McLeod County Police Officer Roundtable Discussion
Sunday, November 24th - 2-3 PM
Museum Educational Media Center

As a part of the Museum’s year long look into the topic of Murder and Mayhem in McLeod County, the Museum will hold a Police Officer Roundtable to discuss current issues facing both City and County Law Enforcement Officers. All year, the Museum has tried, through programs and research, to shed some light on how and why our earliest residents became tragically involved in such crimes. By honoring and remembering the victims of these crimes, we hope that they are not forgotten and that we can learn from the mistakes of the past and inspire a brighter and safer future for all. It is with this hope in mind that we have invited each of our City Police Chiefs and past and present County Sheriffs to join us for a Police Officer roundtable discussion. Each community is unique in the challenges and rewards they face and they will share these along with a Q & A session from guests on all things law enforcement related to McLeod County. Last, but not least, our program will give the Museum an opportunity to thank these men and women who serve and protect our communities each and every day. The Museum will also display artifacts and photos from police officers throughout the history of the county. We hope to honor these men and women who have served, and in some cases gave their lives, to protect the citizens of McLeod County.

Please join us for our Police Officer Roundtable and help us to thank our Law Enforcement Officers for all they do for our communities. Refreshments served before and after our program, as well as free gallery tours.
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

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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

Director’s Review: What a great Annual Meeting we had last month! With over 75 guests in attendance, a spectacular presentation by Scott Rehmann, and a delicious meal, what more could a Museum Director ask for? Well, how about the chance to honor some outstanding people and projects that made 2013 a great year for History?

At the right are photos of two of the three winners of our 7th Grade History Projects. Madison Kopesky and Brandon Cassens each had their projects picked out of 64 submitted and displayed at the Museum this past year. Liz Schwartz also received a prize.

Thanks to Home State Bank of Hutchinson, the top three winners were each given a cash prize for their creative and historical work. Below from left to right, Gerard Stifter, long time Board Treasurer was honored for his service. Gerard helped carry the Museum into a whole new chapter of success and sustainability due to his diligent planning and constant management of the Museum’s finances. It was tough to see him go, but great to honor him at this special event. Julie Jensen received our Donor of the Year award for all the time and energy she donated to write, “Images of America-Hutchinson”, of which all the proceeds were donated to the Museum’s General Fund! Our Volunteers of the Year went to Gary Tessmer and Fay Fandrich, for going above and beyond the call of duty with our Compressible Storage Grant. This could not have been accomplished without their hard work!

Thanks to all who help us, in so many ways, to keep history alive for all in McLeod County.

In Memory of Rosemary Stifter
Rosemary Stifter, age 72, completed her journey to eternal life on Sunday morning, October 13, 2013, at St. Mary's Care Center in Winsted, MN. She was born July 14, 1941 in Winsted Township, MN, near Lester Prairie, to Leonard and Mildred (Deidrick) Bisping. On August 19, 1961, she married Gerard Stifter at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Winsted. Five children were born to this union, John (Donna), Michael (special friend Cindy Scherping), Thomas (special friend Gloria Hertel), Barbara (Robert) Tovsen and Eugene (Sue). In addition to the children above, she is survived by her husband Gerard…

Rosemary, a faithful member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, was active in church and community activities. At Holy Trinity, she was involved as a school board member, CCW secretary and volunteer, communion distributor and as a Win stock and parish dinner auction volunteer. In the community, she served as election judge, Meals on Wheels delivery, St. Mary's hospital auxiliary volunteer, manager of St. Mary's Gift Shop, AARP driver safety class coordinator, and Volunteer at the McLeod County Historical Society. Rosemary had many interests, including gardening, card playing, visiting casinos, camping, fishing, travel, family history, cooking and entertaining, and attending sporting and school events of children and grandchildren…Thank you Rosemary for all you have done to preserve McLeod County History and for all the great memories!
pills, she immediately became ill and went to the bathroom. Gordon left the office and returned with a bottle of liquor. He told Laura that she was "just excited" and that the liquor would help her to calm down. He mixed a drink, but she did not have any of it. In their final exchange that day, Gordon reported that he would be in Minneapolis on Friday and that they could meet again at that time. Laura then left his office.

**Love Turns into Desperation**

The next Friday, Laura called Gordon’s hotel but he was not there. She called his office and Gordon answered. He informed her that he would not be coming to Minneapolis, after all, and that he would be out of town for awhile.

In response, Laura became anxious and refused to leave her home. She did not want to see anyone. Despite her worry and isolation, however, on Thursday, January 26th, Laura left home to take a walk. While walking, she became faint and did not look well. A woman walking nearby stopped and encouraged Laura to see a doctor. Taking this advice, Laura consulted with Dr. Maeder, who confirmed that she was three months pregnant.

After the examination, Laura attempted to call Gordon from the doctor’s office. The operator conveyed that he was at O’Malley’s Law Office in Glencoe. Laura, unsure of Glencoe’s location and worried that Gordon would not return in time for a conversation about the pregnancy, went home and cried. Opening her cedar chest, Laura removed a pistol, wrapped in an old sugar sack, and two bullets. Feeling that there was no alternative, the desperate woman planned to end her life. Laura attempted to load the pistol but was unable to get the bullets into the weapon. Her plan had been temporarily thwarted.

The following day, Friday, January 27, Laura called Gordon’s office. With no answer, she called the Andrews Hotel and was informed that Gordon had not checked in. Persistently, she called the hotel several times that day and, with each call, received the same response. In vain, she searched for Gordon at the Covered Wagon restaurant where the pair frequently had dinner. Taking a risk, Laura called Gordon’s home. A woman answered and reported that Gordon had gone to Minneapolis and was staying at the hotel. After calling the hotel again and being informed that he had not registered, Laura left a note with the receptionist, asking Gordon to meet her at Harry’s Café at 7:30 P.M.

Laura went to the café and waited, in vain, for Gordon. She called the hotel and was informed that
he still was not there. She called the Fifth District Legion. Gordon had not been there either. Calling the hotel again, Laura was informed that Gordon was walking up to his room. After several unsuccessful attempts to reach Gordon, Laura took action and departed for the hotel.

Earlier that day, Gordon and a friend, Harvey Bolduc, owner of the Hutchinson Tavern, left for Minneapolis. Gordon stopped at a residence in the 2400 block along Irving Avenue in Minneapolis, while Bolduc stayed in the car. Their next stop was the Andrews Hotel, where they each registered for a room.

Shortly after Laura arrived at the hotel, she met Gordon on the elevator. Conveying that he had just received her message, Gordon invited Laura to his room. While there, Laura insisted that arrangements needed to be made for the baby and her. Gordon replied that it was not a good weekend to discuss the issues since his wife, Catherine, and friends were coming for a visit.

Gordon inquired if Laura was hungry and suggested that they get dinner at the Covered Wagon. Feeling anxious, Laura preferred to eat at the hotel. When Gordon responded that she needed to get out and enjoy herself, Laura began to cry. As she reached into her purse to retrieve a handkerchief, her pistol fell onto the floor. Spying the pistol, Gordon responded, "Don’t tell me you are thinking of doing anything foolish." When Laura began to weep, Gordon comforted Laura and told her that there was nothing for her to worry about.

At that time, Harvey Bolduc came to the room. Gordon prepared a drink and the trio left for the Covered Wagon. James Williams, another of Gordon’s friends from Hutchinson, joined the group. They enjoyed a few drinks and then ate dinner. After dinner, they moved to another table where Gordon began a conversation with another man. While there, Harvey told Laura that Gordon was still married and had two children. Laura confessed that she loved Gordon anyway. Several times during the evening, Laura asked Gordon for the key to his hotel room, but he refused. He instructed her to accompany Harvey back to the latter’s hotel room, and he would join her there later. Crying, Laura left with Harvey. When they reached the hotel, she went to Gordon’s room instead.

Desperation Collapses into Madness

A light was on in Gordon’s room and Laura knocked on the door. A woman answered, and she allowed Laura entrance. As the pair sat down, the woman reported, “I don’t know who you are, but I am Mrs. Jones.” Laura, unsure how to respond, told “Mrs. Jones” that she was waiting for Harvey Bolduc, who had not yet arrived. Attempting to make small talk with the woman, Laura asked how many children she had. “Mrs. Jones” reported that she had two children, Michael and Judy. Laura questioned: "What happened to Kathleen?" "Mrs. Jones" stated that they drowned Kathleen. Surprised, Laura dropped her purse. The contents, including her handgun, fell onto the floor. When “Mrs. Jones” inquired about the gun, Laura reported that it was her revolver. The woman told her to put the gun away, but Laura told her not to worry about it. Together, the ladies retrieved the items that fell and put them back into Laura's purse.

Laura did not believe that the woman in Gordon’s room was his wife since she did not know the names of his children. As the women sat together, they began to talk about hairstyles. Shortly after, the telephone rang and Laura answered it. It was Gordon. Laura conveyed that his “wife” was present and Gordon asked if he could speak with her. After hanging up, the two women continued chatting about hairstyles. Then Gordon came to the room. He greeted “Mrs. Jones” with, “Hello, Mommy,” and she responded with, “Hello, Daddy.” Gordon suggested that the trio visit Harvey’s room and addressed the other woman as “Helen” (Laura was confused since she knew Gordon’s wife’s name was Catherine). As they were leaving, Laura saw a key to Gordon’s room lying on a table. She secretly took the key and put it into her purse. Then, they all went to Harvey’s room. Later, using the stolen key, Laura returned to Gordon’s room and let herself in. She left the door open. While sitting in the room, she procured her pistol, opened the cylinder, then returned the gun to her purse.

To be Continued...
Donations & Memorials:

Log Cabin Home Fund:
In memory of Arlette Dahlberg from Juanita Urban
In honor of Mildred Lindemann and Maynard Grenke from Bill & Liz Schwarze
In memory of Rosemary Stifter from Bill & Liz Schwarze

General Fund:
In honor of Ken & Shirley Krienke and Ervin & Diane Damlow from Darlene & LeRoy Karg;
Barbara & Clovis McArthur; Joyce & Spencer Beytien; Irene Micka, Emmy Lindeman; Alta Mae Krant;
Lori Stangel & Kerkhoff Auction; June Schulz; Pat Chapman; Virgil & Marlys Kurtzweg;
Allen Weseloh; Vicki Korkemeier; Lowell Ueland; Juanita Urban; I. J. Burich Foundation

Archives Fund:

Heritage Garden Fund:

Endowment Fund:
In memory of Rosemary Stifter from Dorothy Schwarze; In memory of Rosemary Stifter from Dorothy Klawitter;
In memory of Lida Block from Eunice Peter; In memory of Rosemary Stifter from Anne & Vern Hahn;
In memory of Rosemary Stifter from Ron & Karen Sommerdorf;
In memory of Rosemary Stifter from Margaret Hoffman; In memory of Art Otto from Darlene & LeRoy Karg;
In memory of Carol Wendt from Anne & Vern Hahn; In memory of Rosemary from Gerard Stifter

Genealogy Fund:
In honor of Willard Pulkrabek from Kate Nelson; In memory of Rosemary Stifter from Marlys Fredrick;
In memory of Carol (Peterson) Cleary from Marlys Fredrick;
In memory of Rosemary Stifter from Darlene & LeRoy Karg

Technology Fund:

Dugout Canoe Grant Fund:

Restoration Fund:

Welcome New and Life Members:
Candyce Ihnot, St. Paul, MN; Maureen Delsing, Oakdale, MN

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

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<th>Accession #</th>
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<td>1991-030-0002</td>
<td>McLeod County Sheriff’s Badge worn by Alfred T. Beihoffer. Beihoffer served as Sheriff of McLeod County from 1927 to 1939.</td>
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<td>Julie Jensen</td>
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<td>Eunice Warner</td>
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Artifact/s of the Month:

Donor: Beryl Klauslermeier
Accession #: 1991-030-0002

History: McLeod County Sheriff’s Badge worn by Alfred T. Beihoffer. Beihoffer served as Sheriff of McLeod County from 1927 to 1939.
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