Christmas Silent Auction & Potluck Dinner Fundraiser

Silent Auction: Monday, December 9th thru Monday, December 16th
Potluck Dinner on Monday, December 16th from 5-7 PM
Museum Educational Media Center

Santa has come early to the McLeod County Historical Society, and he has left some very generous gifts that can be yours! Just stop by the Museum to bid on some of the terrific gift items that have been donated to our Silent Auction Fundraiser. All items will be on display and open to bidding throughout the week of the 9th, with bidding ending on the 16th of December at our Potluck Dinner and live auction event at the Museum.

Our Christmas Potluck Dinner is filled with fun and good cheer to kick off the Christmas season. Just bring a food dish or side to pass and a wrapped gift for the live auction. Gifts can be gag or white elephant gifts, a re-gift of something that you do not need, or any gift item will do?!?! It’s loads of fun to auction off these wrapped gifts and watch as guests open them up to find just what is inside! What will you get for Christmas this year on the auction? We invite you to join us and find out!

All proceeds from the Live and Silent Auctions go to support the operations of the McLeod County Historical Society and Museum, and we want to thank the many local businesses who have donated items this year. Please support the businesses that support McLeod County History!

Ace Hardware  The Village Shop  Running’s  Hutch Liquor  Hutch Café
KFC  Tokyo Grill  Lillian’s  Mad Cake Coffee Shop  Dundee’s Floral
Vintage Glam  Benny’s Meat Market  Remember When Antiques

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**Director’s Review:**
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! How can it be that it is almost 2014. I guess time flies when you’re having FUN! And we do have a whole lot of fun here at the McLeod County Historical Society and Museum. At programs, fundraisers, or volunteering each day, we make everything we do here fun and fulfilling. So if you want to have a little fun in 2014, attend a program, volunteer, or just stop by to say hi and take a tour.

I want to thank the police officers, pictured below, who participated in our police officer roundtable last month. Everyone who attended was wowed by the professionalism, experience, and cooperation shared by these men and the communities that they represent. Thank you guys for all you do to protect McLeod County!

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**Civil War Roundtable Club**
Love American history? Interested in the Civil War era?
A new exciting club is looking for members like you!
If you would be interested in attending a meeting or learning more, please contact:
Bruce Kottke Ph #: 920-639-7505 or via e-mail: b_kottke@hotmail.com

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**Shadows of Time…**
Minnesota’s Surviving Depots
Sunday, January 19th - 2-3 PM
Museum Educational Media Center

Shadows of Time brings to life 168 of Minnesota’s remaining railroad depots, including all 53 currently on the National Register of Historic Places. Entertaining and fact filled, with hundreds of photographs, maps and other images, the narrative provides a fresh look at Minnesota railroad history through brief studies of these aging structures. Two of McLeod County’s Depots are featured in the book.

Please join us for a look at depots in Minnesota’s past as we kick off our 2014 theme, “Railroads of McLeod County”. Refreshments will be served before and after the author’s program, with a book signing to follow.
On Sunday, Laura was in and out of the hotel all day. Walter Todd, owner of the Jorgenson Hotel, noticed that his guest appeared to be agitated. Several times, she contacted Lee Cooper for cab rides and had him drive her up and down Grove Street past Gordon’s home.

On Monday, January 30, Laura woke up early, opened her Bible, and read from the book of Ruth. Hungry, she went to the lobby for breakfast, where Chris Peterson, hotel barber, informed her that breakfast didn’t begin until 7 A.M. Laura returned to the hotel coffee shop and was served by Mildred Braun. She ordered coffee and orange juice; then she donned her coat and left the hotel. Inside her coat pocket was her revolver.

At approximately 7:25 A.M., Laura entered Henry Janousek’s Hamburger Shop, located across the street from Felepe’s Shoe Store (Gordon’s law office was located above the shoe store). Janousek took her order — a cup of coffee and a grape soda. While sitting there, drinking her coffee and pop, Laura read the newspaper “funnies” to Roger Janousek, Henry’s five-year-old son. She left the shop at about 8 A.M.

Laura returned to the hotel and entered the hotel barber shop. She wanted a manicure, but since the beauty shop had not yet opened, she sat and visited with barbers, Chris Peterson and Walt Miller. Laura asked when the buses departed from Hutchinson for the cities; they reported that one bus would leave that morning and the next bus would leave later in the evening. Laura was disappointed to learn that the second bus did not leave until late in the day, and the men suggested that she could possibly catch a bus from Glencoe. When Laura asked how she might get to Glencoe, Chris and Walt conveyed that she might be able to get a ride from someone at the hotel. She asked about the distance from Hutchinson to Glencoe and speculated that she could hitchhike. When they inquired why she could not take the morning bus, she reported that she had business to attend to.

Gloria Hemmann opened her beauty shop at 8:35 A.M. and was greeted by Laura. After a manicure, Laura departed. At 9:30 A.M., as Laura stood outside of the hotel, cabdriver Lee Cooper stopped to visit with his patron. Laura asked Lee if he expected to have a busy day and inquired if she could get a ride to the Glencoe bus stop. Lee consented. After making these arrangements, Laura walked to Janousek’s Hamburger Shop, where Mrs. Christine Hakel took her order — another grape pop. Laura left shortly after drinking her pop.
Throughout the morning, Laura made several stops at Gordon’s office and found it locked. A note on the door read, “Back Monday.”

Gordon Jones presented to his office at 10 A.M. and parked his car in his usual parking place at the back of Felepe’s Shoe Store. As he entered the building through the rear of the store, he was greeted by H. G. Felepe. Felepe teased him about the big furry Russian hat he was wearing. Gordon walked through the front door of the shop and up the stairs to his office.

At about 10:15 A.M., for the third time that day, Laura returned to Janousek’s. Again, Mrs. Christine Hakel took her order—another grape pop. She drank the pop, and at approximately 10:30 A.M., Laura left the café and went to see Gordon.

Finding the office door unlocked, Laura went inside. Upon entering, she spied Gordon sitting at his desk. He looked up and said, “Hi.” She told him that she felt bad about coming to Hutchinson because he had told her not to come. Gordon asked how long she had been in Hutchinson, and Laura told him she had been in the city since Saturday. As the two talked, Gordon typed. Laura asked if she could type while he talked. Gordon said, “No.” Laura inquired whether arrangements had been made for the baby and her yet. Gordon responded that he had been busy and had not found the time to make preparations. Laura feared that, perhaps, Gordon did not believe that she was pregnant. She asked him to accompany her to a local doctor to prove the pregnancy. Gordon refused and asked Laura when she was leaving. She conveyed that she would take the 11:30 A.M. bus from Glencoe to the cities.

When Gordon reported that he would call her the following weekend, Laura responded that she did not have until next week. “Arrangements need to be made now,” she said.

Just then, Gordon’s telephone rang and Laura heard him talking about a meeting at 11:30. While Gordon was on the telephone, Laura went to the washroom where she retrieved her revolver and loaded it with a couple of bullets. She went back to Gordon’s office and he was still on the telephone. She sat next to him. After hanging up, Gordon began talking about the Eversharp erasers on his desk. Laura wanted Gordon to talk to her and told him that she did not have much time. She asked if they could talk later that afternoon. Without a word, Gordon stood up, left his office, and walked toward the lobby. After following Gordon, Laura observed him putting on his overboots. When she asked where he was going, Gordon replied, “I am going to meet someone and you are leaving on the 11:30 bus back to Minneapolis.” Desperate, Laura replied that she could not go back and started to weep. Gordon informed her that she could not stay in Hutchinson. Crying, she replied, “If you only knew how it’s been.” Gordon turned and picked up his hat.

Mrs. F. M. Shouse was in her apartment located in the same building as Gordon’s office. At approximately 11:05 A.M., while in her kitchen preparing lunch, two gunshots rang out. A few minutes later, she heard a woman, weeping and crying. Someone was coming up the stairs exclaiming, “My baby, my darling, why did you do it?”

Mrs. Leaf Larson, also in her apartment, heard the two shots. She went to the hallway, saw Mrs. Shouse, and peeked around the corner. The door to Gordon’s office was open a few inches. She heard someone run downstairs and then back upstairs. She recalled hearing a woman saying, “My darling, my baby, why did you do it?”

Mrs. Joe Jacobs, in her kitchen preparing lunch, heard the shots and a woman crying. She emerged from her apartment and asked what was going on. Mrs. Harold Juul also heard the shots and a woman crying.

Cabdriver Lee Cooper was sitting in the L&S Café when Laura burst into the restaurant and told him, “Come quick, come quick” — she was in a very emotional state. Lee followed Laura across the street, up the stairs, and into Gordon’s office. When he entered the office, he saw an overturned ashtray, a pair of glasses, a revolver, and the body of Gordon Jones, lying on the floor. While Laura stood by Gordon’s desk, Lee called Dr. George Smith and the Hutchinson police. After he alerted the authorities, he witnessed Laura bending over Jones’s body, sobbing. She was running her hands through her hair saying, “my honey.”

Gordon Jones was dead. A blood stain on his shirt indicated that he had been shot through the heart and had died almost instantly. Another bullet had ripped through a wall and had lodged in one of Gordon’s law books.

Women in neighboring apartments who heard shots in Lawyer Jones’s office.
Donations & Memorials:

Log Cabin Home Fund:
General Fund:
Delphine Dobratz; Edith Sauter; Hansen Gravel, Inc.; Judith Carl; Mary Alsleben
Ron & Karen Sommerdorff; Lori Stangel & Kerkhoff Auction; Bev Swenson; Fay Fandrich;
Nancy Sahr Peterson; Bonnie Fimon; Anonymous donor
Archives Fund:
Heritage Garden Fund:
Endowment Fund:
In memory of Stanley Ronnei and Merlyn Danielson from Joan & Bill Arndt;
In memory of Delores Reinke from Anne, Amy & Vern Hahn;
In memory of Lyle Christensen from Margaret Hoffman
Genealogy Fund:
Technology Fund:
Anonymous Donor
Dugout Canoe Grant Fund:
Restoration Fund:

Welcome New and Life Members:

Linsey Mahoney, Hutchinson; Aaron Hanson, Eagan, MN

Museum Artifact Donations: The Society thanks you for your donation!

- Dave Horrman
- Bradley Bonniwell
- Peter Smyth
- Dianne Bonniwell
- Marlys Fredrick
- Wallace Warnke
- Sue Reed Hanson
- Donna Lemke
- Mary Koepp
- Bill Schwarze
- St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church
- Darlene Karg
- Laura Adams & Jamie Bah
- Beverly Radunz Moe
- Hutchinson Chapter AFS
- Richard Jon Hagen
- Mavis Kottke
- Lonnie Roach
- Carmen Reed Ziemer

Artifact/s of the Month:

Donor: Donna Anderson Lemke
Accession #: 2009-0278-010

History: White, (yellowed), wool felt stocking with decorative red trim and small bells.
This Christmas Stocking belonged to Minnie Weise Lemke of Lester Prairie, MN. She used this stoking at Christmas when she was a little girl.

Donor: Julie Jensen
Accession #: 2005-0164-001

History: One pair of white shoe roller skates. The roller skates were given to Julie Jensen as a Christmas gift from her father, Axel M. Jensen. They were purchased on December 17th, 1955 at a cost of $20.00. The skates have red Pompoms with bells, toe guards, and wooden wheels.
McLeod County Historical Society & Museum
Gift Shop:
Give the gift of History this Holiday Season!

Memberships:
- $500-Lifetime Membership plus a Kouba Print to give or keep!
- $35-Annual Family Membership
- $20-Annual Individual Membership

Historical Books:

McLeod County Historical Society Business Sponsors
(Please support the local businesses who support the preservation of McLeod County History)
- Citizens Bank & Trust
- Dundee Floral
- Crow River Floral
- Ace Hardware
- The Village Shop
- Blue Note Ballroom
- Littfin Lumber Co.
- Benny’s Meat Market
- Family Farms Wholesale of Minnesota

Return Service Requested