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“Images of America,”

Hutchinson

Monday, August 12th-7 PM
Museum Educational Media Room

What makes a town? Is it the amazing men and women who founded it? Is it the heritage, culture and art that they brought with them? Or is it the services, talents and jobs found in the community that make a town what it is? Well, Julie Jensen explored all of these questions and many more in her new historical picture book, “Images of America, Hutchinson”.

Julie spent months combing through the Museum’s vast collection of archival photos to find the best reflections of the unique people, places and activities that have made up the history of Hutchinson and brought them all together in this great book! But of course, every great picture needs a great caption, and “Images of America, HUTCHINSON”, gives a tremendous amount of detailed information to accompany each of the 224 photos, turning this picture book into a real historical resource for anyone doing community, family, or organizational research.

The Museum’s mission is to preserve our local history so that we can understand where we have come from and who we are today. Only with this knowledge and understanding can we inspire future generations! Julie’s Book fulfills this mission and so much more! This book is a must have for any local history buff and will be something that is handed down from generation to generation, preserving our past and inspiring our future.

Please join Julie as she presents her book, “Images of America, Hutchinson” in our newly updated Educational Media Center. Books will be available for sale before and after the presentation, with an author book signing and refreshments to follow.

By Julie M. Jensen for the McLeod County Historical Society

$24.00 per Book available now at the Museum’s Gift Shop!
The McLeod County Fair is almost here! The Historical Society and Museum is excited to shine an investigative light on some of most notorious murders from the 1800s through the 1950s.

This year’s theme and Fair booth displays were the result of years of research done by McLeod County Sheriff and current Society board member, Scott Rehmann. Scott has spent countless hours researching the Museum’s vast newspaper and archival collection to find the details of each of the seventeen Murders listed in our Murder and Mayhem booklet that was just released a few weeks ago.

After all of this research was compiled, Museum staff and volunteers pulled photos, documents, and in some cases murder weapons to create displays that will be showcased at the Museum’s fair booths. The booklet is available for sale at the Museum’s gift shop and will also be available for purchase at the county fair.
Each year the Museum pulls out artifacts that help us to educate and share the history of our annual theme, and this year we have a very big artifact to display, a McLeod County Jail cell, shown below on the right. This jail cell has a little mystery of its own, as our records do not show where the cell sat in McLeod County. One article found in the Hutchinson Leader, 8-1-1989, states that the cell was Silver Lake’s first jail, but still other verbal accounts state that the jail cell came from Glencoe. Well, wherever it came from, I’m sure it has seen its share of prisoners. We are asking for help from the public to solve the jail cell mystery and a reward of one year free membership to the McLeod County Historical Society and Museum will be awarded to whomever can produce evidence that can crack this cold case!

In the meantime the Museum hopes to raise a few dollars at the fair by locking up some of its most prominent and community minded citizens in the jail. These kind folks will not be “Getting out of Jail Free”, as they will have to raise their Bail (donations) for the Museum from passers by at the Fair to obtain their freedom. Each day of the fair will see a new prisoner, so be sure to check back often, to see who’s locked up next! Some of our charity convicts will be: Sheriff Scott Rehmann, Hutchinson’s Women of the Year, Julie Jensen and Mr. Hutchinson Evert Hantge, plus many more! If you’d like to go to Jail for History, give us a call and we will gladly lock, I mean sign, you up.

The Museum will also be giving away a free “I went to Jail for History!” T-shirt for every new or renewing membership we sign up during the fair. Below is a picture of this classic tee, that I know everyone will want to add to their wardrobe. We will even take your picture in the jail with your t-shirt on, and post it on our Facebook page! It will be the easiest and funniest time you will have behind bars, plus it’s for a good cause.

Also appearing just down from the Museum’s fair booths, will be several historical programs and talks, taking place on the new performance stage in the Commercial Building. Ken Schuman-Ancient Dugout canoe, Julie Jensen-Images of America, Hutchinson Book, Sheriff Scott Rehmann-The Murder of Sheriff Rodgers talk, Lori Pickell-Stangel- Bringing Books to Life series readings on Native American Legends and Beliefs and the Pioneer Trunk, and DNR Wildlife Biologist Joe Stangel-History of the Fur Bearers of Minnesota talk, plus many more. Its going to be a jam packed week filled with Murder, Mystery and History! See ya at the 2013 McLeod County Fair!
**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**
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**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

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**Director’s Review:**

It’s been one busy summer, as you can see by all our photos at the right and bottom. I can hardly believe it’s Fair time again already and that means another great display and lots of historical fun!

First, I want to thank Beatrice Winter for all her hot and hard work refreshing our Museum Mural that was designed by Wildlife artist Les Koub. Bea has been using her own artistic talents to recapture some of the mural’s details that have been lost over the years due to sun exposure. This project was made possible by a Valspar paint grant and the hard work of volunteers like Bea! Thanks Bea for lending us just one of your many talents!

Speaking of talents, I also need to thank the Master Gardeners, along with Lawrence Winter and Marian Filk for transforming our front entrance outdoor space and walking path area into a lush garden for the public to tour and enjoy. Plants were purchased through the Museum’s Heritage Garden fund, as well as through a huge donation of plants from local florist and garden center, Dundee. God bless those with a green thumb and a generous heart; it looks great and everyone should stop by and take a stroll through the garden!

I was overjoyed to see the huge crowd that came to our “Midnight Gavel” Movie Premier. It was a fun night and the new Educational Media Center made it even better. The new Smart T.V. and speaker system was purchased through an I.J. Burich Foundation Grant, and the Movie was made possible through the hard work of many volunteers, and countless hours of research by Scott Rehmann and technical support by Gary Tessmer. Thanks guys, you are the best!

But the gardens are not the only thing getting a spruce up around the Museum. The Log cabin, which also has a donation fund, developed some loose floor boards, and on further inspection, volunteer Dave Horrmann uncovered a much bigger problem, a rotten foundation. Lucky for us, Dave, who also volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, knows a crew of guys who can do this sort of work in short order. The entire floor was replaced and looks as good as new, thanks to this outstanding crew! The best part is it will last for many years to come. Thank you volunteers for all your hard work!
made its way over the dusty country roads for a casual visit. The two friends met outside. Without warning, the sound of a shot echoed through the air, breaking the lazy serenity of a country Sunday into a thousand pieces. Then another. Then another. One old friend fell to the ground.

A Tale of Two

Gabriel Ferster was 39 years of age when he packed his bags and boarded a ship from Russia to a new land - this land of opportunity. He would leave part of his life behind - a wife and two children. He would never return.

Ferster settled in Chicago, where he had a brother living, and went to work for Deering Machine factory. Ferster made $40 and more per week, and he saved his money. At the factory, Ferster made an intimate acquaintance, strengthened by a shared heritage. Constance Brader, also having immigrated from Russia, had lived within thirty miles, in their native land, from the home of Ferster. This friendship, however, forged by shared labor and shared history was destined to evolve into a dark future for both men.

In 1917, Brader traveled west to the northeastern limits of Glencoe where he rented the farm of Dr. Wittaker. During this time, Brader wrote to his friend, Ferster, asking for money. The request was granted, and Ferster sent $820 to his old co-worker. In 1918, Brader left Glencoe, moved to a farm in Meeker county, and later rented a farm near Stewart.

Needing help on the farm, Brader induced his old friend, Ferster, in 1920, to come and work for him. Ferster’s salary was to be $60 per month. However, after nine months of labor, the only pay Ferster was able to obtain was $25 to return to
Chicago. Would this be the end of the relationship between the two immigrant friends? It was not to be.

The following year, in 1921, Brader again induced Ferster to come and work for him. After four months and no pay, Ferster asked for the owed money which, including the borrowed money and unpaid wages, aggregated $1600. With the debt remaining unpaid, Ferster continued to request his compensation, while concurrently, Brader revealed a desire to repudiate the whole debt and, more than once, told Ferster that he owed him nothing.

Ferster, now having no money and no paid employment, began to travel, looking for work. He went to Minneapolis Friday, November 4, 1921, where he bought a pistol for $8. Later, he would relate that the purchase of the gun was for protection during his travels.

A Serene Sunday Shattered

William Cayott’s farm lay 3 ½ miles northwest of Stewart. On this November 6th day, he, along with his renter, Mike Specht, were busily repairing a broken fence on the property. The time was about 4 o’clock. After church services and on their way to their own rented farm (owned by Matt. Baltus), Constance Brader and his wife drove to the Cayott farm, where Ferster was staying for a few days, for a casual visit with the latter.

Mrs. Brader went into the farmhouse with Mrs. Specht. Ferster asserts that he approached Brader regarding the $1600 debt. After urging payment, Ferster continued on: “Do you owe me the money or don’t you? Will you pay me the money or won’t you?” Brader sharply answered in the negative, and simultaneously moved toward Ferster in a threatening manner.

Ferster countered, telling Brader that he did not want to fight and that he could not fight due to an injured finger. Ferster, with Brader continuing to advance toward him, pulled out his 38 calibre automatic Smith & Western pistol. “I’m not afraid of your shot gun,” said Brader, continuing to move toward Ferster. Ferster fired - three times. Brader fell.

The Aftermath

Upon hearing the shots, Mrs. Brader ran out from the farmhouse to witness her husband, shot three times, fallen against a straw stack. After a quick survey of the scene before her, she was able to respond: “We’ll have to send for the sheriff.” Ferster countered, “No, I’ll go to the sheriff myself.” That said, Mr. Cayott offered to drive Ferster to Stewart to await arrest, and Cayott accepted the escort but was unwilling to give up his gun.

References:

Glencoe Enterprise, November 10, 1921
Glencoe Enterprise, December 1, 1921

McLeod County Historical Society Newsletter
Donations & Memorials:

Log Cabin Home:
In memory of Burnett Pierce from Bev & Mike Wangerin

General Fund:
Frank and Stanley Kasal; Lynn Hustlers 4H Club; Barb Peterson
In honor of Eunice Warner from Ron & Karen Sommerdorff

Archives:
In memory of Grant Knutson from Dorothy Klawitter; In memory of Glen Mills from Anne & Vern Hahn

Heritage Garden:
In memory of Delores Decker and Bernice Huebert from Pat Schmidt

Endowment Fund:
In memory of Denise Tandsater from Anne & Vern Hahn; In memory of Glen Mills from Ken & Jane Kirby;
In memory of Bernice Huebert from Ron & Karen Sommerdorff

Genealogy Fund:

Technology Fund:

Restoration Fund:
Shirley Cutlar

Annual Support Fund:
Joyce and Jim Schnobrich; Juanita Urban; Virgil Goebel; John & Jeanne Reynolds

Welcome New and Life Members:

Patty Bakeberg, Brainerd, MN; Mary Henke, Hutchinson, MN; Marlene Beneke, Waconia, MN;
Dieter & Sharon Bargel, Hutchinson, MN; Norma Herther, Woodbury, MN; Amy Filice, St. Paul, MN

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

Mavis Kotke
Martin Johnson
Ronald Mackedanz
Joseph McPherson

Frank Harold Janecky
Charlie and Jean Smoldt
Joel Niemeyer
Stanley Kasal

Marjorie Ruzicka
Mary Ebent
Sharon Bargel
Margaret Hoffman

Alan Robertson
Dorothy Lindeman
Marlin Schauer

Artifact/s of the Month:

Donor: Heston Benson Accession #: 1993-0003-003

History:
The padlock holds a large tag that reads:
7/28/1989
This Padlock was given to me in 1935 by Alfred Biehoffer, Sheriff of McLeod County. At which time, it was told to me that it was from the Old Jail (Latter the Wadell residence). From the cell that held [Henry Cingmars], who shot and killed Joe Rodgers in about 1896.
Heston Benson
Glencoe, MN

The padlock also has two large keys tied to it by a thick piece of twine. The padlock number is #155 and is stamped: Romer & Co. Newark, N. J. –PAT’D Oct. 20th, 1874
McLeod County Historical Museum’s Historical Happenings Radio Show

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

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