribution center, Fargo is and has been, since its beginning, a retail center. All of the early business ventures were general stores where food staples, some household goods and cloth for family clothing were handled. When Onsin J. deLendrecie and Charles A. Chiniquy arrived in Fargo, they discovered drygoods were still only a sideline in these general merchandise stores. Pat Hull, in her story of merchandising in Fargo published in the "Red River Valley Historian" said, "(They) discovered in the booming frontier city people who were well dressed, fashionable, who lived in lovely homes and led full social lives. These men and women went to church, to tea, to



Black's first Broadway store

parties and to the opera house and would surely patronize the merchant who would supply them with some of the luxuries of life. This then was the place the two Frenchmen with a flair for the refinements of life selected for their new venture." This store prospered, and Eugene deLendrecie joined his brother in the store, and then O. J. Campbell and his brother, Duncan.

We have seen that the deLendrecies were soon joined by A. L. Moody and Isaac Herbst, whose businesses prospered and grew also. In 1912 George Black changed trains in Fargo. He took time to look around and one month later opened the Black Store at 112 Broadway. Years of hard work and steady growth followed. In 1929 George Black sold out to the Sears Roebuck Company; the Black Building on Broadway, then the tallest and largest building in the city, was constructed at that time. In 1935 Black opened an off-Broadway department store for women known as The Store Without A Name, becoming known as Black's after some years.

In 1945 William A. Schlossman and William Bunce joined George Black in his various business ventures. Their subsequent activities are described below:

"As we celebrate 100 years of vigorous achievement, it is natural we look ahead to new challenges and accomplishments. At the same time, it is altogether fitting that we look back on our great journey and review what has been accomplished in this great century."

A hundred years ago, if you were a merchant, you probably lived in the back of a store, because your house was your store. A hundred years ago it took about an hour to bump out by horse and wagon over the roadless prairie from the downtowns of Fargo and Moorhead to the present site of West Acres. However, the site then was nothing but wide open space and some prairie chickens.

Today, people arrive by super interstate freeways in cars from distances of 50 to 60 miles in the same one hour of time to shop in total comfort year 'round inside this beautiful, gleaming white West Acres Shopping Center, which can be likened to the "town square" of yesterday.

Every idea is a dream of someone, and West Acres came out of the creative imagination of W. A. (Bill) Schlossman, a long-time real estate developer of Fargo. He formed the development company and headed the original team made up of Foss, Engelstad & Foss, architects and engineers, general contractors Donald L. Johnson, Charles R. Nolan and John L. McCormick, and a retailer, William E. Bunce, with advice and counsel of A. W. Shupienis, a lawyer, and J. Dayner Roman, a public relations consultant. With that kind of a team, construction moved fast.

The first shovel of dirt was turned on April 21, 1971, and two days short of one year later, on April 19, 1972, Sears moved into the first completed portion. Fifteen weeks later, on



The fountain at West Acres, designed by P. Richard Szeitz of Moorhead State College



West Acres Regional Shopping Center, located at the intersection of two continental interstates — I-29 and I-94 — the largest shopping center between Minneapolis and the Pacific West Coast.

August 2, 1972, the balance of the building was completed for 80 more stores, plus deLendrecie's which was the second large national department store to join the center. Dayton's, of Minneapolis, chose the first birthday of West Acres to open its first store outside of Minnesota, and on August 2, 1973, Dayton's became the third major department store of the West Acres family.

With 16 acres of shopping area under one roof and containing a five-block-long climate-controlled mall, this structure is the largest shopping center in the 1400-mile stretch between Minneapolis and Spokane,

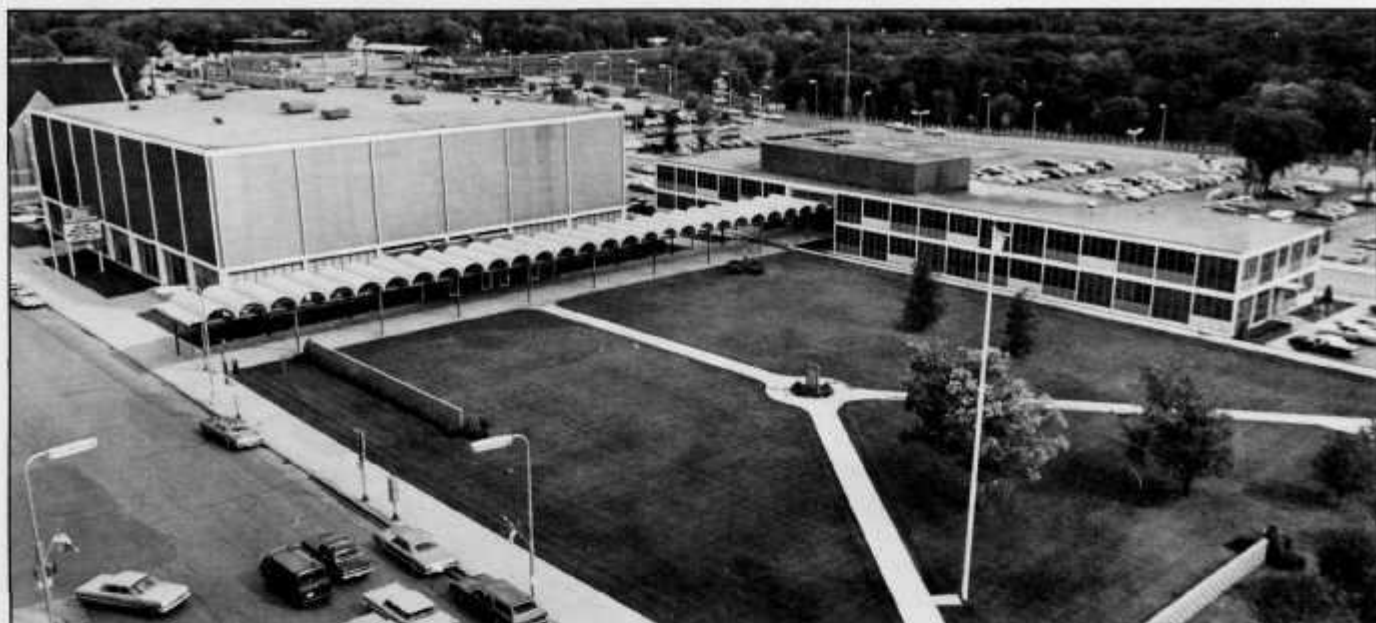
Wash. Serving the needs of its customers from a broad trade area, it is considered the area's most revolutionary major change in retailing in the past hundred years.

The location of West Acres, at the intersection of I-29 and I-94, triggered the fast immediate development of the adjacent areas. It created new job opportunities for nearly 1500 people at West Acres and all of the businesses developing in the vicinity created several hundred more new jobs. The economic impact on the whole Fargo-Moorhead area has been tremendous.

West Acres has a third phase plan to accommodate a fourth major department store, plus additional mall stores, within the next five years.

What was prairie chicken land a hundred years ago, and a wheat field as late as the early 1970s, was transformed into a beautiful and functional concrete shopping center by men, money, machines and materials with the result taking the name West Acres Regional Shopping Center.

Who knows what it will be in the year 2075? It was built to stand a long time.



Civic Auditorium and City Hall

On Thursday evening, February 25, 1960, Fargo was designated an All-America City. The award was presented by Lloyd Hale of Minneapolis, representing the National Municipal League, which along with "Look" magazine sponsored the All-America Contest. The award was accepted on behalf of the citizens by Mayor Herschel Lashkowitz, mayor from 1954 to 1974.

While the new civic center, consisting of a new City Hall and a new City Auditorium, was the focal point, many other improvements in the preceding ten or twelve years were also responsible for the award. The decades of the thirties and forties had been occupied with the years of drought, and with a national and world-wide depression followed by World War II. Civic improvements had been less than startling during those decades.

The successful \$2 million bond drive in 1948 for Benjamin Franklin Junior High School and an addition to Agassiz Junior High School, spearheaded by Mart R. Vogel, a civic-minded Fargo attorney, seemed to have been the turning point in efforts to improve the city. Then a group of citizens headed by William Schlossman and C. Warner Litten banded together as "Citizens for City Planning" in 1955 to work for the Civic Center. The Executive Committee of the group was Harold Bangert, J. W. Cohen, A. B. Fitzloff, Betty Good, Steve Gorman, Jr., Rev. J. N. Quello, George Soule, Edward R. Stern and Mart R. Vogel.

Harold Bangert is given a great deal of the credit for the fact that at this point Urban Renewal came into the picture. Aid based on the federal legislation designed to help the recovery of blighted cities was sought. An Urban Renewal area was established in which were built by 1960 the new city hall and auditorium complex, and later the city library and the Chamber of Commerce building. A lovely open, landscaped area separates these buildings.

During the years between 1948 and 1960 many other improvements also took place. Broadway was repaved and relighted; the Red River flood control project which changed the course of the river and which built a dike to prevent flooding was completed during 1959. Its worth was established during the great flood of 1969. A new swimming pool, named for Harry Howland, was built on the north side of town. A successful fund drive for the new YMCA-YWCA Building was completed. More than six million dollars was spent on public school construction; seven new buildings were built, and additions and remodeling work was done on some of the older buildings. An addition was built onto St. Luke's Hospital; the Fargo Nursing Home began operation. Shanley High School was built, as well as the Holy Spirit grade school and church. The Lutheran elementary school was constructed as well as a new Children's Village Center, and the Opportunity School established.

It was indeed a busy twelve years,

and the face of Fargo was altered. The many highly laudatory accomplishments were the result of an active citizenry. People from all walks of life combined for their achievement. It should have surprised no one that such efforts resulted in the choosing of Fargo as an All-America City.

Commensurate with concerns for Fargo's good and welfare, back in the early 40s a group of civic-minded businessmen began discussions which led to the formation in 1946 of the Fargo Industrial Development Corporation, a non-profit corporation formed by this group with the cooperation of the Fargo Chamber of Commerce, the Fargo City Commission and the Fargo Planning Commission to purchase land in the industrial area just west of the city to make it available to industry at the least possible cost. The incorporators were Bradley C. Marks, Max Goldberg and Homer Ludwick. The first officers were Bradley C. Marks, president; Max Goldberg, vice-president; Homer W. Ludwick, secretary; and Frank R. Scott, treasurer. Other original directors were George M. Black, J. D. Farnham and E. J. Schonberg. In addition to officers and directors, other original members of the corporation were H. R. Arneson, Sr.; R. H. Barry; N. D. Black, Jr.; Henry R. Bonde; R. R. Borman; Ralph Butterwick; Duncan Campbell; O. J. Campbell; Charles A. Dawson; C. O. Follett; W. R. Haggart; Robert K. Herbst; Carl O. Jorgenson; Allen S. King; John B. McWethy; Gordon

Nesbitt; J. G. Neima; H. G. Nilles; H. D. Paulson; Thomas L. Powers; Earl L. Shaw; E. E. Simonson; O. B. Skadland; Donald A. Smith; T. O. Smith; Sam Stern; Mortimer A. Wilk; and George Willming.

Through the years, the Industrial Development Corporation has acted as sales agent for the City of Fargo to insure reasonable land costs to encourage new industry to locate in Fargo. The reason for its being was to have locations ready when industries came along.

The corporation began buying up property for resale to industries, in the area west of University Drive to Main Avenue on the south, Great Northern Drive on the north, and extending beyond the city limits to the west. Property became available at low cost to industries desiring to locate there, and the facilities were installed to provide necessary services. An interesting 1952 map of the area is shown below:

The corporation's efforts culminated in 1970 when land for an Industrial Park was purchased. The Park contains 187 acres and was the result of a fund drive sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. \$800,000 was raised as a base for development of a program to attract new industry to the Fargo community.

Everything possible has been done to make the Fargo Industrial Park appeal to the industrialist. Rail spurs to location, hard-surfaced streets, with curbs and gutters, underground

utilities, mercury vapor street lights, off-street parking, full city services and industrial zoning — all these considerations will make business more efficient and profitable.

Nine new plants employing 327 people are already in operation in the Park, with two more in the planning stages. Varying in building size from 5,000 up to 60,000 square feet, these firms include United Parcel Service, Helena Chemical Company, Northwest Beverage Company, Super-Valu, Dahlgren and Company, Division of Beatrice Foods, Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company, Custom Fabricators, and Harv-Al Athletic Manufacturing Company.

One technique for attracting industry is to provide suitable buildings that can meet a prospect's requirements. The tenth building in the Park is a new 28,800 square foot "speculative" building, built by the corporation to provide readily available space to new or expanding industry. Located on a 5.5 acre site with rail service available, the building can be finished to the exact specifications of the prospective tenant firm.

Although the 187-acre Park has been planned with aesthetics in mind — the land is fully graded, numerous trees have been planted and it is protected by covenants against depreciation — it lies alongside I-29 and less than two miles from a major interstate junction with I-94. And the Burlington Northern and major airline service are easily accessible from the location.

Present officers are Harold Tait, president; Robert Pyle, vice-president; Perry Clark, secretary; and H. Don Stockman, treasurer. The present directors are John Alsop, Prentiss Cole, Mrs. O. Pat Wold, Dale Haakenstad, Richard Hentges, Robert B. Herbst, E. M. Kvikstad, Homer Ludwick, Frank Mirgain, Dan O'Day, John Paulson, William Schlossman, Douglas Schnell and Claire Simpson. The Industrial Development manager is Robert F. Everson.

Fargo is rightfully proud of its new Industrial Park. It is a well-planned investment not only in Fargo's future, but in North Dakota's as well.

A person born and raised in Fargo before 1900 would have no difficulty today recognizing downtown. Its boundaries are still, generally, the same, from the river to Eighth Street and from First Avenue South to the Great Northern (Burlington Northern) tracks. Buildings and activities have changed over the years, however.

Today, more than fifty per cent of the buildings in downtown Fargo were constructed in the 21 years between the fire of 1893 and 1914. At that time, downtown was not only the retail, financial and professional business center, but also contained a large number of wholesale houses, particularly those handling farm machinery, groceries, lumber, and harness. A second building spurt from the mid-twenties until the Great Depression in 1930 gave downtown the Black Building and the

First National Bank, Pioneer Mutual Life, and the Forum Buildings.

From the beginning of the Depression until several years after World War II, the buildings and character of downtown Fargo remained stable. Then, with the improvement of the county rural road systems and the shift to highway as opposed to railroad shipping and travel, downtown started to change. The wholesale houses moved to the west edge of the city, and they were followed by the automobile dealers, the lumberyards, and the hardware merchants. The hotel business, which had flourished downtown for over fifty years, began to die and motels sprang up on the edge of the city. The hotels, in turn, were followed by restaurants, theaters and other services.

The gradual change to downtown did not go unnoticed, and in 1955 a group of businessmen initiated the first of two urban renewal programs which started a building period in downtown which still continues and is changing the face of the central business district. Despite urban renewal programs, business activity continued to fade in the downtown area, and by 1965 it became obvious that it was just a matter of time before the retail business that Fargo's downtown had enjoyed for so many years would also be moving to shopping centers on the outskirts of the city.

In hopes of delaying or blunting the loss of retail business in downtown, the Chamber of Commerce with the



Red River Mall

help of the Forum and the City Planning Commission, initiated legislation authorizing a Parking Authority with the purpose of providing ample and convenient automobile parking downtown. Under the leadership of Edward Stern of the Straus Company, the Board of the Parking Authority was formed, made up of leading businessmen — Fred Scheel, Robert Herbst, John Whittlesey and Stanley Larson, and aided by E. G. Clapp, Jr., as secretary. This body, with approval of the City Commission, removed many of the old buildings back of Broadway, including the Carnegie Library, the Masonic Temple, the Improvement Building, Fargo Glass & Paint Company warehouse on N.P. Avenue, and the Grand Theatre. In their places, parking lots were created which serve the retail businesses facing Broadway. The board did not stop with the destruction of buildings but was instrumental in the construction of the Lark Theatre, built on stilts above the parking lot at First

Avenue and Roberts Street, assisting the Fargo National Bank in new building by financing its parking ramp, and in the creation of the Red River Mall, which involved refurbishing a three-block section of Broadway, narrowing the street, providing covered walkways, and planting trees and shrubs. All the Board's activities were done with the purpose of making Broadway a pleasant place to shop.

Today, in 1975, downtown Fargo is still the financial, professional, and communications center of the city and the area. While its retail business is still of a regional nature, it is subordinate to that of the West Acres Shopping Center on the edge of the city. Nevertheless, with more and more apartment buildings being constructed on the periphery of downtown and the expansion of Fargo as an industrial center, it is fully expected that the central business sector will continue to prosper as it has in the past.



Broadway before the fire of 1893



The Great Flood of 1897



Great Northern Depot after 1890 Tornado



Fargo at a Glance

LOCATION: Latitude, 46 degrees 54 minutes north; longitude, 96 degrees, 48 minutes

AVERAGE ELEVATION: 896 feet

CLIMATE: Annual mean temperature, 40.8 degrees; highest temperature, 114 on July 6, 1936; lowest temperature, minus 48 on January 8, 1887; average annual rainfall 19.62 inches

FOUNDED: 1871

CITY INCORPORATED: January 5, 1875

AREA: 16.1 sq. miles; 10,292.99 acres

SCHOOLS: 17 public, 8 parochial, 6 trade, 2 private nursery and kindergarten; 2 business colleges, 2 special education, and 1 state university

STREETS: 167.09 miles platted streets; 24.35 platted alleys

SIDEWALKS: 214 miles

SEWERS: 51½ miles

WATER MAINS: 346 miles; 13,307 customers

GAS MAINS: 336 miles; 17,000 customers approx.

POWER DISTRIBUTION LINES: 560 miles; 25,900 customers

TELEPHONES: 76,791; 457,215 calls daily; 810 employees (includes areas listed in telephone book)

***MILES IN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM:** 555 per day plus 110 miles North-South High School shuttles, 130 miles Tri-College shuttles, 45 miles high and junior high school specials in city and 975 miles in country to city schools, 90 miles in 5 Fargo-West Acres-West Fargo round trips, 60 miles for special education classes, plus charter driving for public schools and Opportunity School and Senior Citizens.

RAILROADS: 2 passenger trains daily, 2 triweekly

BUS LINES: 3; 28 schedules daily

CITY PARKS: 26; 904 acres (including 9 new parks and 200 acres added last 4 years)

AIRPORTS: 1; 2 commercial airlines; 4 charter aircraft companies

HOTELS: 14

MOTELS: 6

HOSPITALS: 3 general including TNI, 1 government; 929 beds including 60 bed ATU plus baby bassinets plus 71 extended care nursing beds in hospitals plus 30 private nursing homes

COMMERCIAL BANKS: 6; Savings & Loan Associations: 4

***MILES IN SYSTEM:** 9 routes cover about 135 miles (13-16 miles per route)

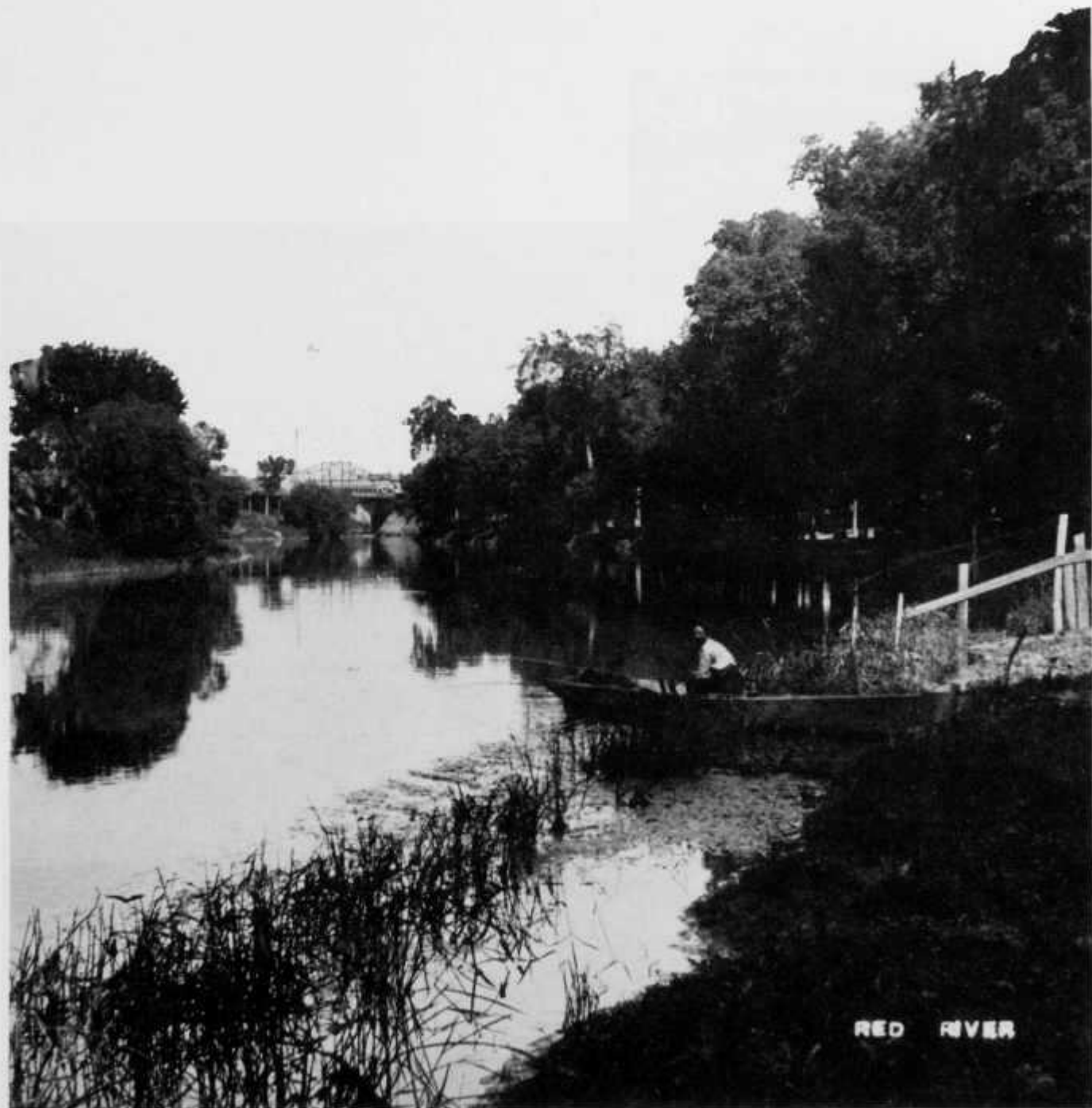


Broadway looking South



A summer afternoon in 1959

Moorhead, Minnesota



Red River Scene in the 1880s near Woodland Park

Early Settlement

French-Canadian voyageurs were the first white men to reach this area in the middle of the North American continent. More than two centuries ago they came in search of furs and to trade with the Indians of the Red River Valley — the Sioux and the Chippewa. There was no voyageur post very near the present site of Moorhead-Fargo: the nearest were Frenchman's Bluff (Syré), Brainerd, Red Lake Falls, and Pembina (Georgetown belonged to a later era and had a different function). But the long voyageur canoes — bringing in trade goods and taking out furs — moved up and down the Red River by 1720. They had explored Lake Superior by 1675, three hundred years ago. In the next fifty years they pushed into the Valley by two routes: along the border waters from Grand Portage, up the Pigeon River, through Rainy Lake, the Rainy River, and Lake of the Woods to the Red River; also down from Hudson Bay, through Lake Winnipeg and up the Red River to Moorhead and beyond. Their canoes ventured up the tributaries of the Red — the Buffalo, Wild Rice, Sheyenne and many others; the furs went back to Grand Portage, Michilimackinac, and Montreal, or to Fort Garry, Hudson Bay, and on to London.

The heyday of the Montreal fur trade, the heroic age of the voyageurs, was the fifty years from 1770 to 1820. The great trapping and trading region was the border country, and the rivers and lakes just north of the U.S.-Canadian boundary; but the French-Canadians who went westward from

the St. Lawrence also worked the Red River and its tributaries. In 1821, however, their North West Company was swallowed by the rival Hudson's Bay Company.

The Hudson's Bay Company

The Hudson's Bay Company had been formed in 1670 by Prince Rupert of England and seventeen members of the English nobility. Two Frenchmen were really responsible for the chartering of this "company of adventurers of England, trading into Hudson Bay." Pierre Radisson and his brother-in-law had been successful traders in New France, but the French governor confiscated their profits for his own use; so they went to England, where they interested King Charles II and Prince Rupert in English fur trade in the New World. The king granted to these "gentlemen adventurers" the right to all the land drained by Hudson Bay. This included the Red River basin. The land thus outlined was called "Rupert's Land" and was ruled locally by a Governor-in-Chief, in later years in residence at Fort Garry (Winnipeg).

The main purpose of the Hudson's Bay Company was to further trade with the Indians, who were treated generously and with fairness. Beaver were abundant in the Red River Valley. The most southern and last-constructed fur trading post was built in 1859 at Georgetown (present location of the Clay County Park).

Georgetown, which was named for Sir George Simpson, Governor-in-Chief of Rupert's Land, already existed as a trading post: it was noted on an 1858 Minnesota State map. James McKay was the first agent at the post from 1859 to 1860; he was followed by Chief Trader Alexander Hunter Murray — founder of Fort Yukon, Alaska (1860-62), Norman W. Kittson (1862-63), R. M. Probstfield (1863-64), and W. J. S. Traill (1870-75). The post was closed in 1875 because of the decline in available pelts.

The reconstructed warehouse at Georgetown is unique in that it is the only one in the nation with original timbers. It was a two-story structure measuring 28 by 50 feet. In peak season more than a million dollars worth of furs were stored. When the furs arrived they were salted and stored until picked up by a barge or cart and taken to Fort Garry, and then shipped to London from Hudson Bay.

The voyageurs were travellers (which is what the French word means), not settlers; and the Hudson's Bay Company, like the North West, was interested in furs, not colonization. However, in 1811 the Earl of Selkirk obtained a huge tract from the Hudson's Bay Company for a colonization scheme; this led to the first settlement in the Red River Valley, at Pembina, and indirectly to the settlement of Moorhead. Selkirk planned an agricultural settlement of evicted Scottish crofters, who would raise food for the Hudson's Bay people, the voyageurs and others. From 1811



Valley Indians photographed at Flaten Studio in 1885

to 1813 he brought his first contingents of Scottish colonists to the junction of the Assiniboine and the Red Rivers, 20 miles north of the forty-ninth parallel. The Selkirk Red River Colony had serious problems from the start: floods, famine, and attacks from rival North West trappers and traders who saw these farmers as a threat to their very existence. Other Selkirk settlers followed, however, including some Germans and Swiss, and soldiers were brought in to protect them. Some of the Selkirkers ventured so far south along the Red River that their Pembina settlement was found to be on the U.S. side of the border, and some others abandoned their Canadian colony to settle near Fort Snelling. Most important of all for the history of Moorhead, these early Canadian settlements in the Winnipeg area soon discovered that their easiest access to the outside world was up the Red River and thence across to the Mississippi. This led to the Red River ox cart trails, to steamboats on the Red River, and eventually to the land-and-water route with Moorhead as the rail-steamboat transfer point.

American settlement had not developed far enough north and west to clash with Selkirk's claims of millions of acres, but British-American negotiations and treaties focused attention on American-Canadian border definition — and incidentally on the Red River Valley. When the Treaty of 1783 was drawn up, no one knew where the Mississippi River began. After the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, the

question became even more important. The Lewis and Clark expedition of 1804-06 was the most important answer, but for Minnesota two lesser ventures were more significant. In 1805 Lt. Zebulon Pike went up the Mississippi from St. Louis; he obtained from the Sioux the land on which Fort Snelling was built a few years later, raised the American flag and warned the British traders, and reached Cass and Leech Lakes, which he called the sources of the Mississippi River.

The United States suffered setbacks in the North and West in a second war with the British in 1812, but after the Treaty of Ghent was ratified in 1815 the American government moved against British encroachment in the Red River and along the northern border of Minnesota. In 1797 Charles Jean Baptiste Chaboillez had established an important fur trading post at Pembina for the North West Company of Montreal traders. He may have had warning that his post was just south of the probable Canadian-American border, but any doubt was removed by the arrival of Major Stephen Long of the U.S. Army in 1823. Long, who had taught mathematics at Dartmouth, was an experienced topographical engineer. In 1817 he had selected the site for Fort Snelling, which was begun by Col. Leavenworth in 1819 and built by Col. Snelling from 1820 to 1827. In 1820 the Earl of Selkirk died, beset with problems and broken in health. In 1821 the North West Company merged with the Hudson's Bay Com-

pany, ending their bloody fur trade rivalry. Major Long's 1823 expedition "was virtually a circumnavigation of Minnesota." It was a learned, highly-skilled party, guided by the famous half-breed trader Joseph Ren-ville; they moved up the Mississippi from Prairie du Chien, paused at Fort Snelling and went up the Minnesota — some travelling by canoe and others by land. In western Minnesota, when they turned northward up the Red River Valley, Long saw large herds of buffalo; at Lake Traverse his party joined a small train of two-wheeled ox carts and moved with them along the east side of the Bois de Sioux and Red Rivers to Pembina. This settlement of 350 people, white and Indian intermarried, had 60 cabins, all but one south of the forty-ninth parallel and thus American. Long's expedition, after marking the border and proclaiming American sovereignty, went on to the Winnipeg area and across to the Lake of the Woods and Lake Superior. This expedition was of major importance in the history of the region for several reasons. Theodore Blegen emphasizes the importance of the two-volume narrative of the Long expedition prepared by one of its members, William H. Keating: "This work, published in America, England, and Germany, gave the world its first accurate knowledge of some of the richest agricultural lands of the continent."

Red River Trails

After 1823 official maps of the northern mid-continent of North America

carried notations of the Red River trails which ran north and south along each side of the Red River from Fort Garry (Winnipeg) to Lake Traverse, then through Big Stone Lake and down the Minnesota River to Fort Snelling (St. Paul); some of the trails branched east overland to the Mississippi in a more direct line from the Red River. The trails made connections with all the English and American fur trade routes throughout the Hudson Bay drainage basin, to the Great Lakes, and to the Mississippi. This entire area, originally called Rupert's Land and later Assiniboia, was opened up for settlers by the more than fifty years of heavy fur trading.

The ox carts were simple boxes set between two very large wooden wheels, often simply a slice from a large tree trunk and pulled by one ox. These vehicles were a specialized creation resulting from ground surface conditions, weather extremes, and the bulky freight. The rate of travel was extremely slow, but each cart could carry about 800 lbs. of freight. A census in 1849 claimed 2000 carts and over 2000 oxen on the Red River Oxcart trail that year; but by 1875 they had come to an end, superseded by the riverboats and railroads.

At the northern end of the Red River Valley were its earliest settlements, Pembina and Fort Garry, and beyond them the far northern and western reaches of the fur trade — Lake Athabasca, the Rockies and the Pacific Coast. After 1800 the settlers and

traders of Fort Garry and Pembina increased their traffic up the Red River to Lake Traverse and then down the Minnesota and Mississippi to Prairie du Chien. In 1686 a French fort had been built where the Fox-Wisconsin rivers route from the Great Lakes reaches the Mississippi; and before the American Revolution this Wisconsin town across the river from southeastern corner of Minnesota was a very thriving trading center — its river front crowded with canoes from Mackinac and New Orleans. When the Selkirkers were desperate for seed grain or the supplies that only civilization could supply, they followed the Red River south — to Prairie du Chien.

After 1820 they found civilization 150 miles closer, at Fort Snelling and the settlements that grew up nearby, especially St. Paul. The first trade with Prairie du Chien and Fort Snelling was by Red River ox carts, although an early expedition for seed grain had proved that the rivers could be used to transport heavy loads. By 1860 — actually a few years earlier — when the railroads reached the Mississippi River, the traffic over this route became very heavy. There are accounts of trains of ox carts several miles long plodding across the Red River prairies; the squeaking of their axles could be heard a great distance and the ruts made by their wheels left trails that are still visible.

Ox Cart Settlements

These trails and their traffic produced some settlements in the Red River

Valley, though most of them disappeared after the railroads imposed a new pattern of traffic on the area. Breckenridge, at the head of Red River navigation, was platted in 1856. It was the last stop upriver before Lake Traverse and the trail along the Minnesota River southeast to St. Paul. The next stop north was McCauleyville, which grew up on the east side of the river as a result of Fort Abercrombie. This was the first American fort in the Red River Valley and Dakota Territory, established in August, 1858 for the protection of the fur traders, settlers and early parties of explorers and gold seekers. During the 1862-63 Indian trouble Fort Abercrombie provided refuge for the white people of the upper valley on both sides of the river.

Seven miles south of Moorhead the land on the Minnesota side slopes gently westerly down to river level. This natural spot for watering animals and crossing the river was called *Burlington* in 1860 stagecoach days. Moorhead was named *Burbank* to honor the stageline owner; the town was given its present name in 1871 when it acquired a post office and was officially platted in anticipation of the Northern Pacific Railroad arrival in December of that year. The county name was changed from Breckenridge to Clay County.

North of Moorhead was Georgetown, the Hudson's Bay trading post, and across the trail to the east was a small American fort established after the U.S.-Canadian border was determined; Georgetown also became a



Main Street in 1883 with carriage and wagon maker John Johnson, Express Building, and the two-story brick building on the corner of Fourth Street, the location of Ole Martinson's first grocery store

post office and way station of the stagecoach line. Pembina, on the west of the river, the site of Joe Rolette's American Fur Trading Company post, is the oldest town on the Red River in American territory. It was also the first big river port south of Fort Garry (Winnipeg).

Burbank Station

By 1859 one of the Red River ox cart routes was responsible for the first building in what is now Moorhead. This trail originated at the American Fur Trading Post at Pembina, travelled south along the Red River to the Hudson's Bay Post at Georgetown, then south on a slightly eastern angle through the Concordia campus to what was Burlington, seven miles south of Moorhead. The trail in later years branched east after reaching McCauleyville, to St. Cloud and St. Paul. This ox cart route created a natural stagecoach trail.

The Burbank, Blakely & Merriam Stage and Freighting Co. established a stagecoach line, the Minnesota Stage Company, with mail and freight contract connections to St. Paul, in 1859. Stage way stations and inns were necessary at frequent intervals along the trail. Lewis Lewiston, age 27, a stage company employee, built a log building here at the approximate location of the northeast corner of Seventh and First Ave. N., facing south, north of the trail. It was a one-story, solidly-built log cabin with its nearest neighbors at Georgetown.

The cabin served as home for Lewis-

ton, his wife Lizzie, 21, and their twin babies, as well as providing a way station and inn for serving meals to stage drivers and passengers and, when necessary, providing overnight accommodations for any passengers and the driver. It was abandoned in 1862 during the Indian trouble, but later served as home for many early settlers here — Joab Smith, James Blanchard, for a time Andrew Holes. After renovation years later, it has been preserved in Woodlawn Park.

There is no comprehensive account of the Moorhead area before the coming of the railroad in 1871, but there are scattered facts and some accounts that seem authentic. In 1857 Charles Slayton, a hunter and adventurer from the LaCrosse region of Wisconsin, traveled west and north through Minnesota until he reached the Red River of the North. In the Breckenridge area he obtained a canoe and went down the river to Fort Garry. Here he bought a pony and rode across the plains to the upper Missouri River, in western North Dakota or eastern Montana. He built a cabin and spent the winter of 1857-58 hunting and trapping. In the late spring he built a raft, floated his furs down the Missouri to St. James, sold them and returned to his home at Leon, Wisconsin, near Sparta. Slayton had been so much impressed by the Red River Valley that he persuaded 22 other people, half of them his relatives, to go back with him as colonists, on June 1, 1859. They reached the present site of Moorhead on

September 17, 1859, built cabins, cut hay for their livestock, and settled in for the winter. There were 10 men, 5 women, and 8 children in the Slayton settlement, which was located about a mile north of the present Center Avenue.

In July, 1861 the Chippewa Indians of the area held a great ceremonial assembly near Moorhead. Their object was to stop the encroachment of whites into the region. At the end of the 10-day gathering, the Indians warned the new settlers of an impending Indian war, and all of the colonists left in September, 1861 except Charles Slayton, his wife Zere, and their infant son Lorenzo, probably the first white child born in Moorhead. In 1862 another two-week Indian gathering near Fargo convinced the Slaytons to leave the area. After making a start back to Wisconsin Charles Slayton returned to retrieve a gun he had left; he found the colony's cabins burned and barely escaped with his life from seven Indians who had previously been friendly to him.

Minnesota was organized into a territory in 1849 and became the thirty-second state in the union in 1858. However, the Minnesotans involved in these events were 200 miles or more to the south and east of Moorhead, and other events seemed much more important to the Red River Valley for several decades: steamboats on the river, the railroads pushing west and northward, and the promotion of land sales, wheat production, and large-scale immigration.



Randolph Probstfield and his family

The young state's development was held up by the Civil War and even more by the Sioux War of 1862, but in the Red River Valley that Indian uprising meant the end of white settlement for nearly a decade.

Clay County (then called Breckenridge County) had 79 residents when a census was taken in 1860 by Surveyor Oscar Taylor. The names of these early but not permanent settlers are available; they include the Slayton party, identified by age, sex, and occupation, as well as the Lewis Lewiston family. Many of the names are French; it seems probable that these people were employees brought down from Canada by the Hudson's Bay Company. Five years later the population was reduced to 17, and for several years it was probably reduced to one man, Randolph Probstfield, who had been listed on the 1860 census as R. M. Probstfield, male 28 — farmer.

Probstfield — Northup

Probstfield's story is told elsewhere, but the account he gave of his coming to the Red River Valley is worth noting. D. W. Meeker of the Moorhead *Independent* presumably based his 1899 article on an interview with Probstfield: "He had heard of the rich agricultural lands of the Red River Valley and decided to seek fortune in this undeveloped country. His narrative from the time he left St. Paul, February 26, 1859 for the Red River Valley is particularly interesting. Accompanying him were George Emerling and Gerhardt Lulls-

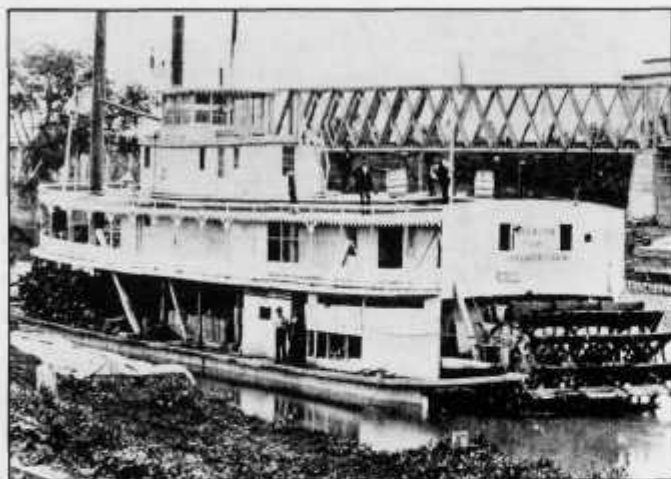
dorf. . . . The journey to the Red River was a hard one in many respects. There was no snow until they reached Sauk Rapids. At what is now Little Falls, or near there, at Luther's, they left their wagon and took sleds.

"Crow Wing, 15 miles below what is now Brainerd, was the outside settlement except that there was a land office at Otter Tail City. . . . On the way from Otter Tail they caught up with Anson Northup's expedition en route to the Red River for the purpose of building a steamboat. Desirous of opening trade with the Hudson Bay interests the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce had offered a bonus of ten thousand dollars for the construction of a steamboat on the Red River of the North and Anson Northup had undertaken to earn that money. His expedition consisted of 44 men and a large number of ox teams. Baldwin Olmstead, Lewis Stone, and George Stone were interested with Northup and were leading characters in the expedition. The machinery was from the old North Star, which ran on the Mississippi above Minneapolis, and was taken from the boat when she lay on the Gull River, about six miles by land from Crow Wing.

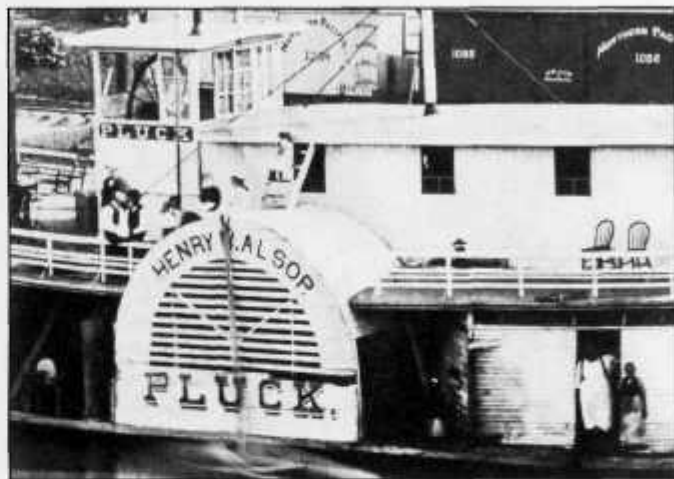
"The snow had become very deep, and it was snowing every day. About March 12 the expedition was out of hay and Probstfield went to the south end of Otter Tail Lake and it took three days for the trip. The snow was three feet deep and more coming. Reaching Oak Lake they could go no

further and were compelled to cut down trees to enable their ponies to live. So far they had followed the Hudson Bay and half-breed cart trails. From there they must try an unknown country, buried in snow, and it took several days' exploration before they dared to strike out. After ten days waiting the Northup party caught up with them and the explorations having been completed they struck out for the mouth of the Sheyenne, about ten miles north of Fargo and Moorhead. They struck the Buffalo, six miles east of the Red River, March 31, 1859, and Probstfield rode into Lafayette late in the evening for provisions, the whole party being out of supplies. This point was then known as Lafayette. Edward Murphy from Montreal, Charles Nash and Henry Myers from New York were then living there. Across the river two men were holding down a townsite known as Dakota City, for Pierre Bottineau and others of Minneapolis. The men were Frank Durand and David Auge. That was before Dakota was created and the territory was unorganized and unattached.

"Richard Banning lived one and a half miles north of Sheyenne City. One half mile further north George W. Northrop and his partner Cloren lived in a nameless city. Northrop was a great hunter and trapper and was often employed by English noblemen to accompany them on buffalo hunts. He was killed under General Sully during the Indian war July 28, '64. Ten miles south of Sheyenne, where



The Selkirk of Grand Forks going downstream to Winnipeg in 1879, pictured here just south of the NRR tracks after taking on a new load of wood upstream.



The Pluck, built in Moorhead's Alsop Boatyards, regularly plied the river between here and Winnipeg during the seventies. As late as 1887 men who worked and lived on board were listed in the city directory.

Mr. Probstfield now lives, then known as 10-mile Point, Robert Davis then resided. Eighty rods north of him was the home of John Hanna. Ed. Griffin, now living at Fargo, and James Anderson, alias Robinson Crusoe, were also in the vicinity, Griffin at the mouth of the Wild Rice. This was before Georgetown was established and these were practically all of the white settlers south of Pembina in the Red River Valley.

"Probstfield succeeded in obtaining supplies at Lafayette, consisting of pork and flour, and the night was spent in baking biscuits. He started on the return early and the hungry men soon had relief. That night the expedition reached Lafayette — the mouth of the Sheyenne — and in a few days the machinery which had been left at various points enroute, owing to the bad roads, was brought in. A pit was dug and the men set to work with a whip saw to cut lumber for the boat. By this process two men could cut about 250 feet per day if the timber was frozen. When not frozen not more than 175 feet could be cut. It was a tedious process but the material was supplied by and by and the hull of the boat completed. After the completion of the hull it was run up to Abercrombie where the cabin was put on. There was plenty of business on the river and Northup had trouble enough of his own and proceeded to St. Paul where he collected his bonus for the construction of the boat and then tied her up. He had agreed to put a boat on the Red

River but not to run her, and by refusing forced her sale to Blakely and Carpenter."

Other accounts say that the prize Northup claimed was \$1000 or \$2000, not \$10,000. Probstfield saw a good deal of the steamboats that succeeded the Northup boat, but this story is told elsewhere. The boats passed his Oakport farmstead and stopped to buy cordwood and vegetables from him. Sometimes, he alleged, the boatmen forgot to pay for the wood fuel they took on. Probstfield and Andrew Holes were passengers on the second Red River steamboat, the *International*, when the boat made its first trip to Fort Garry in 1862. Also built at Georgetown, this was a much larger and much better craft than the *Anse Northup* and was an important Red River boat for fifteen years.

Sioux Uprising

An 1899 article on Randolph Probstfield gives a graphic account of this attempt at settlement which began in 1859, when the first steamboat was put on the river. Although the setting is Georgetown, not Moorhead, Probstfield's story shows why colonization in the Red River Valley was held up for a dozen years; the coming of the railroad in 1871 provided the link to civilization that was all important, of course, but the twelve years between 1859 and 1871 were troubled by other problems also. D. W. Meeker published this account in the January 5, 1900 Holiday Supplement to his *Moorhead Independent*; he had un-

doubtedly interviewed Probstfield, who lived his usual active life on the Oakport farm until his death in 1911: "1859 and 1860 had been years of hardships. There had been a flood in 1861, the late season and the excitement of the war. The Sioux, then occupying the Lake and Big Timber regions, were angry and threatening, and the Chippewas were clamoring for treaty rights. There was bad blood between the Chippewas and the Crees, and when the war spirit is on the Indian, or his heart is bad, there is no telling where or when he will strike.

"Finally the expected happened. The settlers at Breckenridge were massacred and Fort Abercrombie, which contained two companies of troops and such settlers as could be alarmed and brought in for safety, was besieged. The news first reached Georgetown on the night of August 22, 1862. Two companies had previously been stationed at Georgetown but they had been withdrawn and the post was left defenseless. About midnight Mr. Probstfield was aroused by loud knocking at the door by George Lullsdorf and E. R. Hutchinson, with orders to dress quick and hurry to the post for safety. There they found consternation, panic, confusion, frightened men and weeping women. The night was passed in terror. A Hudson Bay company train had arrived that night loaded with goods for the north, and with the men of this train and those at the post and the settlers who had come into that point, they mustered 44



The Red River of the North

men able to bear arms. They had thirty-three guns, good, bad and indifferent, including some old flint locks, but there was an abundance of ammunition in the stores for shipment north. Norman W. Kittson was there in charge of the Hudson Bay transportation interests and the *International* lay at the landing.

"The organization was perfect and for two weeks or more they kept up their constant vigils, the outposts being relieved every two hours. The windows and doors of the buildings were barricaded with plank and provided with port holes. A bastion was thrown out at the corner with room for six men, and thus prepared and armed for defense they waited, debating as to which way to retire. They knew Abercrombie was surrounded and that several men escorting couriers out of the fort had been killed, and so they decided to go north and reach safety at Fort Garry if possible.

" 'The crossing of the river that night at Georgetown,' says Mr. Probstfield, 'is one that I shall never forget. The sufferings, the anxiety, the terrors and the disappointment to me were of all events most deeply impressed upon my mind. We had all worked all night, most of us like heroes, I thinking only of the safety of the whole, regardless of self or my family even, except as our interests were bound up in the whole, and at last I found myself alone with wife and babe, team and goods without a soul to help excepting the almost sick and helpless Alexander Murray, the

agent of the company, who with us was the last to leave. Team after team was ferried across the stream and as the work of evacuation progressed the panic increased, and when we came to cross it required considerable persuasion to have the ferry return for us.'

"They camped out of rifle range of the timber, about one and a half miles from Georgetown on the Dakota side, and so great was the exhaustion that every soul fell asleep and the camp was left without the slightest protection. At noon they reached Elm River and as they were preparing or eating their dinner Pierre Bottineau came in from Abercrombie and informed them of the conditions there and that he had seen Indians prowling around near Georgetown. This created another panic and those who had not had their dinner desired none, and they hurriedly broke camp and hurried on. Various propositions were made, among them one for the women and children to be sent on with the horse teams while the men would bring on the train; but as human life was regarded of the greatest value, the party moved on with the greatest caution, reconnoitering the Goose and other streams where there was timber before attempting to cross, always throwing the train into corral when stopping. They crossed the Goose late next day and were encouraged by meeting fifteen well-armed and thoroughly-equipped horsemen from Pembina, who had been sent out for their relief. Among the party were Joe Rolette, Hugh Donaldson, William Moorhead

and others well known to Probstfield. Pierre Bottineau returned with them, having gone on for relief.

"The *International* had left for Fort Garry the evening of the evacuation of Georgetown, having on board the family of Alexander Murray and other women and children from the post, Commodore Kittson and others. The river being low, the boat was grounded about six miles by land below Georgetown at what is now Perley; therefore it became necessary to dispatch some teams to remove the women and children from the boat, together with the crew and some of the more important goods. Two men were left in charge of the boat as watchmen. They were Joseph Adams and Robert Scambler. Mrs. Scambler remained with her husband. A barge attached to the boat was loosened and floated down the river in charge of E. R. Hutchinson.

"The next night the expedition camped at Frog Point, now Belmont, and as had been the case before everybody went to sleep without outposts or guards, and the next night three miles south of Grand Forks. A meeting was then called to consider measures of safety and as nothing seemed likely to be accomplished Probstfield left the meeting declaring that he would go no further with them, but saying that they could call him when his turn came to stand guard if they determined to put out guards. He was called at five next morning to go on duty, and stood his trick but refused to go further with the expedition. In the meantime



The Northern Pacific depot north of the tracks on the west side of Fourth Street in 1875. North facing Fourth Street is the boat ticket office.



John G. Bergquist, Moorhead's second homesteader in 1870, builder of the First National Bank Block

they had learned that there were several hundred Chippewa Indians at Grand Forks, hungry and desperate, who were waiting to meet Governor Ramsey and others who were to treat with them, but who were delayed by the Indian outbreak. They captured the expedition, took what they wanted to eat but harmed none of the party, who went on to Pembina.

"Stephen Wheeler, who worked for C. P. Lull, who was keeping hotel at Georgetown up to the time of the outbreak, William Tarbell, Ed Larkins, known as 'Lige', his wife, an Indian named Marceau and his wife, Mrs. Commisanze and Mrs. E. R. Hutchinson remained with Probstfield. Lull, his wife, and child were with other settlers at Abercrombie. Mrs. Hutchinson was escorted to the barge and went on down the river with her husband.

"The first camp on the way back was eight miles south of Grand Forks and they made their way slowly back remaining several days at some places where the ducks and geese were abundant. When within eight miles of Georgetown Tarbell went on alone to reconnoiter, telling the party not to come on if he failed to return. The hours of waiting were long and anxious ones. The relief to mind was great when just at nightfall Tarbell returned having been delayed by reason of the boat being on the Georgetown side and filled with water.

It was after dark when they reached

Georgetown. The expedition which went to Fort Garry returned about the middle of October. A detachment of troops was sent down with them. Capt. T. H. Barrett was in charge and importuned them to return with him to Fort Abercrombie, but they refused.

"That fall and winter Probstfield was in correspondence with General H. H. Sibley as to reinforcements for the frontier for the coming spring. Sibley urged him to remain with his family as an encouragement to others to return to the valley. He urged that the condition of war in the south was such that troops must be sent south instead of being held for service on the frontier. Notwithstanding this correspondence, on March 17 a detachment of troops came to Georgetown with orders from General Sibley to remove all of the settlers to Fort Abercrombie, with special orders to arrest Probstfield if necessary. The detachment was in charge of Lt. Tyler. But all of them were glad enough to seek safety. Probstfield remained at Abercrombie until June 22, when having some differences with Major George A. Camp over a claim for a cow killed by one of the soldiers, which Camp insisted he should bear as one of the misfortunes of war, he was given twenty-four hours to leave the fort. He left in six and went with his family to St. Cloud, arriving there July 3, 1863. He returned in the fall with Hatch's Battalion to take charge of his hay which the army appropriated, and as in the case of the cow Major Camp refused to approve the

vouchers and the claim is still unsettled.

"Mr. Probstfield became helpless from rheumatism and returned from Pomme de Terre fort to his family in St. Cloud, returning to the valley in May, 1864; he took charge of the hotel at Georgetown and the next year took charge of the post. He remained until 1869 when he took up his residence in Oakport, where he now resides."

Northern Pacific Railroad

A railroad across Minnesota, as part of a line from the Great Lakes to Puget Sound, was first proposed by Asa Whitney in 1844; in the 1850s a link in that larger plan — a railway line from Duluth to Moorhead — was thwarted by the financial panic of 1857. Despite the Civil War and the Sioux outbreak of 1862, the Northern Pacific railway was chartered by Congress in 1864 and huge land grants were made to the Jay Cooke Company to subsidize it — three million acres in Minnesota alone. Cooke had made a great reputation selling United States bonds to finance the Civil War, but his ambitious railroad investments caused his great banking firm to fail — and brought on the financial panic of 1873. By that time, however, the Northern Pacific railway had been built as far as Bismarck.

Actual settlement in Moorhead had begun in 1869 when Joab Smith occupied the abandoned Burbank



Aerial view of the Peterson farm, at the west end of Tenth Street North, shows the sided-over original John Bergquist log cabin built at the river's edge on his homestead in 1870.

log cabin, claimed the 173 acres around it as his homestead, and filed a legal claim; but Smith left the area before the railroad reached Moorhead. John Bergquist, considered Moorhead's second settler, arrived in July 1870, homesteading next to Smith and working for him in exchange for using his oxen to haul logs from the river bank to build a home. His log cabin is incorporated into a house in north Moorhead and Bergquist's grandchildren still live in Moorhead and Fargo. Bergquist gave two blocks of land for the new Clay county courthouse in 1883: the bricks came from his brickyard nearby, and the clay for the bricks from his farm.

The purchase of Joab Smith's land by Andrew Holes in 1871 was crucial in the history of Moorhead. It seems best to quote the earliest account, the *Key City* publication of 1882, garrulous and roundabout as it is:

"In this last mentioned year the Northern Pacific railway — of which Jay Cooke, the Philadelphia banker, was the most important stockholder and director — was rapidly nearing the river and causing great excitement among the few pioneers at that time in this region, who were desirous of ascertaining where the river was to be crossed, as it was evident that there would be an important point, the seat of a future town or city.

"To correctly understand the situation of affairs here at this time, it should be mentioned that a company known as the Lake Superior and Puget Sound Company, whose stockholders were

at the same time largely interested in the Northern Pacific railroad, and which consequently controlled all the lands that the railroad owned, was endeavoring to mislead the settlers as to the real point where the crossing would be made, so that the company through some of its employes could buy up as homesteads the government lands of the Territory through which the railroad necessarily must pass. To accomplish this, various lines were run by the Northern Pacific surveying party, and great care taken that the public should not learn which was to be the real route.

"It was at first thought that it would run through the property of Mr. Probstfield, and the pioneers were accordingly encamped in that vicinity. Finally, however, the Puget Sound Company authorized Mr. Holes to purchase for them from Joab Smith, the owner of a quarter of a section within the present city limits, his property for the town site. This commission Mr. Holes executed, paying Smith \$2,000 for his rights. As the Company had given him no money to employ for this purpose, but he had used his own funds only, there seemed still the possibility that the railroad might change its plans.

"This, however, proved to be a groundless fear; and the bridge over the Red River was built, and the town finally located and laid out, in September, 1871. Its name was derived from William Garroway Moorhead, one of the Northern Pacific directors. When there was no longer any doubt as to the location



Interior view of original oak logs, still sound, in the attic of the Bergquist cabin

of the town, the Puget Sound Company came to Mr. Holes with the cool proposition that he should deed them the town site, which stood on his lands, making no offer however to reimburse him for either his money or time. On his declining to make them a present of this magnitude they acceded to his figures, and purchased the bulk of Smith's claim, Mr. Holes reserving twenty-four acres for himself. The acquisition of this property by the company proved terribly detrimental to the prosperity and growth of Moorhead, on account of the enormous prices they asked for their lots."

In his *Record* of February, 1898 C. A. Lounsberry tells a story of the Red River crossing based on an interview with Thomas H. Canfield, the Northern Pacific director. "In the spring of 1871 Canfield and George B. Wright reached McCauleyville (now Kent, MN.) for the purpose of selecting the crossing of the Red River for the Northern Pacific railroad. They spent several days going up and down the river, going as far north as the Elm River and as far south as the Wild Rice. They selected the present site of Moorhead as the highest point of land and the most likely to escape floods should they come, as the experience of 1826, 1852, and 1861 showed they might. Upon a conference with Mr. Lindsey, the locating engineer, the question of the crossing was settled early in May."

Lounsberry then quotes Canfield directly: "Mr. Wright and myself were not able to reach Georgetown



Andrew Holes, born in New York in 1836 of English parents. Teacher, farmer, fur trapper. In 1864 he traveled from Georgetown to British Columbia, made a successful gold strike and moved to Moorhead in the summer of 1871. He bought a 173-acre homestead, all but 24 acres of which were sold to the original townsite company for platting. His land and home were on the north side of First Avenue North across from Seventh Street. He was an early county commissioner, school trustee and stockholder in the Moorhead National Bank, and died in Moorhead in 1903.

that night, on our return from meeting Mr. Lindsey, but had to camp about where the Hon. Senator Probstfield now lives. Before getting up in the morning we discovered a prairie schooner about eighty rods off. Mr. Wright went to explore and came back with Andrew Holes, now of Moorhead, who, with his wife, was taking a summer vacation by exploring the country, having their cook stove and supplies in their wagon. Mr. Holes was just the man I wanted. Mr. Holes and myself very quietly for a day or two examined the point which I had selected for the crossing with an engineer, whom I had kept back out of sight, who confirmed the feasibility of the crossing. I then arranged with Mr. Holes to cross the country to Alexandria, find Joab Smith, and buy the quarter section where Moorhead now is, upon the best terms he could."

Oshkosh — Oakport

Lounsberry also tells of an earlier possible Red River crossing point, where the Elm River comes in on the Dakota side, near Hendrum, that had been tentatively agreed upon the year before or set up as a decoy. N. K. Hubbard had come to the Valley with dispatches from Pitt Cooke, a brother of Jay Cooke, to locate the Northern Pacific crossing of the Red River at Elm River. There is no further explanation of this "order," but some speculators acted on it:

"Watching the movements of Mr. Canfield's party in 1870 was Jacob

Lowell, Jr., George G. Sanborn, and Henry S. Back, and they immediately located at Elm River, though keeping themselves on the alert and in light marching order for any new movement which Canfield might make. This party was later joined by A. McHench and George Egbert and most of them spent the winter at Elm River."

Canfield describes his gambit which led to the brief Oshkosh settlement: "In order to gratify the public and enable them to go on with their laudable desire to build a new city on the Red River, I had my engineers run a line from Muskoda to the river at Probstfield, stake out the bridge, and extend the line into Dakota. The result was in a few days the new city was fairly begun." The Elm River contingent quickly established themselves across the road from the Probstfield farm at Oakport, nearly four miles north of the eventual NP railroad bridge. The Canfield-Lounsberry account calls this "city" *Oakport* or *Probstfield's*, but the accepted name at the time was *Oshkosh*.

Besides the Elm River group many other early-day Moorhead and Fargo citizens came to Oshkosh that summer of 1871, including Henry A. Bruns, Peter Goodman, Jacob Metzger, D. P. Harris, G. J. Keeney, H. G. Finkle, John E. Haggart, J. B. Chapin, Harry Fuller, and N. Whitman.

Lounsberry gives a week-by-week account of Oshkosh arrivals in mid-summer 1871: "On June 17 John Haggart and his partner, Frank Thomp-



Bruns & Finkle's first general merchandise store at the northwest corner of Fourth and Center Avenue. Replaced in 1877 by a brick building.

son, who was afterwards killed at Moorhead, arrived with their stock and erected a tent at Probstfield's. Shoemaker came in from Chicago with a complete restaurant outfit and also erected his tent. Dennis Hannafin, who had been sent up by Ed Morton from Brainerd to watch the engineers and locate the crossing, was stopping at Shoemaker's, as was a brother of P. L. Knappen. "Hannafin and Morton had also bid for the Smith property, according to Canfield, but had bid too low, \$800, and had acted too slowly.

"On June 28 H. A. Bruns arrived from Benson with several loads of goods; he was looking for a location and stopped at Oakport, as Probstfield's had come to be called, and decided to stay. He was accompanied by Gordon J. Keeney. At about this time H. G. Finkle and Ward, his partner came. Bruns borrowed \$100 from Finkle at \$10 for ten days, rolling six barrels of pork into John Haggart's tent as security, the pork being then worth \$40 per barrel. Bruns opened up his store but sold only \$1.50 worth the first day. Within a week he was selling \$500 worth a day. Haggart and Thompson and Finkle and Ward ran the ferry and put the proceeds into the mess.

"The boys said Probstfield was hot because the railroad was coming, and declaring it would ruin the country, rented his place to Major Woods, put his goods on a flatboat and went down the river. There was a population of 100 or more at Oakport within a week. Among them there were



The pioneers. Back row left to right: J. B. Blanchard, Moorhead's first sheriff, 1872-1877; Henry Finkle, general merchandise; Fred Hennebohl, St. Charles House; Judge James Sharp; Fred Ambs, dealer in fine liquors and cigars. Front row left to right: John Erickson, Jay Cooke House, Erickson Hotel and brewery; Andrew Holes, real estate; H. A. Bruns, general merchandise, elevator and banking; Solomon Comstock, first Clay County attorney, real estate and politics; William Bodkin, sheriff for 12 years and later a contractor

Harry Fuller, H. Eustice, George Thomas, Charles Stanton, more generally known as Shang, P. L. Knappen, Milton Moorhead, John H. Richards, Chase Brothers, Walter Brothers and William Sullivan.

Canfield said it took about two weeks for Holes to make his trip to find Joab Smith, buy his claim, and return to Moorhead; the Lounsberry account says Smith was in Alexandria but other early stories locate him in St. Cloud. Canfield probably held up disclosure of the crossing point because he was working an elaborate scheme with Major G. G. Beardsley to acquire the property on the Dakota side of the river. This venture involved \$50,000 of Sioux Indian scrip, oxen and plows brought up from Southern Minnesota and hidden at Christine, and a messenger sent to the Pembina land office; the N.P. directors later abandoned the scheme and surrendered their claim to the Dakota Territory Indian lands rather than antagonize the settlers. But though he does not date the actual revelation of the Moorhead-Fargo crossing point, Canfield recalled the impression it made:

"During the afternoon the news of what had been done reached the new city at Probstfield, much to the surprise and consternation of the inhabitants. They were not long in pulling down their buildings and removing them to Fargo and Moorhead, some locating in one place and some in another — filing pre-emption claims and all sorts of claims, trusting to the future for something to turn up and substantiate them."

A possible date for the move is revealed in one of Lounsberry's last paragraphs: "J. B. Chapin landed at Oakport from Brainerd August 5, 1871. He opened a hotel there and moved to Moorhead at the same time as Bruns, September 27, 1871, when the first location was made at Moorhead for business. He erected a two-story tent for hotel purposes and afterwards sided it over and it is now the Central hotel at Moorhead."

Arrivals in 1871

Though he was a lawyer by profession, 29-year-old Solomon Comstock was working with a railroad construction crew at Muskoda that summer and came to Moorhead with the railroad in the fall. So did James H. Sharp and N. K. Hubbard, who had been selling goods in tents at Oak Lake. Others who came to Moorhead in 1871 included John Erickson, James B. Blanchard, James Douglas, W. J. Bodkin, Fred Ambs, and Fred Hennebohl. Dr. John Kurtz came because he was a doctor employed by the Northern Pacific railroad. Andrew Holes had come through the area much earlier, when he rode the steamboat *International* from Georgetown to Fort Gary in 1862. Then he had been with a large party of gold seekers going overland across the Canadian plains and mountains to British Columbia. He had returned to the Valley in 1869, first engaged with the public surveys and later selecting lands for Jay Cooke, William Windom, and other railroad land promoters. Lounsberry said Holes had purchased spec-

ulative "fractions" of land at nine different points on the Red River for these capitalists before his 1871 deal with Smith. In 1870 he had married a widow, Conie Conant, who had come from Massachusetts to Chicago to St. Cloud; there she had taught the five tall Holes brothers, who ranged from 6'4" to 6'8", and had married one of them. In a 1927 interview, when she had passed her ninety-fourth birthday, Mrs. Holes played down the hardships and dangers of pioneering in Moorhead. The Indians were easy to live with and noisy only when drunk, but the sewing machine she had brought back from Chicago had been a real boon to the early settlement. Andrew Holes had more distinctions than the purchase of the townsite from Smith, his wife recalled; he had been a teacher, trapper, hunter, and gold prospector before coming to Moorhead. Here he had been a real estate dealer, manager of the first flour mill, and one of the original Clay County commissioners appointed by the governor in 1872. He died in Moorhead in 1903.

Before the railway came to Moorhead the town had only one building, the log cabin built in 1860 (where the American Legion hall stands now). In August, 1871 James B. Blanchard had arrived, put his horses in this old Burbank stage station, and slept under his wagon. He sold groceries, dry goods, and feed from his wagon while he built an 18 by 24 foot one-room building, without ceiling, on Fourth Street. By some reports Blanchard's structure was the first wooden store build-



Moorhead's Front Street (Center Avenue) in 1873. From extreme left, northwest corner of Fourth Street; Bruns & Finkle general mercantile; east across Fourth to two-story Knappen House just merged into Bramble House; east are saloons, cafes, grocers, meats, Larcoms Hardware & Tin & Watch shop, Henderson Hardware & Stoves, two-story Western House and Flour & Feed, W. H. Davy & Goodsell proprietors

ing erected in Moorhead. The warped lumber he used had floated down stream and washed-up here. The building was heated by a cookstove. There he operated a general merchandising store; in the next year he was appointed sheriff. A full-page picture article in the March 8, 1925 St. Paul *Pioneer Press* described the exploits of Blanchard, who had died in 1916. He had continued as a Moorhead constable until 1914, and past the age of 90 had issued high-kicking challenges to all comers. The *Pioneer Press* story is a flamboyant account of tracking desperados, white and Indian, in the Red River Valley and elsewhere; it also tells of Mrs. Blanchard and son Dick Blanchard, a deputy United States marshal who would have been with Custer at the Little Big Horn in 1876 but had been detained in Moorhead as a witness in government cases. On his way to Fort Lincoln Custer had stayed at Moorhead's Bramble House, where Dick Blanchard had met him and agreed to join his expedition.

Moorhead Platted

The Lake Superior and Puget Sound Land Company, who now owned the property where Moorhead began to develop, platted the original townsite on their 149-acre purchase and began the sale of lots in September, 1871. A post office was established, Moorhead was named, and the town mushroomed. Bruns and Finkle formed a partnership and set up a general merchandising store in a tent building on Front Street (Center Avenue)

at the NW corner of Fourth Street. Chapin House, a rough tent hostelry, was established next door north and Haggart's Cafe next. The following year Bruns brought lumber north from McCauleyville; he and Finkle replaced their tent store with a two-story 22 by 50-foot frame building on the same site. That same summer of '71 James Douglas established his Hardware and Farm Implement Store in a partly-tented building on the SE corner of Front and Fourth Street.

As they waited for the railroad, the new citizens scrambled to set up their businesses and to get through a Moorhead winter, nearly all of them in tents. Chapin's tent hotel was first floored with wood, then boarded up to a pitched tent roof, and eventually became the all-wood Central House. Bruns and Finkle's store was always conceded to be the first, but N. K. Hubbard, Raymond and Allen, and the Northern Pacific Supply Company store are also mentioned as early businesses. Early in the fall James H. Sharp also came to Moorhead and opened a store. Sharp was a Civil War veteran who had operated a general merchandising business at Oak Lake (between Detroit Lakes and Audubon), where the railroad building had stopped temporarily the previous winter. He had transported the mail from Georgetown until the Moorhead postoffice was established, and the permanent name assigned to the town, October 6, 1871.

Canadian-born James Douglas was appointed Moorhead postmaster and set up an office in the corner of his

tent hardware store. One account says of Moorhead that year: "The nearest place a meal could be procured was Oakport, to which Major Woods ran a horse conveyance, carrying the newcomers to and from their meals, a distance of four miles." Major Woods had rented Probstfield's farm the previous summer. The coming of the railroad was, of course, the focus of interest, and the early settlers carefully noted the men who finally brought the railroad to the Red River on December 12, 1871. John Ross was the contractor or who built the roadbed, Washington Snyder the engineer, and Alex Gamble the fireman. The first locomotive drew a snow plow which was in charge of Captain R. H. Emerson. Construction was already underway to bridge the river.

The Northern Pacific railway came into Moorhead December 12, 1871. Construction began immediately on a bridge over the Red River, and on June 6, 1872, the first train crossed into Dakota Territory. Moorhead had now developed into a flourishing pioneer city with Front (Center Avenue) as the main street of business buildings; most of them were on the north side facing south toward the railroad tracks. The big intersection was at Fourth Street. The Northern Pacific built a station north of the tracks at Fourth Street; and just west and to the rear was the boat freight storage building, built on pilings to avoid high water. Slightly east to the rear of the station facing Fourth Street was the steamboat office of the Red



Summer, 1877. Center Avenue North with Fifth Street in foreground. Looking northwest, left to right: Bramble House (formerly Knappen House) first hotel on northeast corner of Center and Fourth Streets; Bruns & Finkle Block across Fourth Street on northwest corner in extreme left (1877); homes on "the point" in background



Center Avenue in 1873 with Knappen House at northeast corner of Fourth Street

River Transportation Company. This NRR station was moved in the late '70s along the tracks east to Eighth Street and remained there until recent years (behind what is now the Newberry store). The NRR was running a regular schedule from Duluth to Moorhead.

The population of Clay County had climbed back to 92 persons by 1870, and by October, 1871 there were 227 people living in thirty buildings, including tents, in Moorhead alone. During the winter of 1871-72 over 400 people established residence here. According to one account the only wood structures were Blanchard's log cabin, Nichols Brothers butcher shop, the Chapin House, and the home of the Rev. Oscar H. Elmer. Actually Chapin's had board floors with the roof and part of the walls made of canvas.

Rivalry with Fargo

In 1872 Moorhead had at least one barber, a tailor, and a laundry, along with retail stores like James H. Sharp's Dry Goods & Clothing & House Furnishings and George D. Parsons Watches, Musical Instruments and Sewing Machines. On the north side of Front Street between Fifth and Sixth, the Hardware and Tin Shop of A. E. Henderson specialized in agricultural implements and stoves. In this same block was the two-story Western Hotel, with a restaurant handy next door, and then the land agency of Henry S. Back, including his and Judge Hussey's law offices. Front Street was wide, and in season

muddy, deep in snow, or baked dry with blowing dust. Behind the hitching posts plank wooden sidewalks accommodated pedestrians in front of the shops. That year W. B. Nichols started printing the *Red River Star*, Moorhead's first newspaper. John Bergquist established a brick manufacturing plant on his farm, next to Holes' farm on James Street (First Avenue North). On November 15, 1872, a group of 37 volunteers organized Moorhead's first fire department.

In the 1870s most of the new town residences of a more solid nature were built just north of James Street and west to the river from Third Street on what was called "the point". This area included the early homes of S. G. Comstock, W. H. Davy, and Capt. John Irish; none at that time were farther north than Garland Street (Third Avenue North). A subscription school was established in the First Presbyterian one-room church building between Rogers Grocery, at the rear of Henderson Hardware, and Beidler and Robinson's Lumber Company, facing Fifth Street. The population in October, 1871 had been 227; in 1872 the count was over 700 persons.

A natural rivalry developed early between Moorhead and Fargo, the two cities on opposite sides of the river. Because the Lake Superior and Puget Sound Land Company asked \$200 for its lots, a great many early "settlers" crossed over to Fargo, despite some uncertainty about the status of that part of Dakota Territory. When

an act of Congress in 1874 solved the problem by vacating the Indian claims to the southeastern corner of North Dakota, Fargo boomed and Moorhead lagged — until the Northern Pacific's land company relaxed its stranglehold on Moorhead property. The price of lots dropped from \$200 to \$5 in 1881. But on both sides of the river speculation and promotion were prime concerns and occupations. In the first city directories published, "speculation" was listed as the occupation for some men, and one gentleman identified himself as a "capitalist."

Because Moorhead had now become a hub of transportation from the East to Fort Garry and the opening Red River Valley and Dakota territory, new businesses sprang up fast, filling Front Street (Center Avenue) from the river eastward. The citizens of the new city were a metropolitan group. They included recent Irish immigrants like the Lamb brothers and the saloonkeeper Patrick Desmond. The three hotels — the Chapin House, the Knappen House, and the Western Hotel — had recent immigrant hotelkeepers from Sweden and Germany as well as the native-American Chapin. The business index that year included bakeries, restaurants (of course the hostelrys served meals also on a boarding house system of everyone sitting down to meals together at a common table at a scheduled hour), and L. M. Miller & Co. Saloon and Bowling Alley. C. P. Sloggy started building the Bramble House that year, supposedly the first entirely frame build-



Moorhead Manufacturing Company flour mill, built by H. A. Bruns, 1873, at site of his saw mill on south side of Main, west on Third Street South



From the Moorhead Mill the road leading to the Fourth Street intersection with NRR tracks. At extreme left is the Douglas building, built in 1877. At the intersection of Center Avenue and Fifth Street (printing on roof) is Lawood and Davy grocers; to its right is Western House. On the northeast corner of Sixth Street is the Merchants Bank Block, completed in 1880; next on the right on Sixth Street north of the NRR tracks stands Finkle elevator A; on the extreme right is the intersection of Fourth Street and Main.

ing in town. By November, 1872 there were 122 buildings of various designs and uses here, and that winter over four hundred people established residence in Moorhead. William J. Bodkin, bridge builder, established himself and John Erickson erected a small tent hotel at the river end of Front Street. W. H. Davy arrived as agent for American Express, acted as bookkeeper for Bruns & Finkle, was engaged in the grocery business, and shortly, with F. Goodsell, established W. H. Davy & Company.

The first court in the new county was held May 6, 1873, with Judge James McKelvy presiding. Moorhead was not organized as a village until February 25, 1875, but there was a functioning government before that. J. L. Sharp's reminiscences indicate that there was need for law enforcement: "In the summer of 1872 it may be said there was a lively time here at Moorhead, as a notorious lot of characters had arrived with the railroad. Among these were Shang, Jack O'Neil, Dave Mullen and also the noted Edward Smith and Sallie O'Neil. These people were industrious in their various pursuits and many queer things were done. Gambling and shooting were prominent pastimes for the people. A shooting match before and after breakfast was not an unusual occurrence. The public was one day brought as eye and ear witness of a shooting "duel" by Dave Mullen and Ed Smith. Neither party was greatly injured, however. Jack O'Neil had been several times shot in the head but had escaped with

his life. Sallie, his better half, one day after a drunken row threatened to kill him with a butcher knife, chasing him round and round the tent; but from this attack he also escaped and went to Bismarck, where Fatty Hall ended his thrilling career by shooting him 'amidships.'

Moorhead Booms

To Moorhead historian Jim Fay "the outstanding personage of the two new towns was without question Henry A. Bruns." (pronounced Broons). Despite the dampening effect of the Jay Cooke Company collapse in 1873, which stopped construction on the bankrupt Northern Pacific railway and paralyzed activity all along the new rail line, Bruns continued to stimulate the growing and marketing of wheat. The *Key City* told the story eight years later: "It would have been thought that even the most enterprising merchant or daring capitalist would not have ventured to embark in any new branch of business during times so unfavorable. But the pioneers of Moorhead were men who dared the dangers of frontier life and commercial storms alike. And in 1874 Mr. Bruns together with other capitalists organized the Moorhead Manufacturing Company, the earliest and most important industrial enterprise in the city." This mill was "situated on the banks of the Red River, near the crossing of the Northern Pacific Railroad, and occupies a large four-story building whose commanding position and great height make it a

prominent landmark, visible for miles on the surrounding prairie." In the winter of 1880-81 the mill was improved and the Hungarian roller system of flour milling was installed; with an addition to the building the mill produced 150 barrels of flour a day, and the Belle of Moorhead flour won all prizes for quality at three successive Minnesota fairs. In 1878 Bruns and Finkle built their great elevator "A" in the middle of present-day downtown Moorhead.

On January 24, 1875 Sheriff J. B. Blanchard submitted a bill of \$12 to the county commissioners for "notifying Indians to leave Clay County." The bill was allowed. Boat building was an important Moorhead enterprise in this era especially after the Alsop Brothers built their planing and saw mill. Bruns' Moorhead Manufacturing Co. had also operated a saw mill at first, but lumber soon gave way to flour as the wheat began to pour into the mill.

A partnership had been formed by Henry A. Bruns and Thomas C. Kurtz to supply the engineering and construction crews of the Northern Pacific when that railroad extended its line from Mandan to Helena. Following the Jay Cooke failure in 1873 the railroad building stopped at the Missouri; but later building was resumed toward the Pacific, and the transcontinental line was completed in 1883. This supply venture made Bruns and Kurtz wealthy, according to S. G. Comstock; in 1881 these two men organized the Merchants Bank of Moorhead and built the



H. G. Finkle built the A elevator in 1878 north of the NP tracks at Sixth Street. Its capacity was 100,000 bushels and 60,000 bushels were accepted in 1879.



The laying of the tracks for the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railroad in 1880

Merchants bank building (later the Waterman block, which burned on Halloween 1967) on the northeast corner of Center and Sixth, housing the bank and three stores on the first floor and an opera house and offices on the second.

A factor in Moorhead's great boom, and its best record, is a promotional 100-page booklet, *Moorhead - The Key City of the Red River Valley - Its Commerce and Manufacturers*, St. Paul: Northwestern Publishing Company, 1882. No author or editor takes credit for this publication, but the writing is smooth and facile and the promotion unabashed. The *Key City* writer claimed that the population of the "City of Moorhead" in 1882 was about 3,500 "and will be 5,000 by the end of the year." There is a brief account of Moorhead's early history:

"We have now arrived at the year 1880, memorable in the history of Moorhead from the fact that St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railroad, which had previously had no track laid to this city, now extended its line from Barnesville to this point, and inaugurated for Moorhead her first real "boom." The Puget Sound Land Company had virtually closed out all its interests at this point, and the property within the city limits now belonged exclusively to private parties, whose best interests lay in forwarding the growth and development of the place.

"The first evidence of the boom of which we spoke was the erection of the Jay Cooke House by John Erick-

son, the need for a hotel of this class having become very pressing, and the want of it being a serious detriment to the city. This was followed by the building of the Grand Pacific by Mr. Bruns, the most elegant and comfortable hotel west of Chicago. Property rose to two and three times its former value, and the demand for eligible building lots can now be hardly met. Handsome new business blocks and private residences are going up on every side, and no effort is being spared to make the city worthy of its great future.

"Among the recent acquisitions to the architectural beauty of the city, next to the two larger hotels in importance, is the new post office, constructed by Messrs. Davy & Finkle with a special view to its adaptation to this purpose. The front is of red St. Louis pressed brick trimmed with sandstone, and has two large handsome plate-glass windows. The building is 25 x 50 feet, and is furnished with one thousand Yale letter boxes and convenient windows for the delivery of letters. There is a money office and registered-letter room; and the entire arrangements are modeled after those of the best Eastern offices."

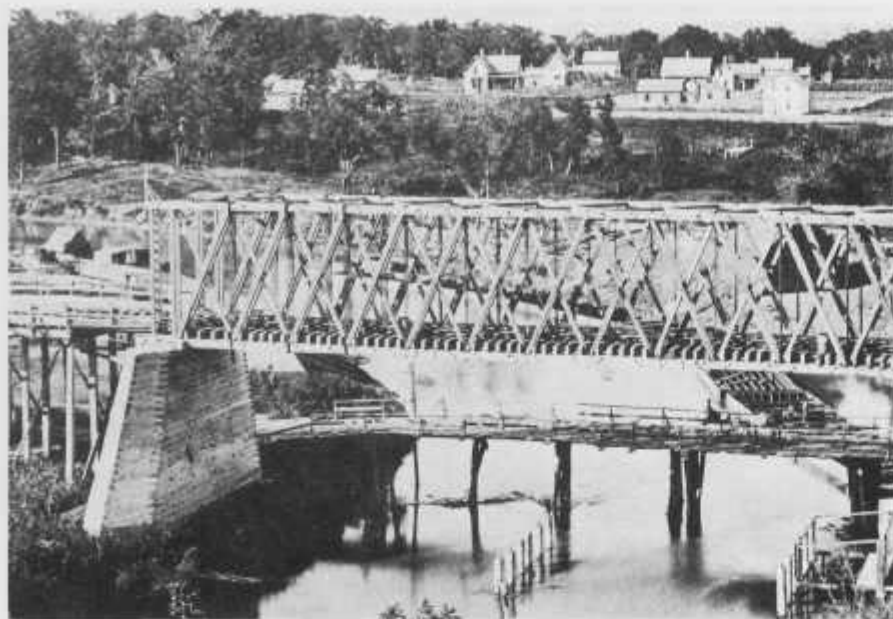
The Moorhead boom sparked by the coming of the new railroad produced other remarkable promotions: the Moorhead Foundry, Car and Agricultural Works, and the Bishop Whipple School, to name two of the most ambitious and least successful. In 1883 the Bergquist block on Center Avenue was to be only the "advance guard" of a "Syndicate Block" which

would fill the entire block on the north side of Center Avenue between Fifth and Sixth Streets. Although the Bergquist building was an "improvement that 'bears away the bell,' in being the handsomest store building put up during the year," a Moorhead Board of Trade brochure said that John Mason's block across the street would give Bergquist's a "very tight race" except that Mason's was only two stories high.

Two Bridges

Moorhead's great boom burst in the middle 1880s and times became very difficult, but one bit of progress was permanent: adequate bridges were built across the Red River linking Moorhead and Fargo. At first the only way to cross the Red River was by ferry, one in the vicinity of the present Main Avenue bridge and another just south of the Northern Pacific bridge. The city charged a fee of \$15 for a license, and tolls were charged for both persons and animals who crossed the river. Vehicles drawn by two animals were charged 25 cents; additional animals, 5 cents each; loose stock, up to ten animals, 10 cents each; above ten animals, 5 cents each; and 5 cents for each person crossing. In 1873 Peter Goodman constructed a pontoon bridge which was to be paid for by subscription from both Fargo and Moorhead residents. Moorhead paid its allotted share, but the west-siders failed to do so, whereupon several persons purchased the interests of Goodman and established a toll bridge.

Saloons and Politics



Taken from window of Moorhead Mill in 1874 looking north at NPRR bridge and footbridge

Early in 1874 a petition had been sent to Mr. Forden, the representative from this district in St. Paul, asking that the state give financial assistance to build a wagon road across the river. The Moorhead citizens had raised \$1,000 toward erecting and maintaining a new bridge. The only existing bridge at the time was a temporary, rickety structure and was not deemed safe. Because it was a tressle bridge it was necessary to dismantle it each time the ice went out in the spring. It was estimated that without an adequate bridge Moorhead lost about half of the trade she would have otherwise.

The first pedestrian and vehicle bridge was built below and north of the Northern Pacific bridge. This served the community until 1883 when the Main Avenue bridge was completed. In 1882 and again in 1884 laws were passed prohibiting persons from driving animals over this bridge faster than at a walk. Penalties ranged from \$5 to \$25 or imprisonment for not over thirty days.

George Clapp's Moorhead livery stable ran an hourly bus between the two cities, but this service was discontinued on April 9, 1883. During the next year Mr. Campbell, a Fargo resident, operated a stage line between the two cities. On April 11 he reduced the rates to 5 cents per customer to see if people would ride at such a low rate.

On February 10 the council in Moorhead voted \$20,000 in bonds to cover its share of the expense for the bridge

construction. The second call for bids proved more satisfactory and on April 13, 1883 the contracts were awarded. Keepers and Riddell of Milwaukee received the contract for the south bridge, and the Missouri Bridge Company of Leavenworth, Kansas, the contract for the north one. The bridges were to be completed by September 1, 1883. Both were swing bridges that could be turned to allow boats to pass; the center bearing table was so constructed that one man could swing the bridge easily. On November 5, 1884 the Clay County commissioners appropriated \$2,500 for the bridge. On February 5, 1884 the state appropriated \$3,500 as its share of the expense. The south bridge was opened on February 14, 1884 and the north bridge May 16, 1884 for pedestrians only. Teams and vehicles could not cross until the approach on the west end had been filled in.

Moorhead's population (federal census figures) was 2,088 in 1890, 3,730 in 1900, 4,840 in 1910, 5,720 in 1920, 7,657 in 1930, 9,491 in 1940, 14,870 in 1950, 23,050 in 1960 and 29,687 in 1970.

From its earliest days Moorhead fought a tug of war over liquor. It was a fact of life in pioneering days, as it had been in the fur trading era. The disastrous effects of alcohol on the Indians was well recognized before trade with them had reached this area, but liquor played an important role in the fur trade none the less. And when men pushed into this region to build the first railroads or to take up land claims, liquor and saloon keepers kept pace with them. Whether they deserved the reputation or not, the Sioux Indians had a reputation for wild drinking in the nineteenth century. So did the new city of Moorhead.

The men who were building the Northern Pacific railway westward across the plains were no doubt chiefly responsible for giving Moorhead its early reputation as a wild and wicked city. During its first winter of 1871-1872, Moorhead and Fargo were the end of the line. They shared the construction crews and the hangers-on that winter and there is little evidence that one town was worse than the other. Moorhead was, of course, the place where passengers and freight came in from the east by rail and proceeded northward to Canada by Red River steamboats. And when the railroad-building crews moved westward with the spring breakup, there were still enough transients moving through Moorhead to keep the situation fluid.

Lonely homesteaders on the prairie came into Moorhead periodically,



Looking west down Center Avenue from Fifth Street in 1887. In the foreground, the Mason Saloon, B. F. Mackall druggist, A. L. Moody dry goods, upstairs Drs. John Kurtz and John McLean and residential rooms. Two one-story frame barbershops. The Hansen Block: Hansen Bros. Meat Market, Eckhart & Simonson Boots and Shoes, Daniel Titus Real Estate and Loans, City Justice, YMCA, F. L. Davenport Insurance, John E. Green Attorney, John G. Bergquist Block: P. J. Bergquist groceries, R. R. Briggs Attorney, Frederick Ambs Saloon. Kiefer Block: Jacob Kiefer Saloon, O. Mesness & L. N. Torson Attorneys, Lochen & Johnson Tailors, Key City Hotel (NE corner at Fourth Street). Across Fourth Street, Bruns & Finkle Block, Nagel & Crizek Meat Market. Erickson House, Boat Freight Building.

probably more often when they were single men. From 1875 on the bonanza farms hired thousands of men, and many of them were young transients. After the fall harvest and threshing seasons, these men made their way to the towns offering the best diversion and entertainment. In the spring the Minnesota lumber camps and sawmills spilled some of their men into the Red River Valley cities. Before Moorhead was a year old, liquor licenses were being issued at \$60 a year. In 1875 the fees were raised to \$500. One of the reasons cited in the newspapers for incorporating Moorhead as a village was to reserve the liquor license fees for village — and not township — improvements. Moorhead's business and professional community soon became convinced that the liquor trade was a mainstay of the local economy and its license fees the chief support of city government and services. As saloon keepers, gamblers, and prostitutes followed the railway construction camps, so corruption and venality crept into the operation of Moorhead's government. There were small scandals in the first two decades: a police chief and a city treasurer were removed from office and charged with embezzlement.

Some of the people in the liquor trade were very substantial citizens: Fred Ambs, John Erickson, and John Mason who came in 1871, and Jacob Kiefer in 1878. Moorhead's only brewery produced 24,000 barrels of beer in 1882 under the direction of brewer Fred Wachsmuth. Its proprietor, John Erickson also owned two

hotels, one of Moorhead's largest general stores, a meat market, and "commodious" ice houses filled with ice from the Red River. Fred Ambs had come to Moorhead from New York in 1871, had moved to Glyndon for a six-year stay, but in 1879 had a Front Street store dealing in wines, liquors, and cigars

John Mason did a wholesale and retail business in wines, liquors, and cigars. Mason's Block on the northeast corner of Front and Fifth was a two-story building with a 75-foot front. Said the *Key City*: "Mr. Mason is one of the pioneers of Moorhead and the Red River country. When he first reached this point there was not a building in town, and Messrs. Bruns & Finkle were just erecting their tent, preparatory to opening their store in it. He is the owner of considerable property in the city and surrounding country and at Lake Park Station on the Northern Pacific. In Moorhead he owns a handsome brick residence."

Jacob Kiefer came to Moorhead in 1878 and built the two-story brick building at 406-408 Front Street which was razed recently under urban renewal; Kiefer ran both a saloon and a wholesale liquor business.

Only seven saloons were listed for the city of Moorhead in the 1887 city directory: Frederick Ambs — 402 Center, J. S. Bell — Eighth Street near NPRR, Hans Hansen — Third and James, J. S. Johnson and N. Larson — Fourth near Center, Jacob Kiefer — 406-08 Center, Louis Nel-

son, Fourth and James, and John Mason, Center and Fifth. That year Fargo listed two brewers — Asleson & Hult and Red River Valley Brewing Co.; two liquor wholesalers — R. R. Adler and Martin Hector; and 24 saloons, including some names that soon turn up in Moorhead.

North Dakota Dry

When Livingston Lord came to open Minnesota's fourth Normal School he found Moorhead "a true Minnesota town": by 1888, says his biography, it had seen two booms and two depressions. As the new Moorhead Normal was being built — it accepted its first students in temporary quarters September 1, 1888 — a new prosperity was beginning, at least partly stimulated by whiskey. The biography, noting that a liquor economy "provided an interesting background for teacher training," quotes a Moorhead *Daily News* summary of the situation: "Prohibition in North Dakota drove the liquor traffic across the river and led to the establishment of at least four cold storage depots for malt liquors and bottling works; also two or three wholesale liquor houses, and the increase in saloons from 15 to 34 all of which have added to the population, the number of structures, and volume of business transacted in the city. The United States census of 1890 gave our population as 2,088; it is now (1894) not less than 4,000, and may be 4,500.

"The revenue of the city from liquor license is \$17,000 per annum, which



When North Dakota became a dry state in 1889 Hanson & Peterson moved their saloon operations to Moorhead: the Gold Mine Jug House, on the west side of Fourth Street at the corner of Main, Bolene & Svea just north on Fourth, and the Gold Mine Cafe just west on Main.

affords means of making improvements. Few cities of the same relative size and importance have a more extensive system of sewers, a better water system, especially for fire purposes, or better side-walks and bridges than Moorhead. This year . . . Moorhead has set the pace for all northwestern cities in laying seven blocks of cedar pavement with granite curbing . . . This piece of work puts Moorhead in the van of Red River Valley cities in the way of public improvements. She is the pioneer in this as she was the pioneer in the early days when the settlement of the Red River Valley first began."

The saloon and wholesale liquor economy of Moorhead from 1889 to 1915 was undoubtedly a crucial factor in the history of the town. It is — or was — also Moorhead's chief claim to fame — or notoriety in the same way an easy and quick divorce industry gave Fargo national prominence in the 1890s. The story of Moorhead's saloons and liquor has never been fully and fairly told. The last of the buildings which housed the saloons and liquor establishments were torn down during the past decade, but a partial story can still be pieced together from the accounts available and from people still living who remember the 1889-1915 era.

The "great" era began when North Dakota came into the union as a dry state in 1889. A number of Fargo saloon and liquor establishments moved to Moorhead so quickly they scarcely lost a customer. The era

ended on July 1, 1915, after Clay County "went dry" on a local option vote. The City of Moorhead voted wet, 634 to 563, but the saloons and off sale dealers began to close on May 1, if their licenses were up for renewal that early.

Even before 1889, when the drying up of Fargo concentrated the liquor business in Moorhead, the town had a "tough" reputation, though perhaps no more than any semi-frontier, end-of-the-railroad town. There are legends of fathers refusing to give their daughters' hands in marriage when the prospective son-in-law revealed his intention of moving to Moorhead. But the story is quite possibly apocryphal, and the title "Wickedest City" in the state or nation is a boast that others have made. Nonetheless, there are stories of the early-day wickedness — related-to-alcohol that a candid history of Moorhead must not overlook.

Fargo now regarded Moorhead cynically "as a segregated suburb for indulgences not tolerated in Fargo itself." Some Cass County farmers, even years later, liked to refer to the Minnesota town as "Beerhead." At the east ends of the two bridges there were "First Chance" and "Last Chance" signs.

From the beginning the saloons in Moorhead ranged from Kiefer's highly-respected "place" to some very dubious establishments. Some of the more notorious were connected with gambling, some had bad reputations for their rough treatment of

customers, and some had dancing girls as added attractions. The Olson Saloon, writes Hiram Drache, got into trouble for beating up a drunk, and the Gletne Saloon operated by Thompson ran a burlesque house — The Tidlie Theatre — on its second floor.

At the two bridges there were saloons which projected over the Red River. There were dark stories about trap doors and what happened to customers who ventured out onto the porch. Some saloons reportedly had chutes that transported inebriates to the riverbank or river. The demolition of buildings and removal of foundations in the vicinity of the north bridge did reveal elaborate and extensive chutes that cannot easily be explained. While one building in this area was being condemned and appraised, two Moorhead lawyers had conflicting descriptions of the structure, so they decided to see for themselves whether it had one or two stories. From the outside there appeared to be only one-story, but the lady living in the old building showed the lawyers a sliding panel at the back of a closet: a narrow stairway led to a windowless upper floor, where eight small crib-like cubicles led off the central hall.

Of the Fargo liquor dealers who moved their operations to Moorhead in 1889, the most respected and affluent was Thomas Erdel. In Fargo he had operated a large brewery and when he first moved to Moorhead had an extensive wholesale business; but he discontinued that



The Rathskeller Over The Rhine, Thomas Erdel's second saloon, built in 1904 at 114 First Street North. The interior was hand tiled, and there was a basement tunnel connection to the owner's house.

branch "to attend to his ever-increasing retail trade" — at first on the northeast corner of James (First Avenue) and First Street, the Erdel Block. This elegant, 48-foot square towered building was called the House of Lords and faced the east entrance of the old north bridge. It was remarked cynically that thirsty Dakotans coming over the bridge from Fargo could step into the welcoming saloon without detection. Erdel leased this saloon to Johnny Haas in the 1890s and Henry Johnson remembered the reputation of Haas's place as the most palatial saloon between New York and San Francisco: "I never saw the interior but the report that within its precincts four hundred electric lights were nightly gleaming suggested that there was something to see." He confirmed the reports of others, some of them still living in Moorhead: there was nothing else faintly approaching this splendor, but the 45 saloons of the late nineties were so various that they could appeal to all tastes. Many of them "posed as special friends of the poor man."

An equally elaborate and celebrated eating place was built adjacent to the House of Lords, and because Fatty Howard's restaurant could be entered through an archway this twin establishment was unique among the Moorhead liquor places: women might be seen there. In only one other Moorhead saloon, the Midway Buffet across the street and next to the river, could women be seen. One Moorhead saloon, however, had an oddity that led to much comment:

the owner's wife was often behind the bar. "But then they were Germans," said a Scandinavian-American who remembered this phenomenon 75 years later. Thomas Erdel also was a German, a cultured, music-loving immigrant who celebrated his national origins in his new saloon. After he had leased the House of Lords to Johnny Haas, Erdel erected a second building a block north on First and Kennedy (Second Avenue). This saloon was the Rathskeller over the Rhine, and it had an arcaded veranda where a German Band performed on fine evenings. In true German style, the bar was in the basement or *keller*, and there was a passageway from this cellar-bar to the handsome Erdel house nearby.

The Jag Wagon

One consequence of a dry Fargo and a wet Moorhead was the jag wagon, the popular name for a free transportation system invented by Moorhead's saloonkeepers. These vehicles were one-horse, four-seated wagons that made regular trips to a Fargo station near the Metropole Hotel (on NP Avenue, just east of Broadway): the wagons brought customers to the saloon sponsoring the horse and driver and then returned for more passengers. The traffic continued day and night, as long as the saloons were open and customers were waiting; some of them were carted back to Fargo and left at the station. Emma Carlson told Edith Moll twenty years ago that many of the horses knew their route so well they could probably have

operated without a driver. Miss Carlson also told a jag story which sounds apocryphal but might well be true: "One day a number of girls from the Normal School in Moorhead were in Fargo shopping. Not having been in the city long enough to have become accustomed to the mores of the community, they were elated when they discovered that they could get a free ride back to Moorhead. Gratefully they climbed into one of the jag wagons and went merrily on their way. Their consternation was great when they discovered the destination of the vehicle; and while they refused to enter the establishment, they were not allowed to forget their ride in the jag wagon."

"A muckraker might have suspected a mutually profitable understanding between the city administration and the 'forces of evil,'" wrote Henry Johnson. The evil forces were those responsible for gambling, prostitution, and saloons kept open in defiance of state law — on Sundays and past closing hours. Harvest laborers drank up their savings or were robbed of them while drunk, fought each other or molested the citizens, and constituted a nuisance until they were put on a train with a railroad ticket to another county. "Some say a drunkard in the gutter is the best temperance sermon," said Livingston Lord. "I think the best temperance sermon is a temperate man." A growing faction, especially strong in some churches, would settle for nothing less than total abstinence, for themselves and others; and with-



in two decades these prohibitionists won their battle — for a 15-year period.

Jacob Kiefer "has taken great interest in municipal and county affairs," said the *Fargo Record* in its special issue on Moorhead in February, 1898. "He served as county commissioner of Clay County for eight years, and has been a city alderman almost all of the time since the organization of the city and is now holding that position. Mr. Kiefer is acknowledged to be one of the most influential and conservative businessmen in the city and has always sought to conduct the affairs of the city in a business-like manner. He was also the prime mover of the first pavement laid in Moorhead or the northwest, and was instrumental in building the water and electric works which supply the city." Henry Johnson said Kiefer decided to run for mayor because he was one of the citizens "who saw in things as they were portents of financial and moral bankruptcy for the city." His reputation was very high: "In personal habits and in keeping his word, he was rated as a clean and honest man." And because he knew something about the city administration from the inside, he was certain something was seriously wrong.

Henry Johnson's long chapter on the struggle to reform the saloon-related city government of Moorhead is too long and involved to quote or fully report here — and his book is available. In 1899 he resigned his aldermanic post after a speech at the public rally that helped re-elect Mayor Kiefer;

Johnson followed Livingston Lord to a new college in Illinois and then to Columbia, where for thirty years he was a member of the graduate department of history. Johnson was born in Sweden and grew up in Sauk Centre; he was in his late twenties when he came to Moorhead Normal. Some of his comments on the citizens, politics, and saloons deserve special notice because of his perspective. He was a farm-and-small-town Minnesotan who saw Moorhead in two ways: as a Swedish-speaking immigrant and as a young scholar-teacher who was doing graduate work at Harvard and Columbia while earning his living as a teacher on Livingston Lord's normal school faculty. He looked back on his Moorhead days 45 years later, during World War II — from his Columbia University study.

Reform Movement

Most accounts of Moorhead's history say that the first serious efforts to clean up the town began in 1900 when H. H. Aaker of Concordia College was elected mayor on a prohibition ticket. Aaker was shot at near his home and was given police protection evenings and after city council meetings. But Henry Johnson told a different story in *The Other Side of Main Street*. Johnson, writing in 1943 when he was emeritus professor of history, said that President Lord, S. G. Comstock, and J. Paul Goode persuaded the young teacher to get into politics after he came to Moorhead Normal in 1895. He was elected alderman from the

fourth ward in Jacob Kiefer's honest government campaign. Despite the opposition taunt, "Do you want a saloonkeeper for mayor?" Kiefer defeated the perennial mayor and began cleaning up both city government and the abuses of the city's saloons.

As president of the city council Mayor Kiefer appointed the young teacher of history and political science chairman of the committee on electric lights and water works. After months of research Johnson discovered how deficits were disguised and debts hidden; his committee found widespread inefficiency and dishonesty in plumbing and wiring, installations and connections. "One saloonkeeper had thriftily engaged a plumber to connect his 'place' with a city water main and had never been bothered by any bills for water." Some saloons and private houses were being wired and furnished with electricity but no bills were rendered or collected. This included the house of the city recorder.

Kiefer, with several aldermen, confronted the superintendent of the city electric light and water works, labeled him a liar and a thief, and advised him to leave Moorhead to escape prosecution. Some of the city officials, in collusion with the county attorney, tried to save the recorder because of his large family; but Johnson demurred and the recorder resigned because of ill health — he really was ill.

Henry Johnson's membership on the committee on the poor was less



Wm. H. Diemert and Thomas Murphy built at 101-103 First Avenue North in 1900; both men had been in business here before becoming partners.

dramatic but also revealing. The committee chairman used the "unpaid services" of Mrs. Livingston Lord to check relief applications. One able-bodied notorious loafer sought relief for an orphan who turned out to be himself!

The mayor's office was important for a special reason: he could appoint the chief of police. Mayor Kiefer named "a man of the tribe of Murphy," according to Henry Johnson, who soon convinced everyone that he would enforce the law. Chief Murphy acted on a tip that a pair of desperate bandits who had attempted to rob a Fergus Falls bank were staying at a Moorhead hotel. He surprised the two men in bed and handcuffed them, although they were heavily armed. The two were convicted in Fergus Falls and sent to Stillwater; although they had never been in Fergus Falls until the day of their trial, they said later that the burglary tools found in the Moorhead hotel were to be used in robbing a bank in another town — presumably Fargo.

Chief Murphy Shot

The next year young Thomas Murphy was shot and very nearly killed in capturing a pair of burglars. The Moorhead Daily News, on Monday, December 18, 1899 tells the story: "B. Schmidt's saloon was broken into after midnight Saturday night and the small change and three watches were stolen. Mr. Schmidt suspected two men named John Gray and Edward Briggs, and he with Chief Murphy, went across the south bridge to Fargo yesterday

afternoon and looked through the shops on the south side of Front Street in the hope of there finding the two men. They succeeded in locating them and Chief Murphy told them they would better go with him to Moorhead. They agreed to go and made a start. When about half across the western approach, Gray refused to go any farther, saying he did not have to. Chief Murphy then told him that if that was his determination he would cause his arrest and that of Briggs on that side and he then directed Schmidt to go and look up a Fargo officer, while he would remain there on the bridge and hold the two men. After Schmidt had gone the men wanted to get away and Gray especially.

"It is not known just what transpired except that Chief Murphy and Gray grappled and when seen just before the shooting, Gray had pulled his revolver and pointed it in Murphy's face. Mayor Kiefer was about this time driving across the bridge with his wife and just as they reached near the west end of the approach, they saw two men and at once recognized Chief Murphy, and the other man was pointing a gun in M's face. Mr. Kiefer's horses were uneasy and he had difficulty stopping them. Just as he succeeded in stopping them at a point past where were Mr. M. and Gray, William Larrabee, with a single horse and cutter drove up and this caused Mayor K's team to start ahead again. He looked back as soon as he could and saw Chief M. grappling with Gray and heard a shot. After the shot, Gray ran towards Fargo, and

Chief M. ran after him and fired two shots at him as he ran which did not seem to have taken effect. Chief M. hallooed to the people who were gathering to stop the man. Mr. Larrabee jumped out of his cutter and knocked Gray down. Chief M. then ran up and shot again at Gray. It appears that in the conflict on the bridge, Chief M. succeeded in getting Gray's gun away from him, but not until he had fired the shot that penetrated the Chief's abdomen, in the right side below the navel. After he had received the bullet which may prove fatal, the Chief ran probably 200 feet and displayed the most remarkable coolness and bravery. Chief M. got into Larrabee's cutter and they drove as fast as possible to Fout & Porterfield's drug store where the injury was lightly examined. Dr. D. C. Darrow was telephoned and soon after Chief M. was driven to the Darrow Hospital. As soon as practicable, Drs. D. C. Darrow, E. M. Darrow, Awty, Hyde, Campbell and Evans examined the wound and performed an operation. They found the bullet had entered, as stated above, that in its course it had pierced and cut the intestines in twelve different places. These were sewed up and the Chief was made as comfortable as possible. The ball is lodged somewhere near the back bone.

"The chances for Chief M's recovery are somewhat doubtful. There is a chance, the doctors say, but it cannot be told yet whether or not he will pull through. The danger is in

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inflammation which will set in after two or three days.

"John Gray, the assassin, is only slightly hurt, the last ball fired striking the cheek just below the cheek bone and plowing a small groove down to the mouth. He and his partner, Briggs, were both secured and Gray was taken to the county jail. Briggs was confined in the city lock up. A woman named Celia McCabe, who has been keeping company with the two men, was also arrested and lodged in the city jail.

"The two men have lately been canvassing for the sale of wire coat and pantaloons hangers. It is believed that this was only a blind to give them admission to the stores and places of business where they might size up opportunities for theft and avert suspicion. When Gray was taken to the county jail, some gold bracelets were found up his sleeve and some pieces of jewelry pinned on the inside of his vest or coat.

"The shooting of Chief M. has put the city, on the eve of the happy Christmas season, in a state of sorrow and gloom and great indignation. Mr. M. has made one of the best officers that has ever held the office of chief of police in this city, and that is saying a good deal in view of the good records made by Sullivan and Holbeck. Chief M. has carried into his duties an industry and zeal that never flagged. He has manifested a conscientiousness that is worthy of all praise, and he has undertaken his difficult tasks with a courage and intelligence, together with quietness

and absence of bluster or noise, that has commended him to all citizens. He has met with unvarying success in hunting down offenders and criminals. The shooting of the Chief, under the circumstances, when he was left alone with the two desperadoes after they had once agreed to come over, was a most cunning, cruel and fiendish deed. It seems a pity that Chief M's shot at Gray did not end his career of crime.

"The woman referred to above had a hearing before Justice Odegaard this afternoon on the charge of drunk and disorderly and was sentenced to 20 days in the county jail. Chief M's brothers and his father-in-law, Mr. Sullivan of Durbin, N.D., have arrived; also a sister of Mrs. Murphy. Gray, the assassin, was taken to the county jail this morning. Sheriff Bodkin says he is not much hurt. He does not talk. Edward Briggs was arraigned before Justice O this afternoon, charged on the complaint of B. Schmidt with grand larceny in stealing four watches, one a gold watch, and a chain of the value of \$100. After the complaint was read to Briggs he was allowed to speak and he told the story of his connection with Gray. He admitted that he was with him at S's saloon Saturday evening and after they went away Gray proposed to him to go back and get the loot but he refused. He told how Schmidt and Chief M. came to Mrs. Goldstein's in Fargo Sunday afternoon looking for Gray and that he (Briggs) pointed Gray out to the Chief. He also told a straight story

as to the shooting of the Chief by Gray. Briggs was committed to the county jail, and his case was adjourned from day to day. He will be used as a witness against Gray."

Succeeding issues of the *Daily News* had stories on Chief Murphy's condition; although the early reports were pessimistic, he made a slow recovery — and was given a year's leave to recover his strength. Moorhead was "in a state of intense sorrow and great indignation" according to *Daily News* headlines.

Why did young Thomas Murphy leave the Moorhead police force in 1902, when he was in his early thirties? In 1975 Mrs. E. J. Murphy, still living in Felton, said that Tom became a full-time trainer and manager of her husband's racing horses.

Great Saloon Era

The 1898-99 city directory lists 41 saloons in Moorhead; this includes firms that were also off-sale stores but it does not include the Pederson Mercantile Co., which was a purely wholesale liquor business. The saloons are listed alphabetically: Fred Amb's Center near Fourth, Ole Aslesen Main near Fourth, L. L. Bernier Fourth near First Avenue N., Arne Bjerk Main near bridge, California Wine Co., Ridge near Second, Michael Campbell Main near bridge, S. G. Coulson Fourth near Main, Thomas Erdel First and Ridge.

G. E. Flaten Center near Fifth, Simon Fraser Ridge Avenue near bridge, J. A. Gletne Main near Fourth,



Concordia's 1914-1915 band, with O. R. Overby as student director, played at temperance meetings and marched in the celebration when prohibition was declared.

Gustafson and Anderson Ridge, John Haas Ridge Avenue near bridge, Hanson and Peterson Fourth and Main, Hedrick and Ryan Eighth near First Avenue N., Hill and Thorstenson Columbia Hotel, Christian Holbeck Eleventh and First Avenue N., Burt Howard Ridge near bridge, K. C. Ingersoll Center near Seventh, L. A. Kertson and Co. Center and Fourth, Jacob Kiefer — Kiefer block, J. C. Lally — Lafayette Hotel, James Lewis Center near Sixth, Michael Lynch Ridge and Second.

J. A. McMannis Center and Seventh, Mickelson and Monson Fourth near Center, Murphy and Young Ridge near bridge, N. S. Nelson Fourth and First Avenue N., William O'Meara Ridge near bridge, A. N. Olson Fourth near Center, H. J. Peterson — Mason block, P. E. Peterson Main near Fourth, William Rader Main near bridge, C. A. Remley Front near Fifth, Balthazar Schmidt — Mason block, John Schneider Center near Fourth, Soosen and Rutz Ridge near Second, G. H. Taffte Center near Seventh, Taylor and Dugan Ridge near Second, John Tenglund Fourth near Main, T. N. Thompson — Moorhead House.

"Believing his line of business as honorable as any other line, Mayor Kiefer deplored practices which had given saloons in general a bad name and made them a source of profit to corrupt officials." Henry Johnson understood and explained Kiefer's stand on controlling Moorhead's liquor economy and its by-products: "Mayor Kiefer's policy fell short of

the letter of the law by leaving some loopholes for after-hour business in saloons and for the use of back doors on Sundays, and he vetoed proposals of the council for a stricter policy. But saloonkeepers understood that they must at no time encourage or tolerate unseemly orgies and that any hint of such outrages as had been alleged under the previous administration would lead to searching inquiry and, if found to be true, would result in drastic action. With some fuming and swearing at being thus on probation, saloon men cooperated in efforts to prove that their business was respectable. There was reasonable quiet behind the screens, there was decency in front of them, and passers-by caught no tales of outrages. Similar conditions were imposed upon the red-light district. That such a district should, under any conditions, continue to exist was an offense to many good people who commended the mayor's saloon policy. But the mayor had drawn a reasoned line between enforceable and unenforceable restrictions and could honestly defend his course."

In 1909 there were forty-two saloons listed: Akesson & Peterson 221 Main, F. O. Anderson 306 Main, J. A. Anderscn 15 Fourth St. S., Berg & Meehan 23 Fourth St. S. and 218 Main, W. I. Cooper 204 First Ave. N., W. H. Diemert 101-103 First Ave. N., Tobias Edwards 101 Third St. N., Empire Bottling Works 301 Main, C. B. Erdel 110 First Ave. N., E. E. Flaten 416 Center, Fredericks & Anderson 19 Fourth St. N., Higgins Aske Co. 6 First Ave. N., C. B. Hill

23 Fourth St. N., Holbeck & Legler — Columbia Hotel, A. H. Indrelee 414 Center, J. E. Johnson 7-9 First Ave. N., Johnson & Keefe 704 Center, Jacob Kiefer & Son 406-408 Center, James Lewis 512 Center, J. B. Lindquist 622 Center, S. Lundgren & Co. 308 Main, Magnuson Bros. 114-116 First Ave. N., Martin & Norgaard 300 Main, Matt Mickelson 109 First St. N., A. W. Monson 19 Fourth St. S., W. M. O'Neill 14 Eighth St. N., P. E. Peterson 223 Main, Peterson & Grinoldby 304 Main, Rathskeller 114 First St. N., W. H. Reynold 302 Main, A. J. Rustad 210 Main, G. A. Simmons 410 Center, E. F. Smith 212 Main, Henry Soosen 1 Fourth St. N., P. F. Timlin 102 First Ave. N. Tudal & Carlson 402 Center, H. J. Waldron 105 First St. N. Walgren & Olson 504 Center, H. M. Walter 518 Center, Edward Wilson 210 First Ave. N., Norman Young First and First N.

Prohibition Looms

The movement to prohibit the sale and use of alcoholic beverages had been accelerating steadily since the Civil War. Among the abuses credited to alcohol, the illicit sale of liquor to Indians was a special problem in northern Minnesota. Although a provision of the 1851 Treaty of Bois de Sioux had forbidden the practice, there were gross evasions of the law in some places. Park Rapids saloons were raided at the end of 1909 by federal officers headed by the celebrated Pussyfoot Johnson, who had earned his nickname in Oklahoma Indian Territory.



Center Avenue businesses at the intersection of Fifth Street in 1879. At the far left is Bruns & Finkle on the NW corner of Fourth. At the NE corner is the Bramble House block. Lawood & Davy Flour and Feed and the Western House are on the NE corner of Fifth Street, shown on the right.

Pussyfoot Johnson came to Moorhead in the summer of 1910. He posted notices that all saloons would be closed in September because Moorhead was built on land covered by the same Indian treaty. Moorhead nearly exploded, according to Jim Fay, because the city's 48 saloons each paid a thousand-dollar-a-year license fee. S. G. Comstock and W. H. Davy went to Washington, examined the government records, and discovered that the Sioux uprising of 1862 had abrogated the treaty in the Moorhead region although it was still valid in areas to the east and north of Clay County. Moorhead's saloons were saved for a few more years, but the publicity this crisis focused on them brought pressure to restrict the number of bars.

Only a few of Moorhead's four dozen saloons (48 is the agreed-upon peak figure) were substantial institutions of any size, permanence, financial stability, and real interest. Many of them were merely outlets for the great brewers, which probably explains the surprising turnover in saloon ownership: from 1898-99 to 1901, within two or three years, 26 names had dropped out of the city directory and 23 others were added! The 1915 edition lists eleven firms in the classified business directory under brewers: Anheuser-Busch 5-7-9 Fourth (Pederson Merchantile Co.), Val Blatz 615 Front, Duluth Brewing 10 Fourth S, John Gund 709 Front, Hamm 511 Front, Heilman 715 Front, Hennepin Brewing 21 Fourth N.,

Minneapolis Brewing 17 Eighth S., Pabst 406 Front (Jacob Kiefer's), Schmidt rear 10 Fourth S., and Peter Schoenhofen Brewing 629 Front. Of the brewers listed in 1909, only the Jung Brewing Company 409 Front, is missing from the 1915 listing.

The colorful saloon names are difficult to trace because the directories usually list the owners. Thus, the Three Orphans next to the north bridge is the Higgins Aske Co. at 6 First Avenue N.; the three orphans were John W. Higgins, Julius Aske, and Thomas Curran. This saloon was not as lavish as the House of Lords and the Rathskeller but was supposed to have the world's longest bar. The Nickle Plate Saloon at 114-116 First Avenue N. is Magnuson Brothers — William G. and Elmer A. Charles Nelson's saloon, also called the Old Midway Buffet 7-9 First Avenue N., extended over the riverbank at the north bridge, as A. J. Rustad's did at 210 Main — at the south bridge. Hiram Drache says that Rustad's saloon had brass footsteps showing the way to the bar. The Christiania Liquor House at 107 First Street N., across the street from the Rathskeller was owned by Matt Mickelson. The California Liquor House drops out of the later directories, although it might still exist under an owner's name.

Ownership and partnerships changed often; an unravelling of Moorhead's saloon history from 1889 to 1915 would require charting and cross-listing. Saloon names like the Gold Mine, the Golden Spike, and the

Bucket of Blood are especially difficult to trace and to identify. Generalizations are also dangerous. However, the Front Street saloons and those farthest from the river were perhaps the most straight-laced and respectable, the north bridge saloons the most gaudy, and the south bridge "places" the most shady. But even within families there were differences of reputation and clientele: in the north bridge area W. H. Diemert & Co. 101-103 First Avenue N. was a highly-respected wholesale firm and saloon, but the Simon P. Diemert saloon at 105 First Street N. had a much lesser reputation, like the Christiania Liquor House next door. Workingmen's saloons like these two did not impress anyone, which is probably how they got their trade; but there must have been wide differences between such places also.

In 1915, their last year before prohibition, Moorhead's saloons had been reduced to twenty-eight. The only new one was the Comstock Hotel Bar. From 1900 to 1915 the saloon-keepers and liquor dealers of Moorhead were aware that the county option plan might close their businesses. There was some bitterness and apprehension but it was not universal: Jacob Kiefer and Moorhead attorney F. H. Peterson, the acknowledged "father" of the county option plan, remained on good terms. Kiefer had acquired a large livery stable in 1899: 20 years later that firm became Moorhead's Chevrolet agency.

Hotels in Moorhead



Fifth Street and Center Avenue in 1884, showing the change from frame to brick buildings. Moorhead Fire Barn in left foreground

Moorhead's location was fixed by the crossing of the Red River of the North by the Northern Pacific.

Because of its key location for commerce, there was a need for many hostelrys. Less than a decade later there were more than a dozen hotels and restaurants in the town. The hotels were popular not only for those passing through, but also with working people, who used them as places to room and board. The hotels provided an abundance of jobs for Moorhead residents, as yardmen, domestics, cooks, desk clerks, laundresses, waiters, and bartenders.

Among the earliest arrivals in Moorhead were B. F. Mackall, druggist, and Dr. John Kurtz, pioneer physician. In an address "Early Days in Moorhead," given by Mr. Mackall in 1933 at a dinner honoring his 60th anniversary in Moorhead, he said, "I arrived in Moorhead on the 22nd day of April, 1872. From Glyndon the prairie was a sea — the melting snow of the previous hard winter (the winter of '72-'73 was one of the hardest I have known in this country) covered the prairie, being held back by the grade of the N.P. Railroad. It was said that one could row a boat from Glyndon to Mapleton following the coulees. Andrew Holes told me that rowing up the river he and his wife had to duck their heads to pass under the N.P. bridge. The streets of Moorhead were a quagmire, with single planks laid on the mud for crossings, and two planks

side by side for sidewalks.

Dr. Kurtz and I slept that night in a large room over the store of Bruns and Finkle which was located on the corner of Fourth Street and First Avenue North where the Central Hotel now stands. We had a double bed and two single mattresses so you can imagine the result . . . it was like sleeping on two sides of a valley; one would slide down and the other would roll down on top of him; then the first would climb up and as soon as he fell asleep the process would be repeated, and so on the entire night . . . very restful and refreshing!

A survey of Moorhead the next morning was not encouraging. It was a paper town, frame buildings covered with tar paper to keep out the cold, only it didn't. The only two-story building was the Bramble House on the corner of Front and Fourth Streets where the Gletne Block now stands. The others were one-story or story and a half with false fronts to the streets.

The town was clustered between the river and Fifth Street; there were a few small residences in the northwest corner and some on the south side of the river. The principal stores were Bruns and Finkle's on Fourth Street and John Erickson's hotel and store on the river front, John I. Black's, N. K. Hubbard and Company, Jas. H. Sharp, and A. E. Henderson on Front Street, with James Douglas on the southeast corner of Front and Fourth . . .

Most of the women were married, but the men were in the majority, generally unmarried, so the married women were the Belles of the ball. There were dances held chiefly in Headquarters Hotel in Fargo which everybody attended, and the old-fashioned church sociables. At the Bramble House our choicest meal was baked bullhead and vinegar pie."

The Bramble House

The Bramble House referred to by Mr. Mackall was Moorhead's pioneer hostelry, and one of its best known and most popular establishments. Bruns and Finkle bought it from Peter C. Sloggy on July 8, 1874, for \$3500. By 1882 it was under the proprietorship of Messrs. Strong and Horton.

Mr. Strong had come west from Michigan in August, 1880; he engaged in harvesting, and later purchased a threshing machine in company with E. Mallory. After doing a very large business, Mr. Strong bought out his partner. On his return here from Michigan in April, 1881, he engaged in farming until his hotel partnership with Mr. Horton.

Because the hotels in Moorhead were established at different times and lasted through varying eras, the others will be treated alphabetically except for the impressive Jay Cooke, the fabulous Grand Pacific, and the more recent Comstock and F-M.



Erickson House, on the north side of Center Avenue between Fourth and Third Streets, was in operation from 1872 to 1892.



Exchange Hotel in 1890, at 12 Eighth Street South

The Borgen Hotel

T. L. Borgen was the proprietor of the Borgen Hotel at Ridge Avenue and South Street, according to the 1895-1896 city directory. This location is now known as Fourth Street and Fifth Avenue South.

The Canadian House

J. Thomas, proprietor of the Canadian House, came from Ireland about 1847. He lived in New York and Pittsburgh before coming west to Iowa, and finally to St. Paul. The growing importance of the Red River Valley attracted him, and he first went to Fargo, then came to Moorhead in the spring of 1874. In 1876 he bought the Canadian House. In addition to being in the hotel business he also owned some valuable farm land.

The Central House

Michael Syron, proprietor of The Central House, was an example of what could be accomplished with the smallest of beginnings and very limited capital. He began business in a restaurant and a fruit store, with a hundred dollars in capital. His venture was so successful that at the end of three months he had netted over \$500, and found it necessary to seek larger accommodations.

He purchased from Messrs. Bruns and Finkle their store and building on the corner of Fourth and James Streets, at what was more recently Fourth Street and First Avenue North,

but is now (1975) part of a parking lot for the Moorhead Center Mall. Mr. Syron added an upper story to the building so there would be a total of 35 bedrooms, and opened the hotel as The Central House. By 1882 he had accumulated over \$25,000 capital, and was doing an annual business of about \$10,000. In 1895-1896, however, Charles Lancaster was listed in the directory as the proprietor of the Central Hotel.

The Cleveland House

Located at Fifth and James, now the site of Moorhead City Hall, this hotel was under the proprietorship of Reuben Corbett in 1895-1896.

The Columbia Hotel

In later years the Jay Cooke House (described later) was called Hotel Debs, and still later became the Columbia Hotel. By the time it burned it was called the Old Columbia Hotel; and the Exchange Hotel, purchased by the owners of the destroyed Jay Cooke/Columbia, became the New Columbia Hotel.

The Davis House

Dr. Davis was a prominent physician of Moorhead, and also owned this hotel at Fifth and James Street, near the two railroad depots. Its 16 rooms were so consistently occupied that Dr. Davis was constantly obliged to refuse persons seeking accommodations.

The Debs Hotel

This was one of the later names of the Jay Cooke Hotel, which became Hotel Debs, later the Columbia Hotel, and finally the Old Columbia Hotel.

The Erickson House

Located on West Front Street (now Center Avenue) and Fourth Street, this was a well-known and popular hotel. Though convenient and comfortable, it was not as elegant nor as handsomely furnished as its owner's other hostelry, the Jay Cooke House. In 1895-1896 John Swanson was the proprietor.

The Exchange Hotel

The proprietor of this hotel, E. E. Blanchard, first came to this area in July, 1871, at the head of a party of seven men employed by the Puget Sound Land Company to locate claims. This party was the first to erect a board building within the present limits of Moorhead. Mr. Blanchard was appointed deputy sheriff, and held office for five years.

The Exchange Hotel was located on the east side of Eighth Street, south of Front Street (now Center Avenue) and across from the Northern Pacific Railroad depot, on a site near a present service station and parking lot. The Exchange speedily acquired a good trade, which continued to increase. Across the tracks and south of the hotel, on the northeast corner of Eighth Street and Main Avenue, was a livery stable where hotel visi-



Moorhead House, later called Moorhead Hotel, built in the early '80s at 509 Main Avenue, stood at the same location until 1961.



In the summer in 1881 John Erickson opened his solid brick Jay Cooke House on the northwest corner of Center Avenue and Eighth Street.

tors stabled their horses during their stay at the hostelry.

Connected with the hotel in 1882 was a fine sample and billiard room where was kept on hand a fine stock of foreign and domestic wines, liquors, and cigars. The menu of November 24, 1898 included choice of soups, vegetables, New York Cuts, Baked California Salmon with Oyster Sauce, Prime Sirloin of Beef, Roast Venison and Saratoga Chips, Stuffed Turkey with French Fried Potatoes, Domestic Goose with Cranberry Sauce, Fried Lobster with Madeira Sauce, Orange Fritters with Brandy Sauce, Pineapple Fritters and Pineapple Sauce, a choice of potatoes, choice of pies, ice cream, and cakes, and choice of tea, coffee, milk, or cocoa. Mr. P. J. Foster, a son of the owner, remembered the price for the meal as being from 25¢ or 35¢.

James Frederick Foster, born in Fredrickson, New Brunswick, and Mr. John (Jack) Bell of England, built the Exchange Hotel in 1891, and operated it for a number of years thereafter. According to Mr. Foster's son, Mr. P. J. Foster, of 603 South Ninth Street, Moorhead, his father had the money and sales experience, and Mr. Bell was the promoter. P. J. Foster was born in the hotel in 1893.

About 1899 James Foster sold out to Jack Bell, and then bought a "patent" from the government, a piece of land south of Moorhead. He owned this until he sold it to Dr. A. L. Knob-

lauch, then president of Moorhead State College, about 1955.

Jack Bell operated the hotel for a short time, then sold it to Bill Wagner. Later the establishment changed hands a number of times. When the Old Columbia Hotel (originally called the Jay Cooke House and then Hotel Debs), on the northwest corner of Eighth Street and Center Avenue, was destroyed by fire January 1, 1911, owners Nels Holbeck and Henry Legler took over the Exchange Hotel and changed its name to the New Columbia Hotel.

In 1933 the "New" was dropped, and the hotel was thereafter known as The Columbia Hotel. In 1955 the hotel was torn down to create a parking lot.

The Farmer's Home

The Farmer's Home was a small hotel on the northwest corner of James and Broadway, now 11th Street and First Avenue North, with G. R. Williams as proprietor in 1895-1896. Many men who worked on the railroad boarded at the hostelry.

The Moorhead House

According to the 1895-1896 city directory, the Thompson Brothers — Iver N. and Thomas — were the proprietors of this establishment, at the south side of Main Avenue and East Fifth.

The New Columbia Hotel

This is another name of the Exchange Hotel, located just south of

Center Avenue on the east side of Eighth Street.

The Moorhead *Daily News* for Tuesday, April 17, 1917 listed M. O. Solum of Barnesville and R. B. Webb of Glynndon as New Columbia Hotel guests, along with Claude Henry of Baker, and Nils Hegg of Dale. Even though these men were residents of nearby communities, the conditions of the time made overnight stays necessary.

The Remely House

Frank Remely came from St. Cloud to Moorhead about 1878, and on his arrival rented a building and opened a hotel. His business was so successful that at the end of the first year he was able to buy the house, with the lots on which it stood. By 1882 he had purchased two adjoining lots, which contained a building he used as an addition to his hotel to accommodate his rapidly increasing business.

The St. Charles House

Mr. F. Hennebohle, proprietor and manager of this hotel, was one of the earliest pioneers of the area. When he erected his hotel building it was considered so far out of town that the area was dubbed "Hennebohle-ville," but by 1882 it was centrally located in Moorhead.

The Jay Cooke House

One of the finest hotels in Moorhead was the Jay Cooke House, named after the builder of the Northern



The Grand Pacific Hotel. In left foreground are the remains of the Key City Block which was built in 1881 and burned in 1883, also damaging the hotel.

Pacific Railroad. It stood on the site of the more recent Comstock Hotel, at the northwest corner of Eighth Street and Center Avenue, the site of the new (1975) American State Bank structure. The building had a front of one hundred feet on Front Street (now Center Avenue) with a depth of eighty feet, and was centrally located within half a block of either depot. The walls were of solid brick, 22 inches thick, and every precaution was taken against fire — but to no avail. The building was erected in the fall of 1880, but the interior finishing was not completed until June, 1881.

There were eighty rooms, each heated by steam. There were thirty to ninety arrivals daily. The hotel was on the American plan, with first-class rates of \$2.00 to \$2.50 per day.

Edward Thomas, a man of great ability and long experience, was the manager. The owner, Mr. Erickson, owned many other enterprises in the city, including the Erickson House. A new three-story addition was proposed for construction in 1882 or 1883, but it is not clear whether or not this work was completed.

In later years the Jay Cooke was called Hotel Debs, then the Columbia Hotel, and finally the Old Columbia Hotel. In 1895 R. A. O'Brien was the proprietor.

The Jay Cooke, now become the Old Columbia, burned on January 1, 1911. The owners, Nels Holbeck and Henry Legler, took over the Exchange Hotel and changed its name to the New

Columbia, from which the "New" was dropped in later years.

The Grand Pacific

The most fabulous of all hotels this side of Minneapolis-St. Paul, if not indeed as good as any in the Twin Cities, was the Grand Pacific, owned by James J. Hill, president of the Great Northern Railway at a time when it was known as the Manitoba Railroad. The Grand Pacific was built by H. A. Bruns in the 1880s, and came into Hill's possession via a mortgage.

The three-story frame structure, costing approximately \$200,000, was at the corner of Front Street, now Center Avenue, and Ninth Street. Just east of the former Great Northern depot, now the home of the Clay County Historical Society, the Grand Pacific faced Front Street and opened into the offices of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad. With its numerous small towers and gables it looked like a medieval castle.

The interior was handsomely finished in white and varnished wood, and the entire building was lighted by gas and heated by steam. The 140 rooms, 12 of which had a private parlor and bath, were spacious, and each was connected with the office by electric annunciator.

The building contained spacious hallways, a large and airy main lobby 75 x 80 feet, the hotel office, and a news stand with a stock of newspapers, periodicals, cigars, and stereoscopic views. A cozy writing room

opened from the lobby, a 40 x 42 billiard room contained four billiard tables, and there was a well-stocked bar, and a barber shop.

A broad carpeted stairway led to the upper stories, where full-length French glass mirrors reflected the fashions of the day. One of these six-foot wide mirrors is presently in the home of Mrs. W. W. Wallwork, formerly of Moorhead, in California.

Around the hall from the lobby were two large and handsome waiting rooms, and the ticket office of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad. Near the waiting rooms was a large dining room with twenty tables each seating eight. The large and varied menu for December 25, 1883 included Salmon Steak, Capon and Salt Pork, Turkey, Tame Goose, Young Pig stuffed with Oysters, Roast Mallard Duck, Broiled Quail on Toast, Supreme of Chicken a la Perigord, Mock Turtle Soup, Leg of Mutton — English Style, Champagne Punch, and a wide choice of vegetables and desserts.

Mrs. Jessie Thornby of Moorhead recalls that, when she was about five years old, she went with her sister to the Grand Pacific to have tea with her sister's teacher, who lived at the hotel. She recalls the huge lounge, with large and comfortable chairs, and a grand stairway leading to the upper floors.

The Grand Pacific Hotel was the center of social life for fifteen years. The charity dinner dance in 1881, given by the Ladies General Benevo-



In 1914 the Comstock Hotel opened on the northwest corner of Center Avenue and Eighth Street, the old site of the Jay Cooke House.

lent Society, with tickets at \$5.00, was probably the first charity ball in the history of Moorhead. Dinner was served in the lobby; there were long tables along the wall, with smaller ones circling the fountain. Some 300 attended.

John Baugh was the manager who oversaw the services offered by this large and imposing hotel. According to the 1895-1896 directory, John A. Baker was the proprietor at that time.

After a business slump and years of struggle, Mr. Hill offered the hotel to the city for \$15,000. The offer was rejected, and he decided the building should be torn down and the materials sold. When the building was razed in 1896 Mr. W. H. Davy bought the fountain from the lobby, and had it placed in the yard of the Davy home at 222 Second Street North. Much of the material from the building found its way into hotels at Minot and other points farther west.

The Comstock Hotel

After the Old Columbia Hotel burned, in 1911, the Comstock Hotel was built on the site, the northwest corner of Front Street (now Center Avenue) and Eighth Street. The Comstock was opened in May, 1912, by an investment firm and was named after Solomon G. Comstock, a Moorhead pioneer. It was a three-story structure 150 x 140 feet, fronting on Center Avenue, and had 78 rooms.

The hotel was operated by F. F. Dunlop from 1922 until 1936, when

George Moritz took over. On May 28, 1946 the hotel was purchased by Paul and Lewis H. Johnson, of Minneapolis, at a public auction ordered by Judge Byron R. Wilson of Clay County District Court. The furnishings were later purchased from the previous owner, George Moritz. Lewis Johnson became the manager in March, 1949. The Johnsons installed a coffee shop and a banquet room, and a number of varied businesses occupied the first floor and lower lobby of the building.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s the Comstock was famous for its Chuck Wagon luncheons, "all you can eat for 50¢."

David Gibb assumed management of the Comstock on July 1, 1961. In March, 1964 the new Colonnade Room was opened, a dining area with old Roman decor and a fountain.

The Comstock Hotel was demolished after a major fire on June 30, 1968.

The F-M Hotel

The seven-story, 112-room F-M Hotel on the southeast corner of Fourth Street and Center Avenue was the catalyst for far-reaching changes in the community. The dream of a first-rate hotel came from a handful of men, including R. B. Bergland, then mayor of Moorhead; Martin Johnson, Moorhead realtor; Arthur Diercks, Secretary-Manager of the Moorhead Chamber of Commerce;

and M. O. Foss, architect, who designed it.

A corporation was formed with Martin Johnson as president, Al Breitbach — a North Dakota hotel man — as vice-president, Art Diercks as secretary, and A. E. Bergland as treasurer. The name chosen for the hotel was Frederick Martin, the name of Johnson's seventh-month old son. Plans for the building were announced in April, 1947. A contract was signed with Standard Construction Company of Minneapolis in December, and work was begun in the spring of 1948.

Because of financial difficulties within the corporation, Thor Knutson, president of Standard Construction, took over the property but gave the Moorhead corporation an option to repurchase. Thor and his son Donald were owners and operators until September 1, 1961, when the Kahler Corporation of Rochester, Minnesota took over the hotel. The Kahler Company operated the hotel for almost a decade, until May, 1971, when it was purchased by a group of Moorhead business people including James Durham, Eleanor Hetzler, Hugo Olson, and Marge and Norman Overby.

The hotel was long known for its comfortable rooms and its wide variety of meal services. The Tree Top Room, overlooking the whole Fargo-Moorhead area, offered cuisine reported by the *Minneapolis Tribune* to be as good as that of any restaurant in the Twin Cities. The Top of the

Law and Politics



Solomon G. Comstock

Mart was the scene of many banquets, dances, and wedding receptions. On the main floor, the coffee shop was known as The Barn, and was open 24 hours a day, while the Skol Room offered beverages and live entertainment of an evening, as well as a fixed-price week day luncheon which included roast beef, ham, hot potato salad, and a beverage for only \$1.25. In addition, the private Depot Club was established as a special bar and grill on the lower level.

The hotel closed its doors in May, 1972, and was out of operation for more than two years. In July, 1974 ReAct, Inc., headed by Bud Anderson, David Rick, and Randolph Stefanson, acquired the property. During the winter of 1974 work was begun in remodeling the building for use as a condominium office building to be known as FM Center.

Current Situation

At present, in early 1975, there are no major hotels in Moorhead, although there are motels and motor hotels, including a Holiday Inn on the northeast corner of Highway 75 (Eighth Street South) and Interstate Highway 94, in the Holiday Mall shopping center, and a Ramada Inn at the southwest corner of the same intersection, "across the freeway" on 30th Avenue South. Other hostels include the Belmont Motel at 521 North 24th Street, the Morningside Mo-Ho-Tel at Business 94 and Highway 231, and the Halliday Motel at 1520 Fourth Avenue South.

The Past

In 1861 Governor Ramsey appointed R. M. Probstfield, Richard Banning and George W. Northrop to be County Commissioners, and instructed them to proceed with the organization of Clay County. The Civil War broke out that same year, and that strife, along with a Sioux Indian uprising in 1862, prevented them from carrying out that assignment. In the spring of 1872, Governor Austin named Andrew Holes and Peter Wilson commissioners. In April of 1872, a shooting in Moorhead moved the commissioners to appoint J. B. Blanchard as Sheriff, David C. Grant as Justice of the Peace and County Auditor, and S. G. Comstock as County Attorney.

The first jail was erected in 1872. It was a log building, paid for by public donations, located at what is now Fourth Street North. It was replaced in 1874 by a new county jail located at Eighth Street and First Avenue North. In 1879 the commissioners contracted for the construction of a courthouse which was located in the City park, opposite the Fairmont Creamery building. In 1882 John Bergquist donated two blocks of land on the city's north side, the site on which the present courthouse is located. By 1883 a new courthouse and a new jail had been constructed.

Even before the first attempt was made to organize Clay County in 1861, J. S. Carvell had arrived in the area to begin the practice of law. Little is known of him; according to Turner and

Semling's *History of Clay and Norman Counties* (1918), he was "an eccentric character . . . a native of Maine, and finally died in New Hampshire."

"The Key City" speaks of Briggs and Elders as the oldest legal firm in Moorhead or Fargo, although the date of the establishment of the firm is not given. Mr. R. R. Briggs was admitted to the bar in Winona in the early 1870s. He came to this area a short time later, and, with the Elder brothers, F. A. and J. A., established "large and commodious offices above the Merchants Bank" that were among the "most convenient and elegantly furnished in the city." Mr. Briggs and F. A. Elder attended the firm's business in Moorhead while J. A. Elder, who had practiced law in Austin before coming to Moorhead, handled the Fargo office. They conducted a "flourishing" real estate and insurance business as well as their law practice.

Solomon G. Comstock's place in the history of Moorhead is written of elsewhere in these pages. It should be noted here, however, that the firm he established with A. A. White in 1874 is spoken of as the most "prominent in the City."

Frank J. Burnham left his native Vermont to practice law in Chicago. The great Chicago fire in 1871 caused him to immigrate to the Red River Valley. He arrived in Glyndon in 1872. In *Here-There-Everywhere*, Glenn Johnson's history of Clay County, appears a reproduction of an ad from the June, 1872, *Red River Gazette*, which reads: "F. J. Burnham, Attorney at Law, and Land and Insurance Agent, Glyndon, Clay Co., Minn. All kinds of



Franklin J. Burnham, lawyer, partner in Burnham & Tillotson and president of the First National Bank

law and land business attended to promptly. Insurance, both fire and life placed in desirable companies." In 1873 Mr. Burnham joined with a Mr. Nettleton in the firm of Burnham and Nettleton. About 1876 he moved his practice to Moorhead. What with a rapidly growing real estate and insurance business, he took into partnership W. K. Gould, and two years later G. W. Heywood. That firm was dissolved in 1884. A short time later he entered into partnership with Ira B. Mills and William R. Tillotson, under the firm name of Burnham, Mills and Tillotson. Mr. Burnham served for a time as county attorney and was Clay County's first Superintendent of Schools. He was president of the First National Bank and had considerable interests in Clay County. He died in 1898.

Ira Mills was appointed District Judge in 1887. He presided on the bench until 1893 when he was appointed by Governor Nelson to the Railroad and Warehouse Commission.

Mr. Tillotson, a graduate of Dartmouth College who had been admitted to the bar in New Hampshire in 1880, continued in the Burnham firm until Mr. Burnham's death. He then opened his own office, retiring from active practice in 1952. He was Moorhead's mayor from 1892-95 and again from 1901-03, and a member of the city's first Charter Commission. He died in 1953 at the age of 96.

Edward E. Webster, a native of Vermont, studied law at Boston University School of Law. After completing his studies, he set up a law practice in Amherst, Massachusetts. He immigrated

to the Red River Valley in 1880 and settled in Glyndon. He joined with F. R. Clement to establish the firm of Webster and Clement. Shortly thereafter A. H. Hazen joined the firm. A few months later the firm moved to Fargo.

After practicing law in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, Robert W. Coleman arrived in Moorhead in 1881 and for a brief time was associated with a Mr. Mooney. In 1884 he went into partnership with a Mr. Von Bornstedt. Before his death in the late '80s, he had built up a considerable interest in real estate properties along the Manitoba and Northern Pacific railroad lines.

Carl Goebel is spoken of in "The Key City" as a "German lawyer" who was admitted to the bar at Red Wing in 1878. He came to Moorhead and by 1882 had not only an extensive law practice and real estate business, but operated a 320 acre farm as well.

Benedict Howard arrived in Moorhead in 1873. He traveled for a time between Moorhead and Winnipeg and worked as a clerk in Bruns and Finkle's grocery store. In 1876 he entered the Comstock law firm and was admitted to the bar in 1880. That same year he was elected County Attorney. He died in the early 1900s.

When J. B. Wellcome came to the West from New Hampshire in 1882, he settled in Moorhead. That same year he opened his law office and began to deal in insurance and in the loan business as well. Soon after, he was elected Justice of the Peace. In 1884, in partnership with another gentleman from New Hampshire, George E. Perley, he estab-



George E. Perley, Law, Loans, Real Estate, President of the Red River Valley Investment Co. and a member of Moorhead's Board of Education

lished the firm of Wellcome and Perley. The firm was dissolved in the late '80s when Mr. Wellcome moved on to Butte, Montana.

George Perley, who had been an attorney in Boston prior to coming to the Red River Valley, maintained for several years a successful law practice in Moorhead. After a time, however, he came to concentrate primarily on his farm mortgage investments out of his Moorhead office as well as from branch offices in Ulen, Twin Valley and Gary. He served two terms in the State legislature; he chaired the House Committee on Education and "was a prominent floor leader . . . a forceful speaker, a versatile writer and an enthusiastic musician." He served two terms as alderman and was for several years a member of the Moorhead board of education. He was an active member in the Moorhead Music Club and a trustee of Fargo College. He died in 1927.

Wallace B. Douglas arrived in Moorhead in 1883 after practicing law in Chicago. With Ole Mosness he formed a partnership, practicing under the firm name of Mosness and Douglas for a number of years. He served as city attorney for four years, as county attorney for six years, and as a state legislator for two terms; he also held the office of Attorney General for two terms. Governor Van Sant appointed him to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court. He was defeated in his bid for election to the Court and subsequently moved his practice to St. Paul.

Mr. Mosness remained in Moorhead for several years, for a time in partnership with A. R. Holston. He later



Judge Carroll A. Nye, resident director of Moorhead Normal School, lawyer, director of Moorhead Commercial Club, county attorney and later Mayor of Moorhead

moved to Minneapolis where he was associated with a Mr. Fosse and with F. D. Larrabee who, with Marshall S. Spooner, had practiced in Moorhead in the early 1880s. Mr. Spooner moved from the Minneapolis firm to Bemidji and later was appointed District Judge of the fifteenth judicial district. Mr. Larrabee came to specialize in personal damage cases and is spoken of, in the *History of Clay and Norman Counties*, as "perhaps one of the best attorneys of that city."

Joshua Edwin (Ed) Adams, a direct descendant of President John Adams, was born in Perth, Ontario, in 1851. He was educated and studied law in Ontario before coming to the United States in 1881. He settled in Moorhead and for three years was employed at H. G. Finkle's general store. In 1884 he opened a law practice in Hawley. He returned to Moorhead in 1892, and after working for a short time as a cashier at the First National Bank, returned to his law practice and continued in it until his retirement in 1944. He was a prominent leader in city and county affairs, and with F. H. Peterson, another Moorhead attorney, drew up the original Moorhead City Charter, considered by many to be a model of its kind. He served as city auditor, assessor, and secretary, as a member of the city's light and water commission, and as county treasurer during World War I. Mr. Adams was a warden of the Episcopal church, and took an active role in the building of the Church of St. John the Divine in 1898. He died in 1955 at the age of 103.

Carroll A. Nye was born in Wisconsin

in 1864, and after being educated there, studied law under his brother, Frank, and under Robert LaFollette of Wisconsin. He entered Wisconsin University, graduating in 1886 after earning his way through the university by working as a farm laborer and teacher. He opened a law office in Moorhead in 1887, and in 1898 C. G. Dosland joined him in practice. Mr. Nye served for several years as city attorney and as county attorney and was Moorhead's mayor from 1903-1907. In addition, he was a member of the State Normal School Board for two terms. He was elected District Judge in 1910. In 1917 he reported for duty in the Army at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, and, according to the account in the *History of Clay and Norman Counties*, "He tendered his resignation as district judge to the governor, but it was not accepted. After the war he returned to Moorhead and took up his duties on the bench, continuing until his death in 1935. He was buried with full military rites in Riverside Cemetery on November 27, 1935.

N. I. Johnson was born in Norway in 1868. He immigrated to the Red River Valley as a young boy and attended high school in the Grand Forks area. He studied law at the University of North Dakota and the University of Minnesota, and "in 1898 he graduated with signal honors." For a time he was in practice with Mr. Nye, but later opened his own office. He was situated for many years in the National Loan Building on Center Avenue. He took an active interest in sports and was an enthusiastic supporter of the Moorhead High School basketball team. He retired from active practice in 1952 after

serving this area for nearly 55 years. He died in January of 1954.

James W. Witherow began his law practice in Moorhead in 1898. He was born in Londonderry, Ireland, came to Dakota Territory at the age of 15 and worked on farms until he entered Carleton College in 1887. He entered Moorhead Normal School the following year and graduated in 1892. After teaching school for about four years he took up the study of law and was admitted to the bar in 1898. He practiced in Moorhead until his death in 1954. Mr. Witherow served as city attorney for 10 years and was district court commissioner for more than 30 years.

Garfield H. Rustad came to Moorhead from Dakota Territory as a young boy. After graduating from Moorhead High School he entered the University of Minnesota and received his law degree in 1908. He opened a law office in Moorhead that same year. Over the years he served as assistant county attorney, as city attorney and from 1918-22 as Clay County attorney. He was active in city affairs and was the president of the Chamber of Commerce. He was president of the Clay County Bar Association and a charter member and first president of the Moorhead Rotary Club. He died, at age 64, in 1951.

James H. Sharp came west at the age of 25, arriving in St. Paul in 1868. He worked for a time in a drygoods store but later found work with a railroad construction crew that operated between Duluth and Moorhead. He settled in Moorhead in 1871. In 1872, in partnership with Herbert C. Hill, he



Clay County Courthouse in 1873, facing west on Fifth Street just north of Center Avenue

opened the first drygoods store in either Fargo or Moorhead. This store began its operations from a tent. He took active charge of the movement to organize Moorhead as a village and assisted with the formation of its first volunteer fire department in 1875. He served for a year as Justice of Peace and for 28 years as Clay County Judge of Probate. With a small group of friends he started the first school in Moorhead and was, for 32 years, the secretary for the district's school board. He died in 1931 at the age of 88.

Edgar E. Sharp was born in Moorhead in 1879. After graduating from Moorhead High School he earned a bachelor's degree from Macalester College and went on to study law at the St. Paul College of Law. He returned to Moorhead in 1905 and opened a law office in partnership with his former classmate and brother-in-law, Clyde R. Chapin. He was associated for a time with Gaylord Sætre and with James A. Garrity.

Like his father, Edgar Sharp's contributions to the Moorhead school system were many. He was a member of the school board for eighteen years, and for many years was a member of the Minnesota State School Board Association. He served for seven years as city attorney, and was also the attorney for the school board and for the village of Halstad and its board of education. He died in 1964 at the age of 85.

William Russell, a native of Canada, came to Minnesota in 1883. He located in Moorhead and began the study of law in the offices of Briggs and Elders in Moorhead and Stone and Newman of

Fargo. In 1886 he was appointed reporter for the seventh judicial district and became established at St. Cloud. He served as the court's reporter until 1900 when he returned to Moorhead to take up the practice of law. Mr. Russell was active in the Moorhead Commercial Club and in the Presbyterian Church.

According to the *History of Clay and Norman Counties*, in 1883 the Clay County bar consisted of Messrs. Wellcome, Mills, Douglas, Gould, Webster, Coleman, Lambertson, and Howard. An article in the *Moorhead Daily News*, dated November 21, 1883, lists in addition to those mentioned above, Messrs. Burnham, Tillotson, S. G. Comstock, Mosness, Syron, Spooner and Larabee as "lawyers seeing that justice was done all men in the city of Moorhead." In 1917 the bar consisted of Edward Adams, S. G. Comstock, C. G. Dosland, James A. Garrity, George W. Hammett, N. B. Hanson, H. A. Johnson, N. I. Johnson, C. S. Marden, F. H. Peterson, George E. Perley, C. H. Pomeroy, William Russell, Garfield Rustad, William H. Rasey, E. E. Sharp, Julian S. Thompson, William Tillotson, and James Witherow.

The Present

According to the 1974 telephone directory, there are twenty-three practicing lawyers in Moorhead. Five firms are listed: Dosland, Dosland, Nordhogen and Mickelberg; Garrity, Cahill, Gunhus, Streed, Grinnell and Jeffries; Lamb, Schaefer, and McNair; McLarnan and Stefanson; and Olson, Thysell and Gjevve. In addition to those included in the firm names, Edward

Klinger is associated with the Garrity firm and Jeffrey Pittsenger and Jay Myster with McLarnan and Stefanson. In individual practices are Edward King and Donald Wirries. Magnus Wefald, whose office is in Hawley, is the only attorney practicing out in the county. Some of the firms listed above provide services throughout the county.

The Dosland and Garrity firms can trace their origins back to the early days. Christian G. Dosland joined the Nye law firm in 1898. When Mr. Nye was elected District Judge, Mr. Dosland set up his own practice. He served as county attorney for eight years and as mayor from 1923-27. Over the years he served as president of the Board of Directors of Concordia College, was a member of the State Normal School Board and resident director of the Minnesota State Teachers College Board, and served on the National Church Council for the Norwegian Lutheran Churches of America. After his death in 1945 his son, Goodwin L., returned from military service to head the firm until his election as Probate Judge in 1968. His grandsons, William and John, presently head the firm.

James A. Garrity was for a time associated in practice with Edgar Sharp. In 1914 he founded his own firm and in 1947 his son, James E., joined him in practice. The elder Garrity was appointed Probate Judge in 1957 and served in that post until his death in 1962. He served also as president of the Minnesota State Bar Association and the Minnesota County Attorneys' Association. Upon his father's appoint-



Christian G. Dosland



The Clay County Courthouse, started in 1882 on land donated by John Bergquist from his original homestead, with bricks from the Bergquist yard just west of the present courthouse

ment as Judge, James E. Garrity took over the firm as its senior member.

In 1947 Gaylord Saetre established a law practice in Moorhead. After a time he entered into partnership with Edgar Sharp. In 1958 with his brother, Homer A., and Roderick McLarnan established the firm of Saetre, Saetre, and McLarnan. Both Saetres have since severed their relationship with the firm to serve in the Clay County Court.

In June of 1872, Moorhead was named the county seat of Clay County. At that time the county was a part of the seventh judicial district which then encompassed almost the entire northern part of the state. The first term of court in the county was convened on May 6, 1873, presided over by District Judge James M. McKelvey. The county was later transferred to the eleventh district and then to the fourteenth. In 1893 it was transferred once more to the seventh district where it remains today. As presently constituted, the district is made up of ten counties: Becker, Benton, Clay, Douglas, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Ottertail, Stearns, Todd and Wadena. In 1911 Carroll Nye was elected resident District Judge. Byron Wilson followed in 1935, Norman Nelson in 1965, and Gaylord Saetre in 1968.

While the County Court system has remained relatively stable, an act adopted in the 1971 legislative session brought about some modifications. The offices of Justice of Peace were abolished and matters previously handled by the justices have been absorbed into the Civil Division of the County Court as have cases previously

handled by the city Police Magistrates. In 1973 the Legislature set up procedures for the establishment of Conciliation Courts, sometimes called Poor Man's Courts, where cases involving less than \$500 can be brought by parties who can appear without lawyers. These cases come under the jurisdiction of the Civil Division.

The Clay County Court presently operates through four divisions: Probate, Family Court, Criminal Court, and Civil Divisions. At the present time Judges Goodwin L. Dosland and Homer A. Saetre are the two county judges. Since 1877 the following have served as Probate Court Judges: Ole Jacobson, S. R. Nettleton, F. E. Briggs, H. G. Hinkle, G. H. Peterson, John Costain, James H. Sharp, P. F. Fountain, James A. Garrity and Gaylord A. Saetre.

The Probate Division handles cases involving the administration of estates, wills, trust matters, and related matters.

The Family Division handles all matters relating to the family: divorce, separation, termination of parental rights, neglect, mental, inebriate, adoption, and juvenile matters. In addition, the Court supervises four group juvenile homes and a Regional Juvenile Detention Center which provides facilities for fourteen neighboring counties as well as for Clay County.

Perhaps the most dramatic change in the court system has been in the juvenile program. Until 1917 all juvenile cases were heard by the Justice of Peace and offenders were committed

to reform schools. For a time the Probate Court acted also as the Juvenile Court. In 1959 a revised juvenile code was put into effect and in 1968 Judges Dosland and Saetre drafted formalized rules of procedure which are now being adopted by many other juvenile courts. The County Group Home Program presently provides three homes for boys, and one for girls, and it is likely that one additional home for each will be added.

In 1965 one juvenile officer handled a caseload which fluctuated between 100 and 170 clients. Today the staff of the Family Court Services Division includes an executive director, four male agents, one female agent, two or three college interns per quarter who receive college credit for working and training as aides, and community volunteers who serve as tutors, counselors and recreation supervisors. The executive director, Charles Copenhaver, is responsible for the administration and operation of the program. He acts as court referee in juvenile matters, and is directly responsible to the Court. Each of the agents is assigned duties in addition to his or her supervisory responsibilities: Roy Johnson — supervision of probation; Mike Wolf — male group homes and recreation programs; Rick Crawford — misdemeanor program; Dan Schwandt — the volunteer program; and Mrs. Jean Hoffman — female group home. Mrs. Valerie Nielsen is the director of the Regional Detention Center.

City Government and Services



William H. Davy, 1872 pioneer in Moorhead, grocer on Center Avenue, County Commission Chairman, Moorhead Mayor for two terms, builder of early post office, warden and member of St. John's Episcopal Church for sixty years.



Fred Stalley, Clay County Register of Deeds, 1909

The first municipal government was organized in Moorhead March 24, 1875, following an act of the Legislature, effective February 25, creating the village of Moorhead. On February 24, 1881 Moorhead was incorporated as a city and the mayor and alderman plan of government was adopted. The city was divided into three wards; a fourth ward was added later. Two aldermen were elected from each ward to serve for a term of two years. In the first city election, held in March 1882, H.A. Bruns was elected the first mayor, Sam Partridge recorder, Peter Czizek treasurer, and W. Onan and M. Syron justices of the peace. The city central committee was comprised of Peter Czizek from the first ward, C. P. Sloggy from the second ward, and N. Peterson from the third ward.

In 1882 a City Hall 32 by 44 feet and two stories high was built. It was used by the mayor, city council, police force and fire department; the cost was about \$4,000. "The building is not only a great convenience but it is a positive ornament for the city. A number of streets have been graded and several miles of footwalks laid during the past season." (Moorhead News). This 1882 City Hall, a frame building at 417 Center Avenue, burned down on June 6, 1918. In 1920 a two-story brick City Hall was built on the same site. This was demolished in 1974 after a new six-story concrete City Hall had been built on the bed of Fifth Street between Center Avenue and First Avenue North.

The first charter for the City of Moorhead was approved by the voters in a special election May 20, 1900; District Judges L.L. Baxter and D.R. Searle had appointed a group of fifteen men to the Charter Commission on December 30, 1899. A bitter battle was waged prior to the charter election: liquor interests fought the proposal tooth and nail, for the charter stripped much of the mayor's former power from his office. Numerous mass meetings were held to debate the issue. The new charter was approved by a vote of 313 to 185. Three Moorhead lawyers served on the Charter Commission for more than thirty years: F.H. Peterson, W.R. Tillotson, and Edwin Adams, who served as secretary.

Twenty-nine men have served as mayor of Moorhead since 1882: H.A. Bruns 1882-4, John Erickson 1889-92, William R. Tillotson 1892-3, Arthur G. Lewis 1893-6 and 1897-8, Samuel Frazer 1896-7, Jacob Kiefer 1898-1900, Hans H. Aaker 1900-1, William R. Tillotson 1901-3, C.A. Nye 1903-7, E.J. Wheeler 1907-9, W.H. Davy 1909-13, O.C. Beck 1913-5, J.W. Vincent 1915-7, Nels N. Melvey 1917-9.

E.W. Humphrey 1919-21, Clarence Evenson 1921-3, C.G. Dosland 1923-7, B.T. Bottolfson 1927-9, Herman Nordlie 1929-31, Clarence Evenson 1931-3, E.W. Humphrey 1933-41, Rudy Bergland 1941-7, Alex J. Nemzek 1948-9, Ralph Hollands 1950-1, Henry Stiening 1952-3, Thornley Wells 1954-7, I.T. Stenerson 1957-61, B.T. Bottolfson 1962-4, Ray Stordahl 1964-71, Dwaine Hoberg 1971-present.

The City of Moorhead recorders (later city clerks) from 1881 to 1975 have been Sam Partridge 1881-82, H. Rasmusson 1883-85, A.J. Wright 1885-86, H.W. Alsop 1886-7, A.J. Wright 1887-8, A.G. Lewis 1888-9, A.J. Wright 1891-5, T.I. Lewis 1895-6, Edward Fay, Jr. 1896-7, James A. Flynn 1897-8, O.E. Aahl 1898-9, George Hall 1899-1900, Fred Stalley 1900, Dr. R. Watson 1900-01.

Beginning in 1901 the nature of the position changed and since then only four men have held the office: H.E. Roberts 1901-09, R.G. Price 1909-46, Paul A. Cook 1946-66, Everett B. Lecy 1966-present.

Present city council officers are: Dwaine Hoberg mayor, and aldermen Martin Pinkney Jr. and Gary Paseka Jr. (first ward), James Haarstad and Mrs. Ruth Wensel (second ward), Bruce Kiefer and Morris Lanning (third ward), Richard Perry and Phyllis Onsgard (fourth ward).

Everett Lecy, who was appointed December 15, 1966, is city clerk and treasurer; this was made a joint position in 1970 when the clerk assumed the treasurer's duties.

Moorhead's Street Grid

The plat of the original townsite of Moorhead was recorded May 27, 1872 by the Lake Superior and Puget Sound Land Co., a Northern Pacific railway subsidiary. It was irregular in outline but

— 118 —

— CLAY CO. —

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Ready for inspection with Chief Melvey in center, in front of the old Fire Barn

its extremities extended roughly from First Street to Tenth Street South and from Third Avenue North to Fourth Avenue South.

The platting of the town site of Moorhead was done quite extensively at the very beginning, so that the streets have remained pretty much as they were first laid out, from 1871 to 1881. When the city was platted all the streets running east and west were given names. What is now Center Avenue was Front Street. To the south of Front Street were Main, William, Barlow, Garroway, South, Howard, Douglas, Sharp, Wabash, Lake (only as far as Bismarck; east of Bismarck it was Walnut), State (which became Poplar east of Bismarck), Maple, Irving, Lawrence, Auburn, Virginia, Elm, and Webster, down to what is now 18th Avenue South. North of Front Street, running as far as what is now 15th Avenue North, were, in order, James, Kennedy, Bernard, Conie, Pearl, Partridge, Lincoln, Garfield, Washington, Adams, Jackson, Madison, Monroe, Arthur, and Franklin. These names are taken from a street map copyright 1891 by C.C. Beckwith.

On July 8, 1902 Mayor Tillotson signed an ordinance providing that all streets north and south of Front Street be designated avenues, and providing that all should be numbered instead of named. James Street to the north of Front Street thus became First Avenue North, and Main became First Avenue South. On

February 4, 1924 Front Street was officially changed to Center Avenue and on December 31, 1955 First Avenue South was again named Main Street, although the other east and west streets were called avenues. Finally, on January 1, 1956, Main Street was made "a great artery of commerce," connecting old First Avenue South of Moorhead and Front Street of Fargo and West Fargo, into a single street having a name in common — Main Avenue.

In 1881 Moorhead had wooden walks, but soon after 1900 cities in the northwest were beginning to replace board walks with concrete. By 1918 there were between three and four miles of paving in the city, of creosote block and reinforced concrete.

In 1884 Front Street (now Center Avenue) was not yet paved. In 1905 tracks were laid on Center Avenue between Fourth and Fifth Streets for the new Fargo-Moorhead Railway system. In 1937 these tracks were torn up and motor buses replaced the yellow street cars. The wooden blocks paving Center Avenue were torn up in this same year and concrete was poured. In 1972 Center Avenue was torn up again for several blocks, for sewer and other repairs. In 1975 it will be modified for three or four blocks to establish a new Mall or Plaza as part of Urban Renewal.

In 1936, with the cooperation of the Northern Pacific Railway, the city built an underpass connecting the north and south sides.

In 1968 two sets of one-way streets were established. Fourth Street South became southbound, as did Eleventh Street; Fifth Street South and Fourteenth Street South became northbound.

Fire Department

Moorhead's first fire department was organized November 15, 1872 by 37 volunteers and a subscription fund of \$85 to purchase a hand-drawn hose, reel, and hook-and-ladder truck. After ten years of use the equipment became worn and obsolete.

The Eagles Hose Company was organized January 13, 1882, with the following officers: Peter Czizek, chief; M. Leo, assistant chief; John Deolin, foreman; W.D. Merritt, assistant foreman; H.M. Allen, secretary; and M.S. Lamb, treasurer. Their equipment consisted of uniforms, helmets, and a hose cart with 20 sections of hose in 50-foot lengths.

In the summer of 1882, a fire hall was built at 417 Center Avenue to house the equipment. On October 16, 1882 the Key City Hook & Ladder Company was organized.

Until April 1, 1895 the fire-fighting apparatus was drawn to the fires by manpower; on that date the City purchased a team of horses to haul the hook and ladder truck, and a second paid driver was employed. In 1917 the Moorhead Fire Department was organized to embrace both the Eagle Hose Company and the Key

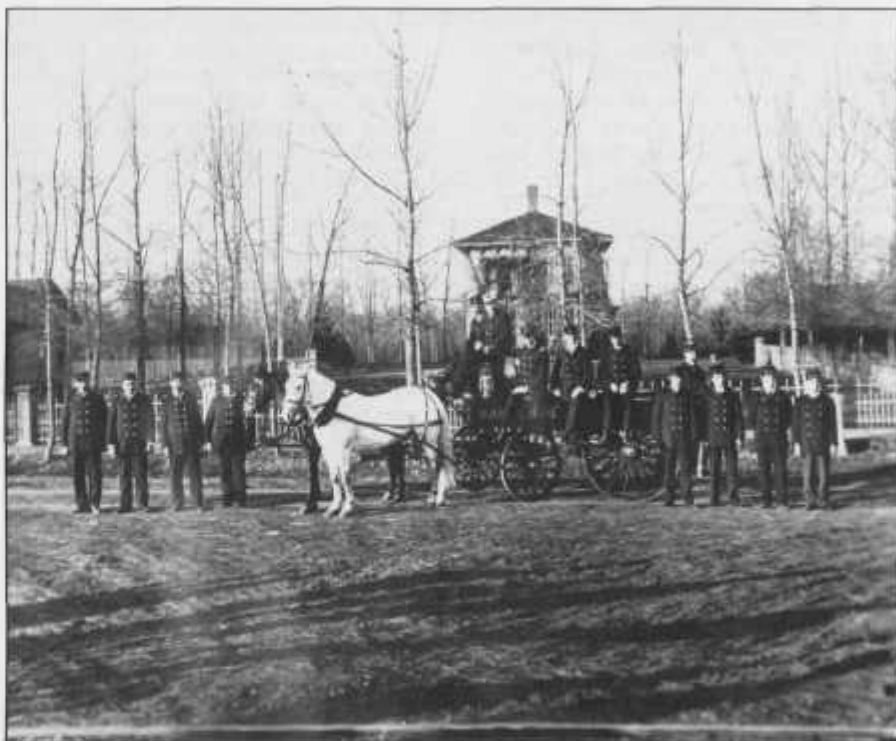


City Hook & Ladder Company. At that time two paid full-time firemen were employed, H.J. Kuehl and T.J. Anderson, who both served until 1948.

The fire barn and city hall built in 1882 burned June 6, 1918, while the firemen were answering a false alarm turned in from near the Clay County Court House in north Moorhead. The fire started in the haymow and the building burned before the firemen could get back to do anything about it. This event marked the end of horse-drawn equipment; it was replaced with motorized units on July 1, 1918. The new fire station and city hall was built in 1920 on the old site.

Nick Remley became the first paid full-time chief of the Moorhead fire department on April 15, 1923. Remley had joined the fire department as a volunteer on September 3, 1897. He served as chief from 1903 to 1910 and from 1915 until his death on August 8, 1951. Moorhead fire chiefs who have served since it was organized are: Peter Czizek, Jacob Kiefer, A.J. Wright, Ted Gullickson, Peter Jesten, Louis Borgen, H.V. Berggran, P.N. Pederson, Nick Remley, Francis L. Remley, and Garfield F. Anderson, who is now serving in 1975.

In 1970 a new Southside fire station was built at a cost of \$125,000, and a new central station was completed in 1973. All the fire-fighting equipment was moved on June 29, 1973 from the old city hall, now razed, except the brass fire pole which is in a museum.



Eagle Hose Company of Moorhead with team and rig in front of "Arbor Vitae", Andrew Holes' residence at Seventh, north side of First Avenue North



Peter E. Melvey, 1896 driver of the Eagle Hose Co. No. 1. By 1910 he was Chief of Police.



Moorhead City Jail at 316 Center Avenue in 1904. Left to right: Alexander Nemzek, Sr., patrolman since 1900; Edmund Sauvageau; Chief Ole E. Melvey, county jailer since 1900; Benjamin H. Elstad, also painter; Albert B. Hardie; Samuel Baker

The new headquarters fire station at 1120 First Avenue North, named the "Remley Fire Station," was built at a cost of \$325,000. With fire stations and equipment on both of the sides of the railroad tracks — north and south — the citizens of Moorhead feel safer in case of fire.

Police Department

According to the *Holiday Supplement to the Moorhead Independent* for January 5, 1900, in 1874 a common jail was erected in Moorhead for the town and for the County of Clay. The building was a two-story wooden structure; the lower story was the jail and the upper story a sheriff's residence. The building was at the corner of Ninth Street and James (First Avenue North).

When Moorhead was incorporated as a village in 1875, Charles Jungrath was appointed the first marshal, at a monthly wage of \$43. On May 3, 1881 the county board instructed the treasurer to collect from the City of Moorhead the sum of \$75 for use of the county jail as a city lock-up, from July, 1880 to July, 1881; and in case the city refused to pay said amount the Sheriff was to refuse to receive prisoners.

When Moorhead became a city in 1881, M.E. Eustis became the first chief of police. During these years there occurred a few irregularities in the city's routine of business. On April 6, 1882 a grand jury brought an indictment against Chief Eustis

for embezzlement. There had been a robbery at the Bramble House which netted the robber \$103. He was apprehended and the money confiscated, but the chief neglected to turn it over to the court.

H.E. Healy served from March 1882 to November, 1882 and P.J. Sullivan from 1882 to 1892. According to the *Moorhead Evening News*, on July 1, 1883 "The City fathers and guardians of the citizen's welfare decided to turn the convict labor, which whiskey and judicious police kept the city well supplied with, to the betterment of the city's thoroughfares, thus saving the city a large expense."

In August 1883 Moorhead's policemen demanded an increase in salaries. On August 6 the city council met to consider the matter but took no action. The next morning the policemen marched to the city hall and laid down their arms, leaving the city without police protection. Since there were no officers, one of the commissioners had to take the "chain gang" out for exercise. One of the boys made a break for liberty and Dakota, achieving both. A special meeting was held by the council and the policemen were given \$10 a month raise. They returned to their jobs and equilibrium was restored.

Bernt Elsted served as acting chief to 1896 and continued on the force as a patrolman to 1918. Nels Holbeck was chief from 1896 to 1898 and Thomas L. Murphy from 1898 to 1899 and 1901 to 1902. When young Tom Murphy became chief, the po-

lice made their "flying trips" on bicycles; however, "not all of the policemen were regular riders."

Ole E. Melvey was chief from 1903 to 1910, his brother Peter E. Melvey from 1910 to 1911, and A.J. O'Laughlin from 1911 to 1929 and again from 1933 to 1950. Chief O'Laughlin, the source of the above information, said that other early police chiefs were Sig Erickson, C.H. Knapp, and J.B. Erickson.

In 1929 the police department was placed under a civil service plan to conform to the law passed by the state legislature.

Plans and hopes for a new jail facility had been going on since 1943, to replace the decrepit building at Fourth Street, north of Center Avenue.

The jail was officially closed in July 1966 and arrangements were made with the Clay County Law Enforcement Center at 807 North Tenth Street to house city prisoners. The old building was still used as police headquarters, with some remodeling.

L.H. Bielfeldt was chief of police from 1947 to 1965. Captain Hubert Warren served as acting chief from April 1965 through July 1966. On August 1, 1966 James R. Dickinson was appointed chief of police and public safety director. He had previously served on the Minneapolis police force for eleven years.

A new city police building was constructed adjoining the Clay County Law Enforcement Center to the East;



City Park with fountain, on the southwest corner of Fifth Street and Center Avenue in 1892. At right is the Moorhead Fire Barn.

the Moorhead police moved in August 1973. Many city and county functions are now cooperative.

The Juvenile Detention Center is operated in a similar manner and is under the sheriff's management.

Parks and Recreation

The first park in Moorhead was created by a group of citizens who cleared a small area at Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue South in the summer of 1913. Bowman Park was opened in 1914, equipped with playground apparatus, a drinking fountain, and benches for the public.

In 1917 a Park Ordinance was passed authorizing the purchase of the Andrew Holes property for a park, and the purchase was made in 1921. In 1936 the Holes house was demolished and the American Legion Memorial Hall was built on the site with the aid of federal funds and WPA labor. Memorial Park is on First Avenue North, extending west and north from Eighth Street to the river.

The City Water and Light Commission dedicated a strip of ground on the river front at the rear of the power house at 519 South Elm Street. This was called Kiefer Park. In 1943 Woodlawn Park, at Fourth Street and Fifth Avenue South, was established to include Bowman Park and added lots.

Eugene Chubb became Moorhead's first full-time Recreational Director in 1958. When Paul Berland, the present

director, took over his position in 1968, Moorhead had 110 acres of park area; this had increased to 467 acres by 1975.

In 1965 Gooseberry Mound Park at Third Street and Twenty-Second Avenue South was acquired. It has been developed into a family type of park which maintains the natural environment of the five-and-one-half acre peninsula tract in the bend of the river.

Still in the development stage is the Martin Johnson land north of Moorhead containing 109 acres, acquired in 1972 and purchased entirely with federal and state funds. Roadbeds and utilities will be added in 1975. The Centennial development area north and east of Highway 75 and Fifteenth Avenue North is a 56-acre tract. The Centennial arena is completed, and there are three softball fields, with archery and pistol areas planned. The Park Maintenance Department will be moved to this park area.

The Riverfront area was acquired through Urban Renewal and was Development funded. This is to be completed in 1975 with four tennis courts, one small amphitheater, hard surface bike trails, and rest and picnic areas.

There are also playground areas, including Hansmann at Fourteenth Street and Twelfth Avenue North; Northeast at Eighteenth Street and Eighth Avenue North; Lamb at Thirteenth Street and Fourteenth Avenue South; Alm at Elm Street and Four-

teenth Avenue South; Romkey at Nineteenth Street and Ninth Avenue South; Knapp at Sixth Street and Sixth Avenue South; Regal Estates on Highway 75 and Sixth Avenue North; Horn Park at the South River Shore Drive cul-de-sac; Morning-side at Oakley and Birchlane; and South Junior High School at Fourteenth Street and Twenty-Second Avenue South.

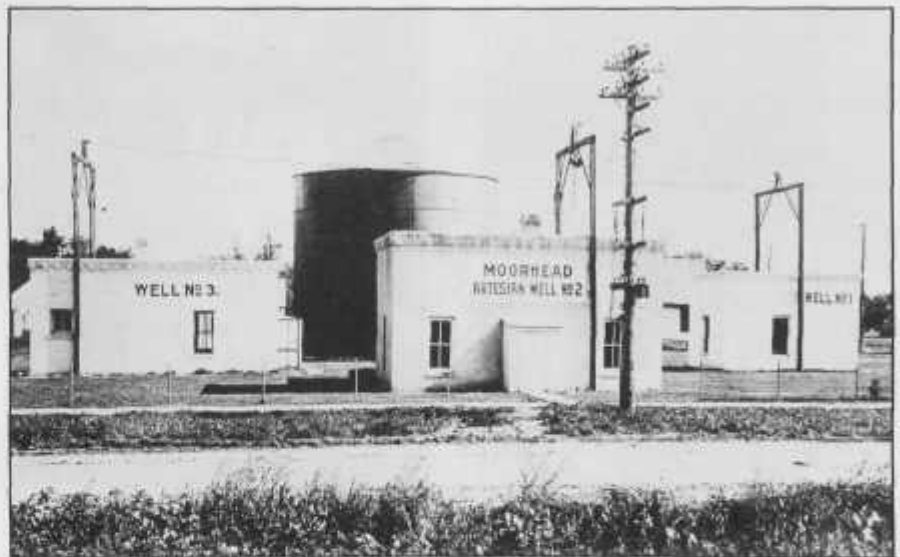
Public Service Electricity

Moorhead is an eighty-year-old example of a city which has a municipal electricity utility that is the envy of neighboring communities. At 1.68¢ per kilowatt hour, the rate is the lowest residential rate in Minnesota or North Dakota, and compares favorably with the approximately 2.5¢ per kwh from privately owned utilities in the area.

In 1906 electric energy per residential customer was 650 kwh per year; in 1972 it was 8400 kwh per year, or 700 kwh per month!

In 1882 a company had been formed to supply lights for the city; the Red River Manufacturing Company agreed to furnish power from its plant, and on January 3, 1883 electric lights became a reality in Moorhead. A great public demonstration was held upon the turning on of these carbon arc street lamps.

In December 1883 the light plant was moved to the foundry, and in March the street lighting was stopped



The first artesian wells to provide drinking water for the city were on First Avenue North between Eleventh and Twelfth Streets, the present location of the new fire station.

until further notice. Power was later bought from the Hughes plant in Fargo, which continued to supply electricity to Moorhead until the municipal plant was completed.

On April 14, 1895 the City Council accepted a petition from 96 taxpayers asking that an electric plant be built. The plant was put into operation November 1, 1895, on land that is the present site of the power plant, Elm Street and Sixth Avenue South.

The 25 arc lights were turned on at 7:00 p.m. on October 3, 1895. Within a half hour about 500 incandescent lights were also glowing. Superintendent M. S. Donaher stated that the new combined pumping station and electric light plant had cost \$26,300. With the turning on of the lights the fun began. Fireworks were set off, cannons boomed, the band played and paraded the principal streets, and the celebration continued until the small hours of the morning.

A February 2, 1896 City Council resolution reads:

"Whereas: The city of Moorhead has invested many thousands of dollars in establishing a plant for furnishing lights and water for the benefit of the citizens of the City of Moorhead and of the municipality; and Whereas: It is necessary in order to furnish such lights and water at a minimum cost that such plant be run on strictly business principles and be entirely removed from the influence of city politics; Therefore: Be

it resolved by the City Council of the City of Moorhead that the offices of the Superintendent of the Electric Light and Water Plant and system, and the bookkeeper of the Electric Light and Water Plant are hereby established, such incumbent of said office to hold the respective office for the term of one year provided that the first term of office of such respective office shall cease on the first meeting of the City Council in October, 1896." Thus was established the public or municipal nature of the major utility of the City of Moorhead.

As late as 1930 track was still kept of the number of incandescent lights, flat irons, etc., used by each consumer. In 1935 an "off-peak" electric water-heating rate was established, at 1¢ per kwh, which remains in effect today.

During the late forties and early fifties the Garrison Dam hydro project was developed on the Missouri River, and in November 1957 Moorhead received its first government power from the Garrison Dam. The government power supply presented some problems, of course, which finally resulted in the installation of a gas turbine in 1960 as a standby generator.

In 1942 the Moorhead utility employees went out on strike. The employees shut down the generators and the boilers, and lights were off for a number of hours. The strike was settled after about twelve hours when the Commission agreed to recognize the union as representing

the employees. In 1967 a 22,000 kilowatt addition was made to the steam plant, and in 1969 the Bureau of Reclamation extended the power supply agreement to 1972; in 1970 it was extended again to 1977. The department employs 45 people, 30 outside the plants and 15 in the office, now located on the second floor of the new City Hall.

Water

From 1878 to 1910 the city supply of water was furnished solely from the Moorhead Flour Mill. There was a gravity flow of the water from the river down a 14-inch pipe, 360 feet long, to a well at the mill, 26 feet deep. The flour mill was located at Third Street and Main Avenue, where the Red River Hardware Company and Sportland are now located. A centrifugal pump forced the water into a main which went east on Front Street (now Center Avenue) beyond Ninth Street. Tank wagons supplied cooking and drinking water to those residents who did not have their own wells. By 1908 drinking water was available from artesian wells, but the city water plant still supplied water for general consumption from the river.

Work was completed November 1, 1882 on the first artesian well, sunk at Pillsbury's and Hulbert's Elevator. The water rates at the time for hotels and boarding houses were \$1 per room per year, for private residences \$3.50 per year, and for each additional family unit using the same fixtures \$1.75 per year; school rates were 25¢ per pupil.



Sarah Ball Comstock, the wife of S. G. Comstock, devoted her time to the cultural and educational opportunities of Moorhead as first president of the Moorhead Library Board and a pioneer member of the Moorhead Womens Club.



The Carnegie public library

The city water plant was installed in 1895, at the time the electric plant opened. In August 1900 the plant was valued at \$47,955; there were five and a half miles of water mains, 63 street hydrants, a 285 horsepower engine, and two pumps with a daily capacity of one million gallons. In 1915 well water was first pumped to the mains; river water was used only for emergency supply. The pump was located at 12th Street and First Avenue North.

In 1949 an investigation was started to find additional water for Moorhead; the Buffalo aquifer was located, wells were drilled, and a line was constructed to convey water to Moorhead. Design and construction of the first water treatment plant was needed in 1950-1951, because of the chemical hardness of the well water. In 1960 an addition to the water plant was built, which tripled the capacity. In 1965 fluoride was added to the water system.

Waste Disposal

In the early days garbage was burned at the dump, via an open dump system. When burning was banned by the State of Minnesota in 1951, a large area north of the city was devoted to a landfill where deep trenches were dug and the garbage covered over daily.

When these became full and garbage had accumulated several feet on top, the disposal became a serious problem. After many years of study and controversy the landfill was closed

August, 1974. A new Transfer Station was built east of the city, where all collected garbage was dumped into a huge pile; it is compacted and transferred to semi-trucks which haul it to the County Landfill south of Hawley.

At present, in 1975, Moorhead residents take for granted the luxuries of uninterrupted electrical service, pure non-chlorine-smelling water, functional plumbing, and regular garbage pick-ups, seldom realizing the complicated organization and the hard work of the Public Service Department which makes life easier for them.

Public Library

In 1903 a Moorhead attorney, George E. Perley, was influential in securing a Carnegie grant of \$10,000 for a library building, with the requirement that the City must provide a site and maintain the library after its construction. The Moorhead Woman's Club subscribed funds to purchase a plot at Sixth Street and Main Avenue, and on August 8, 1905 the club presented the deed to the City.

On July 12, 1906 the library was opened, with some 1,000 books on the shelves. The lower level had a board room which was also used as a women's rest room. An auditorium with a low stage comprised the east half of the lower level and was used for a number of activities. It was rented to the Chamber of Commerce for a time, used for Red Cross sew-

ing during World War I, and for art exhibits, chautauquas, and social affairs. In 1921 this auditorium was converted into a children's room.

A lending service to Clay County rural schools began in 1934 and continued until county service was given by the bookmobile in 1949.

In 1959 the Moorhead city council approved a site for the construction of a new building at Sixth Street and Second Avenue South, across the street from the old Carnegie library. A bond issue of \$395,000 was passed, and the present building opened in February, 1962.

In 1961 Norman County contracted for library service with the City of Moorhead with the aid of a three-year Federal grant, and since then bookmobile service has been provided for Norman County. In 1967 the City of Breckenridge joined the organization, which had been designated the Lake Agassiz Region. Additional parking space in Moorhead was added by the purchase of a 75-foot-square adjoining the west of the present location. In 1974 Becker County contracted for service and joined the Lake Agassiz Region.

Moorhead's first library board, appointed by Mayor C. A. Nye in 1904, included Mrs. S. G. Comstock, president; John Malloy, vice president; O. J. Kittelsrud, recording secretary; and George F. Perley, corresponding secretary. Other board members were Mrs. J. H. Burnham, P. H. Lamb, Frank A. Weld, E. J. Wheeler, and L. A. Huntoon.

Board members, or trustees who have served since that time (*served as board presidents) are: Rev. R. R. Bogstad, Mrs. William Titus, Rev. J. A. Nyvall, B. F. Mackall, W. R. Tillotson, H. M. Stanford, John Peterson, Rev. C. D. Bostrom, Mrs. Harriet R. Nye, G. E. Freeberg, *Dr. J. A. Aasgaard, A. H. Costain, H. R. Edwards, C. A. Ballard, Mrs. Wm. Russell, Lulu Wagner, M. L. Jacobson, Rev. F. M. Eckman, Mrs. T. C. Wilson, B. G. Martin, Mrs. M. T. Weum, Mrs. R. G. Price, John T. Lamb, *Katherine Leonard, J. J. Bohlander, Mrs. A. H. Costain, Otto Bystrom, Herman C. Nordlie, Fred Hill, Mrs. L. I. Grina, J. A. Holvik, Mrs. Lillian Wolfe, Mrs. George Walker, Mrs. Harry Carpenter, J. A. Garrity, Sr., Dr. L. C. Davenport, A. T. Brandt, J. H. Deems, Conrad R. Euren, A. W. Hedlund, Mrs. Sigurd Mundhjel, H. K. Eklund, *Warren Dodds, Arthur P. Diercks, Mrs. Harvey Monson, Mrs. Robert Myrand, Vincent Murphy, *Mrs. Clarence Glasrud, Roland Holsen, Mrs. Caryl Korn, Arthur Diercks, Dorothy Dodds, *Roger Hamilton, and Stuart Ringham.

Five librarians served short terms from 1906 to 1914: Nelle Olson, Edith Whitman, Grace Foland, Ada Still, and Jessie Whitman. Since then the librarians have been: Edith McCubrey 1914-1931, Marion Phillips 1932-1937, Florence Powell 1937-1940, Edith Hegwer 1940-1945, Myrtle T. Rundquist 1945-1972, and Lon Dickerson 1972 to the present.

Moorhead Planning Commission

In March 1956 Mayor Thornley Wells appointed five men to a Planning Commission, to serve as an advisory board to the City Council and to study and advise the Council on long-range city planning. Chairman Alex Nemzek, Bert Kvamme, John Ingersoll, Nick Matthees, and W. A. Smaby served on the first Commission. Mr. Nemzek died in 1958 and Mr. Kvamme and Mr. Ingersoll resigned in 1958.

The former three-man Zoning Board was absorbed into the Planning Commission and therefore dissolved in 1958. In August, 1958 a nine-man Planning Commission was appointed.

Some of the first concerns were: 1) What to do with two vacant buildings, the old post office and the old library, which were costing the city \$3,000 per year to maintain and were not producing any revenue nor providing any service; 2) Declining Center Avenue business; 3) Problems over zoning and requests for rezoning; and 4) Blighted areas, such as the flood plain in the Woodlawn area and the Elm Street area in northwest Moorhead.

The first mention of federal funds available was made in 1962, and on August 21 the Urban Renewal Authority was created by the City Council. In order to qualify for federal funds for projects, all grants had to be approved by a Metropolitan Council. The Council was formed and

a Metropolitan Transportation and Land Use Study made, including Fargo, Moorhead, West Fargo, and Dilworth. The costs of the study were to be shared by the Minnesota and North Dakota highway departments, the City of Fargo, the City of Moorhead, and Clay County.

The nine-member Commission was dissolved on October 20, 1964 to provide for a new set-up, an 11-member board.

Willis Kingsbury was appointed full-time Director of the Planning Commission on April 1, 1973. Mr. Kingsbury had been associated with the architectural firm of Elken-Kingsbury previous to his appointment, and had worked jointly with other architectural firms on new public projects, such as the new City Hall, the Police Headquarters addition to the County Law Enforcement Center, and the Remley Northside Fire Station. Under the leadership of Mr. Kingsbury, the Planning Commission has brought the City comprehensive plan up to date, has maintained current basic data for future planning considerations, and has successfully worked with other planning agencies such as the City of Fargo and the Moorhead City Council, Clay and Cass counties, the Mayor's Citizens' Planning Committee, and the Metropolitan Council.

Urban Renewal

On June 5, 1962 the Better Business Climate Committee of the Moorhead Chamber of Commerce held the first infor-



Minnesota National Guard Armory, 904 Center Ave., replaced in 1934

mational meeting on urban renewal. It was a question and answer session with 110 Moorhead residents in attendance asking questions of Thomas Kilbride of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. A key factor spurring interest in urban renewal was the flooding of certain sections of Moorhead four times that spring. It was the feeling that some action should be taken to alleviate the situation, and with that idea in mind the City Council, in August of 1962, created an Urban Renewal Authority and appointed the first Board members: Nick Matthees, Dr. Philip Rostad, Robert Harkison, Norman House and Carroll Malvey, who is the sole original member still serving on the present Board.

During this time urban renewal was in the talking and planning stage; in May, 1964 an executive director was appointed and an office was opened in August.

Over the years the proposed urban renewal area had grown from concern for the flood plains of north Moorhead to include a major portion of the downtown, 98.6 acres in all. More than 200 structures were found to be in the urban renewal area, and only 25 were pronounced completely sound.

In the interim, the Housing and Redevelopment Authority had also hired a consultant who envisioned Moorhead as a regional shopping center with some 650,000 square feet of retail space.

While plans and acquisition for downtown Moorhead were progressing, the high rise for the elderly at Eighth Street and Second Avenue North, and the low-rent housing project running east to Ninth Street and lying north of the high-rise were well along in construction; in December, 1968 they were officially opened for occupancy.

During the succeeding months acquisition continued, and by January, 1969 some 61 percent of all land parcels in the urban renewal area had been acquired by the Housing Authority. However, although acquisition was progressing, the dream of a large, regional shopping center was fading; and when HUD cut off acquisition funds in October, 1969 the entire downtown project came to a standstill.

In May of 1970 the acquisition ban was lifted, and an entirely new redevelopment plan was forthcoming. The Bottolfson Building and Uptown Bar were included in the acquisition list and the Woolworth Building was removed. The plan, which called for an approximate \$9,000,000 Federal expenditure and \$3,000,000 as the City's share, was forwarded to HUD for review; in June of 1971 word was received that the plan was acceptable.

The new plan was a complete departure from the large regional shopping center and civic center complex first envisioned. Instead, with a new City Hall as the center, a smaller retail core was planned, which would have 170,000 square feet of shopping

space and which would be erected in three phases at a cost of over \$1,000,000.

On October 31, 1971 ground was broken for the new City Hall, and on July 11, 1972 ground was broken for the first phase of the new Moorhead Center Mall, a ten-year time span between the first informational meeting and the final realization of dreams, plans and hard work.

The Greater Moorhead Development Corporation

The Greater Moorhead Development Corporation was incorporated under the Minnesota Business Corporation Act on January 7, 1958. Approximately two years of preliminary work and promotion took place prior to incorporation. The first officers and directors of the firm were Allard Berglund, president; Gordon Stenersen, vice president; Laurence Mauritsen, treasurer; M. B. Johnson, secretary; LaMarr Bittinger, Paul Horn, Ted Hornbacher, and Jacob Kiefer, Sr.

In 1959 the corporation purchased 80 acres of land from Peter and Emma Horn for an industrial park. The corporation assisted in the organization of Moorhead Plastics (Silverline) in 1959. All land in the 80-acre industrial park has been sold — 22 businesses have been located in the park site, an annual payroll in excess of \$6,000,000.



Moorhead's Post Office in 1916, now the Red River Art Center. The Moorhead Hotel, 509 Main, is at right.

Post Office

A post office for Moorhead established by the Postmaster on October 6, 1871.

The office at Moorhead was opened on November 1, 1871, in a building, partly of canvas, located where the F-M Hotel now stands on the corner of Center Avenue and Fourth Street. The building was rebuilt the following year and partly covered with tarpaper sheeting. In the same building was the hardware stock of James Douglas, the first postmaster, who remained there in business until 1876 when he erected a brick building at that location.

In 1879 Douglas sold his store and moved the post office to the rear of the building later occupied by O. E. Flaten's art studio. About 1881 Davy & Finkle erected a brick building at 610 Center Avenue, still standing until urban renewal, to which the post office was then moved. The front long showed the raised letters, Post Office.

"Postmaster Douglas felt that he must retire to more modest quarters, and during that summer the office was removed to where Byler's livery barn stands. It remained there until the fall, during which time John Erickson had erected an addition to the north of the old Jay Cooke House, later the Columbia Hotel, for the use of the post office, leasing it to Postmaster Douglas at a nominal rental."

In 1885 Douglas resigned and on March 3 B. F. Mackall was appointed to the position. He moved the office back to the Post Office building at 610 Center Avenue. Mr. Mackall resigned in 1886 and Edward Fay succeeded him, taking the post office on November 4.

In the summer of 1903 the First National Bank offered to erect a building suitable for the post office and its increasing business, and the offer was accepted. Accordingly, the one-story brick building in the rear of the bank was erected. "There the post office remained until 1915."

Edward Fay served from 1886 to 1891 and from 1895 to 1900. During Fay's fourteen years of service the office struggled along with receipts varying from \$3,500 to \$8,000 per annum and a salary from \$1,400 to \$1,900.

When E. L. Bjorkquist took office in 1900 the salary was increased to \$2,000 and all expenses were paid. Growth of the office was marked by receipts of over \$10,000 in 1901-1902. In 1903 free city delivery service was established. Rural free delivery service was established October 2, 1905 on Route 1 north of the city, and on October 1, 1910 on Route 2 south and east of the city.

Bjorkquist died in office in 1912 and was succeeded by D. W. Meeker, but his appointment was not confirmed by the Senate and he was succeeded by E. L. Flaten on July 9, 1913.

A new federal building was ready for occupancy in January, 1915 at First (now Main) Avenue South and Sixth Street.

Moorhead became a first-class post office July 1, 1935. Miss Frances Lamb was postmistress from October 1, 1935 to December 1, 1947.

In 1956 the cash receipts were \$202,433. Conditions in the 1915 building were cramped and in 1955 the Chamber of Commerce began seeking a new post office. In 1957 the site for a new building was acquired. The city received the 1915 building in exchange for a 150x300 foot tract along Second Avenue South between Fourth and Fifth Streets.

In January, 1961 the post office moved into the new building on Fifth Street.

Edward Fay, Jr., assistant postmaster since 1900 and acting postmaster in 1912, was born in New Ulm, Minnesota, and came to Moorhead in 1875.

David Steinley was acting postmaster from 1948 to 1951; James Ruddy served as postmaster from 1951 to 1963. Basil Walker was made acting postmaster in June 1963; his appointment became permanent in 1963 and he is currently serving, in 1975.

At the end of 1974 the Moorhead Post Office had 60 employees and served 32,500 postal patrons. There are twenty city mail routes and three rural routes; in 1974 the annual postal receipts were \$850,000.

The Schools of Moorhead

The first school in Moorhead was not public but a subscription school organized in the fall of 1872 by the Reverend Oscar H. Elmer in the Moorhead Presbyterian Church, of which he was the first pastor. The church was located between a grocery store and a lumber company on Fifth Street North, on a site which is now in front of City Hall. Classes were taught by Miss Nina Hall in the Reading Room of the church for a term of three months. There were only five pupils, Lizzie and Willie Strevel and three children of Mr. and Mrs. William Peronto (or Paranto) who claimed ownership of much of the land on which Fargo was built.

Following the organization of the Clay County Commissioners, Moorhead petitioned for the formation of a school district; and at a public meeting on April 15, 1873, the Moorhead Public School District was organized. A board of trustees consisting of James Douglas, Andrew Holes, and James Sharp was elected. They immediately voted a bond issue for purchasing a site and building a school. When investors hesitated to buy the bonds because Moorhead had repudiated the railroad bonds, Mr. Sharp, the treasurer, personally guaranteed payment of the bonds. The board hired Miss May Farmer to teach a five-month term, beginning June 1, 1873. F. J. Burnham was appointed Clay County Superintendent of Schools.

Before the coming of the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1871 the population

of Moorhead was only 227. Six months later it was 700-800. The rural population was growing rapidly too; the first rural school in Clay County, a structure which was originally intended as a chapel, was built in 1872-1873 near Rollag, Minnesota. Many of the Norwegian settlers attended the rural schools with their children in order to learn the English language.

The first schoolhouse constructed in Moorhead was on the SW corner of Second Avenue South and Sixth Street. Classes began in December, 1874. In 1880 the building was sold to the Swedish Lutheran Church and later moved to 314-16 Seventh Avenue South to make room for Bethesda Church. It was remodeled into apartments and is still in use.

A new building was then constructed in 1880, between Eighth and Ninth Streets and between Third and Fourth Avenues in the fourth ward, where the present Public Schools Administration Building now stands at 810 Fourth Avenue South. The first high school classes had been held in the Methodist Church. Although the new building was intended as a high school, it was at first also used for lower grades. However, the city was already planning to build ward schools for the lower grades.

Since almost nothing had been built south of the Northern Pacific tracks, the school board was severely criticized for choosing a site so far away from the town. The cost of construction was \$12,500. The building

contained five large classrooms and a library, which contained only a few books: from time to time the pupils gave entertainments to raise money to build up its book collection. The school was named for James Sharp.

In these early days the Roman Catholics were also establishing schools. It is said that in 1876 a Mrs. Parsons, a lay Catholic, held a school for Catholic children, probably in her home. By 1880 a Catholic school had been established on the north side of Moorhead. It was taught by four Benedictine Sisters of St. Joseph, Minnesota, who also lived in the building. They had an average attendance of one hundred pupils and were planning to construct a larger building to accommodate the growing number of applicants. This was done in 1893 (or 1897 — according to which source is used) at Fourth Street and First Avenue North, but this building also was soon outgrown, and in 1927 a new building at Tenth Street and Second Avenue South was built as part of a plan for a new school, church, rectory and Sisters' Home. In 1959 modernization of this building was completed.

The Swedish Lutherans of Moorhead were the second group to found an academy, in the same year that the normal school opened its doors. In 1888 the new school on Moorhead's north side enrolled 112 boys and girls, but this institution lasted only five, six, or eight years — according to various accounts.



Hope Academy

The Moorhead Board of Trade pamphlet described, in 1883, a number of "Buildings under Contract and Projected." The new courthouse and jail would "give a starter to the northern portion of the city," as would the third ward school house. Near these new structures, on the corner of Broadway and Pearl (Eleventh Street and Fifth Avenue North), a new hotel — pictured with sign — would be built: The Broadway Hotel, a foundation of which has been put in and the walls enclosed, will be a three-story and basement building, 50 by 106 feet, brick veneered. It will entertain at one time 100 guests. It will contain 40 rooms. This hotel is designed for the accommodation of farmers principally, and in connection there with stables of 50 by 75 feet will be built to furnish entertainment for beasts, while men, their masters, receive entertainment in the other building." Work stopped on this new hotel before it was finished.

In 1888 this structure was purchased by the Lutheran Benevolent Society of the Red River Valley, which finished the work on the building so that it could be used for an academy. The Society received aid in the way of building materials and money from the citizens of Moorhead. It was a coeducational school, open to all denominations; students could get room and board at the school if they wished for \$2.25 a week. After six years the school was discontinued and a new academy was opened at Fergus Falls. In 1904 the building was torn down by the owner, the

Wheeler Land Company, which had purchased it in 1893, and the materials were used to construct five or six dwellings in the Fourth Ward.

No records of Hope Academy have been found, but news accounts 25 years ago identify two alumni: Adolph L. Bowman, who died in 1951 at the age of 75, and John Douglas, another alderman and civic leader who died in 1949. Both men were born in Sweden and came to Moorhead in the 1880s as boys; both attended Hope Academy briefly. Douglas said he adopted his Scottish name because the heroic exploits of "Black Douglas" had stirred him through his reading at Hope Academy!

According to Grant Price the Reverend Thomas E. Dickey established the Bishop Whipple School because he had four sons who needed educating. The Moorhead *Key City* publication announced in 1882:

"A college is to be started by Rev. T. E. Dickey of Nebraska, an Episcopalian clergyman. \$25,000 is to be the cost of the building and \$18,000 of the amount was raised in half an hour, after the Rev. gentlemen had explained his plans. The balance has since been subscribed and building is to commence at once."

The Moorhead *Weekly News* reported on August 10, 1882 that the foundation was finished, the cornerstone having been laid July 28. The academy grounds occupied a two-block area, three-fourths of the land donated by Elisha C. Sprague, who lived at

Sixth Street and Howard (Sixth Avenue South).

The purpose of the school, Dr. Hawley declared, was "to maintain a thorough school for boys, where English, Classical and a Business education may be furnished under the best conditions for developing manly character." The school opened with 10 boarders and 20 day scholars. Principal Dickey was assisted by two teachers: P. L. Woodbury, a Dartmouth graduate, was headmaster and taught mathematics; C. J. Gedge of Cambridge University in England taught ancient languages and natural sciences.

The Moorhead Board of Trade pamphlet issued in 1883 described the school: "The Bishop Whipple College for boys is as handsome a building of its kind as any in the northwest. It is three stories and basement in height, the size on the ground being 36 by 96 feet. It is brick veneered. It contains 30 rooms, and will accommodate 100 boys, their instructors, servants, etc. It is heated throughout by steam. The dining room, kitchen and servants' rooms are located in the basement. The first floor is occupied by the school rooms, recitation rooms, boys' parlor, private parlor, and office, and the two floors above for dormitories. The building and the institution are a credit to Moorhead, and they will exert a powerful influence in favor of the city. All those gentlemen who are responsible for the inception of the work, deserve the thanks of the people. Its cost has been \$25,000."



Bishop Whipple School

Glenn Johnson identified the "gentlemen responsible." Dickey had donated \$5,000 of his own money and solicited the rest from the "moneyed men" of Moorhead. A stock company was formed and five trustees appointed: Dickey president, Samuel Partridge secretary, B. F. Mackall treasurer, A. A. White of Moorhead and Thomas Canfield of Vermont the other trustees. Later the directors of the corporation were W. H. Davy, S. G. Comstock, and Mackall.

Johnson also cites the names on the June 9, 1887 commencement program: Hiram Angell, Ellis Dickey, Gusty Erickson, Jorgen Howard, Fred Bennett, Shirley Hall, Charley Dickey, H. W. Dickey, Will Gordon, Wm. Strehlow, Eddie Dickey, Brette Nash, Clifford Frazee, Frank Hellerman, Fred Dickey, Maurice Doran, Michael Doran, Robbie Ray, Geo. C. Thompson, E. P. Preble and F. Severance.

This must have been the last commencement. From the first the school had been a private venture and not the responsibility of the Diocese of Minnesota or St. John's Parish, although Mackall and Davy were the chief pillars of that local church. S. G. Comstock was buried from St. John's but was not a member; he and his family also helped other Moorhead churches. The Moorhead boom of the early eighties, an offshoot of the Red River Valley-Dakota-Bonanza boom, faded in the late eighties because of low wheat prices, bad weather, and tight money. Grant Price and others said the school failed for lack of students, which was no doubt

true: few could afford the costs and adequate free public schools were available. The names of the graduates reveal that the school drew students from some distance on both sides of the Red River. There are also accounts that tell of girls being admitted to some classes before the school closed.

By 1888, according to a biography of Livingston Lord, Moorhead "had seen two booms and two depressions, and was just beginning to revive again." Lord was the president of the newly-founded Normal School, and for several years Whipple Hall served as "Normal Home," housing and boarding some of the teachers and students.

In 1891 the building was sold to the Northwestern Lutheran College Association and became Concordia College. Jim Fay thought the existence and availability of the structure brought the new Lutheran college to Moorhead instead of to a rival town such as Crookston, Grand Forks, Fargo, Fergus Falls, or Mayville.

In 1892 an addition to the high school had been built, and in 1894 the building was completely overhauled, enlarged and rebuilt. On the west side of the building there was now a roomy storm shed with plate glass windows instead of the former small dark shed, and wide well-lighted halls divided the old and new sections of the building. There were new classrooms, a new office, laboratory and recitation rooms. Mr. Sharp, treasurer of the Board, donated his salary for the purchase of library

books. The high school room on the second floor could seat an audience of two hundred. Moorhead High School now received a top rating in the state. In 1921 this building was torn down and a new high school (the present Administration Building) was built on the same site. Classes were held on the second floor of the new City Hall and Fire Station (now demolished as part of Urban Renewal) until the new building was completed.

In 1884 an elementary school was built in the first ward on Third Street and Kennedy (Second Avenue North) near the present north bridge, at a cost of \$6,500. Later this building was torn down and a new building was built on or near the same site. This building was later named the Hopkins School in honor of Miss Nellie Hopkins, first grade teacher and principal of the school for many years. The Hopkins School was torn down when the Urban Renewal plan went into effect.

At about the same time an elementary school, which was later named Lincoln, was built in the third ward on the northeastern side of Moorhead, several blocks east of the courthouse, as it was expected that the city would expand in that direction. When it did not, the school was moved some blocks south to the site of the present Lincoln School at 215 North Tenth Street. It was torn down to give place to a new building which was replaced by still another in 1919.



Moorhead Normal School, established on land donated by Solomon G. Comstock, facing north on the east side of Eleventh Street South opposite Seventh Avenue South. Pictured here in 1890 before any additions, "Old Main" burned in the winter of 1930, destroying the 25,000 volume library housed there.



Moorhead Normal Model School, one of the first classes

The Park School at 121 Sixth Avenue South, in the second ward, at present is the oldest school in the city, having been built some time before 1900.

Another school established during the early days of Moorhead was the Model School, later called the Campus School, which occupied the first floor of Moorhead Normal School, built in 1888. The building was a massive structure of light brick trimmed with Kasota stone.

On the first floor, wide halls connected three entrances. The model school, kindergarten room, cloak room and lavatories were on this floor. The second and third floors and the attic were used by the college. The model school classes, taught by experts, gave prospective teachers opportunity to observe good teaching. These expert teachers also acted as critics for student teaching.

In 1909 an elementary school was built adjoining the main Normal School building to the west, and in 1916 an intermediate department was established. Eventually the model school included all classes from kindergarten through the twelfth grade. Miss Ella Hawkinson was the principal of the high school for many years and, was chiefly responsible for its existence as a high school.

In 1930, when fire destroyed the Teachers College building, model school classes were held in houses on Sixth Avenue and its vicinity. In 1932 a new Campus School was built on the north side of the campus,

with the rear of the school on Sixth Avenue.

For many years the kindergarten of the Campus School was the only one in the city; then some of the churches established kindergartens and finally the public school included kindergartens. Eventually the MSC school had to close; it was no longer able to handle all the student teachers, it was expensive, and some of the other colleges were dropping their campus schools. After the Campus School was closed the college named this building Lommen Hall.

On February 22, 1938, dedication ceremonies for the new Central Junior High School at 110 South Tenth Street were held in the school auditorium. This building had been built with the aid of a PWA grant of \$122,715. It had facilities for art, music, home economics, industrial arts, music, and physical education. Special grades for students with handicaps or other problems, formerly taught in the Lincoln School and Hopkins School, were transferred to the centrally-located Junior High School. This department had two classrooms and an industrial arts department. The pupils took some of the regular junior high school classes. The new junior high school became the showplace of the city, especially the gymnasium.

Three new elementary schools — Sharp, Washington, and Riverside — were dedicated on Wednesday, November 12, 1952, with a program in each school. George Washington

School is located at 901 North Fourteenth Street. The Riverside School, formerly called the South School, is at South Fourth Street and Fourteenth Avenue. Sharp School was built at Tenth Street and Fifth Avenue South.

Two other new schools were built — Thomas Edison Elementary School at South Fourteenth Street and Twelfth Avenue in 1953-1954, and Probstfield Elementary School at 2410 South Fourteenth Street in 1966.

Also in 1956 a second Catholic elementary school, St. Francis de Sales, was built at 1330 Eighth Avenue North. It is administered by the Sisters of Saint Benedict and serves grades one through eight.

In 1958 the schools at Georgetown and Sabin joined District 152 and new elementary schools were constructed in both locations.

In September, 1967, Moorhead's present high school was finished at a cost of 4.7 million dollars. It opened with an enrollment of 1550. The school board, consisting of Henry Schroeder, Robert Hanson, Marvin Koeplin, Ruth Hatchett, Clifford Halmrast, and Wallace Thomas, was criticized for picking a site at the east end of the town, 2202 Fourth Avenue South, too far from the main part of the city, just as an earlier school board had been criticized for building the earlier High School on South Eighth Street.

The school is Moorhead's largest building, containing 238,800 square feet — larger than all three junior



Sharp School, begun in 1879, facing west on Eighth Street South between Third and Fourth Avenues South

high schools combined. It has eighty teaching stations, a gymnasium capable of seating four thousand spectators, a large swimming pool, and an auditorium with 824 permanent seats.

In the same year the Moorhead Area Vocational Technical Institute opened. The newest school in Moorhead is the Clay County Vocational Center, located at 2323 Sixteenth Avenue South, in the Industrial Commercial Park. It was built in 1973.

Another school built in 1967 is the Moorhead Area Vocational Technical Institute. It is operated by the Board of Education of Independent School District 152, but as one of the thirty-three area institutes in the Minnesota system, it must meet standards set by the State Department of Education.

It operates on a split campus. The Business and Marketing Departments and the Admissions Office are housed in the Central Administration Building at 810 Fourth Avenue South. The Trades Complex, located at 28th Avenue and 20th Street South, houses the Technical and Trade program and administration offices. A new wing was added in 1972.

In 1967-68 there were thirteen teachers; now the total staff is eighty. In 1967 there were two hundred students; now there are three thousand. Of the thirty-three vocational schools in the state, this one ranks tenth in size.

There are adult evening classes in areas like farm management, nurses' aide training, and basic education, as well as in such subjects as art. The director of the school is Oscar Bergos.

The Clay County Vocational Center, located at 2323 Sixteenth Avenue South, in Moorhead's Industrial Park, is a much smaller school than the Area Vocational Technical School and does not duplicate offerings of the latter, except for auto mechanics. This is a cooperative venture, with Moorhead, Dilworth, Glyndon, Hawley, and Barnesville participating. Each district pledges money in proportion to its student enrollment and is responsible for transporting its students to and from the project. Two-thirds of the students are from Moorhead.

No complete and fully accurate roster of Moorhead school superintendents is available. F. J. Burnham is the first mentioned in early accounts of the schools, but he was Superintendent of Clay County. With the help of city directories the following list has been compiled: 1885 S. F. Hotaling, 1890 W. F. Webster, 1896 John F. Giles, 1899 Charles W. Mickens, 1904 C. W. Martindale, 1907 A. S. Kingsford, 1909 F. E. Lurton, 1911 H. R. Edwards, 1919 M. L. Jacobson, 1923 J. J. Bollander, 1927 S. G. Reinertson, 1955 Justin Swenson, 1970 John Nettleton.

There have been many administrators and teachers who have contributed their talents and energy to the education of the children of this com-

munity. These are some of the outstanding people who contributed much.

James H. Sharp was born in Pennsylvania in 1843. He fought in the Civil War and worked on farms, in the coal mines, and in stores. Although he had only a few terms in a country school and a short business college course, he was a well-educated man.

He came to St. Paul in 1868; in 1871 arrived in what is now Moorhead and opened a tent store. He carried the first mail, helped to establish the first school, and was a member of the first Fire Department. He was Probate Judge for twenty-eight years and served on the Moorhead School Board for thirty-three years.

When the first high school was built in 1880, it was named the Sharp School; and when it was replaced by a newer high school the elementary grades at first were housed in the same building but retained the name of Sharp School. Year later, when a new elementary school was built, it was again called the Sharp School. At the dedication of this school several descendants were present for the unveiling of his portrait, and Edgar Sharp spoke of his father's part in the development of Moorhead and especially of the schools of Moorhead.

James Sharp died in 1931 at the age of 88. No one had done more for the advancement of the schools of Moorhead.

Lew Huntoon is best known in local chronicles as a banker and civic



Moorhead Normal School in 1895. Note the streetcar running along Seventh into the campus. To the east is Wheeler Hall.

leader, but he came to Moorhead from Carleton College in 1885 as the principal of the new high school. Huntoon read law, was admitted to the Minnesota Bar, and moved to Minneapolis to practice law; he returned to Moorhead at the end of the nineties as cashier and then president of the First National Bank. He was appointed to the State Normal School Board in 1913. Later he owned a model farm in south Moorhead and he built the house later added to the Concordia Campus as the President's House. Huntoon died suddenly May 23, 1913.

W. F. Webster, Moorhead superintendent in the 1890s, is remembered through a reminiscence of President Livingston Lord:

"At first the normal school used two rooms of the city schools for practice teaching, appointing the teachers of these rooms, and paying half their salaries. The city superintendent, Mr. W. F. Webster, became a good friend. He knew and liked the best books, talked in the most stimulating manner, was in many ways a congenial spirit. But one day he asked, and pressed the matter, that a certain student should do her practice teaching in the afternoon, so that another, who lived only a block and a half away, need not come back in the afternoon. He said, 'we'll not continue this arrangement if we can't plan the programme.'"

"Mr. Lord knew that any outside direction of student teaching would create an impossible situation. He was firm, declaring, 'We must arrange

the programme, or we'll have nothing to do with it.'

" 'What will you do, then?' asked his friend.

" 'We'll withdraw, and have our own practice school,' said Mr. Lord.

" 'You can't get the children,' warned Mr. Webster.

" 'If necessary, we'll put a brass band on the balcony of the school, and they'll play every morning from 8:30 to 9 o'clock! We'll get the children!'

"Neither man would move an inch. Mr. Lord took the matter to the normal school board; and they withdrew from the city schools. It was a much better arrangement in every way, to have a practice school of their own.

"And the two friends? The next Sunday afternoon and many more they walked out into the country together, and sat down on the sunny side of a straw stack to read Seneca. Mr. Webster was reading Latin for an advanced degree; they read Seneca's 'Morals' and his natural philosophy. 'He knew more Latin than I did,' says Mr. Lord, 'and I knew as much of the things we were reading about; so we got on well. When the sun would go down, we would get up and shake the straw out of us, and walk home together.'

Nellie Hopkins, for whom the Hopkins School was named, was a first grade teacher and principal of the school for many years. She was a resident of Moorhead all of her life, and an 1896 graduate of Moorhead High School.

Teachers liked to work under her supervision and children loved her. The families who lived in the area where she taught were not very prosperous, and Nellie was concerned that the parents of the children would not be able to buy Christmas presents for them. So she went to the business men of the town and collected presents for all the pupils in the school — sleds, dolls, and toys of all kinds.

Now the Hopkins School itself is no more; it was razed as part of the Urban Renewal program, in the 1970s.

S. G. Reinertsen was Superintendent of the Moorhead Schools from 1927 to 1955, the longest period any superintendent had held that office. He was particularly proud that several new schools had been built during his term as superintendent — Central Junior High School, Sharp School, Riverside School, and George Washington School.

Margaret Newton was born in Grand Forks, moved to Moorhead and was graduated from Moorhead High School in 1916. She graduated from Fargo Conservatory and later took a Master's degree from McPhail College of Music in Minneapolis. She did her first teaching in Bemidji, then came to Moorhead and remained here for the rest of her life as vocal supervisor and teacher of music in the public schools. After forty-one years of teaching, she retired in 1956, but she still did some part-time teaching at Concordia.

Moorhead State College



Livingston C. Lord, first Moorhead Normal School president, 1888 to 1899

In 1885 the Minnesota State Legislature passed a bill establishing "a normal school, to be known as the state normal school at Moorhead." It enrolled its first students in 1888, hired its first president in the same year, and in 1890 completed its first building. Now, two name changes and seven presidents later, the old normal school has become Moorhead State College, with thirty-one departments, an enrollment of approximately 5,000 and a faculty of almost 350.

Growth was very uneven and not always very easy. In early years the school grew rapidly, in middle years enrollment declined, and then in the 1960s the school grew again. As changing times demanded changes in institutions the school at Moorhead responded. To list all the persons who left their mark on the institution would be very nearly impossible, but it is not difficult to pick out the few without whom the normal school could not have existed, and by extension, then, perhaps neither could have Moorhead State College. Two such individuals were S. G. Comstock, the man who was to a very large degree responsible for the normal school's being built in Moorhead and Livingston C. Lord, the man who, in 1888, became the school's first president.

S. G. Comstock was a prominent citizen of Moorhead and a member of the state senate when the possibility of a state normal school in northwestern Minnesota was being debated. Perhaps the story is best told in his own words:



1890 graduating class, Moorhead Normal School

"While a member of the State Senate about 1885, it struck me that a Normal School would be a fine thing for the Red River country and especially for Moorhead. To that end I introduced a bill in the Senate establishing such a school here if the city would provide a site of six acres. Very shortly after my bill came before the Senate Committee, Crookston offered a similar bill offering a site and \$5,000 cash. Polk County had a very able senator so I had a most ticklish job on hand. There was much opposition to Normal Schools in the State. There was no possibility of getting two. Providence favored Moorhead. The Crookston bill fell by the wayside and one of the best schools in the State fell to our lot. Perhaps it should be recorded that Moorhead, since my bill promised a site of six acres should be donated to the State, left for me to make the donation. This I did and at the next session got the appropriation for the Main Building."

The six acre site donated by Comstock comprises the most western part of the present campus which is bounded by Sixth Avenue on the north, Eleventh Street on the west, Ninth Avenue on the south, and Twentieth Street on the east. The building Comstock mentions was completed in 1890 and was "Old Main," to remain the central academic building for the school until it was consumed by fire in 1930.

The first president was Livingston C. Lord, by virtually all accounts of his contemporaries a man of considerable wisdom and vision, an extra-

ordinary teacher and administrator. Henry Johnson, who taught at Moorhead Normal and later went on to teach at Columbia, remembers in his book, *The Other Side of Main Street*, his introduction to the faculty at the Normal School. It was, Johnson said, "a mutual admiration society":

"There were no restrictions on individual opinion. There was no 'organizing principle' to which every teacher must subscribe. There were no set 'methods' which every teacher had to follow. The teachers differed widely in political and religious faith, in personality, temperament, and training. But all of them were highly expert teachers and each of them saw in the others qualities which made the group a mutual admiration society Its basis was clear. The teachers had been educated by Mr. Lord."

Isabel McKinney, in her book, *Mr. Lord*, in speaking of Mr. Lord late in life, and long after he had left Moorhead to become president of Eastern Illinois State Teachers College says, "If the rewards of teaching are people, Mr. Lord's rewards were great. In the decade of his seventies he must have been almost every day conscious of the love and honor in which he was held by people, and especially by the students and graduates of his school." The inscription on Livingston Lord's tombstone says simply: *Livingston C. Lord, 1851-1933, He Was A Teacher.*

Lord was president of Moorhead Normal until 1899, when he left for Illinois. At that time the school en-



President Weld's office, 1900

rolled 285 students, most of them not graduates of high schools and most

of them enrolled in sub-collegiate courses. The courses of study led to an elementary diploma, an advanced or life diploma, and to special diplomas in manual arts and music. The presidents succeeding Mr. Lord have been: Frank Weld 1899-1919, Oliver M. Dickerson 1921-1923, Ray B. MacLean 1923-1940, Otto W. Snarr 1941-1955, A. L. Knoblauch 1955-1958, John Neumaier 1958-1968, Roland Dille 1968-present.

Certainly presidents of educational institutions cannot have their careers characterized in few words, but it is probably fair to identify a significance or two of the administrations of these men. People who recall Moorhead State in the thirties, forties, fifties, and even in the early sixties may be surprised to learn that during Frank Weld's tenure the normal school enrollment grew until in 1916 and '17 it exceeded one thousand students.

Dickerson's reign, though short, saw the normal school become Moorhead State Teachers College in 1921, with the first baccalaureate degrees awarded in 1923.

Ray B. MacLean's long presidency spanned the Jazz Age through the great depression and nearly to the beginning of World War II. During that time Old Main burned (1930) and with it the school library, the heating plant, and the comparatively new training school. In 1932 they were replaced by MacLean Hall and the adjoining physical education

building (later named Flora Frick Hall), a new campus school (now Lommen Hall), and a heating plant building later converted to Grier Hall, a speech clinic. Otto W. Snarr was president through the difficult war years, during the early part of which the college served the Army Air Corps in its 22-week aircrew training sessions. When the program was ended in 1944, the college had trained 1,650 men. The regular student body, however, had dipped to 243 in 1945 and rose to 604 in 1946, only to dip abruptly again in 1950 when the 49th Viking division was activated for the Korean War, taking with them large numbers of the college's male students.

A. L. Knoblauch's tenure was brief, but under him the college began its great building program of the sixties.

John Neumaier was president during a period of rapid growth, and under him the college assumed new proportions, in its physical plant, in its students, and in its faculty. The enrollment in 1958 was less than a thousand. When Neumaier left in 1968 the enrollment was nearly five thousand and fifteen new buildings had been constructed.

Roland Dille was inaugurated in 1968 and his history is not yet written. What should be noted, however, is that he became president at almost the same time as the Vietnam war came to the campuses and that his first three years were marked by what is generally conceded to be a successful diplomacy which sought



Frank Weld, Moorhead Normal School president, 1899-1919

to keep avenues of expression open while at the same time providing an atmosphere in which the college could maintain its traditional function as an institution of *formal* education.

From the beginning of the school one of its primary functions has been to educate teachers for the schools of this state. In the later part of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth, most of Minnesota's public schools were rural and elementary; consequently Moorhead Normal's function was primarily to train teachers for those schools. But as more and more high schools were built throughout the state the demand for teachers to staff them also increased. Thus it was that the baccalaureate degree was established in 1921 and Moorhead Normal became a four year college and its name was changed to Moorhead State Teachers College. In 1953 the state legislature authorized the college to offer the degree of Master of Science in Education. By this time, however, the state had already recognized its obligation to those students who wanted an education but who did not want to become teachers, and had responded by authorizing Moorhead State Teachers College to offer a bachelor in arts degree in 1946, though it was not until 1957 that the state recognized the need to have the name of the institution reflect its function, and the college became Moorhead State College.

The building boom on campus in the sixties was not merely one of physical facilities. Project Equality,



Moorhead college girls, posed on the steps of their ladies boarding house at 710 Seventh Street South



Early Moorhead Normal School gridiron team

which provided educational opportunities for Blacks, Chicanos, and American Indians, was launched in 1968, and in 1969 MSC joined with NDSU and Concordia in forming the Tri-College University, a consortium which made it possible for a student at any of the three colleges to take courses at the other two and still pay the tuition at and graduate from his own college.

If the history of a college is properly the history of the people who made it what it is, then perhaps the history is best related in the names the college chooses for its buildings. Five of the buildings on the MSC campus are named after presidents — Snarr Hall, MacLean Hall, Weld Hall, Neumaier Hall, and Livingston Lord Library. Several have been named after resident directors, but ten have been named after teachers, two have been named after staff members, and one after an administrator.

Flora Frick Hall, Ballard Hall, Lommen Hall, Nemzek Fieldhouse, Kise Commons, Grantham Hall, Bridges Hall, Holmquist Hall, Murray Commons, and King Biology Hall are all named after former faculty members, while Grier Hall is named after a former plant engineer, Dahl Hall is named after a former director of dormitories and Owens Hall is named after a former registrar.

Flora Frick came to Moorhead in 1919 and served as head of the health and physical education division until her death 38 years later in 1957. Caswell A. Ballard came to Moorhead in

1899 to serve as head of the science department, twice served as acting president of the college, and in 1937 retired after 38 years of service. Lommen Hall is the former campus school and it was named after Georgina Lommen who served for 20 years, 1923-43, as director of the training school program. Miss Lommen is still living in her old home in Caledonia, now 98 years old. Alex Nemzek was athletic director and coach for eighteen years from 1923-1941. In addition to his service to the college, he had a long military career — on the Mexican border in 1916, and in World War I and II — and he served as mayor of Moorhead for one term. Joseph Kise came to Moorhead in 1923 in the department of political science and served the college for 38 years until his retirement in 1961; he was also a division chairman and dean of liberal arts. Virginia Grantham was in the department of foreign languages from 1929 to 1964, and for a considerable time during that period was the department. Bridges Hall is named for Samuel Bridges, head of the department of history from 1921 to 1951.

Delsie Holmquist taught at MSC for 37 years, from 1929-1966, in the English and humanities departments, and also served as dean of general studies. Byron Murray, with the longest service of any MSC teacher, taught in the English department, served as division chairman and finally as director of graduate studies in a career spanning 41 years, 1926-1967. And King Biology Hall was

dedicated last year to Genevieve N. King who served the college for 27 years from 1947-1974 as a member of the biology department. She was also a divisional chairman for many years.

Longest service to the college belongs to Millie Dahl who came in 1910 when the normal school was but 22 years old, and retired in 1953 after 43 years of service.

The present administration building is named for Jane Owens, who for 28 years, 1923-1951, was college registrar. Grier Hall, presently housing speech pathology and audiology, was formerly the power plant for the college. Appropriately, it is named for the four generation Grier family connection with the college, particularly Ben Grier, who with the exception of the years 1944-1947 served as chief engineer from 1939-1963.

Total number of years service to the college represented by the people for whom these buildings named is 413! Compound that by the thousands of other faculty who have taught at the school since its inception, and the tens of thousands of students who have passed through its gates, and you have a picture of an institution whose impact on the community is inestimable.

Concordia College



Concordia College, 1903. To the left is Academy Hall, 1893. Center, original Bishop Whipple Hall. Right, Professor Bogstad's new house and barn behind.

Concordia College was established in 1891, when the articles of incorporation of the Northwestern Lutheran College Association were adopted. Pastor J. M. O. Ness of Perley, Minnesota, was elected president of the non-profit corporation, and continued in that position until 1927. Lars Christianson, a pharmacist in Fargo, was elected secretary and served for forty-three years in that capacity.

The Bishop Whipple School building south of Moorhead was available for purchase for \$10,000. This school had been started by the Episcopalians in 1882 under the leadership of missionary Bishop Henry W. Whipple, but was closed after five years for lack of students. This building was purchased at one-third of its original cost, and became Concordia's first "Main." Later it was known for a half century as "Ladies' Hall," and now as "Bishop Whipple Hall."

Pastor J. O. Hougen of Fargo has been credited with suggesting the name for the new college. "Concordia" means harmony, concord, union, the opposite of discord. The name was an ecumenical slogan referring particularly to the union of three Lutheran synods in 1890. The name was prophetic, too. Concordia's president J. A. Aasgaard was active in effecting the Lutheran mergers of 1917, and President Joseph L. Knutson was a member of the Union Committee that led up to the merger of 1961 which formed the American Lutheran Church.

Concordia College opened its doors for its first term October 15th, 1891, with three teachers and twelve students in a high-school-level program; although called a college, the name was an anticipation. The first college level courses were taught in 1907, a full college level program was begun in 1913, and the first bachelor's degrees were awarded in 1917.

The first teachers were Ingebrikt F. Grose, principal (salary, \$1000 per year plus room), Elmer D. Busby (salary, \$600 per year and living quarters), and Caroline Finseth, piano. Mrs. Busby was resident head. Mr. and Mrs. Kopperness were in charge of the building, the six-acre campus and the food service.

These were the twelve first students: Oline Aabye, Anna Arntson, O. S. Dyrkoren, Anna Ellingson, Bertina Iverson, Jens C. Leines, Mathea Lyng, Peder J. Lyng, Wilhelm P. Rognlie, Bessie Rygh, W. Thompson, and Lars Thorsgaard.

In 1892, a similar institution was started at Fergus Falls, Minnesota, and named Park Region Luther College. The chief promoter was Pastor O. N. Fosmark of Fergus Falls.

In 1917 the college department of the Park Region Luther College and Concordia College were merged and located at Moorhead, and Park Region continued as an academy or high school.

The winter term of that first year opened with an enrollment of 209. It became apparent that the Bishop

Whipple School building was not large enough. There were rooms for 50 on the second and third floors, with boys on the third floor, girls on the second. On the first floor were classrooms, an assembly hall, a music room and the president's office. In the basement was a kitchen and a dining room with three tables. It was necessary to find rooms in private homes for many of the students during that winter term.

When the Northwestern Lutheran College Association met on May 31, at the close of the first academic year for Concordia, a unanimous decision was made that a boys' dormitory must be built as soon as possible and that new dining facilities be provided.

The dormitory, the present Academy Hall, was already in use for the College's second winter term, 1893, and since 261 students were enrolled then, it was none too soon. It was still necessary to rent rooms outside of the school.

Professor Bogstad had raised \$12,000 (in those days of 43-cent wheat) and \$10,000 was borrowed from a local bank to complete payments on the building. But then came the financial panic of 1893. The ten thousand dollar note could be renewed only at 18% interest. Again Professor Bogstad took to the road, and Concordia College came through its first financial crisis by repaying the loan.

During President H. H. Aaker's administration, which began with the financial crisis in '93 and continued



Concordia's first faculty and student body, 1891

until 1902, emphasis was placed on a business-college type of program. This was his teaching field, and he recognized that during those depression years this was the program that attracted students. While other schools were closing their doors, Concordia's enrollment during four depression years held at 200-250.

When Professor Bogstad assumed the presidency in 1902, he did so with a background of teaching, development, admissions, building committees and food service management at Concordia, having served ever since its dedication.

By 1905 the enrollment had reached 350 and a new building was needed. President Bogstad called a meeting of the Northwestern Lutheran College Association and invited the members to eat in the dining hall, to impress them with the crowded conditions. They had \$20,000 in contributions toward a proposed twenty-five thousand dollar classroom building, but the President had larger dreams than that. On June 25, 1905, President Bogstad presented a pledge from Andrew Carnegie for \$12,500 toward a fifty-thousand dollar building and made a plea for the larger building. The Board approved the building now known as "Old Main." At a later meeting a director said, "Too bad we don't own the block along Eighth Street. It would be a good location for Main." "I have already purchased it for you," responded President Bogstad. That year they raised the President's annual salary from \$900 to \$1000.

Reverend H. O. Shurson began his duties at Concordia College as financial secretary in 1906, to raise money for the construction of Main. In 1909 he was made acting president and in 1910-11 he was president of the college.

Dr. J. A. Aasgaard was Concordia's fifth president, from 1911, at age 32, until 1925. This was a period of transition from preparatory school to liberal arts college. In 1913 a full program for college freshmen was begun, and by 1915 a four-year program was offered. The first graduating class for bachelor of arts candidates included Martha Brennun, N. L. Mykkeltvedt, L. P. Seierstad, Emil G. Bagley, and Rudolph and Ingvald Lavik. They were graduated May 25, 1917, together with 46 academy graduates. By the close of Dr. Aasgaard's administration, the academy was about to be phased out and most of the students were on the college level.

When Concordia College and Park Region Luther College were consolidated in 1917, the Concordia College Corporation was organized. Many of the Park Region faculty members moved to Moorhead and joined the Concordia faculty, and there followed a blending of traditions and practices of the two schools.

In 1915 the gymnasium was built; it is now the Art building. Some potential donors among the pioneer homesteaders found it difficult to give money for a building for "playing games." However, by 1925,



An 1896 Thanksgiving party in Grose Hall on Concordia's campus.

when the new library was built (now Grose Hall) they would hardly withhold contributions for that reason, and they responded generously.

The construction of Fjelstad Hall in 1937 and 1938 marks the beginning of a new era in college building at Concordia College.

Then came World War II. Male enrollment dropped to fifty students, but the enrollment of women increased, so the total enrollment was still in the 400's. Then the veterans returned with their G.I. benefits and the enrollment rose from 449 in 1944 to 1277 four years later; then down again to 890 in 1951 as the horde of veterans were graduated.

By the close of President Aasgaard's administration, the campus included four blocks; the plant had a net worth of \$444,000; there was an endowment of \$99,000, and an enrollment of 444 with 29 faculty members.

Dr. J. N. Brown was the sixth president; his administration continued from 1925 to 1951. It was during this period that the young college established itself as a recognized liberal arts college, in spite of an agricultural depression of the twenties, the world-wide depression of the thirties, and World War II.

The endowment campaign of 1926 raised \$590,000 by 1930. The college was accredited by the North Central Association in 1927 and by the National Association of Schools of Music in 1929.



Concordia's faculty, 1903-1904. Standing, left to right: — W. P. Rognlie, commerce; Rev. O. A. Fonkalsrud, religion; E. D. Busby, math, science; — Sunne, classics. Seated: Mollie Martinson, music; Mrs. Valborg Bogstad, English for newcomers; Emma Norbryhn; President R. Bogstad; — Thompson, voice and eighth grade subjects; —



In 1907 Concordia College dedicated its third academy building — now Old Main.

Brown Hall was completed in 1947; the Science Hall (the present Biology building) was begun the same year; temporary duplexes for married students and Cobber Hall, a temporary residence for men, were constructed and the heating plant was enlarged. In 1951, the Memorial Gymnasium-Auditorium was begun, but before the 198-foot steel beams were connected they collapsed in a gusty high wind.

At the 1951 spring commencement the new dormitory was given the name "John Nikolai Brown Hall" to honor the retiring president.

The seventh president of the college was Dr. Joseph L. Knutson. When President Knutson began his first academic year in 1951, 890 college students were enrolled; this figure increased to 1734 by 1962 and to 2402 in 1974. Such an expansion called for tremendous growth in facilities, faculties and finances throughout the twenty-four years of his administration.

The total increase in capital invested in the plant, including acquisition of additional campus land, 1951-75, is \$18,250,000.

During the 24 years, endowment funds were increased by one and one-half million and deferred gifts increased by two million dollars. The current operating budget for 1951-52 was under \$900,000. For the 1974-75 fiscal year it was over nine million dollars, according to William A. Smaby, principal financial officer since 1952.

During the same period, the teaching faculty has grown from 69 teachers to a total of 172, of which forty-five percent have doctor's degrees.

The library has a collection of 200,000 books (37,000 in 1951) and the acquisition rate has been one thousand books per month for the past several years.

E. T. (Gene) Paulson and J. Luther Jacobson, members of the Board of Regents, started the C-400 club in 1955. The sum of \$400,000 was needed for the construction of the Ylvisaker Library, and they talked of the possibility of recruiting 400 people to contribute a thousand dollars each. Early progress was slow; it was 1957 before the first hundred members were found. Now the organization has 4,000 members, and is nationally known for its vitality and vision.

The Concordia Language Villages date back to 1961 when Gerhard K. Haukebo started a Concordia College German camp for ages 8-18. This has become a major project enrolling 1600 villagers in six languages at six locations in Minnesota and Montana, including the Norwegian Village on the 800 acre campsite owned by the College at Turtle River Lake near Bemidji.

The number of degree graduates has now passed the 11,000 mark. The fact that President Joseph L. Knutson's signature appears on three-fourths of all the baccalaureate diplomas ever awarded by Concordia College says something about the

rate of growth during the Knutson quarter century.

Eighth president of Concordia College, beginning with summer 1975, is Dr. Paul J. Dovre, Concordia alumnus of 1958, member of the faculty since 1963, and vice president since 1969.

Concordia College

A Christian School for Young Men and Young Women

COURSES

CLASSICAL COURSE
Academic and College Departments

NORMAL AND PAROCHIAL COURSES
LADIES' SEMINARY AND BIBLE INSTITUTE
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Vocal and Instrumental
SCHOOL OF STENOGRAPHY
 Gregg Shorthand and Touch Typewriting
SCHOOL OF COMMERCE

DORMITORIES WITH ALL MODERN CONVENIENCES

EXPENSES \$3.75 PER WEEK
Great Reduction for Nine Months' Course

Churches in Moorhead



In June, 1898 W. H. Davy authorized Cass Gilbert to design St. John's Episcopal Church at 116 Eighth Street South. In July the contract for native Minnesota stone for the foundation wall was let.



First communion in the new church was in June, 1899. The architecture is true Elizabethan-Gothic, a copy of an old English church built in the form of a cruciform. It became a State Historical site in 1967.

A little more than a hundred years ago Moorhead mushroomed from a settlement of a few tents to a town of 800 persons in eight months. Before 1895, eight congregations had been organized which are still represented by active churches in Moorhead at the present time.

The Presbyterian Church

The first religious service in Moorhead was conducted by the Rev. Oscar H. Elmer, who was sent to minister to the spiritual needs of this frontier community by the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church. On October 22, 1871 he held a service in the Chapin House, a tent hotel located at the corner which later became the intersection of Fourth Street and First Avenue North. His diary tells of other services in railroad coaches, stores, and the tent of one of the settlers.

Elmer had constructed a crude one-room building which he referred to in his diary as "The Reading Room." It was located approximately where the Center Mall is now. This became the first home of the Presbyterian Church in Moorhead. It was later sold to the Episcopalians. In 1874 a new building was erected at Fifth Street and First Avenue South at a cost of \$2,400. In 1877 the church was struck by lightning and burned. A new building was erected on the same site and this one also burned, in 1909. A new building was erected, and served until 1966 when structural deterioration of the sanctuary section

caused it to be condemned. In 1968 the present edifice, located at 2900 Fifth Street South, was completed.

The Episcopal Church

Less than a year after the first Presbyterian service was held in the Moorhead colony, the Rev. Joseph A. Gilfillan, an Episcopal minister from Brainerd, Minnesota, held a service in a passenger coach on a sidetrack, on August 28, 1872. The next day he crossed over to Fargo and held a service in a dining tent there. In May, 1873 Benjamin Franklin Mackall, a 21-year-old pharmacist from Maryland, attended Episcopal services in Minneapolis on his way to the new town of Moorhead. He was licensed a lay reader by the pioneer bishop of Minnesota, Henry B. Whipple. Later Mackall told of "paddling Whipple's canoe" as the two men pursued the church's mission work among the Chippewa Indian missions in the White Earth and Cass Lake areas.

At Moorhead Mackall began to hold regular Episcopal services both in Moorhead and Fargo. Formal organization of the Episcopal congregation of St. John the Divine, Moorhead, dates from 1875; Ben Mackall was elected senior warden, a position he held until his death in 1935. In 1876 the congregation bought the frame chapel they had been sharing with the Presbyterians and moved the structure to a new site near the present American Legion building. Until 1881 the Episcopal congregation in Fargo functioned as a mission under St. John's.

The Reverend Thomas E. Dickey, a native of Nova Scotia who came to Minneapolis in 1854 at the age of 18, became the first resident rector: in 1877-78 Dickey was in charge of a mission on the Northern Pacific railway from Detroit Lakes to Bismarck.

In 1895 W. H. Davy gave the church two lots at the NE corner of Eighth Street and Second Avenue South. In 1898 the cornerstone was laid for the present Episcopal Church building on Eighth Street and Second Avenue South in Moorhead. Cass Gilbert, a famous American architect who designed among other buildings the capital at St. Paul and the Woolworth Building in New York, was the designer.

In February, 1946 a fire did extensive damage to the wooden structure. The diamond-shaped, amber-colored leaded glass windows had to be sacrificed because the heat of the fire had melted them. But the church vestry, led by Senior Warden Jay Murray and John Ingersoll, replaced, cleaned, and refinished the charred and blackened wood successfully.

The Catholic Churches

The Roman Catholic Church was the third denomination to establish a parish in Moorhead. The first priest to reside in the Red River Valley, and the priest who started St. Joseph's, was the Rev. Jean Baptiste Genin, a former Oblate missionary from Canada, a personal friend of Sitting Bull. He cared for stations at Holy Cross and Detroit Lakes and



The original St. Joseph's Catholic Church, organized in 1876 at the southeast corner of Fourth Street North and Second Avenue

first visited Moorhead in 1872. In 1873 Father Genin secured three lots on Fourth Street North in Moorhead and built a frame church, 56 x 20, placing it under the patronage of St. Joseph. In the beginning this church served the Catholics of both Moorhead and Fargo. In 1875 the Catholics of Fargo organized a separate parish.

The first resident pastor of St. Joseph's was the Rev. J. A. McGlone, who was sent to Moorhead in 1878. In 1880 the Sisters of St. Benedict, of St. Joseph, Minnesota, opened a parochial school in the parish. It was a combination school and dwelling. In March, 1883 the Benedictine Fathers of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, assumed charge of St. Joseph's and it has remained under their care.

In 1884 Rev. Augustine Brockmeyer, O.S.B., became pastor and remained for 19 years. During this time the Moorhead parish of St. Joseph became firmly established through the zeal and energy of Father Augustine. The parishioners, though few in number, were very faithful and supported him in his efforts. They built a new Sisters' residence in 1886, a six-room parochial school in 1893, and a rectory in 1896. Each of these three buildings cost approximately \$8,000. They were located on Fourth Street North.

All of these structures and the church were sold to George Saumweber in 1926. He moved the church to a new location and made it into a duplex;

the other buildings were made into apartments. All were razed in the current urban renewal project.

The Lamb family were strong supporters of St. Joseph's Church. The Lamb brothers donated the original seven acres for the Catholic cemetery. The first burial there was that of John Shea, 80, on January 22, 1878. In 1924 Mrs. Catherine Lamb gave another ten acres. The two lots where the present church stands were donated by the John Lamb Estate. A \$20,000 bequest from Patrick Lamb activated a building fund for a new church.

This fund grew, and after the sale of the original property on Fourth Street North a new church-and-school building (the present school) was erected on Tenth Street South.

The Grace Methodist Church

The Methodists were the fourth group to establish a parish in Moorhead. In May, 1878, the Rev. T. W. Gossard and the Rev. David Price, both from St. Paul, came to Moorhead. The Rev. J. B. Starkey of the Fargo Methodist Church, which had been organized in 1874, met them, kept them at his house, and showed them around Moorhead. On May 11, 1878, the Rev. T. W. Gossard, presiding elder, along with five men acting as trustees, filed articles of incorporation for Grace Methodist Episcopal Church. The name was changed in 1939 to Grace Methodist Church.

The first church building was erected



The second St. Joseph's Catholic Church at the same location, dedicated February 2, 1892

that same year on Fourth Street South at Second Avenue. The 1878 frame building was replaced by a modern structure in 1922. While the church was being built services were held in the Lincoln School. The new church was dedicated January 20, 1924.

An interesting sidelight to the church's history is the story told about firing up the furnace on Saturday evening. The church was unheated during the week and the boiler drained. The fire box on the furnace was so long that it would take an uncut railroad tie. The fuel burned consisted of railroad ties, green wood and other types of lumber and some coal. The wood was cut and collected by members of the church during the week. Then on Saturday night a group of men would work by shifts firing up the furnace and keeping it going so that the church would be warm on Sunday. In 1946 a new furnace was installed.

In 1961 the third and current home of Grace Methodist Church was erected at 1120 Seventeenth Street South. The completed structure was dedicated September 17, 1961. The property and buildings on Fourth Street South were sold to the Baptists.

The Bethesda Lutheran Church

Some ten years before the founding of Bethesda Lutheran Church — when Moorhead began to thrive as a community, because of the Northern

Pacific Railroad Company's decision to bridge the Red River between Fargo and Moorhead — the Swedish Lutheran Church in Minnesota assigned circuit ministers to stop in Moorhead, on occasion, to conduct religious services for the Swedish people in the community. These services were conducted in homes or in the lobby of the Erickson House at the foot of Front Street (Center Avenue) in the 1870s.

In 1880, nine and one-half years after the first locomotive reached the Red River, the Rev. A. F. Tornell of Stillwater was commissioned by the Augustana (Swedish) Lutheran Church of Minnesota to investigate the Moorhead field to determine whether there was enough interest among the people to establish a congregation. He advised those of Swedish descent in the area to move to other localities. A congregation in Moorhead was hopeless!

The Rev. Tornell underestimated the will of the people, and he didn't reckon with the nature of John L. Bjorkquist, a contractor and a builder in the area. Bjorkquist felt a deep need for the church, for the sake of the people and the community itself. In his home, located at the foot of Eighth Street North, Moorhead Minnesota, a handful of people, eight or ten, gathered on May 4, 1880. The skeptical Rev. Tornell presided at the meeting of those few and a congregation was formed. It was named "Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Bethesda Congregation of Fargo, Dakota Territory."

The Rev. A. F. Tornell still felt that the congregation could not survive, and he reported the same to his superiors of the parent conference of the Swedish Lutheran Church in Minnesota. His term of service in Moorhead was to have been three months, but he remained only a few weeks, leaving with the sure and certain opinion that Bethesda would fail. Bethesda will observe its 95th Anniversary in 1975.

The first need was for a residence and a permanent worship center. The first worship services were held in the Fargo school house. In Moorhead the school board decided to sell property consisting of twelve lots along Sixth Street from Second to Third Avenue. Six hundred dollars was borrowed at an interest rate of 10% per annum. The old school was remodeled to become both a church and the pastor's residence. The Rev. J. O. Cavallin served for nearly ten years and the original eleven in the congregation increased to 200 during that time.

In 1890 the Rev. S. A. Lindholm accepted Bethesda's call. The ten-year-old congregation mothered a mission in Fargo that is Elim congregation today.

In 1896 a full-time pastor was called from St. Cloud, Minnesota. The Rev. John Nyvall assumed his duties as Bethesda's pastor on April 1, 1896.

A second church building was dedicated at services April 28-29, 1906. Rev. Nyvall also spearheaded a drive

which led to the founding of Northwestern Hospital in Moorhead in 1907. In 1913 the congregation relinquished its obligation to the hospital, which later became the present St. Ansgar's Hospital.

In March of 1927 the Rev. O. G. Berg became the pastor and served for 16 years. Pastor Berg wrote a thorough history of Bethesda, printed in book form in 1930, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary.

In 1970 the plans for a new Bethesda developed. A ninety-year-old congregation, for years exposed to traditional architecture, took a bold and innovative step in 1971. It approved a style and design of building that was modern and functional and it approved relocation to south Moorhead. The new church on River Oak Road was dedicated on February 6, 1972.

Eleven sons of Bethesda have become Lutheran pastors of the years of its history.

The Evangelical Free Church

In 1880 a group of Swedish immigrants joined together in Christian fellowship and began to hold meetings in their homes. In March, 1883, thirteen members of this group met and elected officers to organize the Scandinavian Christian Society of Moorhead, which was launched as a free and independent church. A house of worship was erected at 1006 Fourth Avenue North in Moorhead. A parsonage was acquired next door.



The second frame sanctuary to serve the Norwegian Trinity Lutheran Church, built in 1895 at the southeast corner of Seventh Street and Second Avenue South. In 1915 it was sold to the German Lutheran Church of Peace congregation and moved to 710 Third Avenue South where it still stands, remodelled into apartments.



Aerial view of Moorhead in 1920 with Trinity Lutheran Church in center foreground, looking northwest at downtown.

On March 15, 1955, the church voted to acquire the property on the corner of Eleventh Avenue and Twelfth Street North, where a new building was erected and dedicated in November, 1957. A new parsonage at 1214 Ninth Street North was also purchased.

Trinity Lutheran Church (A.L.C.)

On December 15, 1882 a constitution was accepted and formally signed by sixteen men establishing the Norwegian Trinity Lutheran Church of Moorhead. These men and their families constituted a membership of forty-two. The Rev. C. I. Wold, who was already serving the Pontoppidan Congregation in Fargo, served Trinity for a time. When he resigned the two congregations joined in calling a new pastor, the Rev. John H. Brono, who established his residence in Fargo.

In 1883 two lots were bought at the present location of Trinity Church on Seventh Street South for \$700, and by July, 1884, when Brono arrived, a thirty by forty foot structure was completed at a cost of \$1,175.

The services were all in the Norwegian language. The congregation grew steadily — 142 members in 1889; the desire also grew to have their pastor reside in Moorhead. Thus when Brono resigned in January, 1892 Trinity dissolved its tie with Pontoppidan Church of Fargo in favor of two Buffalo River congregations. Trinity-Concordia-Zion called the

Rev. Andreas Oefstedal who would live in Moorhead.

In 1916 a new church was dedicated. In March, 1919 the First English Lutheran congregation of Moorhead was merged with Trinity. In accordance with the merger agreement English became the official language of the congregation and English services were provided every Sunday morning, but regular Norwegian services were not discontinued until 1938. More than one service was necessary so one could still be in the Norwegian language.

In 1947 Trinity sponsored the organization of Our Savior's Lutheran Church by transferring 237 members and assisting with the financing. In 1964 they sponsored Christ the King Lutheran Church with a credit loan.

In 1950 Trinity Church was destroyed by fire. Services were held in the Moorhead Junior High School until a new building was completed. The present church was dedicated on October 5, 1952. When the roof of the sanctuary blew off in 1964, services were held in Concordia Fieldhouse for six weeks. Additions have been made to the 1954 structure and remodelling within; in 1957 a Holtkamp pipe organ was dedicated. The mosaic cross in the chapel, and nine large mosaics in the narthex and hallways of the Education unit, are the work of Cyrus Running, a well-known local artist.

Among those once serving as pastors at Trinity are the Rev. Fredrik Schiotz, who later became president of the

A.L.C. and the Lutheran World Federation; the Rev. Oscar Anderson, who is now president of Augsburg College, Minneapolis; and the Rev. A. E. Hanson, who became president of the Northern Minnesota District of the A.L.C. Seventeen sons of the parish have been ordained into the ministry in Trinity Church. Many missionaries have been sponsored by the church.

First Congregational Church (U.C.C.)

The First Congregational Church of Moorhead also dates back to the 19th century. It was founded in 1893 with formal organization completed in January, 1894 with 25 charter members. The names of some of these charter members have been perpetuated in the town of Perley, named for George Perley; in the Livingston Lord Library at MSC; in the Darrow Foundation of Fargo-Moorhead; in the T. I. Lewis Room at the church; and in many books, including *The Other Side of Main Street* written by Professor Henry Johnson of Moorhead Normal, later a historian at Columbia University.

The first place of worship for the new congregation was the Baptist Church located across the street (west) from Trinity Church. The Baptist congregation had disbanded.

Dr. R. A. Beard, then president of Fargo College, was the first pastor, serving half-time for \$1,250. Dr. Beard was a stately young man who rode a beautiful white saddle horse from



First Congregational Church, organized in 1894, shown in 1900 on the northeast corner of Eighth Street South and Fourth Avenue

his Fargo home to conduct services in the Moorhead church.

Winters were cold! Those who had soapstones for their cutters, or for featherbeds, heated them at home and brought them to church to be placed at their feet. For those not so fortunate, Deacon Goodsell heated bricks in the drum of the wood-burning stove, wrapped them in papers, and distributed them to members of the congregation as they came in.

By 1900 the congregation had grown too large for the little Baptist Church. They bought five lots on South Eighth Street from S. G. Comstock for \$400. The decision then had to be made whether to erect a frame, a plain brick, or a pressed brick building. Mr. Perley suggested that "small effort will mean small results, large efforts large results." After much soul-searching it was decided the pressed brick building could be financed. It was dedicated in 1901; it cost "upwards of \$9,000." This structure, with extensive remodeling of the interior and a large addition added in 1952, is still the church home of the First Congregational membership.

The Interim Period

In the first four decades of the twentieth century no new congregations were organized in Moorhead, or if they were they did not survive. After World War II as the population of Moorhead increased so did the number of churches. With the predominance of Scandinavians it is not sur-

prising that five of the new churches are of the Lutheran faith. However, the first to be organized after 1940 was the Assemblies of God Church.

Later Churches

Moorhead Assemblies of God (1938), Eleventh Street and Fourth Avenue South

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod (1941), Tenth Avenue and Fourteenth Street South

Our Savior's Lutheran Church — ALC (1947), 610 North Thirteenth Street

St. Francis de Sales Parish — Roman Catholic (1948), 804 North Thirteenth Street

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd — ALC (1952), 1500 South Sixth Street

Triumph Lutheran Brethren Church (1954), 1919 Fifth Avenue North

Lutheran Church of Christ the King — ALC (1958), Twentieth Avenue and Fourteenth Street South

Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church — Wisconsin Synod (1965), 2820 Twelfth Avenue South

Church of the Nazarene (1960), 1515 South Fifteenth Street

Moorhead Baptist Church (1960), Fourth Street and Second Avenue South

Brookdale Baptist Church (1967), South and East of Highways 94 and 75

Jehovah's Witnesses (1961), 1014 Nineteenth Street South

Today's churches are a far cry from those of pioneer days in physical structure, beauty and comfort, but they still serve the same purpose — the worship of God.

Ladies' Aids and Missionary Societies have changed their names since pioneer days, but practically every church has a women's organization. They still serve the same purposes: to carry on the work of the church, to raise money to help pay off the mortgage, to support the church budget, to send aid to missions. They still provide fellowship and Bible study. Home-made ice cream and basket socials have given way to church suppers and church bazaars.

Sunday Schools and young people's organizations remain important parts of today's churches. Most of the earlier churches had both morning and evening services and midweek prayer meetings. Most churches today retain only the Sunday morning services, but Bible study classes and short term seminars are common. Churches do not, however, play as large a role in the social and cultural life of their members as they did in pioneer days.

Parsonages in the early days were really extensions of the church. Now the parsonage is usually physically separate from the church to insure the privacy of the pastor's family. In the early days the parsonage was a sizeable part of the pastor's salary. Today the trend is to pay the minister's professional salaries.

Moorhead Physicians



Daniel C. Darrow, M. D., started Darrow Hospital, later called Moorhead Hospital, in 1893.



Alice Darrow, wife of Daniel C. Darrow.



Daniel C. Darrow, M. D., built his hospital in 1893, on the southeast corner of Sixth Avenue and Seventh Street, at the end of the streetcar line.

The first physician to set up a practice in Moorhead was John D. Kurtz. Born in Washington, D. C. in 1848, he graduated from Washington's National Medical College, Columbus University, in 1870. In 1871 he came to Clay County as a physician for the Northern Pacific Railroad. Prior to that time Dr. J. C. Rosser had been a physician for the railroad, serving all of Clay County.

In 1873 Kurtz established himself in Moorhead and also opened a drugstore with Benjamin F. Mackall, who became his brother-in-law. A civic leader, he was the first president of the Board of Health of Moorhead. His brother, Thomas C. Kurtz, was a Moorhead banker and first resident director of the Normal School. In 1890 John Kurtz married Helen Siniper and in 1893 moved to Washington, D. C., where he lived until his death on June 30, 1912.

Dr. Alonzo Wilson, born in 1834, came to this country from Sweden in 1854. He enlisted in the Union army and was in active service for three years, the last year spent "fighting Indians in the area Red River country." After the Civil War he studied medicine, graduating from the Medical College at Keokuk, Iowa in 1870. He practiced there until coming to Moorhead in 1876.

Around 1878 J. E. F. Davis, a homeopathic physician and surgeon, appeared in Moorhead. A graduate of Vermont Medical College, he had been in practice for some 30 years. He was the

owner of a Moorhead hotel as well as a 160-acre farm.

In 1881, with the beginning of a boom period in Moorhead, four physicians arrived and began practicing in the city. Robert Patterson was born in Grafton, Ontario in 1851 and graduated from the University of Toronto's Trinity College. John Knaus graduated from Ohio Medical College in 1861 and practiced in Moorhead until 1888. W. H. Lewis, a graduate of Chicago's Rush Medical College, practiced here until 1885.

John J. Buckley, an 1878 graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, took office space above Mackall's drugstore the same year. No subsequent mention of him is found.

Elizabeth K. Goebel came to Moorhead sometime before 1882 with her husband, Carl, a German lawyer and farmer. "So extensive indeed," says one source, "is her practice, that she receives letters consulting her even from Chicago and is frequently preferred to those in her profession of the opposite sex." Mrs. Goebel also ran a drugstore located at Sixth Street and Front Street, now Center Avenue. She sold that business in 1883 but was still living in Moorhead as late as 1909.

In 1883 two more physicians, Frederick Brendemuhl and John McLean, arrived. Brendemuhl, who received his diploma in 1865, practiced in Moorhead for over three decades. McLean, an 1881 graduate of Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, left the area in 1891.

Daniel C. Darrow, founder of the Darrow Hospital, came to Moorhead in 1884, the same year he received his degree from Rush Medical College of Chicago. He was born into a large family in 1850 on a farm in Winnebago County, Wisconsin. Darrow served 12 years as county coroner, was a charter member of the Commercial Club, and helped to organize the first Clay-Becker Medical Society. He died in 1930. His brother, E. M. Darrow, had been practicing in Fargo since 1878.

Other physicians arriving in 1884 included O. K. Lindboe, who practiced here until 1889, E. Kraft and Clarence Putnam. The following year saw the addition of Arthur I. Ridgman; and in 1886 C. W. Barker practiced here briefly.

In 1893 Dr. Throne S. Egge came to Moorhead. Born in Valders, Norway, February 15, 1859, he graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical School in 1893 and later did postgraduate work at the University of Chicago and in Berlin. He practiced in Moorhead until his death September 9, 1909. Dr. Egge was murdered by an assailant who struck him on the head.

In September 1892 Dr. William J. Awty came to the city. Born in Mitchell, Ontario, January 24, 1861, he was a graduate of Trinity Medical College in 1891. Awty married Ethel Lord, daughter of Livingston Lord, in 1904. He moved his practice to Fargo in 1914, where he died August 30, 1923.



Dr. & Mrs. Hagen in 1911 with their first car in front of the Northwestern Hospital.

Dr. Paul Sorkness opened a medical practice in Moorhead in 1896 but later moved to Fargo. Dr. L. W. Hyde, who was born in Mankato in 1874 and graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical School and from Rush Medical College in 1897, was a surgeon in the Spanish-American War. He practiced in Moorhead from 1899 to 1906, when he moved to Oregon. He died May 30, 1948.

There are a number of doctors listed as practicing here in Turner and Semling's chapter on "Physicians and Hospitals in Clay County" who probably were in Moorhead for a brief time before moving elsewhere. They include: Leonard S. Stoner 1892, DeWitt McConnell 1893, F. J. Campbell 1893, John G. Engston 1895, David R. Greenlee 1901, William F. McCarthy 1903, and George P. Boorman 1905. Four others all moved to Fargo later: James W. Vidal 1904, Andrew J. Kaess 1904, Ralph W. Hoffman 1904, Albert W. Skelsey 1905.

In 1904 Dr. Edward W. Humphrey also began to practice in Moorhead. He was born at Reedsburg, Wisconsin, January 16, 1878 and graduated from Hamline University and the University of Minnesota in 1902; later he did postgraduate work in England, France, and Norway. Dr. Humphrey married Minnie Ramstad in 1920 and was mayor of Moorhead from 1927 to 1941. One of his sons also practiced medicine in Moorhead briefly, and another is a Moorhead dentist. Humphrey died in Moorhead November 25, 1961.

In 1907 Dr. Olaf Jensen Hagen opened his practice in Moorhead. Born in Menominee, Wisconsin, September 16, 1872, he graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1906; he later did postgraduate work at Harvard University and the University of Berlin. In 1911 Hagen married Moselle Weld, daughter of President Frank Weld, and had four children. Dr. Hagen was active in educational and medical organizations — local, state, national, and international — and served on numerous boards, including the State College Board and the Minnesota Board of Regents. Hagen Hall at Moorhead State College was named in his honor; and Concordia College, where he had been the first dean of men and a teacher of geography and penmanship in 1891-93, granted him an honorary degree. He received the University of Minnesota's Outstanding Achievement Award in 1951; he died December 3, 1965.

In 1910 came Dr. Victor E. Verne. Born in Minneapolis in 1883 and a graduate of the University of Minnesota in 1906, he was a captain in World War I. Dr. Victor Verne moved to Long Beach, California in 1922, where he died December 1, 1946. His brother was a long-time Moorhead dentist and the two Vernes had adjoining offices.

In 1912 came Dr. Gilbert Gosslee. Born in Hazelton, Michigan, February 16, 1877, he was a graduate of Hamline University in 1903; later he did postgraduate work at University of Vienna. Married in 1907, Dr. Gosslee had 6 children; he also was a captain in



O. J. Hagen, noted physician and University of Minnesota Regent. Picture taken at the age of 24 when he taught at Concordia

WWI. Dr. Gosslee served as resident director of Moorhead State Teachers College from 1932-43. He died July 15, 1945.

In 1918 Dr. Bottolf Thomas Bottolfson opened his practice in Moorhead. He was born in Moorhead December 10, 1892 and graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1916. He did postgraduate study at the University of Vienna, the University of Pennsylvania, and Harvard, at Wisconsin, Denver, and Northwestern universities, and in Edinburgh and London. Dr. Bottolfson was twice mayor of Moorhead, in 1927-29 and 1962-64. He married Jeanette Peterson in 1928.

Dr. Frederick A. Thysell came to Moorhead in 1919. He was born in Hawley March 20, 1890. A graduate of Jefferson Medical College in 1913, he did postgraduate work at the University of Minnesota and at Chicago Postgraduate School. He married Myrtle Graham in 1916, and they had six children. Dr. Thysell retired in 1947 and died in January 1962.

In 1921 Dr. Hallward J. Thornby came here. Born January 12, 1882 in Lac Qui Parle County, he graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1908 and married Jessie Loudon of Moorhead in 1912. Dr. Thornby was a Great Northern Railroad surgeon for 25 years; in 1921 he came to Moorhead from Barnesville. He died June 17, 1934.

Dr. Horace Hagen, a nephew of O. J. Hagen, practiced here in 1926-27 before moving to California; Dr. Ford,

later of Marshall, practiced in Moorhead for a short time; Dr. Jacob Heimark practiced here in 1929-30.

In 1930 came Dr. James W. Duncan, who was born in Fargo, February 1, 1902. He studied at the University of North Dakota Medical School and Rush Medical College, graduating in 1930. He married Beatrice Bosworth in 1927 and they have three children. Dr. Duncan is still in active practice.

In 1931 Dr. Ernest K. G. Ingebrigtsen came to Moorhead. He was born in Rockford, Washington, April 12, 1899 and graduated from Rush Medical College in 1930. After practicing in Moorhead from 1931-1941, he spent four years in the Armed Services and returned to the city 1945-50. He moved to Houston, Texas, in 1950, where he died in September 1969.

In 1936 Dr. H. G. Rice began his practice. Born at Benson on December 1, 1910, he graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1935 and interned in Detroit, Michigan. After service in World War II he returned to Moorhead in 1949. Dr. Rice retired May 1, 1972 and is now living at Park Rapids.

In 1939 Dr. Olga Holie Johnson came here. She was born June 2, 1899 and graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1925. Mrs. Johnson retired in 1968 and moved to Detroit Lakes.

Through the 1930's, the aforementioned were the doctors with offices in Moorhead who are deceased or retired (except for Dr. Duncan). There were

and continue to be many from Fargo who served on the staff at Darrow Hospital and St. Ansgar. Dr. Duane Thysell recalled at Dr. Rice's retirement dinner that during the 1930's "occasionally Dr. Kent Darrow would be called in difficult surgery cases, Dr. Joel Swanson and Dr. Harry Fortin for orthopedic cases, and Dr. Hannah or Dr. Fjelde for difficult O.B.'s. In the late 1930's, we began to call on Dr. Art Burt for gastric resections, thyroids and the like."

In the 1940's Dr. James Oliver came as a general practitioner, later specializing in urology; and in the 1950's Drs. Vernon Carlson, Edward Humphrey, Jr., John Holten, and Marvin Geib, who was the first psychiatrist in private practice in this area. He later transferred his office to Fargo; Dr. E. W. Humphrey, Jr., moved to Minneapolis in 1953.

In the 1960's Dr. Donald Carlon, radiologist; Dr. K. W. Covey, orthopedist; Dr. C. V. Bologna, pathologist; Dr. P. A. Colliton, ophthalmologist, all began practice here. In the 1970's Drs. John Thomas and Robert Campbell, family medicine; Dr. John A. Gjevre, internist; and Dr. Jerome Bernhoft, orthopedist, opened offices.

Hospitals

On December 5, 1881 a Hospital Association was formed in the parlor of the Jay Cooke House. With some difficulty they succeeded in organizing a stock company to raise funds for a much needed hospital.

The first Moorhead hospital was built in 1882, with a capital stock of \$25,000 in \$25 shares to finance its construction and equipment. The Rev. George E. Swan, Patrick H. Lamb, the Rev. Oscar H. Elmer, Dr. Robert Patterson, John Erickson, Mayor H. A. Bruns, and the chairman of the Clay county commissioners (probably W. H. Davy) constituted the first board of directors. The hospital was located at Broadway and Front Street (now Eleventh Street and Center Avenue) and was built at a cost of \$3,500. It could accommodate 20 patients; rates were \$6 per week, \$8 to \$12 for special care.

The first patient was received on June 26, 1882; and Mr. Ole Swanson, who had been admitted July 4 with typhoid fever, was the first death in the hospital on July 31. The physicians who had applied and been admitted to practice in the hospital by November, 1882 were Drs. John J. Buckley, W. H. Lewis, John Knaus, and Robert Patterson.

The first annual meeting of the Hospital Association held November 21, 1882 elected F. A. Elder chairman and the Rev. O. H. Elmer secretary. The directors were Elder, B. E. Franklin, Samuel Partridge, H. Nienstedt, and N. M. Carlander. The second annual report, published January 2, 1884, revealed the income for the past year to be \$2,345.78 as against \$1,385.57 for the previous year; expenditures were \$2,353.24, against \$2,333.24 in 1882. Fifty-two patients had been admitted, 44 were discharged as cured, three had died, and five remained in the hospital. Thirty-one Lutherans



Northwestern Hospital, later St. Ansgar Hospital, northwest corner of Seventh Avenue North and Tenth Street, built by the Swedish Lutheran Association

were listed, seven Roman Catholics, six Episcopalians, two Baptists, and a Methodist.

What happened to this first hospital is not recorded, but on July 24, 1893 Darrow Hospital was opened by Drs. D. C. and E. M. Darrow. A modest (20 x 24 feet) two-story building, it was the first hospital in the Red River Valley to be equipped with a private operating room.

By the turn of the century the hospital had been enlarged; the Moorhead *Independent* of January 5, 1900 called it the largest and most complete in the valley. "It is practically a three-story building, as the basement is high and in it are located the dining room, kitchen, laundry and dry room and refrigerator. . . The entire building is heated by hot water and there are large bathrooms on each floor. The operating room . . . is equipped with every appliance necessary to perform the most difficult surgical operations."

The hospital closed in 1919 and its head nurse went to work for the Northwestern Hospital. The building still stands at Sixth Avenue and Seventh Street South. It is owned by Concordia College, which used it as a girls' dormitory until 1939 and then as a music building until 1963. It is now used for storage.

The Northwestern Hospital was completed in 1908 by the Swedish Lutheran Bethesda Society under the leadership of the Rev. J. A. Nyvall.

Built at a cost of \$40,000 from local yellow brick, this four-story building became a landmark and a focus of community pride. It still stands on Tenth Street North between Seventh and Eighth avenues, on the western edge of the St. Ansgar complex.

According to the Moorhead *Independent* dated July 10, 1908: "The hospital will be thoroughly equipped with every needed device and instrument for surgical work, and there will also be separate surgical wards, one for men and one for women who have undergone operations. This is one of the most modern innovations known to nominally-sized hospitals, and of the utmost importance to those who go to the operating table, inasmuch as they are isolated from other patients, and are thus not only protected against bacteria, but against the moans and incoherent mutterings of those in other wards. . . It will, of course, have an elevator, and best of all, a system of electric airing will be installed, thus purging the place of the noxious odors which are naturally incident to hospitals where all manners of medicine are being dispensed."

In the next decade the hospital became an important center of area health services. It provided 60 patient beds and maintained a school for nurses. Nyvall, the force behind the creation of this hospital, came to Moorhead in 1896 from Sweden, where he had founded that country's first co-educational college and had served for eight years as its president.

He was pastor of Moorhead's Swedish Lutheran Church from 1896 to 1901 and from 1904 to 1909.

On October 24, 1920 the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls purchased Northwestern Hospital, which then had four floors and a 42-bed capacity, for \$40,000. The name was changed to St. Ansgar after the Benedictine monk who, as Bishop of the Scandinavian peoples in Northern Germany and Denmark from 831 to 865, was known as the "Apostle of the North."

A new addition was built in 1923 at a cost of \$50,000 providing 10 additional beds, classroom space, accommodations for Sisters and nurses, and new kitchen facilities. The medical staff was organized on February 19, 1923. On June 12, 1924 a class of nine nurses was graduated from St. Ansgar's School of Nursing. It was accredited by the Minnesota State Board of Examiners of Nurses, and was affiliated with Ancker Hospital of St. Paul for extra training in medical specialties. In 1928 a maternity ward, a heating plant, and a 16-bed ward for the care of the aged were added.

In 1945 and 1954 fund drives were launched to build a new hospital, and in 1956 the goal was reached: the new St. Ansgar Hospital opened for service on February 21, 1959. Of the \$2,091,644 cost the Franciscan Sisters contributed \$1,436,855, the civic community \$345,000, the Federal government three Hill-Burton Funds totaling \$254,789, and a Ford Grant \$33,400.

This facility was originally a 93-bed general hospital, plus 28 psychiatric beds as well as emergency and out-patient areas. The psychiatric unit was then the only one in any hospital in Northwestern Minnesota. The old hospital building became a residence for Sisters serving the hospital and provided storerooms, classrooms, and an auditorium. A heating-and-cooling plant was constructed in 1970; its \$450,000 cost was contributed by the Franciscan Sisters.

In October 1971 St. Ansgar launched a \$5.5 million expansion and remodeling program which increased the square footage by 63% and capacity to 153. It included a new ambulance entrance, a fifth floor, and expansion of supportive services such as x-ray, lab, emergency and food services, respiratory therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, CCU-ICU, and others. The present medical staff has 142 members: 119 medical doctors, 19 dentists, and four allied health personnel.

Dental Health

Dr. Walter Murray, a Minneapolis dentist, made trips to Fargo-Moorhead in 1876. The Northwestern Dental Association was formed in 1883, with dentists from Dakota Territory, Western Minnesota, and Manitoba as members; the minutes show that Dr. L. C. Davenport of Moorhead was one of the organizers.

Moorhead's *Key City* publication of 1882 describes the coming of the

Davenport brothers to the booming city: "Last November these gentlemen who had recently graduated as Dentists from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, came to this city and immediately established themselves in their profession. They at first occupied rooms over the First National Bank, but the completion of the Grand Pacific Hotel and other improvements on the other side of the town, convinced them that a more eligible locality would be up town, near the hotels and depots, and they accordingly moved to their present commodious quarters over Johnson & Peterson's Store, opposite the Grand Pacific.

"Their parlors are elegantly fitted up with handsome furniture and dental charts, and all the instruments and conveniences of a first-class dental establishment.

"Being young gentlemen thoroughly acquainted with their profession, they have already secured a very satisfactory practice, which the rapid growth of the city will undoubtedly develop shortly into a very large one."

In 1901 Drs. Lewis C. and Liona A. Davenport still shared a dentistry practice, then again in the First National Bank building; they lived at 323 Seventh Street South. Several years later Dr. L. C. Davenport moved his office to Fargo; he was still practicing dentistry at 62 Broadway until 1935 or 1940 but still lived in Moorhead. He died in Moorhead in 1958, at the age of 89, after com-

piling a history of North Dakota dentistry in his retirement years.

Dr. Lloyd I. Gilbert, who began his own dental practice in Fargo more than 50 years ago, remembers Davenport's stories about his early days in Clay and Norman counties:

"At that time the dental profession was plagued by 'process patents,' with procedures being patented; and if a dentist wanted to make a crown or use vulcanite as a base for a denture he would have to buy a permit from the 'International Tooth Crown Co.' or 'The Goodyear Vulcanite Denture Co.' and then pay a fee to these companies on each one made. Dr. Davenport used to tell how these companies had spotters around to catch violators and how all strangers were viewed with suspicion. Many dentists were successfully sued for royalties.

"In those days dentists made periodic trips to the smaller towns and Davenport would tell how, on his trip to Ada, he would reserve a double seat in the end of a car and do dental work on available patients between Moorhead and Ada, with a friendly conductor helping to spot spotters if one should be on the train. Then in Ada he would set up in a hotel room for a day or two and then repeat on the way back to Moorhead. It may be of interest to know the "process patent" problem was not eliminated until 1918."

Dr. Louis Nelson practiced dentistry in Moorhead from 1909 to 1913; Dr. Paul Clarke, who came to Moorhead



Center Avenue in the summer of 1877. Kurtz & Mackall's first drugstore, built in 1872, faces east on Fourth Street.

in 1909, was a part of the Moorhead Clinic group of doctors and dentists at 7 North Sixth Street. He died in 1938.

Dr. Paul C. Verne began practice with his physician brother in 1910, in the Kassenborg building. After World War I, when Dr. Victor Verne went to California, Paul Verne moved his dental practice from the Gletne building to 110 Broadway, Fargo; he continued to live in Moorhead, at 402 Ninth Street South.

In 1913 Dr. Leo P. Moos opened his practice above the old Moorhead National Bank (later Waterman's, NE corner of Center and Sixth). Dr. Moos and his wife were killed in a railway accident in 1946. His son, Dr. T. C. Moos, continued his father's practice after 1947.

Dr. J. N. Brown opened his practice in the Wheeler building (NW corner Center and Seventh) in 1915. The next year this office became the New System Dentists; five years later J. N. Brown is listed as the president and Dr. Willard Brown manager of the firm. Willard Brown, Moorhead's first orthodontist, later moved his practice to Fargo.

Dr. George Washington Reimche practiced at 510 Front Street from 1918 to 1935 on Center Avenue, in the old First State Bank building. Dr. H. D. Rostad began his practice in 1920, in the Gletne building (NE corner Center and Fourth); his son Dr. Philip Rostad joined him in practice in 1948. H. D. Rostad retired in 1968 and died in 1973. Dr. John

Sandness began practice in 1923 at 502½ Center Avenue. He retired in 1969 and died December 20, 1974. Dr. Vernon Freeman had his dental office in the American State Bank building (one of the few downtown structures still standing in early 1975), from 1924 to 1956, when he died.

Dr. Harvey Monson practiced from 1935 to 1955 at 510 Center Avenue. He died suddenly of a heart attack, on a Lake of the Woods fishing trip. Dr. L. M. Dahl came to Moorhead in 1939, practiced at 520 Center Avenue until 1953 and in his own building at 521 Eighth Street South since then. Dr. Dahl, the first Moorhead dentist to move his office from the Center Avenue area, is retiring in 1975.

In 1975 there are 16 other dentists practicing in Moorhead: D. J. Barfield, Michael J. Fillmore, G. L. Humphrey, Ronald G. Kolb, William Kranzler, Lynn W. Marr, Robert E. McKibben, Russell C. Meyer, Robert A. Nelson, Vernon E. Peterson, Louis F. Remark, George N. Schulte, Bruce H. Skaalrud, Roger H. Sondag, Donald L. Stock, and Joseph L. Zbacnik. Only Drs. Moos and Rostad succeeded their fathers in dentistry, but Dr. Humphrey is the son of a long-time Moorhead physician.

Public Health

In 1853 a Minnesota Medical Society was organized, and in 1872 the State Board of Health met for the first time. A hundred years ago tuberculosis and other infectious diseases were constant threats: the board tried to improve

sanitary conditions and to guarantee safe water supplies in their battle against epidemics.

In the 1870's the Moorhead Board of Trustees issued orders for the cleaning up of privies, manure, and offal, and for the inspection of unwholesome houses, sewers, soap factories, tanneries, markets, and combustibles. Dogs were to be licensed and in 1879 a poundmaster was provided.

In the 1880's the Moorhead police chief was directed to abate certain nuisance situations: a paint shop on Fourth Street, a slaughterhouse, and herds of cattle on the sidewalks. In this decade a city waterworks was created and slaughterhouses were banned from the city.

When state law required an elected Board of Health in 1885, Dr. John Kurtz was elected to a three-year term, P. H. Lamb to a two-year term, and Jacob Kiefer to a one-year term, with compensation to be 50¢ an hour for actual time employed. On February 1, 1886 the Treasurer's report showed Board of Health bills of \$117.65.

In May, 1889 the City Board of Health appointed Peter Czizek and John S. Irish as meat inspectors and set the fees to be charged. They ordered a strict quarantine of families with malignant fever, smallpox, infectious, contagious, or pestilential diseases, and the posting of notices on the premises of those so affected. There was a questioning of physicians not reporting such cases.



A breeding ground for disease. Taken from the Woodlawn Park area looking north to the south swing bridge in 1887



Taken from Moorhead Mill in 1874. At extreme left is Main; the fence is along the east side of Third Street.

Diphtheria and scarlet fever epidemics brought a City Council resolution in 1892 that the Board of Health enforce the state laws regarding contagious diseases. The bid of Dr. D. C. Darrow for City Physician was accepted "for furnishing the city poor and inmates of city jail medical attendance" for \$250 a year, including medications.

In June, 1893, following an appalling report of the Board of Health inspection of City properties, the Chief of Police was instructed to see that health laws and city ordinances governing cleanliness of streets, alleys and backyards, and ditches be enforced in cooperation with the Board of Health. In August a contract for City Physician was made with Dr. William Awty for \$400. Dr. Awty was appointed City Health officer.

Recorded causes of death in Moorhead from 1875 to 1900 were, most frequently, consumption, diphtheria, typhoid fever, cholera infantum, scarlet fever, pneumonia, whooping cough, measles and meningitis.

Educational programs for preventive medicine began. Public drinking cups were still being used in 1909 and their discontinuance was urged. The big epidemic of this era was the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic, with 48 deaths reported in Moorhead. The basement of Trinity Lutheran Church and space at the Normal School were set up as wards with nurses. The doctors and nurses hardly slept. Mrs. E. W. Humphrey recalls that as a day nurse she worked from 7:00

a.m. to midnight — going home to change clothes and to lie down with her clothes on for a brief rest. Cora Johnson was the night nurse; both were at Trinity Lutheran Church. The women of the church who were able prepared and served meals. The hospital could not admit flu cases.

Before a public health department existed, the first Moorhead public school nurse, Marie Jorgenson, was employed — and served thirty-five

years. A graduate in public health nursing, she carried on a continual campaign of inoculation programs, including diphtheria and tuberculosis testing. She checked absentee slips, made personal calls on children, and kept accurate records to control communicable disease. She was also known for her unselfish devotion to handicapped children and assisted in their admission to Gillette Hospital in St. Paul. She also served as a welfare worker, helping to provide clothing for the needy.



Elevator A. H. G. Finkle proprietor, at Sixth Street on the north side of N.P.R.R. tracks, in 1880. Note the bridge across the ravine at Fifth Street. Just south on Fifth Street facing west is the two-story brick office of the Lamb Coal and Wood Yards built in 1872, and at extreme right is Main running east from Fourth Street.

Nineteenth Century Houses



The Gust Euren home with his daughter



The A. J. Wright home. Mr. Wright is shown at the right on the porch.

Take a walk from First Avenue North, going north on Ninth Street; on your left at the foot of Seventh Street is the location of the first homesite in Moorhead, the small log cabin built in 1859. Until the turn of the century, many homes stood along James Street (First Avenue North), but the encroachments of a growing city slowly removed them. Farther north, many of the original homes still stand: one-and-a-half story rectangular houses with the A-gable facing the street, narrow siding, and foundations of local cream-yellow brick. Some have been altered almost beyond recognition, but the lines of the window trim, the bay windows, and other special details identify them. The original townsites ended in the middle of the 100-block, and there the land became less expensive as the original homesteads were broken up and platted.

At 419 Tenth Street is the Swan Christianson home. He was a plasterer and the house is still occupied by his family. Just north is the original home of Swan Olson, bricklayer. Another early plasterer's home still stands at 1017 Fourth Avenue. In the next block south on Tenth are the two original Euren homes. The Gust Euren house at 303, built in 1896, belonged to the Arthur Charest family after the turn of the century. Both Eurens were building contractors, doing plastering and carpentry work in Moorhead and the surrounding area. In 1881 Emil Euren built the house at 311, which is still lived in by a member of the



Emil Euren's home, still occupied by a direct descendant. The playhouse measures 8½ by 7 feet, with a six-foot ceiling and three windows.

Euren family; the small playhouse in the back yard was built ten years later.

At 1016 Third Avenue stands the August Koenemann home with the original brick foundation in the back. The large fenced yard on the southwest corner of the intersection of Second Avenue and Tenth Street is the second location of the Burbank station log cabin. Robert Neubarth purchased the log house from Andrew Holes and moved it here as a home for his family. They lived in it until they built their house next door in 1924. Down Second Avenue stands the Michael Hansmann home at 1020; after 1900 the house was remodelled and his family still lives there. South on Tenth is the early home of Ole Edlund, early Moorhead tailor, and at 115 the Peter J. Kall home is still owned by his family. Mr. Kall arrived here in the 1880s and established a construction

business, specializing in house moving.

The original townsites area south of Main (west of Fourth Street, south to Fourth Avenue and east to Ninth Street) contained only eight or ten houses: Flaten & Skrivseth's photographic studio; and along Williams (Second Avenue) the school at Sixth, the Presbyterian Church at Fifth and the Methodist Church at Fourth on land donated by the Puget Sound Land Company, platters of the original townsites. In 1880 the townsites company dropped the price of their land and this area sprouted houses as the town boomed. The Albert J. Wright home was built in 1882 on the southeast corner of Sixth and Second Avenue, and his business partner, Ole C. Beck, built his house north across Second Avenue on the northeast corner. The Beck house still stands at 122 Sixth but the Wright home has been moved to the



Almond Alonzo White's family home on the north side of Garway (Fourth Avenue South) in Woodlawn Park area west of 4th Street South. White was a land developer and partner of S. G. Comstock. He moved to St. Paul in the '90s.

northeast corner of Fifth Avenue and Fourteenth Street South. A walk east along Second Avenue from Fourth Street South can be a step into the past: a great many of the early businessmen built houses here and a few are still standing. At 212 Fourth stands the August J. Rustad home, altered to an apartment house; Rustad was the owner of the celebrated Rustad saloon built over the water at the west end of Main. The old Samuel Burnham house is still at 113 Fourth.

Outside of the original townsite area most of the homes were originally farmhouses in the south of Moorhead. In the 1880s local land brokers bought up the farms, leaving only the original plot around the farmhouse, perhaps large enough to allow for a cow, horse barn, and garden. Until 1900 the town, with a few exceptions, ended at Broadway (Eleventh Street) on the east and Tenth Avenue on the south. South on Eleventh there were only farms until the Normal School was built in 1888 and the street cars started running south to the school. There are signs of the old homes — the brick foundation at 516 and the old house at 552 owned by Andrew Peterson, who was employed at the college. There is another old house at 617. At 1023 Seventh Avenue the Mueller house still stands, with its history tied to Moorhead State College: Mrs. Mueller served meals to early Normal teachers in the '90s.

At 802 Tenth is the old Andrew G. Freeberg house; there are old homes



August J. Rustad's home, built in the early '90s

at 915 Seventh Avenue and 708 Tenth, and the August Nelson farmhouse at 704 Tenth. South on Tenth at 622 is the farmhouse of Martin P. Urness and the Ed Freeberg home at 619 Tenth. Arthur Souers built at 611 and the house is still much the same as it was when built in 1900. The Gustave Anderson home, on the corner at 523, is still occupied by the family; at 506 is another old house. At 1015 Fourth Avenue Gust Eklund bought a farm home for his family, and his son still lives there. Eklund worked with the Fred Johnson home building firm, and the alterations to the old farmhouse have left it with the original lines.

At 903 Seventh Avenue the three daughters of the original owner, Carl F. Odenwaller, still live and garden as their parents did; the house was built in 1893.

North on Seventh Street there is the Halvor Rasmusson home at 313, a house at 615 Third Avenue built in 1880, and two other homes from the turn of the century. In the 600 block is the original Darrow Hospital, which was at the end of the street-car line. Most of the houses in this area were built about 1900, including the John H. Melby home at 721 Sixth, the Frederick L. Tillotson house at 515 Fourth Avenue, and the Dr. Thron S. Egge home at 306 Sixth. The William R. Tillotson house is at 316 Fifth Street and across the street the William J. Awty home at 315. The Frank J. Burnham house still stands at 323, since 1895, with much of the same yard area.

Fourth Street South, which was known as Ridge Avenue, was before the turn of the century the site of a continuous row of lovely homes; they included the Crockett Hill home, now an apartment house, which was famous for its efficient butler's pantry. The Ralph Pederson house at 424 was owned by the president of Pederson Mercantile Company; it was the original location of the Borgen Hotel, home of laborers at the Moorhead Mill before 1900. The south corners of the 500 block include the Adolph J. Norby home at 524, and across Fourth at 523 the Ole V. Martinson home. Martinson came here in 1882 and lived on Main, renting the upstairs of a house. In the late '80s he built a one-story house set back on this lot and in 1892 built an addition across the front to form a T-shaped home. In 1903, as the family grew, he raised the front portion roof and added a second story. In later years it was stuccoed and now is the Rourke Gallery. At 614 stands the Andrew Hedsted home and at 710 the later home of Thov L. Borgen, both Moorhead builders; the latter was the owner of the Borgen Hotel.

Many old Moorhead houses have been missed, no doubt, but a careful look at the ones mentioned above can help anyone in locating the others. Well over a hundred nineteenth century houses are still lived in, often by members of the family that built them. Many of the oldest houses were built without basements; nearly all of them were later raised and placed on new foundations.



Fourth of July, 1884. Fourth Street in foreground. Looking east on Center Avenue (Front Street).

Social life one hundred years ago included performances by touring celebrities as well as a great variety of locally organized activities.

The Bruns Opera House, on the second floor of the Merchants Bank, was the scene of many of these social events. In 1883, both Henry Ward Beecher and the Reverend DeWitt Talmadge appeared, Beecher giving his Evolution lecture and Talmadge his "world famous lecture on the 'Bright Side of Things.'" The "Swedish Nightingale," Jenny Lind, sang at the Bruns Opera House in April, 1885; and in 1887 John L. Sullivan appeared, although "due to a broken arm he could not participate but acted as master of ceremonies at the big demonstration."

Early accounts of social events mention bands and vocal music. Members of a double quartet who were singing in 1883 were O. C. Beck, John Thorson, D. C. Darrow, J. H. Sharp, George E. Perley, A. J. Wright, L. A. Huntoon and Mr. Grafton. The Moorhead Cornet Band performed at the opening of the new toboggan slide on New Year's Day 1887. The Moorhead Union Band led the procession from the Grand Pacific Hotel to the Concordia campus on October 31, 1891, on the occasion of the formal dedication of the school, and the Norroena Singing Society of Moorhead sang at the ceremony. The Moorhead Union orchestra participated in the first oratorio given in Moorhead, in 1893.

Fourth of July celebrations were annual social events. The 1887 celebration, as reported in the *Moorhead Weekly*, is typical. There was a parade in the morning headed by H. J. Campbell and Sheriff Jensen, followed by the police cornet band, the Juvenile Eagles in uniform, the Eagle Hose Company, the Hook and Ladder Company and carriages with the officials of the day. Merchants provided floats: there was a factory on wheels demonstrating work done by the A. A. Anderson and Sons Manufacturing Company. It had a forge, anvil and woodworking equipment with twelve men demonstrating the work, and it was pulled by eight horses. A printing press in operation was on the Moorhead *Daily News* float: it produced printed copies of the program for the day. Speeches were the afternoon's program, along with horse races, sack-, foot-, and wheelbarrow-races, and a Punch and Judy show. Fireworks and a dance followed in the evening.

An impressive forerunner for the Imagination arts festivals of 1971-74 was the Merchants' Carnival recorded in a front-page story of the Moorhead *Daily News* in November, 1893. This carnival, a benefit sponsored by the Rector's Guild of St. John's Episcopal Church was held for two days at the Grand Pacific Hotel, November 16 and 17. On the last evening 518 persons attended, and the following day's *Daily News* devoted most of its front page to the affair:

"As promised in yesterday's issue of the *News* there follows a detailed account of the ladies who took part in the Carnival and the firms, professions and institutions they represented. But before proceeding, we wish to say that with the merchants and all interested, we consider the whole affair one reflecting great credit upon its projectors as well as on those who took part in it, and withal a great success in every way. One feature which meets special commendation was the bringing of people together socially. The credit of the drill rests largely with Mr. J. P. Goode. His patience and skill, together with the faithfulness of the young ladies, resulting in bringing the Carnival to a successful close."

Every livery stable, jeweler and butcher in Moorhead sponsored a young lady who wore his identifying banner on her bosom, plus such appropriate ornaments as whips, gold watches, and Vienna sausages. But the story tells much more, for every young lady in Moorhead of appropriate age and reputation must have been drafted for this drill. The whole account filled nearly five newspaper columns, and it calls the roll of business and social activity in the city.

Contractors, brick yards, plasterers, and the cigar factory were all represented. Even the North Dakota Milling Association was allowed to sponsor a pair of girls wearing flour sacks, apparently because L. B. Gibbs represented the Association through a Moorhead office.



In 1898 there were already two shops here selling and repairing bicycles. The police were forced to purchase a few so they could catch up with the reckless sports.



Sycamore Cycle Club's clubhouse at 305 Main. Excursions on rutted roads provided challenge — a tandem bike cost \$125.

Some firms were represented by daughters: Hanson Brothers Meat Market by Miss Hattie Hanson, and the Moorhead News Job Printing Department by Eleanor Lamphere, daughter of the editor-publisher. At least one of the girls in the parade will be remembered by many who read this account: Miss Katie Kiefer represented the Grand Pacific Barber Shop, Ira Patchen, proprietor. Miss Kiefer died in Moorhead in 1958, aged eighty-seven.

J. P. Goode, who staged the affair, was the Normal School teacher who became the nation's best-known geographer-educator in the early twentieth century. During his years at the University of Chicago, "Goode's School Atlas" was as common a fixture in American schoolrooms as Webster's dictionary.

Mrs. H. D. Scott represented the Normal School in "a Greek costume of white and gold, trimmed with pictures of Minnesota schools." Her banner carried a motto: "The truth shall make you free."

The influence of Livingston Lord, who brought J. Paul Goode to Moorhead, is seen in other ways. His daughter, Inez Lord, then 15 years old, represented the Woman's Club "in Egyptian costume to indicate the present course of study . . . (with a) border of Egyptian hieroglyphics and pictures of sphinx and pyramids."

The *Daily News* story tells much about Moorhead in 1893 in addition to its commercial and professional

wares. The railroads and banks were represented by girls wearing ingenious costumes and symbols, but so were doctors, lawyers, the fire department, the United States Mail, the public schools, the police force, the Knights of Pythias, Hope Academy, the Weather Bureau and even the Tennis Club, who sponsored "Miss Emeline Nanson: blue albatross dress with white trimmings, white tennis cap, carrying racket and ball. Banner, pink satin, painted in white."

Only the saloons and liquor dealers appear to be absent from the pageant.

The annual Fireman's Ball was also an early Moorhead social highlight. In 1883, for example, it was held at the Bruns Opera House with midnight supper served to seventy-five couples in the Jay Cooke House, and dancing until dawn.

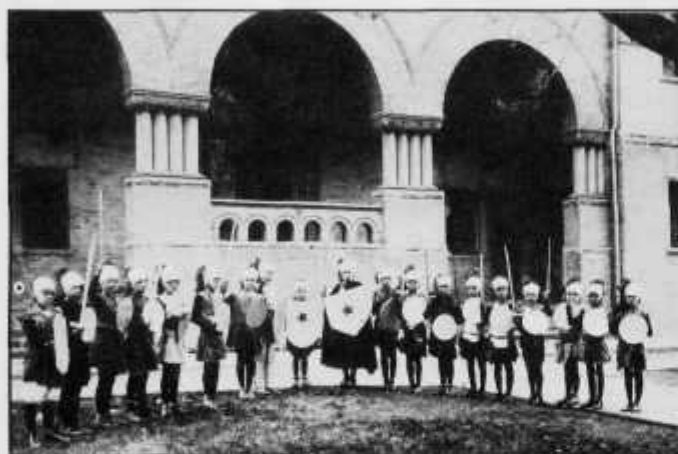
Other dinners and balls were reported in early newspapers. On March 22, 1887, a banquet was held at the Grand Pacific Hotel to celebrate the return of the Hon. S. G. Comstock from St. Paul where he had helped to secure the Normal School for Moorhead. At the fashionable hour of ten-thirty, 175 guests sat down to an eight-course dinner that lasted, with speeches and musical entertainment, until two o'clock in the morning. A private dinner, given by the Bruns family in honor of their tin wedding anniversary in 1887, was served to 104 guests, who dined on oysters, ham, turkey and ice cream. The same family celebrated the birth of a son with a party at which one

hundred bottles of champagne were consumed.

Early accounts of Moorhead mention dining and dancing clubs. In the 1890s Grant Price and E. O. Dilling (then Northern Pacific agent in Moorhead) organized a series of dances in "Fraternity Hall" in the Gletne Building (NE corner of Fourth and Center). For \$10 a season a husband or bachelor, plus lady, could attend at least five dances, which began at 8 and closed at 12, "both promptly." There were usually about 40 couples and music was "by Charles Simmons at the piano and a couple of violins."

The Moorhead Gun Club was organized in 1896 and provided the sportsmen with trap-shooting grounds and "interests that were destined to outlive the club itself." The first grounds leased by the Club were at Fourth Street and Twelfth Avenue South. In 1905 they moved to Eleventh Street and Seventh Avenue North. In the meantime another group of young Moorhead sportsmen organized. This membership included bicycle enthusiasts primarily, but they also did trap-shooting and had grounds next to the Moorhead Gun Club at Fourth Street and Twelfth Avenue South. This was the "Sycamore Club" that is referred to in several accounts of Moorhead's history, including the reminiscences of Jim Fay and Grant Price.

Born with the bicycle boom at the end of the nineteenth century, the Sycamore Cycle club, first organized in the 1890s, is listed as a Moorhead



Moorhead elementary school children posed in front of Old Main on the Normal School campus.



Moorhead Normal School music department

organization in the 1901 city directory. The officers were Frank Johnson, George Saumweber, Joseph Peterson, Maurice Johnson, O. T. Borgen and Andrew Anderson. Grant Price remembered that the members were mostly young men, who had a club house for a time and made all-day trips as far away as Detroit Lakes. Price's first bicycle was the large-wheel type; he took orders and sold bicycles, both these and the more modern type later. His last bike, a Columbia chainless, was turned over to the Clay County museum.

The Sycamore Club had a two story clubhouse adjacent to the Kassenborg block on First Avenue South (now Main Avenue). The building was leased from Christ Anderson and included billiard and card tables, a lounge and a tennis court. The men wore uniforms — black and gray checked — which they wore when pedaling over the roads around 1900 on excursions to Glyndon, Sabin and Detroit Lakes.

Community intellectual stimulation was provided by discussion groups. Two such groups were organized in 1872: The Red River Congress and the Red River Literary and Debating Society. Typical of the topics debated by the latter were "Resolved: that the mother's influence is greater than the father's in molding the character of children" and "Resolved: that industries have done more for England and America than popular education." Spelling contests between adults from Fargo and Moorhead were popular.

The Moorhead Woman's Club was organized in 1893 and federated two years later. A roster of its yearly study topics reads like a world history course: in 1893-94 the topic was Egypt, followed the next season by Greece and in subsequent years by Ancient Rome, the Middle Ages, Western Europe in the Sixteenth Century, England and France in the Seventeenth Century, and so on. Woman's Club presidents before 1900 were Mrs. A. A. Zabrieske, Mrs. S. G. Comstock (who served three different years), Mrs. T. C. Kurtz, Mrs. F. Goodsell, and Miss Ellen Ford (of the Normal School faculty).

Musical offerings by the two local colleges enhanced the cultural life of the community. Concordia, assisted by the Moorhead Union Orchestra, performed Haydn's "Creation" in 1893 in the Moorhead Armory, and again in 1906 in the Normal School auditorium as part of the cornerstone-laying ceremonies for Concordia's Old Main (then called New Main).

The Concordia Echo band made its first appearance in 1899 with Professor W. P. Rognlie as its leader. Subsequent conductors of the band were Oscar Hertsgaard, Oscar Overby, Miss Mildred Romsdahl, Victor Liska, Paul Ensrud, Paul Warrtman, Herman Monson, Johan Holvik (who led it for 22 years), Leif Christianson, and Robert Hanson. The present conductor of the Concert Band is David Townsend. Orchestras have made their appearances at various times in Concordia's history, the first one

being organized by Miss Annette Peterson in 1899. The present Concordia orchestra is directed by Robert Hanson.

Vocal groups have sung at Concordia since 1891, but the ancestor of the present choir is J. P. Bodlin. Herman Monson, composer of the "Hymn to Concordia," was an early leader, followed in 1937 by Paul J. Christiansen, the present conductor of the Concert Choir. Concordia now has three choirs: the Womens Choir and the Chapel Choir are directed by Kenneth Hodgson. Under Paul Christiansen the Concordia choir has made annual tours through the United States and three European concert tours.

The annual Christmas concert tradition began in 1927 under Miss Clara Duea. Early concerts were given in Trinity Lutheran Church and in the Moorhead Armory. After the completion of the Concordia Memorial Auditorium in 1952 the concerts have been held there. The three performances include all Concordia choirs as well as band groups and currently reach 18,000 people annually. In 1974 the Christmas concert was also given in the new Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis.

Most records about the beginnings of musical activities at Moorhead State College were destroyed in the fire of 1930, but students at the college apparently participated in a variety of music groups even before the turn of the century. An early director of music at the Normal School was Miss Letitia Morrissey, from 1897 to 1900.



A bevy of lovely ladies in their Sunday best for a stroll across the foot-bridge to Fargo

By 1910 several glee clubs were giving concerts on campus and in the town, among them a boys' glee club and two girls' groups, the Phoenix and the St. Cecilia Glee Clubs. They frequently combined for concerts. The best-known pre-World War I musical director at the college was J. Harold Powers.

In 1921 a Chapel Choir of women's voices was organized. Selected members of the Choir participated annually in a choir tour. A male chorus of 14 members began concertizing in 1927; and three years later under the direction of Daniel Preston, head of the Music Department, the well-known Male Double Quartet was formed. Preston also formed a girls' group, the "Radio Girls," in the same year. This 13-member group sang twice monthly on WDAY Radio. In 1932 the Radio Girls were absorbed by Euterpe, a group of women singers formed two years before. Euterpe had a forty-year history under one directress, Miss Maude Wenck, making it the most enduring of Moorhead State's musical organizations. Upon Miss Wenck's retirement in 1968, Euterpe went out of existence.

Earnest Harris became head of the music department and director of choral music in 1962. Mr. Harris divided the choir into a Concert Choir and a Varsity Choir. Under his direction, the Concert Choir made three concert tours in Europe in 1967, 1969, and 1972. In 1974 H. D. Ferreira became choir director, a position he holds at the present time.

Instrumental music groups were also part of early activities at Moorhead State College. A photograph of the college orchestra in 1904 shows four mandolins, two violins, two guitars and piano. Later the instrumentation was changed: in 1916 there were violins, flute, clarinet, cello and bass viol. Daniel Preston was orchestra director in the '20s; later directors included Richard Fischer, Loris Tjeknavorian, George Gray, Mats Liljefors and the present orchestra conductor, William Wilson.

Band music began with groups organized to play at sports events. In 1926 a "Dance Four" came into existence. The ancestor of the present MSC band dates from 1927, when it was directed by A. M. Christiansen. Later band conductors have been Bertram McGarrity, Ray Votapka, and the present head, Arthur Nix, its director since 1953. Mr. Nix began the Stage Band in 1961; this group has been led by Al Noice since 1965. In 1965 the Wind Ensemble made up of students from the Band was formed.

In the fall of 1930 a Fargo-Moorhead singing group called the International Male Chorus was organized to do concert work and to promote cooperation among the civic and academic musical organizations of the two towns. In addition to a chorus of sixty, the group had a committee structure and an advisory board. Norman B. Black of Fargo was instrumental in founding the group; L. C. Johnson, Fargo, was its first

president. In January, 1931 plans for the chorus were expanded; the size of the chorus was set at 100 to 150, and the conductor was Daniel L. Preston, head of the Music Department of Moorhead State Teachers College. One year after its birth, the chorus adopted a new name, the Amphion Chorus. It boasted a membership of 151 men.

The Amphion Chorus soon began annual concert tours. In April, 1935 they sang at Town Hall in New York City and then went on to appear at the biennial convention of the National Federation of Music Clubs in Philadelphia. Music critic Sigmund Spaeth, writing in the July, 1935 Esquire, had praise for the Amphions at Philadelphia:

"As for the Amphion Chorus, it is quite possible that they are the finest group of male singers in America today. They gave an impressive concert in New York on this same trip, and their performances in Philadelphia were little short of spectacular. These singers are all business men, 92 of them altogether, and they paid their own way from North Dakota and Minnesota to show the East what a male chorus can be, with the right combination of personnel, enthusiasm and leadership.

"The Amphions sing everything from Palestrina to college glee club stuff and the Star Spangled Banner. The voices are of good quality, but they get their effects chiefly through the musical directing and training of Mr. Preston, who must be a real wizard



Taken on "the point". H. G. Finkle, local businessman, owned some of the finest blooded trotters in the nation in the '80s.

Time Magazine also praised the same performances: " Fargo and its twin city, Moorhead, Minn., contributed the week's lustiest singing. For their trip they had three private (railway) cars so that they could rehearse all they wanted. In the baggage car two journalist members set up a mimeograph machine, got out a daily newspaper called 'The Touring Tattler.' Object was to inspire the Amphions with rousing editorials, to entertain them with such local bits as 'Any of you boys who are suffering from missing buttons, holey socks, ripped pants, need only apply to Basso Judge (Frank A.) Leonard for relief. He, so they say, has a most neat and tidy sewing kit.'" Actually, there were three Amphion members involved with the news bulletins published on the trip, H. S. Thorgrimson, Stanley Cowan, and Ralph Carlson.

In June, 1936 the Chorus sponsored the Valleyland Musical Festival. The four judges for it were Sigmund Spaeth, Harold Bechman of Chicago, Peter W. Dykema, head of Columbia's music department in New York, and Carl Christiansen, Brookings, S.D.

The outbreak of World War II meant the end of concert tours for the Amphion Chorus, but although its ranks were depleted by half, it continued rehearsals. After the war director Daniel Preston rebuilt the group to its original strength.

In 1936 the Amphion Chorus became the sponsor for a lyceum series for

Fargo-Moorhead in cooperation with Concordia and Moorhead State College. This collaboration brought many celebrated artists to the community and lasted for nearly twenty years.

The tradition of a college concert series or Lyceum Course, as it was originally called, had been started at Moorhead State College in 1926 by Miss Maude Hayes, its first director.

Dr. Joseph Satin of the Moorhead State College English Department became MSC Series director in 1958.

From 1963 until his death in 1974, Gerald J. Ippolito was Series director. Under Dr. Ippolito the number of programs in the annual Series for the Performing Arts expanded. Ten were offered in 1969-70, eleven in 1970-71. Among the artists brought to Moorhead State College during his eleven years as director, were pianists Vladimir Askenase, Alicia de Larrocha; singers Grace Bumbry, Elaine Bonazzi, Marilyn Horne, Theresa Stratas, Eileen Farrell, Arturo Sergi; guitarists John Williams, Oscar Ghiglia; and folk-singer-guitarist Richard Dyer-Bennet.

Dance groups appearing in the Series for the Performing Arts have been the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Jean Leon Destine and the Haitian Dancers, the San Francisco Contemporary Dancers, the Ruth Page International Ballet.

Orchestral groups include the Paris Chamber Orchestra, the Israel Nation-

al Youth Symphony, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, the New York String Quartet, and Las Cantigas de Santa Maria Waverly Consort. Dramatic offerings included Hal Holbrook, the Royal Shakespeare Company's *Hollow Crown*, Marcel Marceau, the Noh Theater of Japan, and Siobhan McKenna in *Here Are Ladies*.

Dr. Ippolito initiated the custom of including in the Series an annual Regional Artists Concert. Catherine Cater and Lois Selberg served as Series directors in 1961-62 and 1967-68, respectively. Present director of the Series for the Performing Arts is Dr. Robert R. Pattengale of the Music Department.

The concert series at Concordia has been directed by Carl Narveson and presently by Paul Thorson. A sampling of outstanding attractions appearing in the Concordia Memorial auditorium include Charles Laughon in the 1953-54 season, pianist Mieczyslaw Horszewski in 1954 (he returned to Moorhead in 1960 to appear at the MSC series), Zino Francescatti, violinist in 1955, the Fumiwara Opera Company in 1956, the Pamplona Choir in 1957, pianist Leonard Shure in both the 1955-56 and 1958-59 seasons, poet Carl Sandberg in 1959-60, Ma Si-Hon and Tung Kwong-Kwong, piano and violin duo in 1961 and Glen Gould in 1961.

Moorhead State College's drama productions began with the completion of Weld Hall Auditorium in 1916. The first production was Shakespeare's



From 1900 to First World War, Wild West Shows toured the country and were very popular here. To advertise the show they put on a parade through Fargo, across north bridge down Center Avenue and back west along Main to cross south bridge back to Fargo.

Merchant of Venice. Between 1916 and 1932, five Shakespeare plays appeared at Weld, the others being *The Tempest* (1917), *The Taming of the Shrew* (1927), *Twelfth Night* (1929) and *Hamlet* (1932).

Miss Maude Hayes was director for the first six years, followed by Miss Ethel Tainter until 1946. In addition to annual play productions, the late twenties featured an annual arts festival which included drama, music and a pageant. Faculty members involved in the festivals included Miss Hayes and Miss Tainter, Flora Frick, head of the department of physical education, Margaret McCarten, head of the art department, and Daniel Preston, head of the music department.

After Miss Tainter's retirement, play directors for brief periods were Allen Erickson, Fern Greene and James Highlander. In 1958 Deimar J. Hansen became head of the speech department and director of theater, a position he still holds. During Dr. Hansen's sixteen years in the Moorhead State College theater, audiences increased from an annual attendance in 1958 of about 2,000 to about 30,000 at the present. The Straw Hat Players, a summer theater group, was organized by Dr. Hansen ten years ago; their annual audiences number about 14,000.

One hundred sixty plays have been presented at Moorhead State since 1958. Among each year's eight or ten offerings is a major musical. Since

1958 these have been *Dark of the Moon*, *Brigadoon*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The King and I*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Carnival*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Oliver*, *West Side Story*, *Star Spangled Girl*, *Hello Dolly*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *1776*, *The Music Man* and *A Little Night Music*.

Concordia theatrical productions date from 1927. Norma Ostby Gilbert was Concordia's first director: she also wrote one of the plays produced in 1936, *Kin Folks*, a National Folk Drama play. Mrs. Gilbert was followed by directors Agnes Rissetter, Ray Johnson, Marie Everson, Don Spencer, Carole Torgerson, Ken Bordner, and Clair Haugen. In addition, several other drama people have been in charge of productions: John Tilton, Katherine Murphy, Helen Cermak, Bob Dunton and Scott Beach. A feature of Concordia theater since 1957 has been an annual student-produced musical.

Since 1927, several plays have been produced each year at Concordia. Ibsen figures prominently: the premier Concordia production was his *Pillars of Society*, followed later in 1927 by *A Doll's House*. A play by another Norse playwright, Bjornstjerne Bjornson, was put on in Norwegian the following year. Other Ibsen plays at Concordia have been *Ghosts* in 1945, 1948, 1963-64, and 1972-73; three productions of *Hedda Gabler* (1953, 1957-58, and 1966-67), *The Wild Duck* (1954), *John Gabriel Borkman* (1955), *Rosmersholm* in 1958-59 and *An Enemy of the People* (1970-1971).

Shakespearean plays have also frequently been given: *As You Like It* (1935, 1944, 1968-69) *The Merchant of Venice* (1935 and 1961-62), *Twelfth Night* (1938, 1960-61, and 1973-74), *The Taming of the Shrew* (1940), *Comedy of Errors* (1942 and 1964-65), *Julius Caesar* (1963-64), *Measure for Measure* (1967-68), and *Macbeth* (1971-72 and 1974-75).

Since the founding of Moorhead, many talented painters and sculptors have worked here. Some came to town to teach at Concordia or Moorhead State, some were local citizens who gained recognition in regional and national art shows. It would be impossible to provide a complete roster of distinguished artists from the area, but three may be singled out for mention.

Ralph Earl DeCamp came to Moorhead as a boy in 1871 and made his home for fifteen years on Ridge Avenue (presently Fourth Street) before moving to Montana where he became one of that state's outstanding painters. DeCamp was first mentioned in the press when the *Red River Star* reported on September 21, 1872 that the 14-year-old had "perfected and put into operation a miniature engine 12 inches in length and 6 inches in width which is a model of beauty and skill."

In 1886 Ralph DeCamp left Moorhead for Helena, Montana: he had been asked by the Northern Pacific Railroad to paint the mountainous scenery in the western state. DeCamp earned



Concordia College's first band 1892

for himself a place in the "Montana Triumvirate" of artists, along with Charles M. Russell and Edgar S. Paxton.

The second notable artist in the history of Moorhead is Margareth E. Heisser, a Minneapolis native who taught at Moorhead Normal School for three years, 1901-1903. After three years in art schools in Paris, Miss Heisser returned to America and established a studio in Fargo, where she painted portraits. Her major commission was left unfinished at her death in 1906: this was a plan to paint portraits of fifteen North Dakota Indians. Three paintings were completed: portraits of Gros Ventres Indians done at the Fort Berthold Reservation. *Bear's Necklace*, *Bad Brave* and *The Mink* now hang in the State Historical Museum in Bismarck.

A contemporary artist whose life and work have had great influence in Moorhead is Cyrus Running, for over thirty years head of the art department at Concordia College. Running has done numerous mural commissions in the Moorhead area and in many other communities as well, among them Ellsworth, Iowa; San Miguel, Mexico; Hibbing, Minnesota; Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Minneapolis; Ivanhoe, Minnesota; and Mankato, Minnesota. His oil paintings, watercolors, drawings and prints have been widely exhibited. A major retrospective exhibition of his work was held at the Red River Art Center in Moorhead in 1974.

An opportunity for local and regional artists to exhibit their work was provided for over seventeen years by the Moorhead branch of the American Association of University Women. The first art exhibit sponsored by this group was a three-day affair in 1946.

In 1960 a second kind of annual regional artists exhibition was established by the Junior Service League of Fargo-Moorhead (which became the Fargo-Moorhead Junior League in 1966). The Red River Annual differed from the AAUW show because it was a juried exhibition, the first of its kind in the area. The First Red River Annual was held in the Gardner Hotel in Fargo, but all subsequent shows were held in Moorhead, at first at the Rourke Gallery and later at the Red River Art Center. The Junior League sponsored the exhibition through 1974; currently it is sponsored by the Red River Art Center.

The first permanent gallery for the exhibition of works of art was established in 1960 by Orland Rourke and James O'Rourke. Art classes and exhibitions were first held in two temporary downtown locations. In 1960 Orland Rourke left the gallery to become a faculty member at Concordia. The following year, James O'Rourke acquired the Martinson-Fugelstad house on Fourth Street South, which became the permanent home of the Rourke Gallery. Supporting memberships were established in 1963. Present memberships number over 500.



Concordia College, 1898

A second permanent gallery for exhibition of works of art was established by interested Fargo-Moorhead citizens in 1965. The old Moorhead Post Office building at Main Avenue and Sixth Street became the home of the Red River Art Center in 1966. The center is governed by a Board of Directors from Fargo and Moorhead and is served by a Friends organization. Exhibitions, both travelling and local, are presented approximately monthly, with childrens' and adult art classes and various cultural programs featured during the year. Art Center directors have been Robert Kjørlien, John Carlender, Mrs. Richard Szeitz, and Claudia Baker.

The present literary activity of the Fargo-Moorhead area, especially the writing and publishing of poetry, draws strength from a tradition of at least forty years. All three colleges have encouraged the creative arts, literature among them.

Among the early literary publications in the area, *Literary Designs* appeared at Moorhead State as an annual supplement to the campus newspaper from 1931 to 1948. Sponsored from 1933 onward by the local chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the publication became a separate literary magazine in 1949, continuing under the guidance of Byron Murrar until 1961. Even earlier the *Praeceptor* yearbooks, which began in 1916, included literary material through the 1921 issue.

Convivio, which was begun in 1963 by Dr. Joseph Satin, included both student and faculty work.



Frederick W. Dummer and his sons of Woodlawn Park started renting canoes and boats shortly after the turn of the century. At one point the number of canoes reached 28. The boathouse by the footbridge remained famous until 1950.

At Concordia, *Discourse: A Review of the Liberal Arts* was founded in 1958 by Walther Prausnitz and continued through 1970. A literary magazine entitled Volume 6 was edited by Steve Ward at North Dakota State in the early 60s.

Two nationally-recognized poets have been major forces in the F-M literary community, and the real flowering began in the mid-60s: Richard Lyons and Thomas McGrath. Lyons joined the NDSU English Faculty in 1950; among his accomplishments are several books of poems, including *Men and Tin Kettles* (Swallow, 1956), *Public Journal: Poems 1941-1971* (Scopcraft, 1972), and two volumes published by the North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies: *One Squeaking Straw* (1958) and *Above Time* (1968). The Institute also published an anthology of Dakota poets (Lyons, McGrath, John R. Milton, Larry Woiwode, and Antony Oldknow) entitled *Poetry North*, edited by Lyons in 1970. Lyons continues to teach at NDSU, to write fiction and poetry and to publish for private distribution on Merrykit Press.

Thomas McGrath joined the English faculty of NDSU in 1961 and accepted a position with the English faculty at Moorhead State in 1969, where he remains at present. He has published several volumes of poetry, a novel two books for children, and has done extensive screenwriting; his major works include *Letter to an Imaginary Friend, I & II* (Swallow, 1970) and *The Movie at the End of the World: Collected Poems* (Swallow, 1972). McGrath is

also the recipient of two major literary awards: the Amy Lowell Travelling Poetry Scholarship and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

After the demise of *Convivio* at Moorhead State, two of the former student editors, Michael Moos and Richard Callender, along with Mark Vinz and Joseph Sanders from the English faculty, mimeographed the off-campus *Fat Giraffe*. In 1971 Vinz and Moos were joined by Dale Jacobson and Tim Hagen in the founding of the poetry journal *Dacotah Territory*. With Vinz as editor and Grayce Ray as associate editor, *Dacotah Territory* is now being distributed nationally and preparing for its tenth issue in the spring of 1975.

Helped by matching grants from the Coordinating Council of Literary Magazines and the National Endowment for the Arts, Vinz and Ray have also edited and published seven collections of poems by area writers: James Fawbush, Dale Jacobson, and Robert Waldrige (during 1973) and Michael Moos, David Martinson, Grayce Ray, and Mary Pryor (during 1974); plans for 1975 include books by Richard Lyons and Antony Oldknow. Also published under *Dacotah Territory's* Territorial Press imprint is a sampler of Thomas McGrath's published collected poems, entitled *Voices from Beyond the Wall*. Mark Vinz's first book of poems, *Winter Promises*, was published in the winter of 1974-75 by Book Mark Press; McGrath, Vinz and Moos were among seven Minnesota poets to receive 1974-75 fellowships in poetry from

the National Endowment for the Arts.

Since 1971 the annual Imagination festivals of the arts have included poetry readings in the Island Park gazebo or the Herbst Community Theater and also sponsored a booklet of poetry edited by Antony Oldknow. The initial publication, *Six Poets of the Red River*, was enlarged in 1972 to *Poets of the Red River*, including work by Dale Jacobson, Jeff Jentz, Richard Lyons, David Martinson, Thomas McGrath, Antony Oldknow, Mary Pryor, Mark Vinz, and Steve Ward. Plans for Imagination 75 include a new booklet and a series of poetry readings.

The Media in Moorhead



Ernest Melander's print shop in the Kiefer Block, the third building east of Fourth Street on Center Avenue, on the north side. Melander was the publisher of the *Moorhead Citizen* during the first two decades of the century.

Newspapers

The *Moorhead Daily News* has the longest record of publication in the Fargo-Moorhead area; it began in 1881, as compared with the first *Fargo Forum* in 1891. Fargo had had a daily, the *Argus*, from 1880 to 1891, but the modern *Forum* represents a merger of the *Daily News* and the *Fargo Forum* and thus continues the traditions of both city publications.

Moorhead's daily newspaper grew out of the *Red River Star*, a weekly founded by W. D. Nichols in 1872. An apocryphal story turns up in various places about Nichols, this pugnacious editor who dared to criticize the military establishment; when he was confronted in the winter of 1872-73 by a Captain Wishart of the Twentieth Infantry headquartered then in Jamestown, North Dakota, he threw Wishart out of the editorial office into the street and calmly went about his business.

Historically, a more significant story was one written by Nichols in September, 1872, reporting on sugarbeets produced on the R. M. Probstfield farm. He concluded with a prophetic question as to why sugarbeet factories should not be built in the Valley and, 103 years later, Moorhead has become the sugarbeet capitol of the nation.

Nichols did not stay in Moorhead many years; however, he was followed by a succession of editor-publishers who continued the weekly

while changing its name to the *Moorhead Advocate* (1877), the *Clay County Advocate* (1878), back to the *Moorhead Advocate* (1880), and then to the *Moorhead Argonaut*.

In 1881 a local group of pioneer businessmen including the well-known Andrew Holes, W. H. Davy, B. F. Mackall, and Frank J. Burnham, purchased the paper and brought back one of the earlier editors, Walter Partridge. Partridge developed the weekly into the *Moorhead Daily News*, which functioned almost two years before suspending publication February 28, 1883.

At this point the corporation sold its holdings to George N. Lamphere of Washington, D.C., a strong-willed veteran of the Civil War. Within about a month Lamphere was able to resume publication of the daily, under the change of name to *Moorhead Evening News*, on April 4 of that year. On November 8, 1887, the name was changed back to the *Moorhead Daily News*, a title which remained throughout all the years until it was merged with the *Fargo Forum* in 1957 to become *The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead*. As if in prophecy, the first issues of the *Fargo Forum* were printed on the Moorhead press, since their presses had yet to be installed.

After a successful career of fifteen years as editor and publisher, Lamphere, a staunch Populist, sold to his son-in-law, William D. Titus, and Robert W. Richards, and left to fill the position of superintendent of the Soldiers Home at Fort Snelling. Titus

and Richards, after a successful run of fifteen years during which they modernized the plant with linotype machines and folders, sold in 1914 to a corporation composed of Dr. W. J. Awty, A. H. Costain, C. G. Dosland, and John T. Lamb.

The corporation selected J. H. Freeman as editor, and during the World War I years the paper began its connection with United Press news service. Freeman continued with the printing operation of the paper almost the entire time it was published in Moorhead.

The paper was sold in 1925 to J. P. Dotson, former editor of the *Fargo Forum*, who with his son Perry published and edited the *News* until it was sold in 1930 to E. D. Lum and Sons, with Wayne Peterson, formerly a North Dakota newspaperman, as managing editor, and later as major stockholder and publisher.

Undoubtedly it was during the period of 1930-1944 that the *News*, under Peterson's management, reached the peak in community leadership and as a business enterprise. In 1933 the *News* published the first of its kind in the area, a 24-page Golden Anniversary edition, replete with historical reviews and with a photographic reproduction of the front page of the 1883 *News*.

By 1933 the *News* had a staff of 17, in addition to 14 carriers and 25 correspondents. The editorial staff included several who are still active in the community and who later moved to the *Forum* or to other publications.

Stanley Cowan was city editor; Dick Hackenberg, sports editor; Margaret Maland, society editor; Julian Melberg, advertising manager; Blanche Rebeck, accountant; and Mark Kempenich, advertising. Others who later in that era started with the *News* and eventually moved to the *Forum* included Ed Eastman and Doris Winne Eastman, the latter the *Forum* women's editor. Cowan served on the *Forum* staff many years after leaving the *News* in 1938. James Fay contributed a historical column for many years. Over different periods Dr. Joseph Kise and Dr. Byron Murray of MSC were part-time contributors.

Wayne Peterson, through the *News* and personally, was largely responsible for getting action on the long-delayed Center Avenue bridge between the two cities; he gave strong leadership to the Chamber of Commerce as president and director, and to the organization of the Moorhead Country Club.

In 1937 the *News* was sold to J. Clark Dolliver by Peterson, who continued to live in Moorhead. The ensuing ten years proved a difficult period. After three years Dolliver was followed by Ray Holman and by Hal Korda, after which Dolliver reassumed ownership for another year until he sold the paper in 1950 to a Nebraska-based group headed by Hugo Brown, with Wallace Thornton as advertising manager and Edward Chittenden as editor. G. C. Terry of Illinois bought the *News* from Brown in 1952.

The troubled decade ended in 1954,

when the paper was purchased by the *Fargo Forum*. The *News* was then edited, printed, and delivered from its Moorhead plant until 1957, when the two dailies were consolidated as *The Fargo Forum and Moorhead Daily News*, published in Fargo, with only a branch office in Moorhead. The consolidated daily more recently became simply *The Forum* of Fargo and Moorhead, with not only a large circulation in North Dakota but also in the Minnesota area formerly served by the *News*.

Those who are remembered longer than the series of publishers from 1944 to 1954 are the writers who began their careers on the *News* and then moved to the *Forum* or to other publication and public relations work. Included among these are Lloyd Sveen, who became editor of the *News* in the 1954-1957 period; Cal Olson, now with the *Forum*; Duane Scribner, who later became public relations director for the University of Minnesota and is now Governor Anderson's chief assistant; and Russell Tall, who succeeded to Scribner's position with the University.

Chief competition to the daily in Moorhead was a weekly, the *Independent*, which started in 1890 in Barnesville but which was brought to Moorhead that same year. It survived until 1913 in Moorhead, at which time it was moved back to Barnesville for a four-year stretch as the *Barnesville Headlight*. At that time, 1917, Archie Whaley bought the weekly and brought it back to Moorhead as the *Clay County Leader*. Two years later it

was given the name of the *Country Press*, and under that name continued many years in Moorhead.

Featuring country correspondents, the *Country Press* was later sold by Whaley to a group that included David Steinley, Lars Sondraill and Robert Burrill, and later Burrill bought out the other two partners.

In March, 1953, two young men of Moorhead, James Peterson and James Nemzek, aware of the difficulties the *Daily News* was encountering in competition with the *Forum*, and deciding the time was propitious for a new type of publication — the tabloid-size weekly featuring many pictures — launched the *Red River Scene*. Later that year, in order to obtain mailing privileges and a subscription list, the new firm bought out the *Country Press* and consolidated it with the *Scene*.

In 1954, coincidental to the purchase of the *Daily News* by the *Fargo Forum*, the *Scene* partnership became a corporation, the Red River Publishing Company, with some 80 Moorhead businessmen and Clay County farmers purchasing stock. A new linotype was acquired, and an office building was provided by Warren Gutaw. The following year Fred Rustad was instrumental in the purchase of an offset press so that that part of the operation could be done in Moorhead.

The merging of the *Daily News* with the *Fargo Forum* in 1957 left the *Scene* as the only newspaper printed in Moorhead, with the result that efforts were quickened to make it a distinctly

Moorhead publication. At this time C. B. Romkey was mainly responsible for the construction of the new steel building at Highways 10 and 75, and for the purchase of a new Vanguard web-offset press, first of its kind in the area.

In 1960 another new idea in newspapering was introduced — an 80-page bound tabloid special edition entitled "Pride," produced to coincide with the tenth year of the very successful Greater Moorhead Days promotion, as a means to compete for advertising with the special section of the *Forum*. The 1960 "Pride" was edited by Sybil Nies with the part-time assistance of Howard Binford, and it was Binford who promoted and edited the equally ambitious 92-page "Pride" of 1964. Both editions carried feature stories covering many aspects of the rapid growth of Moorhead in those years.

In 1963 James Peterson, with the *Scene* from the beginning, and Robert J. Waite, formerly publisher of the *Breckenridge Gazette-Telegram*, purchased the paper from the corporation and, with their wives, became co-publishers. In that year the *Scene* gave up the tabloid format in favor of a full 8-column paper, added the supplement, *T-V Week*, and distributed up to 20,000 copies a month on a "free-sampling" basis, but paid circulation was slow in growth.

In 1966, Peterson and Waite sold the enterprise to the Lakes Publishing Company of Detroit Lakes, one of the earliest companies to establish a

regional printing office for a large area. They employed Howard Binford, who for several years had been a part-time writer, as full-time editor. The *Scene* then became a twice-weekly.

Besides Binford and Sybil Nies, others who worked with the *Scene* included Robert Burrill, a carryover from the *Country Press*; Syblann Gullickson and Richard Seal, both of whom later moved to the *Forum*; Mike Lien, now a photographer with the *New York Times*; and Diane Fox Schmitz.

In 1968, in keeping perhaps with the area concept, the paper was renamed the *Valley Times*. Finally, with the last day of 1969, the publication ceased, bringing to a close the long and difficult struggle for any weekly or twice-weekly to survive against the competition of a daily with a large paid circulation in the area.

Radio

Radio broadcasting began in Moorhead in the early 1930s with the independent station KGFK, which was purchased by WDAY in 1933. Programs originated from studios in the old Comstock Hotel under the direction of Fargo-Moorhead's most famous radio personality, Manny Marget. In 1935, WDAY was forced by the FCC to sell KGFK, and Moorhead was then without a station until 1936, when Robert Herbst of Fargo applied for a license and approval was granted for KVOX, "The Voice of the Valley." Marget was brought back from

Kansas City, and stayed with the station until 1973, when he retired and went to St. Louis to live.

KVOX began its affiliation with the Mutual Network in the 1930s and has maintained that connection ever since. Under Marget's direction, the station became widely known for its sports broadcasts. As Howard Binford summarized on the occasion of Marget's retirement, he was responsible for 2214 basketball broadcasts, 1718 baseball, 653 football and 175 softball games, not to mention boxing, bowling, and wrestling matches, hockey games, and track meets — a record probably unsurpassed anywhere for play-by-play reporting.

Serving next longest to Marget in the history of Moorhead radio, Rod Lucier came to KVOX in 1953, and in 1964 succeeded Marget as general manager. Station KIDA, an F-M channel, was added during his management and operated by KVOX. Ownership of the company passed through five changes during the four decades, but in June of 1974 it wound up once again in control of the family which had founded it when Richard Herbst purchased the station. Radio KQWB, which was founded in the 1960s, and KWIM, an F-M channel which began more recently, operate from studios in rural Moorhead. KCCM with its F-M channel is also a newer Moorhead station.

War and Peace



Grand Army of the Republic encampment here in 1891 — posed on Fourth Street just south of the NRR tracks



Alex J. Nemzek, Jr., and his son, Thomas, at Camp Hawn in 1941

Civil War

One Clay County man, Adam Stein of Georgetown, went off to the Civil War in 1861; the valley's oldest settler (1858), Edward Griffin, went back to Hastings in 1862, "joined the Minnesota Mounted Rangers and served fourteen months in Company G and was on the Sibley expedition and in three battles." Even after the Civil War was over, the Sioux War of 1862 still frightened would-be settlers; they did not venture into the Red River Valley until 1869 and the decade following. But by 1874 Civil War veterans and others were organized into a state national guard. The 1871 legislature had provided for such a force to back up the regular army unit at Fort Abercrombie and to protect western settlers.

Returning Minnesota soldiers had formed an enrolled militia at Louisville, Kentucky, on their way home July 10, 1865. This militia became the guard, at first a St. Paul organization; but in 1874 a unit stationed in New Ulm was sending patrols as far north as Moorhead and by 1883 had an "outpost" here. *The Key City* publication mentions a military company as one of Moorhead's assets in 1882: "A Military Company, consisting of fifty-four members under Captain Gurley, a veteran of the late war, with W. W. Partridge as first, and A. J. Smith as second lieutenant was organized on the 19th of March. It is known as the Moorhead City Rifles, and is a part of the State National Guards."

G. A. R.

A Civil War veteran's organization also had a local unit. The Grand Army of the Republic organized the L. H. Tenney Post No. 103 at Moorhead "at an early day in the history of the county," but according to the Turner and Semling history the records of the post had been destroyed. "It appears," writes Glenn Johnson, "that the ex-Civil War veterans in Glyndon, Hawley and Moorhead were organized into one post, L. H. Tenney Post No. 103, at Moorhead May 29, 1884." Among the first officers and members were C. P. Sloggy, Moorhead, commander; Lyman Loring, Oakport, quartermaster; George M. Lamphere, Gustave E. Peters, and W. H. Onan.

By 1917 a ladies auxiliary, the "Women's Relief Corps," had ceased to be active, and the few Civil War veterans left in Moorhead, Glyndon, and Barnesville met together on Memorial Day, "alternately, from town to town, and spent the sacred day together." But in 1917 the Moorhead G.A.R. still had a full complement of officers: Peter Czizek commander, W. Works senior vice-commander, J. H. Sharp junior vice-commander, Luther Osborne adjutant, L. Park chaplain, and Alonzo Wilson surgeon. However, "the post is small on account of the frequent answers of the old comrades to the last roll call and now sleep the sleep that has no waking midst earthly scenes."

National Guard

In the mid-twentieth century the Viking Division of the Minnesota-Dakota National Guard was proudly acclaimed: it was designated the 47th, according to its history, because only 47 men out of 262 survived Pickett's charge at Gettysburg. Sometime during the 15 years from 1883 to 1898, however, the unit at Moorhead had disbanded; for when the *Maine* was sunk in Havana harbor and the Spanish-American War followed, "Clay county had no organized company" says the Turner and Semling history. Some Moorhead men went across the river to join the North Dakota National Guard, others to more distant Minnesota units.

And when the 164th infantry regiment of the North Dakota National Guard was sent to the Mexican border in 1916, at least one Moorhead man saw his first nine months of national service. Alex J. Nemzek, Jr. had starred in basketball, baseball, track and football at Moorhead high school and graduated in 1914. He had been a star fullback at NDAC for two years before being called to active service with the National Guard. He became 21 on the Mexican border.

A few weeks after their return to Fargo in March, 1917, Nemzek's North Dakota Guard Company B went into training for European service; they landed at Liverpool on Christmas Eve, 1917. Sliv was a sergeant major when they reached France. He was sent to an officer



Minnesota state encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic in June, 1891, at Seventh Street and Main. The long shed at upper left was built especially for the Civil War veterans' horses & carriages. The large tent at upper right was the convention assembly hall; directly behind the flag pole is part of the roof of "Old Main" at Moorhead Normal School.



Major A. M. Hopeman

training school, not to the trenches; when he returned to the United States in August, 1919, he was a second lieutenant and had spent the past six months at the University of Poitiers.

Back in Moorhead, on April 7, 1917, just one day after the United States declared war against Germany, Mayor Carroll A. Nye organized a militia company. Nye soon went to join General Pershing in France (in the Judge Advocate's office), according to a full-page picture story in the *Daily News*. Captain A. M. Hopeman, who succeeded him on June 8, had two years of ROTC at the University of Minnesota; at the end of the war he was a major and commanded units at Frazee, Fergus Falls, Breckenridge, Morris, and Wadena. Moorhead's Company F of the State National Guard was officially recognized January 30, 1919. Commanders who succeeded Hopeman were Captains Albert A. Aardahl from 1921 to 1924 and Carl Geiger from 1924 to 1926.

Company F

In 1924 Sliv Nemzek became athletic director at Moorhead State Teachers College, and in 1926 the Moorhead Chamber of Commerce persuaded him to transfer from reserve army status and take over and revitalize Company F so the city would not lose the unit. In the next 15 years Captain Nemzek built Company F into "one of the finest National Guard units ever assembled," in his own proud words. He filled his company with students and teachers.

As a state national guard company the unit saw some anti-riot duty, first at Fergus Falls for eleven days in 1918 to prevent looting following the tornado. Governor Floyd Olson called up 3600 guardsmen during the May 1934 truckers' strike in Minneapolis. That summer the guard also patrolled bridges in Moorhead and Breckenridge for several weeks preventing North Dakota cattle from coming into Minnesota without proper certification. After World War II, in May 1948, the Moorhead Company was called to South St. Paul during a CIO strike at the Swift & Co. plant.

When Company F was called up for national service in December 1940, MSTC lost 39 of its 40 football lettermen. The unit was on maneuvers in California Dec. 7, 1941, when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Already a major and battalion commander, Sliv was promoted to lieutenant colonel and recommended for a full colonelcy; but a severe heart attack in 1943 ended his military and athletic career. Nemzek again returned to Moorhead to sell real estate, to raise prize gladioli (his father had been a gardener), and to become mayor in 1947. He died in 1958.

Company H

Before Company F left for Camp Haan in California on Feb. 20, 1941, a home defense unit was organized: Capt. William M. Curran commanded Company M of the Minnesota State Guard from Jan. 30, 1941 to December, 1946. With World War II over and

this unit deactivated early the next year, Company H, Moorhead's new national guard unit, began recruiting a company.

During the Korean conflict, when President Truman declared a national emergency and called the guard into federal service, Company H was at half wartime strength. They went to Camp Rucker, Alabama on Jan. 16, 1951. Once again a state guard was set up in Moorhead under Captain Marco Gotta and Lts. John Ingersoll and Mike Johnson.

Moorhead still has its national guard company, with regular drills and summer maneuvers at Camp Ripley. An armory built at Fifth Street and Third Avenue South in 1935 with \$75,000 of PWA funds replaced the earlier structure at Center Avenue and Ninth Street (now the Francis Peterson garage).

The Moorhead *Daily News* printed lengthy news stories about Company F and its successors for more than three decades. Sliv Nemzek's high school and college athletes won all honors at Camp Ripley during the 1930's in track, boxing, marksmanship, and drill. Full accounts were sent back from Ripley and, when the guard went off to war, from Camp Haan and Camp Rucker. Sometimes the stories have the by-lines of guardsmen: Richard Holzer, Howard Binford, Rod Stalley. The roster is a roll call of Moorhead names for the past 50 years.



In 1888 the Moorhead Driving Park Association was organized with an enclosed oval track south of Concordia Campus area.

Chamber of Commerce

The Moorhead Board of Trade was organized August 21, 1882 "For the purpose of building up the young city, disseminating information to people wishing to settle in the Valley, and to the capitalists seeking opportunity for investment." W. M. Lenhart was the first president.

In June, 1883, 11,000 pamphlets containing instructive and interesting matter pertaining to the Valley and the City of Moorhead were printed. An exhibit of materials was prepared and sent to the Minnesota State Fair. On February 24, 1884 James H. Sharp was elected president of the Board of Trade. From this Board came many things that made the capitalist, the farmer, and the manufacturer look to Moorhead for investment and settlement.

The Board of Trade apparently expired some time during the next twenty years.

However, a Chamber of Commerce was granted a 30-year charter on March 2, 1896, according to the Articles of Incorporation filed in the Clay County Register of Deeds office.

The first year officers were: W. R. Tillotson, president; Fred Johnson, first vice president; Patrick H. Lamb, second vice president; Edwin Adams, secretary; and Henry L. Babst, treasurer.

In subsequent years that charter was apparently allowed to lapse. In

1905 a new organization, the Commercial Club, was organized with E. J. Wheeler as president.

The new club claimed some early successes: through its influence the Penn Oil & Supply Co. was induced to establish one of its district headquarters in Moorhead. The Club secured an appropriation for a new post office, and "for a U.S. Court to be established here."

At its May meeting in 1927 the Commercial Club changed its name to the Moorhead Chamber of Commerce. The group considered renewing the original charter of the Moorhead Chamber of Commerce which expired March 2, 1926, and established a \$15,000 budget for a Community Chest for a two-and-a-half year period to eliminate soliciting. The directors were authorized to hire a full-time paid secretary on a three-year basis.

Not less than 11,000 persons came to the chamber offices for information or service during the year, estimated A. T. Brandt, secretary. The duty of the Chamber was to make them like Moorhead and its people. Because the Chamber acted as a district motor vehicle registration office and handed out auto license plates throughout the year, its revenues were augmented by \$1,197. More than 6,000 pairs of plates were handed over the counter in 1933. Another source of revenue was the Red River Valley Potato Shippers Association affairs, which were handled through the Chamber with a resultant revenue of \$600. A third source

of revenue was the Northern League Baseball Park owned by the Chamber. It brought in \$140.87 during the year.

Other activities of the Chamber included handling the funds and affairs of the Moorhead cemeteries, aiding in the grasshopper eradication program; aiding Concordia College's band so it could represent the Northwest and Moorhead at the Chicago World's Fair, and helping to obtain \$70,000 for the new National Guard Armory to be erected in 1934.

During the World War II period, 1941-1945, the Chamber of Commerce participated in the War Loan drives, the establishment of an army air cadet detachment at Moorhead State Teachers College, setting up the local U.S.O. Center, and helping to provide housing and employment for wives of the cadets. In 1944 the Chamber backed a two-year post-war study by the U.S. Geologic survey of ground waters of Clay and Cass Counties. The Chamber obtained the 1948 convention of the Western Beet Growers Association for Moorhead, and actively promoted the building of the F-M Hotel.

In the past 38 years eight men have served the city of Moorhead as executive vice presidents of the Chamber of Commerce: A. T. Brandt 1937-45, H. M. Litherland 1945-46 (9 months), Arthur P. Diercks 1946-51, Elmer Sasse 1951-52, Robert Seigel 1952-53, Edmund Rydeen 1954-55, H. M. Litherland 1956-61, Robert Seigel 1962-68, Larry Douglas 1968-69, and Roger W. Young 1969-1975.

Moorhead Commerce



A. J. Wright & Sons Awnings and Tents, 108-110 Fifth Street South, in 1905. This building is still standing, much remodelled.



Albert J. Wright. He came to Moorhead in 1879 and began a partnership with O. C. Beck in 1881, in undertaking, furniture, tents and awnings. Both Wright and Beck became city officials later.

Only two present Moorhead business firms can trace their ancestry back to the 1870s — Wright Funeral Home, 605 Second Ave. S., and Wright Awning Co., 111 16th St. S., operated respectively by Edgar Jr. and John Wright, both grandsons of A. J. Wright who came to Moorhead from southern Minnesota as a young man in 1879. From their store in the 600 block on Center Avenue, A. J. Wright and his partner — O. C. Beck, a young Norwegian immigrant who had first worked for Luger Brothers while that firm was located in Moorhead — sold furniture, carpet, drapery, window shades, baby carriages, sewing machines, picture frames, coffins and caskets, according to their business letterhead. They also manufactured tents and awnings.

Mr. Wright dissolved his partnership with Beck in 1910, moved to 110 Fifth Street South, and named his new firm A. J. Wright and Sons. When he died in 1931 — his 50th year of business in Moorhead — the two sons, Walter and Edgar, continued as partners until 1951 when Walter retained the awning and canvas manufacturing division and Edgar, the funeral home. Beck sold his portion — furniture and carpet — in 1919 to Leo Johnson whose large store at the corner of Sixth Street and Center Avenue was a Moorhead landmark until 1973. Leo's son, Curtis, discontinued that company when the building was razed as part of the price of progress when Urban Renewal bulldozed most of Moorhead's

downtown from the Comstock Hotel at Eighth Street to the Red River.

In many respects, it is this Urban Renewal clearance — plotted during the 1960s and largely implemented in the early 1970s — which must be the focal point of this Centennial year appraisal of the history of commerce in Moorhead. Originally platted — as were almost all midwestern townsites with a series of 25-foot business fronts, each facing the curbstone of the town's main thoroughfare — Moorhead had functioned admirably when its businesses were primarily home-owned firms with Center Avenue as the primary traffic artery.

But the city's architecture proved archaic after World War II as 4-lane superhighways called "interstates" drew traffic several miles away from these downtowns which had grown up in close proximity to railroad depots and river banks. Another force which wrought major change — in spite of stalwart efforts by dozens of Moorhead businessmen to preserve what was here — came when major chain retailers opened in non-metropolitan markets such as this. A Tempo Department Store or Red Owl Super Market doesn't fit into a 25-foot storefront, and besides, such modern merchandisers demand paved blocks of parking lots at their doorsteps. But Urban Renewal clearance, it must be emphasized, was not by itself the force which cleared Moorhead's downtown business district. Many will argue that it was probably the only means available to demolish

what had become obsolete to make way for revitalization which would accommodate 1970s merchandising. In the meantime, an entirely new "downtown" mushroomed — almost overnight as this century of Moorhead's history is measured — surrounding the interchange of that magic transportation ribbon (Interstate 94) and Highway 75. Moorhead's new 6-story white concrete City Hall became the focal point of a cluster of shops in modernistic Moorhead Center Mall, each store fronting not on Center Avenue where display windows and neon signs had attracted shoppers in buggies, auto or on foot for 90 years, but on that pedestrian creature comfort creation of the 1970s — a climatized mall, paved with cobblestone as a link to an earlier era.

Moorhead business leaders expended valiant efforts during the 1950s to stem the tide of change and to prevent their city's spirit from emerging into the present — particularly with their annual spring extravaganzas dubbed "Greater Moorhead Days." One intent of these promotions — with their \$500 treasure hunts and thousands of dollars in merchandise prizes awarded in nightly drawings from up to a million tickets in a Kost Brothers Ready-Mix truck, presided over by Manny Marget of KVOX — was to breathe new life into the city's failing newspaper, the Moorhead Daily News. The newspaper's death pangs had developed under a succession of a half-dozen publishers who assumed ownership, in turn, following the paper's glory days when



Pederson Mercantile Company, wholesale liquor dealer in 1901, northwest at the corner of Center Avenue and Fourth Street. Looking north on Fourth Street, the third building north of the corner is Levitte bicycle shop. Streetcars came in 1893.

Wayne Peterson had been its editor and publisher. "Greater Moorhead Days," businessmen proposed, would allow the *Daily News* to sell considerable additional advertising in these annual special editions while also producing timely promotional sections to boost trade . . . and perhaps help to attract that elusive "major" department store to the city's downtown.

References elsewhere in this history of Moorhead's first 100 years allude to the city's continual attempts to attract industry. Some were reasonably successful, but for the most part, Moorhead's potential has been as a commercial trade and distribution center for this considerable area of western Minnesota and adjacent North Dakota. That story can perhaps best be sketched in somewhat kaleidoscopic fashion with several brief references.

Moorhead's first dozen years are described in the early settlement story. But by 1883, after the city had experienced its great boom, a list of business firms is available — compiled by the *Daily News* for its Golden Jubilee edition of 1933. Firms are listed alphabetically by type of business:

Barbers — William Vashon, Mat Arnold and F. L. Gordon; Brewer — John Erickson; Brickmakers — F. Hennebohle, Lamb Brothers, J. E. Truitt, John Bergquist and John Early; Books — G. A. Hendricks; Boots and shoes, John Meixner, John Malloy and J. F. Holmes; Builders — R. R. Bixby, W. H. Merritt, J. D.

Davis and J. Bjorkquist; Clothiers — P. Henasen and Stahl and Eckhart; Dairies — J. C. Lyman and W. M. Cochrane; Draymen — J. H. Barnard and E. M. Sloggy; Dressmaker — Miss M. Steele; Drugs — B. F. Mackall and C. Goebel; Dry goods — J. H. Sharp and Co. and P. J. Sylvester; Furniture — A. J. Wright, Luger Furniture Co. and John Erickson; General merchandise — G. A. Wahlquist, H. G. Finkle, John Erickson and Johnson and Peterson; Groceries — J. O'Hern, J. Hartery, W. H. Davy, P. J. Bergquist and Drady and Martinson; Hardware — John Hongren, Lee and Co., and Lee and Co.; Jeweler — Chris Anderson; Job printing — News and W. W. Partridge; Machinist — R. L. Butler and Co.; Meat market — Peter Czizek, Hansen Brothers, John Erickson and S. E. Eastlund; Millinery — Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Burgess; Painters — Johnson and Solwold and Benson and Johnson; Physicians — Dr. Robert Patterson, Dr. John Knaus, Dr. W. H. Lewis and Dr. J. E. F. Davis; Photographer — O. E. Flaten; Planing mill — Alsop Brothers; Plumbers — Smith and Taylor; Real estate dealers — Comstock and White, H. A. Bruns, Daniel Titus, E. H. Lambert, Andrew Holes and Burnham, Mills and Tillotson; Restaurants — George Robinson; Steamboats — Alsop Brothers; Tailors — Freeman and Allen and Evans; Tobacco — William K. Stahl; and Wagon manufacturer — J. J. Johnson.

A careful look at this list reveals much: Moorhead had five brickyards 92 years ago . . . Alsop Brothers

were still building and operating steamboats on the Red River . . . the lone brewer, John Erickson, was engaged in many other kinds of businesses also. The chief enterprise was obviously real estate, but for some reason, no saloons or liquor merchandising firms are included in this *Daily News* list. They certainly existed, but perhaps they did not advertise in the Moorhead newspaper. There may have been other omissions too.

The *Daily News* commented on these 1883 firm names: "Not only have most of these men vanished, but they have taken with them their trades and professions too. Gone is the brewery, the brick factories, the flour mills, the foundry, the machinists, the planing mills, the steamboat lines, and the wagon manufacturer. Taking their places are the garages, the filling stations, the huge creamery, the automobile supply houses, the ten-cent stores, and the potato warehouses. Of corporations and institutions in the city in 1883, mention might be made of a few. Merchants National and First National were the two banks, the present First National being located where Merchants was. Moorhead Manufacturing Co., producers of Key City flour, was located on what is now Main Avenue, near the river. The firm has long since disappeared. Moorhead Foundry, Car and Agricultural Works constructed a huge plant just south of the tracks about a mile east from the center of town. That venture failed after four years."



The interior of Gustave E. Freeberg's grocery store at 706 Center Avenue in 1905

Moorhead's pioneer druggist, B. F. Mackall, remained in business for more than 60 years. The partnership with his brother-in-law, Dr. John Kurtz, ended in 1880, but Mackall Drug Co. was one of Moorhead's leading firms until the mid 1930s, when Ben Mackall died, and its owner was one of the city's leading citizens. Duncan McNab and William Nesheim also had drug stores in Moorhead for decades, from the 1880s to the 1920s. George Lee, who was a Moorhead pharmacist for 41 years, continued the Nesheim store into the 1950s, and later worked for Moorhead Drug. That firm has been in Moorhead since 1922, when it was transplanted from Minot, N.D. A. S. Sigurdson bought Moorhead Drug in 1928 and built it into a major city business at 506 Center Avenue. After he died in 1951, Floyd Daly managed the store for ten years. Edward Gudmundson took over when Daly died and is the present owner in partnership with Joel S. Nelson. The store became one of the first in the new Moorhead Center Mall. Martin Carlson, who began working for the store as a high school senior in 1922, still serves on a part-time basis.

Other early Moorhead business are more difficult to visualize 100 years later — the livery stables, stock farms, feed and grain firms, blacksmiths, and wagon, plow and harness makers.

Older Moorhead dry goods firms are now long gone — L. F. Moe, Howard

Moody and J. P. Melberg, for more than 50 years. Somewhat later, Waterman's, owned by Joseph and Dorothy Kippels, continued until the store was destroyed in a 1967 fire and never rebuilt. Early Moorhead clothing stores have also nearly disappeared from memory — Hugo Backenheimer, Mons Weum, B. O. Hanson, and later, Mel Beck. Of present firms, only Palace Clothing Co. has a long Moorhead history. Sam Field began this men's store in 1904. For decades the firm name was Stern and Field although Sam Field was the sole owner and operator. (He kept the other name in deference to the man who had helped him come to the United States.) Until Urban Renewal, the Palace was in the Stern Building at 404 Center Avenue and it continues today in Moorhead's new Center Mall, owned by Richard (Bud) Johnson who joined the firm 20 years ago. (In that 1933 Golden Jubilee *Daily News*, the Palace advertised wool worsted suits for \$16.75.)

Kiefer Chevrolet was not the first automobile dealer in Moorhead but is now the oldest firm — by several decades. When the Moorhead Automobile Club was organized in 1912 with 91 members, the city had two automobile dealers — Harris Brothers and Star Implement Co., and two livery stables. Ten years later, four firms were listed under "automobiles," two under "auto accessories," two under "auto livery," and four more under "auto repairers" — 12 separate firms. In addition, there were five more firms listed under "garages," including Kiefer's at Fifth Street and

Center Avenue. The Kiefer family had a livery business before 1900, formed an auto company in 1913, and received the Chevrolet franchise in 1921. Jacob Kiefer II joined the firm in 1919 and Jacob Kiefer III in 1948. In 1954, Kiefer's built a garage at 20 North Sixth and in 1973, moved into a new building — three times larger — at 1111 30th Avenue South. The firm has 65 employees in 1975.

In 1922, W. W. Wallwork was manager of Moorhead Motor Co. at 625 Center Avenue. This firm later became W. W. Wallwork, the Ford agency. Wallwork's took over the Fargo Ford franchise after World War II and in the past decade has closed its Moorhead branch.

The general store opened by Fred M. Scheel at Sabin in 1902 became a hardware store which he moved to Moorhead in 1927. During the past half century, the firm has expanded rapidly with the Scheel sons now planning to open their 13th hardware store in north Fargo in the fall of 1975. One of these occupies a large new structure on Moorhead's redeveloped Center Avenue, between Fifth and Sixth Streets.

In 1932, John Pitsenbarger formed Super Oil Co. in Moorhead. Transport, Inc., now on Business 94 South, grew out of this oil firm in 1945. In 1975, the company, with 100 trucks transporting oil on highways of six states, employs 200 people. John Pitsenbarger is still living but his son, Roger, is operating head of the company.



The Martinson Block, built in 1910 by Ole C. Martinson, jeweler and optician, at the southwest corner of Fourth Street and Center Avenue. Hannaher and O'Neil, Inc. is next south, and then Pederson Mercantile with delivery wagon in front, 1916.



Briggs Floral Company's first greenhouse on the southwest corner of Center Avenue and Eighth Street

Three brothers — Adolph, Anton and John Kost — started building barns with concrete block foundations at Ada and Town of Mary in Minnesota's Norman County in 1908. They manufactured these blocks in a small building on their farm during the long winters. In 1910, the entire Kost family moved to Downer, Minn., 15 miles southeast of Moorhead, where they opened large gravel deposits, purchased a semi-automatic block machine, and began to screen and wash gravel. In 1938, Kost Brothers moved to the site of the firm's present plant on First Avenue North in Moorhead where this family company continues as one of the area's largest suppliers to the construction industry.

Hundreds of Moorhead grocers can be identified from the first Bruns and Finkle general store to the present day. Perhaps Ole Hilde and C. I. Evenson must be mentioned in the first half of the 20th Century, plus wholesale grocer Tom Hannaher of Hannaher and O'Neill. The supermarkets have taken over in recent decades and Moorhead has its own distinctive and home-owned firm — Hornbacher's, which began in business here in 1951. Ted Hornbacher and his three sons, Bruce, Dean and Jim, currently operate three of the largest area supermarkets, one in Moorhead and two in Fargo.

Of Moorhead jewelers most prominent in the present century, Martinson's at the southwest corner of Center and Fourth was a Moorhead landmark for 60 years until it too

succumbed to Urban Renewal. The firm began as Quale and Martinson in 1911. Neubarth's ("The City Hall Is Just Across the Street") is now part of Moorhead Center Mall. It began as a cigar manufacturer in the Kiefer Block — 406 Center Avenue — before 1900 when it was listed as Neubarth and Pleins. From 1901 to World War I, it was Robert A. Neubarth. His son, Henry Neubarth, began as a watchmaker for H. H. Hansen, at 412 Center Avenue. Richard, the third generation, is now active in the business.

Simon's, Inc., a home furnishing business now located in Brookdale Shopping Center, was founded in 1926 by Harry A. Simon and his wife, Pearl, at 5 Fourth Street North. Simon's "Family Store" sold shoes, clothing, yard goods and some home furnishings. Son Leon Simon began working in the store in 1940 at age 14 — cleaning used stoves, doing janitor work, buying used furniture and selling. His brother, Jack, joined the firm in 1944 when it became Harry A. Simon and Sons and their building was expanded to 7 and 9 Fourth Street North. In 1967, Simon's downtown buildings were demolished as part of Urban Renewal. Simon's is now the largest home furnishings store in outstate Minnesota and the Dakotas with a third generation of Simons assuming interest in the business.

George H. Clapp (Sixth Street Livery) advertised himself as proprietor of Moorhead and Fargo's bus and city hack line in 1883. In the 1899 Moor-

head *Weekly News*, Jacob Kiefer, who advertised his livery firm at this same location, announced that the old Clapp barn had been completely refurbished. The Lamb brothers — John, P. H. and M. C. — manufacturers of and dealers in Moorhead brick, advertised their livery, feed and sale stables at Fifth and Main. Lamb buildings on this site (now M and H gas station) were torn down after World War II but their later business slogan will be remembered by many, "Why Freeze While Lamb Has Coal?"

Sixty years ago, Moorhead had a cannery — Remington Packing Co., first at Eleventh Street and Center Avenue and later on First Avenue North at Twelfth Street. In 1922, officers were Roe E. Remington, president; W. R. Briggs, secretary, and Leslie Welter, treasurer. Briggs, who had come to Moorhead in 1908, bought a tract of ground and engaged in gardening. In the fall of that year, he built the first of his greenhouses, adding others as the business increased and in eight years had five large ones with all modern appointments and conveniences, carrying about 33,000 square feet of glass. He cultivated all varieties of vegetables, plants and flowers for the local trade. Briggs Floral Co. was a well-known Moorhead business at the southwest corner of Center Avenue and Eighth Street from 1914 until the Center Avenue Plaza was built 15 years ago. Briggs Floral, 16 Fourth Street South, is thus one of Moorhead's oldest firms today. Joe Faust is now president. It was founded by Mr. and Mrs. J. W. (Jack) Briggs and owned for



Moorhead Foundry Car & Agricultural Works — built by W. M. Lenhart between Nineteenth & Twentieth on Main, in 1881. It was a stock company subscribed to by major Moorhead businessmen, and made items such as railroad cars, farm machinery and bobsleds.



Almond Alonzo White, partner with S. G. Comstock in the Northwest Land Company, lawyer, incorporator of First National Bank, Moorhead Car and Agricultural Works, Minnesota and Dakota Northern Railway and Bishop Whipple School

several years by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Briggs.

R. M. Johnson came to Fargo as a harness and saddlery maker and dealer in April, 1879 but moved to 516 Center Avenue in Moorhead in 1880. Twenty-three-year-old B. C. Sherman, who arrived in Moorhead that year, bought Johnson's harness shop in 1890. Long before the 90-year-old bachelor died in 1947, he had become a favorite citizen. His 48 years as a harness maker ended in 1938 when the little frame building in which he operated was torn down as a fire hazard. When Roy Johnson of *The Forum* interviewed Sherman in 1932, the old man predicted that the automobile wouldn't last, and ten years later he suggested that the return of the horse would solve gas rationing problems! Sherman's competitor across Center Avenue, W. A. Robertson, was still a harnessmaker in 1922, although he had moved his shop one block east.

The last of Moorhead's five brickyards suspended operations early in the twentieth century, even though Moorhead's yellow Chaska bricks had rebuilt Fargo after the great fire of 1893. There had been four lumber yards in the 1870s and 80s. Although Moorhead's own saw and planing mills did not continue long after the early boat-building years, timber products were shipped in from such lumber towns as Frazee, 60 miles eastward on the NP Railway, or Brainerd, 75 miles farther. The Beidler and Robinson firm, dating back to the 1870s, con-

tinued until 1910, but in the past half century another firm became Moorhead's leading lumber dealer. Stenerson Brothers' general officers came to Moorhead in 1922, and their lumber yard in 1946 — at 1700 First Avenue North. Gunder Stenerson had started the firm at Erskine, Minn., in 1889, and a Pelican Rapids, Minn., yard followed soon after. The business was expanded to seven lumber yards during the next 50 years by Gunder's two sons, Ingemann and Gordon. In 1975, third generation Stenersons direct the company.

Moorhead Foundry, Car and Agricultural Works, founded in April of 1882 by Walter M. Lenhart of Indiana, was the young city's most ambitious industrial plant. Other incorporators were Bruns, Comstock, Davy, Holes, White, R. R. Briggs and Patrick Lamb. Built south of the tracks one mile east of downtown Moorhead, the 3-story brick structure was 400 x 150 feet. The plant included a foundry, forge, machine shop, wood-working and pattern room, an assembly area, and a painting department. It was powered by an 80-horsepower Corliss engine. The plant manufactured the excellent Moorhead Chief thresher, as well as bob-sleds, stoves and all kinds of farm implements. When the president and general manager of the NP Railway inspected the plant on June 8, 1882, he placed an order for 30 flatcars and 16 boxcars. But transportation costs for raw materials were too high and the factory closed after four years of operation. In May of 1885, A. Anderson and Sons of

St. Cloud bought the plant and continued to operate it on a limited scale for more than a decade.

Eighty years later, Moorhead acquired another manufacturing plant when the demand for fiberglass boats brought Moorhead Plastics, Inc. to the city. The firm moved into a new steel 100 x 141 foot building at 2300 Twelfth Avenue South on February 15, 1960. This was a new hope for industry in Moorhead and "the first fruit born of the Greater Moorhead Development Corporation's efforts to bring more industry to the city." President John Buckman estimated that 1,000 fiberglass boats would be built the first year, 700 of them the deluxe Silverline models and the balance Free Way fishing boats. Sales were anticipated to reach \$400,000 the first year. The company continues as one of Moorhead's leading industries in greatly expanded space in Moorhead Industrial Park with former Moorhead Mayor Ray Stordahl as president. For several years, it has been affiliated with Arctic Cat of Thief River Falls, Minn., manufacturer of snowmobiles and related recreational lines.

Moorhead banks, reported the *Key City* pamphlet of 1882, "form the heart of commercial body, furnishing life and strength to all its members." Henry Bruns founded Merchants Bank in 1881 with Thomas Kurtz as cashier. When Kurtz became vice president in 1883, E. E. Moore moved up to cashier. These two men were associated with Bruns in other ventures —



Merchants Bank block, built by T. C. Kurtz and H. A. Bruns, on the northeast corner of Sixth Street and Center Avenue



In 1883 John Bergquist finished what was to be the "Syndicate" Block to occupy the entire Center Avenue frontage between Fifth and Sixth Streets.

the NP Railway supply firm and the flour mill. The Merchants Bank building on the corner of Center and Sixth, built in 1881, burned October 30, 1967 (when it housed Waterman's Department Store). The bank had failed February 8, 1892.

First National Bank was organized November 22, 1881. F. J. Burnham was president for nearly 20 years and at his death, cashier Lew Huntoon became president. Huntoon died in 1915 after which Henry Schroeder was president for more than a decade. On the board of directors in 1882 were such "representative men" as W. H. Davy, P. H. Lamb, F. A. Elder, John Erickson and H. G. Finkle. The next year, J. H. Sharp and A. A. White were added. In 1900, directors included John Lamb, W. R. Tillotson, David Askegaard and John Costain. After World War I, A. H. Costain and C. A. Nye were vice presidents, Mrs. Lew Huntoon and W. R. Costain, directors, and George Comstock, cashier. The First National — like most banks of this area — was completely reorganized nearly 50 years ago, in the late 1920s and early 1930s. During the past 30 years, First National presidents have been Oscar Rusness, Larry Mauritson, Carrol Fridlund, Robert Harkison, James Durham and currently, William Amundson.

Moorhead National Bank was organized in March, 1892 after The Merchants Bank failed, occupying the same building at Center and Sixth. P. H. Lamb was president for more

than 30 years. In its first era, A. E. Clendening was vice president and F. W. Porritt, cashier. After 1918, Johnston Wagner was vice president; H. E. Roberts, cashier, and J. M. Herrick and O. B. Rusness, assistant cashiers. First State Bank, at 401 Center Avenue, was organized in 1903. M. T. Weum was president, John Oberg, vice president, and cashiers (in succession) were O. J. Kittelsrud, E. L. Flaten, S. O. Westberg, Jorgen Jensen, Nels N. Melvey and R. L. Weum. A fourth bank was organized July 3, 1919. Officers of Farmers and Merchants State Bank were Louis Altenbernd, president; E. D. Askegaard, cashier, and Christian Rehder, H. C. Possehl and T. H. Skrei, directors. The bank was in the Wheeler Block, on the northwest corner of Center and Seventh.

During the 1920s, many banks in the Upper Midwest failed — nearly 500 state and 100 national banks in Minnesota alone. Despite sizeable increases in acreage, the value of Minnesota farm crops dropped from a half billion dollars in 1921 to \$300 million ten years later. Foreclosure of farm mortgages increased and banks suffered heavily. Land prices dropped sharply and many depositors lost their savings when the banks could not recover money that had been loaned. In Moorhead, First State Bank closed in 1923; Farmers and Merchants was reorganized into American State Bank on May 17, 1927, and Moorhead National and First National Banks were combined into the present First National Bank.

In the past 48 years, Theodore Gullickson, H. J. Harris, Fred M. Scheel and P. J. (Pern) Canton have been presidents of American State Bank. O. M. Alme, who became cashier in 1940 and executive vice president in 1948, died January 13, 1957. Canton joined the bank in 1952, became executive vice president in 1957, and president in 1967. Edmond Nelson, who joined the bank in 1940, has been vice president and a director since 1967.

Moorhead State Bank, in Holiday Mall Shopping Center, was organized November 12, 1963. Three presidents have served — Paul Horn, Sr., James Trask and Leon Simon. Executive officers have been Trask and Dennis Troff. Present directors include Simon, Troff, Melvin Skarphol, Paul T. Horn and Jack Simon.

In 1927, Moorhead's three banks had combined resources of nearly \$3 million savings, bank deposits of more than \$1 million and total deposits of about \$2.5 million. In 1975, Moorhead's three banks have combined resources of more than \$125 million and deposits are over \$110 million. Moorhead Federal Savings and Loan adds \$18 million in resources and \$16.5 million in deposits. Moorhead Federal, soon to move from its offices at 403 Eighth St. S. to two floors of the former F-M Hotel in downtown Moorhead, was organized in 1954. Norris Seaberg has been managing officer since this institution began.

Moorhead Agriculture



The first St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railroad engine to arrive here from the east in the winter of 1880-1881. This became James J. Hill's Great Northern Railroad.

Moorhead's economy is based on agriculture. There was never any doubt about this, even though the city's founders were intent on speculation and promotion — not on tilling the soil. Therefore, frenetic manipulations and claims of the 1870s and early 80s should be viewed against a farming background.

Before the Civil War, tales began to circulate — from newly-organized Minnesota Territory to Russia — that the valley of the Red River of the North was fertile, flat and ready for colonization. There were other reports, however, of raging winter blizzards, warring Sioux and Chippewa tribes and isolation. When the Jay Cooke Co. of New York projected its Northern Pacific Railroad in 1854, a chief object was to end this isolation. The line which was planned and eventually built between 1871 and 1883 ran very directly westward from Duluth to Moorhead, then across North Dakota, Montana and Idaho to Washington and Oregon. Shorter rail lines had fanned out from St. Paul and Minneapolis in the 1860s, one connecting with the Duluth-Moorhead lines so that traffic could flow from the Red River Valley to all points east.

When the Jay Cooke Co. failed in the financial collapse of 1873, some eastern investors placed the blame on the Red River Valley, claiming that the Cooke-financed railway had been built into an unproductive wilderness. "Twenty-five years ago this country was supposed to be a bleak, cold, sterile region, incapable

of sustaining human life, or at least of affording homes to any except Indians and buffalo," reads a statement in the promotional *Key City* pamphlet of 1882, revealing the problem which faced NP promoters and the Lake Superior and Puget Sound Land Co., the two interests with most at stake in the founding of Moorhead. All propaganda issued from Moorhead in the past 100 years reflects one objective — that the outside world must be assured that Red River land is the best in the world and that the climate is healthy despite its rigors.

Speculators largely responsible for founding Moorhead had twin objectives — promoting these new Red River Valley lands and then acquiring for themselves choice spots. Few of the boomers were interested in farming the land themselves, but they had to prove that the valley was the best wheat country in the world because only then could they sell their farm lands at a profit and only then would new towns develop so impressively that their townsites lots would bring good prices.

In 1879-80, the Northern Pacific — now reorganized and refinanced — was again pushing westward into Montana. By 1883, the new northern transcontinental railroad had made a new link-up with the Pacific Coast. Even more important for Moorhead, a second railroad line had come — the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba (later the Great Northern) — which previously had no track laid to the city, now extended its line

from Barnesville and inaugurated Moorhead's first real "boom."

From the beginning, Red River Valley farmers discovered that making their fortunes from the soil would not be easy or painless. Floods and grasshoppers damaged prospects for quick colonization. In 1826, and again in 1852 and 1861, flooding was very serious at spring break-up. One of the arguments for Randolph Probstfield's sagacity and foresight was a concrete fact — though his land fronted on the Red River four miles north of Moorhead, the farmstead has never been flooded since he selected the site in 1859. In 1870, he directed the Thortvedt group of Norwegian settlers to a Buffalo River site because that area had been a refuge for Georgetown's Hudson's Bay Co. cattle in flood times. The flatness of the Red River Valley worried some prospective settlers, and Hiram Drache estimates that from 40 to 60 per cent of the Valley plain is "subject to periodic swamping." The spring of 1897 was the most talked of flood of the past century, but there were disastrous years both before and since, notably in 1882 and 1968.

The grasshopper plague was a phenomenon of the 1870s, described in horrifying detail in one great novel, *Giants in the Earth*, and in many documentary accounts. In 1871 and from 1873 through 1876, grasshoppers destroyed crops and made life very difficult on the new western Minnesota and Dakota frontier, but the plague then abated until the 1930s.



A proud Clay County farmer and his corn field

During some seasons gnats and mosquitoes made life almost unbearable for men and animals in a time before screens and repellents. Prairie fires were another menace of these early years, and frosts, hail and drought tried the morale of settlers from time to time. Nonetheless, those who stayed in the Red River Valley found that all of these natural enemies of the farmer could be surmounted in the new region — the heavy fertile soil nearly always produced some crop — and bumper crop years like 1877, 1891 and 1918 turned men's heads with dreams of extravagant prosperity.

Among boomers and speculators who came to Moorhead in 1871, one man addressed himself to the first problem to be solved — how to raise enough wheat to supply bread for the new population and also sell enough wheat or flour to bring much needed money to Moorhead. Henry A. Bruns came up from Iowa to open an all-purpose store, and to do much more besides.

Edith Moll explains how during the winter of 1871, Bruns became interested in wheat raising in the valley, purchasing 500 bushels of seed from farmers along the Minnesota River which he then distributed among farmers of Clay and Norman counties of Minnesota and Cass and Traill counties in North Dakota. The 1872 crop was devastated by grasshoppers so that no surplus was available for shipment out of the valley, but in 1873, Bruns shipped his first carload of wheat to Lake Superior. But the

wheat was graded number two at its destination when Bruns felt sure it was number one.

So, he energetically set out to remedy this injustice of grading by organizing a stock company to erect the first flour mill in the area. This was accomplished despite the panic of 1873 which was sweeping the country at the time. The mill, called Moorhead Manufacturing Co., was located on the banks of the river near the site where the south bridge was later built. It soon demonstrated the superiority of hard valley wheat for bread flour, and flour produced in this mill was awarded first premium at the Minneapolis and Minnesota state fairs for two consecutive seasons! Moorhead Manufacturing Co., easily the most important as well as the earliest industrial enterprise in the city, also had a sawmill when it was first built, but lumber was soon abandoned to concentrate on flour.

The Bruns mill in Moorhead, working to capacity grinding flour for export to the Eastern and European market, was an imposing structure. Situated on the banks of the Red River near the crossing of the Northern Pacific Railroad, it occupied a large 4-story building with commanding position and great height which made it a prominent landmark, visible for miles on the surrounding prairie. The mill opened for business October 8, 1874, and in the next two months ground 15,000 bushels of wheat into flour besides quantities of feed.

"Once river transportation and adequate land routes were established and farmers realized the great potential of the fertile soil," writes Hiram Drache, "many of them seeded small plots of wheat which produced high yields. Only the lack of markets prevented them from raising more. Walter S. Traill, Hudson's Bay Co. agent at Georgetown, secured a horse-powered thresher in 1874 and offered to thresh any wheat local farmers could produce. R. M. Probstfield and several other area farmers each seeded 15 acres of wheat. Their 20-bushel-per-acre average caused everyone to become quite excited about the agricultural prospects of the valley." (*Day of the Bonanza*)

By 1878 when the wheat gathered by the tens of thousands of bushels, Bruns and his partner in the pioneer Moorhead mercantile firm, H. G. Finkle, erected a large steam elevator in Moorhead, with a capacity of 110,000 bushels to store grain until it could be utilized or shipped out of the valley.

By this time, bonanza farming was underway, very largely on the Dakota side of the river. Led by Oliver Dalrymple, farming at first for NP Railway directors who acquired land 20 miles west of Fargo in 1874, this large-scale operation had triggered the "Great Dakota Boom" by 1878. Perhaps most important for Moorhead was the world-wide publicity these bonanza farms brought to the Red River Valley, as well as to North Dakota which was to become a state in 1889. Moorhead's boom period of



The Lewis A. Huntoon farm south of Moorhead. Huntoon was school principal in 1885 and later a bank cashier and president.

the early 1880s is directly related to this bonanza boom. Certainly Moorhead was affected by the railways' promotion of immigration, especially from Europe, which was an adjunct to this wheat and land boom.

President Rutherford B. Hayes had been through the valley in 1878 to inspect these large farming wonders. One of the reasons for the seasonal influx and exit of transient workers in the tent towns, and the heavy traffic in extensive night life of saloons and gambling houses, was the bonanza farm policy of hiring temporary workers. Starting in November, few helpers were needed until the following spring. From November to April, pay was \$15 per month and keep. In April, hiring was for \$18, but then it dropped to only \$16 until harvest. During harvest season, workers received \$2 per day and more! (In restaurants of the time, diners could feast, for fifty cents, on wild turkey and fixin's, partridge or possum with sweet potatoes, antelope, venison, young black bear, buffalo steak, or reed birds and second helpings!) Besides swelling the economy with people, farm machinery and Eastern investors, the bonanza farms required a huge influx of horses, mules, and livestock to feed their employees.

Agriculture in the Moorhead area was much less boom and financial speculation, much more solid hard work. Drawing on well-kept diaries, Drache describes Probstfield's experimental and scientific gardening which were on a considerable scale. "In 1875, he set out 4,000 cabbage plants,

even more in later years. The Probstfields sold cabbage and other vegetables to hotels and house-to-house in Moorhead and shipped to Bismarck. But the best known and most profitable Probstfield product was sauerkraut, sold by the gallon or barrel. On September 29, 1875, the family cut up a ton of early cabbage to be made into sauerkraut, and two years before they had sold nearly a ton of cabbage to a Moorhead hotel for sauerkraut."

Livestock raising — cattle for dairy products and horses for driving, hauling and farm work — was also a necessary industry. In 1882, this operation near Moorhead was singled out: "The dairy owned and managed by J. Lyman proves conclusively that this business can be conducted most profitably in this section . . . His stable is a long cruciform building, with stalls for cattle at either end, and the hay and feed bins in the centre . . . His stock comprises some 93 head of the finest species of milch cattle, and the whole business is conducted in a large and systematic manner. Mr. Lyman says the northwestern winters offer no obstacles to the successful raising of cattle." The writer of the *Key City* publication had "no doubt that Lyman's views are entirely correct" since the dairy had been in operation for more than a year.

The late 1880s brought agricultural disaster to the area. Besides continued low wheat prices, abnormally dry summers (the worst in 1889) and severe winters

aggravated farmers' plight with the new decade offering little relief. "The agricultural economy remained extremely sluggish during most of the 1890s," says Drache. "In order to survive this agricultural depression, many farmers did whatever they could to bring in additional income . . . The more alert were always looking for potential new crops . . . After the DeLaval cream separator was introduced, some communities tried to establish creameries . . . Garden crops were commonly ignored because they required too much labor, even if the return per acre was great. By 1890, however, potatoes could no longer be overlooked as a commercial crop, for 100-bushel yields, when compared to 15-bushel wheat or 25-bushel oats, were attractive from an income standpoint."

From the early 1870s, the Probstfields had raised and sold sizeable quantities of both potatoes and onions. Area farmers were slow to turn away from wheat however, even when the bumper crop of 1884 drove the price below the cost of raising it. However, prospective settlers were advised by land companies, at least as early as 1883, that the land around Moorhead was ideal for raising potatoes. Henry Schroeder of Moorhead is recalled as being foremost in introducing the potato industry to Clay County. Born in Germany, he came to America and settled in Minnesota when 16 years of age. He worked as a common farmhand in Douglas County and trapped for fur during the winter all through this country. In 1878, he took a tree claim in

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MOORHEAD WHEELER LAND COMPANY BUILDING MINNESOTA



Edwin J. Wheeler, president of Wheeler Land Company and one of Moorhead's mayors

Clay County. Turner and Semling's account in 1917-1918 points out, "He now owns several thousand acres of choice land in the Red River Valley and is the potato king of these parts." Schroeder for many years grew potatoes for seed for an Eastern seed house, handling and shipping as high as 400 cars from one crop.

D. C. Meeker's *Moorhead Independent* brought out a "Midsummer Supplement" July 10, 1908, with a picture of Schroeder, "Potato King of the Great Northwest," on the cover. On Page 1, Meeker wrote, "As a prelude, let us state that the *Moorhead Independent* is the official paper of Clay County and the recognized mouthpiece of this city and county. This being true, it is an accepted fact that whatever statement we make, broad as it may seem, is authentic, authoritative, and may therefore be relied upon as being well founded and truthful."

Statements which followed were not modest, and claims made for Moorhead and Clay County do indeed seem broad. "No fertilizer is needed" reads the headline for a paragraph that concludes, "There is not a single farmer in Clay County who finds it necessary to enrich his land by means of artificial methods." The next paragraph asserts, "Clay County is capable of raising anything that grows" and it quickly supports that contention: "Wheeler Land Co. has aptly illustrated this point by declaring, even on its business stationery, that Clay County is 'the bread basket of the world.' Potatoes made fortunes

for those who planted them. So did onions, corn and small grains."

The *Independent* also claimed "water in plenty" and "good wells everywhere." The "rich black loam" of Clay County was from 18 inches to three feet in depth, over a "vigorous clay subsoil which penetrates, in some places, to the astonishing depth of 18 feet." Climate, educational opportunities, telephone and mail service were all superb. All kinds of livestock could be raised profitably, for the area is free of animal diseases. No farm was farther than seven miles from a market town, and though some of these were small (Hitterdal 146, Felton 150, Winnipeg Junction 180) "all are growing very rapidly."

Clinching arguments reveal something about Mr. Meeker's publication: "You want a sure place to put your money; a safe investment; banks break, dishonest cashiers steal your accounts in speculation; stocks are ruined and suddenly ruin comes. . . Farm lands return big interest." A little later: "Free livery to examine our lands. For further particulars, write to Wheeler Land Co., Moorhead, Minn."

The new prosperity of the turn of the century continued through World War I, despite a cycle of wet years in 1914-1916. Conditions were generally prosperous in and around Moorhead when the city voted for but the county against liquor in 1915. Under the new county option law of the legislature, Moorhead's saloons closed that summer. Real prosperity

came during the war, with inflated prices for farm products; but the inflated values of farm lands (following high grain prices) collapsed in the early 1920s when most banks in the area failed.

Manufacture of bricks, farm machinery, flour, lumber and many other articles in Moorhead gradually succumbed for a variety of reasons, chief among them being the high cost of transporting raw materials to the valley. Agriculture would remain as the keystone of the city's economy.

Fairmont Creamery, which opened its plant in Moorhead in April of 1924, was the city's great business-industrial success story between the two World Wars. In less than three years, the Moorhead payroll became third largest of Fairmont's 17 plants (exceeded only by Omaha and Sioux City). Well over \$2 million was paid to farmers of the surrounding country during 1926 for milk products as the plant produced butter, cheese, cottage cheese, ice cream, flaked buttermilk and frozen eggs.

Although it is a tremendous leap from Randolph Probstfield's garden plots and Henry Bruns' flour mill of the 1870s, Moorhead's continuing dependence on an agricultural economy is perhaps best illustrated by the dedication in September of 1974 of corporate headquarters of American Crystal Sugar Co. here. The firm's modernistic cube-form, glass-walled home stands on the banks of the Red River, no more than three blocks



Seymour Sabin & Co., J. A. Johnson, manager, stocked Seymour Sabin "Minnesota Chief" threshers and other farm machinery; the building was finished in 1875 just in time to take advantage of the boom in Bonanza farming here.

from the site of Bruns' original mill. Ironically, the structure forms the western gateway to Moorhead's redeveloping downtown in the wake of an Urban Renewal project which has removed during the past seven years all vestiges of the business district which was the shopping center for Moorhead's trade area for almost 100 years.

After opening its new Moorhead headquarters, American Crystal announced that all research facilities of the growing cooperative will be consolidated into a \$5 million research center complex to be built adjacent to the company's Moorhead processing facility, immediately adjacent to Probstfield's original acreage. Construction is to begin in 1975. With these three separate operations — general offices, research and processing — American Crystal employs some 300 persons on a year-around basis plus an additional 300 to 400 during annual harvest and processing campaigns. Payroll approximates \$4 million annually. Total sales generated by American Crystal's operations are nearing the \$200 million level with earnings in fiscal 1974 reported at \$19 million plus.

American Crystal completed construction of its first Red River Valley plant at East Grand Forks, Minn., in 1926, opening this area to sugarbeet production. Construction of the company's second valley processing plant at Moorhead was completed in 1948. Under normal conditions, it can process 5,000 tons of beets daily. The third valley plant went into

operation at Crookston in 1954, and in May of 1963, construction started at Drayton on the first sugar factory in North Dakota and the fourth in the Red River Valley. This plant, which opened in 1965, is designed to slice almost 6,000 tons of sugarbeets each 24 hours. These valley facilities of American Crystal, along with all other assets, were purchased in February of 1973 by farmers who had grown beets for the firm, and the company was converted to a Minnesota agricultural cooperative corporation in June of 1973.

In addition to the four plants owned and operated by American Crystal, two other new cooperative plants joined the valley sugar industry in 1974 as Red River Valley Cooperative, Inc. and Minn-Dak Farmers Cooperative built 5,000-ton-per-day plants at Hillsboro and Wahpeton, N.D., respectively. Total slicing capacity of these six plants is in excess of 28,000 tons of beets per day, making it possible for valley farmers to grow upwards of 300,000 acres of sugarbeets with a production capacity of more than four million tons. These plants reflect a capital investment of approximately \$130 million including buildings, machinery, tools and other equipment. Current replacement cost could be double this figure.

The Red River Valley of Minnesota and North Dakota officially became the nation's sugarbeet bowl in 1974 and it is unlikely that the area will ever lose this lofty position.

Acknowledgements

Information or pictures for this history of Moorhead came from many people: Helen Euren, H. K. Eklund, Lucy Sheffield, Stan Cowan, Mrs. Jay Murray, Eric Martinson, Ella and Jake Kiefer, Doris Eastman, Jack Nemzek, Marge and Norm Overby, the Misses Odenwaller, Dirk Lenthe, Mrs. C. B. Wright, Mrs. Edgar Wright, Sr., F. I. Remley, Mrs. Angie Jore, Frances Comstock, Roland Dille, Curtis Nordhogen, Ann Nemzek, Dewey Bergquist, Mrs. Clara Euren Furcht, Elizabeth Alsop, and Mrs. Warner Onstine; also photographs or photo finishing from the Moorhead Public Library, the First Congregational Church, the Clay County Historical Society, Concordia College, the Episcopal Church of St. John the Divine, the Clay County Courthouse, the Northwest Minnesota Historical Center at Moorhead State College, Bill Snyder Films, Grosz Studio, and the Forum.

The writing and editing was done by Lee Grugel, Donald Short, Phyllis Thysell, Harriet Geib, Byron Murray, J. L. Rendall, Kathy Murphy, Mildred Green, Genevieve King, Lois Ritter, Barbara Glasrud, Viola Petrie, Joseph Miller, Charles Glasrud, Howard Binford, Myrtle Rundquist, Gregory Harness, Audrey Smerud, and Clarence Glasrud.

