



MCLEOD COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Historical Society Newsletter

April 2013
Vol. #33,
Issue #3

380 School Road NW
Hutchinson, MN 55350

Visit our Website: www.mcleodhistory.org
phone: 320-587 2109 e-mail: asa@hutchtel.net



McLeod County Historical Society: NOSTALGIA NITE FUNDRAISER

ROARING 1920s

Monday, April 22nd - 7-9 PM

BLUE NOTE BALLROOM
320 3rd Street South -Winsted, MN

JOHN BECK TRIO JAZZ BAND

\$20 ADVANCE TICKETS - \$25 AT THE DOOR

You're invited to our 3rd Annual Nostalgia Nite Fundraiser, featuring McLeod County during the roaring 1920s! Thrown your best zoot suit or flapper dress and you could win a prize in our costume contest. You can dance the Charleston to the cool Jazz tunes played by the John Beck Trio Jazz Band all evening long.

The Blue Note Ballroom will be decorated with 1920s artifacts from the Museum, with many that will help you solve the trivia questions that you can answer to win great local business prizes! The Blue Note will have a full bar open for spirits and the Museum will be providing a varied array of hors d'oeuvres of meat, cheese, teriyaki chicken, and more. We hope you will join us for a fun and historical evening to learn more about McLeod County in the 1920s!

TICKET PRICE INCLUDES:

Hors d'oeuvres,
Live Music, Trivia Prizes,
Costume contest,
and much, much more!

FOR TICKETS & INFO:

1-320-587-2109 or
info@mcleodhistory.org
WWW.MCLEODHISTORY.ORG

We want to thank our local Winsted Sponsors:

LITTFIN LUMBER CO. SHEEHAN CHIROPRACTIC CENTER KEG'S BAR
THE PANTRY CAFÉ V'S GRILL KEAVENY FAMILY DRUG

In this Issue:

NOSTALGIA NITE FUNDRAISER - ROARING 1920's.....	1
Monday, April 22nd 7-9 PM-Blue Note Ballroom-Winsted, MN	
<i>Director's Review</i> ...Remembering Maureen Hantge.....	2
Historical Excerpts from, "Murder and Mayhem in McLeod County" -MCHS 2013 Theme Booklet.....	3-4
Hutchinson 7th Grade History Project Display.....	4
Donations, Memorials, Accessions & Artifact/s of the Month.....	5
Business Sponsors/KDUZ Radio Show.....	6

McLeod County Historical Society

Mission Statement

The McLeod County Historical Society is dedicated to connecting with the past, understanding the present and making informed choices about the future by finding, preserving, explaining and sharing McLeod County history.

Membership Fees

Individual \$20, Family \$35
Business \$200
Individual Lifetime \$500

Board of Directors

Stan Ehrke, President
Karen Hendricksen, Vice President
Tara Russell, Secretary
Gerard Stifter, Treasurer
Dave Horrmann, Ray Pavlish,
Anne Hahn, Scott Rehmann, and
Lowell Ueland

Executive Director

Lori Pickell-Stangel

Assistant

Peggy Paulson

Volunteer Staff

Stan Ehrke, Tech Support
Bev Swenson, Collections
Marlys Fredrick, Research
Marge Ruzicka, Archivist
Liz Schwarze-3-D Artifacts

McLeod County Museum

380 School Road NW
Hutchinson, MN 55350
(320) 587-2109

www.mcleodhistory.org
e-mail: info@hutchtel.net

Museum Hours

Monday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday and Friday:
10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday: 1 to 4 p.m.

Also available by appointment

Closed:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Sunday

The McLeod County Historical Society Newsletter is published eleven times per year, monthly except for December/January.

Board of Director's Meeting

Fourth Monday of each
Month at 7 P M
Museum Research Library

Director's Review:

Maureen Faye Hantge was born on April 8, 1940, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She was the daughter of Edward and Frieda (Peterson) Behmler. She received her education in Mound. Maureen grew up on Lake Minnetonka; her love for the water and boating has been passed down to her sons and grandsons. Maureen was a graduate of the Mound High School Class of 1958. She furthered her education by attending the University of MN in Minneapolis, where she received an Associate of Arts Degree in Business.

On August 4, 1962, Maureen was united in marriage to Everett Hantge at St. John's Lutheran Church in Mound. This marriage was blessed with two sons, Robert and Richard.

In 1973, they moved to Hutchinson, and together they opened the Hantge Funeral Chapels in Hutchinson and Brownton. She was employed at First National Bank in Hutchinson from 1973 to 1978 as head bookkeeper. In 1978, Maureen and Everett purchased the Dobratz Chapel in Hutchinson. Maureen worked as bookkeeper for the chapels. She was instrumental in the operation of the Dobratz-Hantge Funeral Chapel until she retired in 2011.

Maureen was a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Hutchinson, where she taught Sunday school in her younger years. Maureen was also a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and worked as a mentor on their Family Support Committee, was treasurer for the Hutchinson Meals on Wheels program, was a member of the McLeod County Historical Society and volunteered as a genealogy researcher, and was a member of the Home Extension Club.

Maureen enjoyed camping and traveling. She liked to fish, ride her bike, and spend time outdoors; especially by lakes and rivers. Maureen liked to feed and watch birds and loved all animals, especially her little dog, Libby. Maureen's hobbies included collecting antique dolls, sewing, tending to her beautiful flower gardens, yard work, and researching her family's genealogy; she wrote a book titled "The Descendants of Johann Behmler." Maureen worked diligently to find her ancestors and write about them for future generations. Maureen was a self-taught seamstress and created drapes, clothing and scarves. She loved to sew goofy hats and sweatpants for her grandsons. Maureen was an excellent cook and made delicious lefse and flatbread. She cherished the time she spent with her sons and grandsons and loved to watch her grandsons' sports activities. Maureen was a soft spoken, kind hearted woman, who always put others before herself.

Maureen passed away after a courageous battle with metastatic breast cancer on Monday, March 25, 2013, at the Harmony River Living Center in Hutchinson, Minnesota at the age of 72 years.

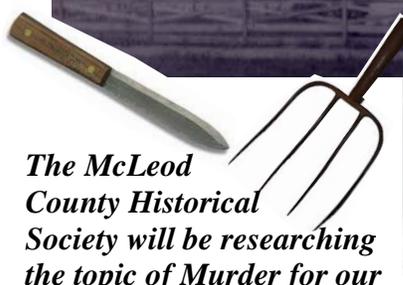
Maureen will be greatly missed by all of us here at the McLeod County Historical Society and Museum. Her love for family history and the commitment to preserving our past to inspire the next generation was an inspiration to us all.

Thank you Maureen for all you have given and all you have done, for all of us!



2013 McLeod County Historical Museum Theme:

Murder & Mayhem in McLeod County:



The McLeod County Historical Society will be researching the topic of Murder for our 2013 theme!

Through the research done by board member and McLeod County Sheriff, Scott Rehmann, the Museum has compiled a number of the most sensational crimes to occur in our boundaries. Each month, the Museum will feature an excerpt from our theme booklet, "Murder and Mayhem in McLeod County", which will be available for purchase in the Museum's gift shop in March. The booklet will cover McLeod County's earliest Murders in the 1800s, through the 1950s. Each case has its own mystery and historic lore to explore and we hope you will join us as we play detective and learn more about a small part of our County's notorious and tragic past.

Taken from the Glencoe Enterprise, October 24th, 1935

FARMER'S LIFELESS BODY FOUND IN CORNFIELD INVESTIGATION BRINGS TO LIGHT MURDER THEORY

*Lars Rasmussen Meets Death From Charge of Shot
Which Entered His Back*

**ABSENT FROM HIS HOME FOR TWENTY-FOUR
HOURS**

Search Discloses Body Lying on Own Farm - Shotgun Also Found in Field

Lars Rasmussen, 57-year-old farmer residing about four miles north of Stewart on the Stewart-Hutchinson road was found dead as a result of a gunshot wound on Monday morning about 8 o'clock in the cornfield on his farm.

Rasmussen, it is said, left his home about 8 o'clock after breakfast on Sunday morning to go into the cornfield where his body was found and was not seen again by anyone.

Monday morning about 8 o'clock his wife and son, Elsworth, apparently alarmed at his absence, phoned to Virgil Plaisance, a neighbor, to inquire as to whether he had seen him. Plaisance volunteered to search for the missing man and came upon his lifeless body in the stubble of the field. The dead man's 12-gauge shot gun lay with the muzzle propped up on some stubble with the heel of the butt resting on the ground about 58 feet away. The gun was pointed in the general direction of the body, but not directly at it, and a shell in the barrel had been discharged.

Dr. W. R. Schmidt, county coroner, viewed the scene and the remains and decided an inquest was necessary. This was conducted by the coroner and County Attorney, J. P. O'Hara at Hutchinson Tuesday. An autopsy performed showed that much of the charge of shot had entered the man's back, but the fact that the spread of the pellets was fully 22 inches gave evidence that the gun was discharged from a distance and discounted the possibility of the case being one of suicide. The autopsy disclosed that the man had met his death about two to three hours after eating his breakfast Sunday morning shortly before leaving his home.

The coroner's jury returned a verdict to the effect that Rasmussen came to this death from a gunshot wound caused by the discharge of a weapon in the hands of some person unknown.

Edward Jensen, of the State Department of Criminal Apprehension, is assisting Sheriff A. T. Beihoffer in making a thorough investigation of the case.

Rasmussen leaves a widow, a 19-year-old son, Elsworth, who lives at home, and a daughter, Mrs. Conrad Karg who resides in the neighborhood.

Taken from Hutchinson Leader, October 25th, 1935

Son Confessed to Murder Of Father Late Thursday FARMER FOUND MURDERED IN COLLINS TOWN

Coroner's Jury Returned Verdict in Strange Death Late Tuesday Evening.

Shot in Back in Cornfield Sunday - Funeral Services Were Held On Wednesday.

Thursday afternoon at 3:30, after a grueling quiz, Ellsworth Rasmussen, 19 years old, broke down and confessed to the murder of his father, Lars K. Rasmussen, Collins town farmer, last Sunday afternoon. Ellsworth's full confession was obtained through excellent work by Sheriff Alfred T. Beihoffer, County Attorney J. P. O'Hara and August Erickson and Ed. Jensen of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

In his confession Ellsworth stated that he and his father had not been on good terms for some time. Sunday morning about 10 o'clock, when his mother was busy, he took the shotgun, went into the cornfield, shot his father in the back while the 57 year old man was untying a corn shock, planted the gun and hurried home. Later he and the hired man hauled in a load of corn and then made sure that his father was dead. His previous alibi during questioning was that he had looked for the gun but was not able to find it...

An inquest was held at the Dobratz furniture store in Hutchinson from Tuesday afternoon until late Tuesday evening and many witnesses were called. The coroner's jury, consisting of C. E. Kester, Spencer Stearns, F. J. Zila, Fred Krantz, Milan Braun and Emil F. Luedtke, finally returned a verdict that Mr. Rasmussen, "met his death by person or persons unknown with death caused by shotgun wounds." This means that the death was probably murder with the slight possibility of an accidental death...

Mr. Rasmussen left his home about 8 o'clock Sunday morning to husk corn in a nearby field. When he did not return at dinner or supper time the family was not unduly alarmed as he was in the habit of going to the home of his daughter nearby or a neighbor and staying until late at night. When he was not home by the next morning his wife notified neighbors and Arthur Plaisance discovered the corpse in the cornfield not far from

the Rasmussen house. The body was found sitting on a bundle of corn shocks, with another bundle in his arms. The body was slumped over a pool of blood. The position indicated that he was apparently untying a bundle when he was shot. He was killed by the discharge of No.4 shot from his own 12 gauge shotgun which was found about 60 feet away from the body. The discharge entered his back and several pellets penetrated his heart, glancing off the ribs.

Lars K. Rasmussen was born in Denmark on May 21,1878, the son of Hans and Hannah Rasmussen. When only four years of age, in 1882, he came to America with his parents and located on a farm north of Hutchinson.



**Photo of Lars Rasamussen
MCHS Photo Collection
Accession #: 1989-0089-058**



Hutchinson 7th Grade History Project Display:



On display through May, with winners announced at the Museum's Annual Meeting!

For the past few years, the Museum and Mr. Schmidt's 7th grade civics class have been collaborating on our 7th Grade History Project Display. Students drop off their 3-D and poster board History projects to the Museum, where they can be viewed by the public in our Museum Meeting Room. Over the past couple years, students would receive extra credit for dropping off their projects for display at the Museum. That was great, but the Museum thought this year's projects are so good, they deserve more!

The Museum approached Home State Bank of Hutchinson to make all the hard work and research done by the kids even more rewarding-with a prize for the top three best History Projects picked by the Museum's Board of Directors. Home State Bank will open a Savings Account, with a cash deposit from the bank, in the names of each of the three students with the best projects. We hope you will stop by and find your favorite 7th Grade History Project and see how we are preserving the past and inspiring the future!

Donations & Memorials:

Log Cabin Home:

Darrol Bussler

General Fund:

Hutchinson Senior Center Tour Group

*In memory of Sylvia Bluhm and in honor of Don and Marion Padmos from Ron & Karen Sommerdorf;
Barb Peterson; Christopher Moore*

Archives:

Heritage Garden:

Endowment Fund:

In memory of Myrle and Marvel Dunning from Ron & Karen Sommerdorf

Christmas Donation Fund:

Christmas Silent Auction Business Donations:

Technology Fund:

Restoration Fund:

Shirley Cutler

Welcome New and Life Members:

Marvin & Donna Seller, Hutchinson, MN; Stacey Hormann, Litchfield, MN

*Beverly Schott Friend, Shakopee, MN; Mark Cormier/Hager Jewelry, Hutchinson; Framed Expressions, Glencoe,
MN; Faye A. Prieve, Hutchinson*

Mike Schmidt, Hutchinson, MN - Lifetime Member

Museum Artifact Donations: *The society thanks you for your donation!*

Ruben Duran

Norman Gehrke

Julie Jensen

Bonnie Mauritz

Edna Hovern

First Community Bank

Martin Johnson

Dorothy Klawitter

Milton Totusek

Roger McVeety

Artifact/s of the Month:

Donor: *Maureen Hantge*

Accession #: *2002-0217-001*

History: *Baby girl doll from the 1920s or 1930s. This was a "Premium" doll; when so many chickens and feed were purchased, you got a free doll. Her head and arms are of molded compressed sawdust painted flesh color. The blonde hair and eyebrows, blue eyes, red lips, and rosy cheeks are painted on. The body and legs are cotton fabric stuffed with excelsior. Black fabric shoes are part of the legs. Her arms and legs are held on with wire and move. She is dressed in a bright orange romper and bonnet. Underneath she has on a hand embroidered white undershirt and pink panties. She also has on white flannel booties with pink bias trim. Donor Maureen Hantge was given the doll by sisters Lena and Martha Hoff. Each of the sisters had a doll like this; one of them was in very bad condition and not kept. They lived by Hoff Lake on Hwy 22 toward Litchfield. They obtained the doll for buying chickens and chicken feed. Lena Hoff - 1905-1992. Martha Hoff - 1909-1983.*





MCLEOD COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM'S HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS RADIO SHOW

*Tune into A M 1260 KDUZ the last Friday
afternoon of each month to catch the latest in
Museum Programs & Events,
Local History, and special topics on Preservation*

SPONSORED BY:



Downtown Office South Office
320-587-2233 1-888-234-2910
www.cbhutch.com



McLeod County Historical Society Business Sponsors

(Please support the local businesses who support the preservation of McLeod County History)

*~ Citizens Bank & Trust ~ Lietzau Taxidermy ~ Dundee Floral ~ Family Video ~ Subway ~
Crow River Floral ~ Ace Hardware ~ Favorite Treasures ~ The Village Shop ~*

Return Service Requested

380 School Road NW
Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350
320-587-2109 / asa@hutchtel.net

**McLeod County
Historical Society**

Where the Big Woods Meets the Prairie



NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 82
HUTCHINSON, MN
55350