The 142nd McLeod County Fair is right around the corner and here at the Museum we have been preparing all year long. Our Fair booth, located in the Commercial Building on the Fair grounds will be twice as big as years past, thanks to some great new display pieces and some awesome Partners.

To help us with our Historical 2014 Theme, we have partnered with the Luce Line Railroad Club and the American Legion Voiture 414 Voyageurs. These two great local groups will help us bring history to life at the McLeod County Fair. Best Buy will also be supplying some great technology, so guests can browse our new online photo collection right at our Fair booth! The Museum, with an Ag. Association grant, has created a new “History Hot Spot” game that will use QR codes and your smart phone to unlock photos of the Fair’s past and help you win some pretty great prizes!

The Luce Line Club, as shown in the photo at the left bottom, has been instrumental in helping us plan our year long celebration of everything Railroad-from speaker and program ideas to train memorabilia and history. At the Fair………………..Continued on page 2.
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
Anne Hahn, President
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Bev Swenson, Collections
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Currently Open, 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 4 PM
Museum Research Library

Also be on display at our booth, giving guests an opportunity to learn about this historic group and the great causes they have championed. Many of you may have waved to the Loci as it drove by you at a local community parade, but for the first time in McLeod County Fair History you will be able to see inside this massive part train engine-part truck. Get your photo taken in the engineer’s seat or pile in the back for a family pic. All photos will be taken for a dollar donation that will be split by the Historical Society and Voiture 414 group. All photos will be posted to our Facebook page, so you can share the fun with all your friends. Find us on Facebook at McLeod County Historical Society. All aboard….for a good cause!

The Museum is also excited about a new Fair attraction, made possible by an Ag. Association grant through the McLeod County Fair board and staff. Our “History Hot Spot” game will work like this: Each day of the Fair, the Museum will place a new “History Hot Spot” sign that gives you a QR code link to a video of historical photos and information about the History of the McLeod County Fair and its grounds. Watch the video and learn where to go next to answer a history trivia question and if you guess correctly, win a prize! You never know when a “History Hot Spot” will pop up, or where it will lead you.

Last, but not least, will be our Historical Railroad display, featuring museum artifacts and photos depicting the railroads of the late 1870s through the 1920s. See photos of each of the different McLeod County Depots, some that no longer exist. Learn about the important role the railroads played in populating the small frontier communities of McLeod County with newly arriving immigrants. See the ways that this new technological advancement transformed business, built and destroyed towns. The railroad also opened up travel to the residents of the prairie, making the frontier closer than ever before. With so much to see and do, we hope you will come ride the rails with us at this year’s McLeod County Fair!
Director’s Review:

It’s McLeod County Fair time again and we are gearing up for our biggest display and programing we have ever had at the County Fair! Last year we sent you to “Jail for History”, but this year we are Riding the Rails with our “History of the Railroads of McLeod County” theme. One of the most exciting parts of planning our Fair displays this year, is all the wonderful people and groups we are partnering with. I want to thank the Luce Line Railroad Club for all their help this year with our theme programing and events and for joining us at the Fair to help educate the public on the railroads. Another awesome partner is our friends at the American Legion, the 40/8 Voiture 414 group. The history about this group and their prized Loci and symbol of the Voiture is so rich in not only local, but national and international history, that I cannot wait to share it with all of our guests at the Fair. The 40/8 Voiture Loci or part steam engine part truck will be a part of our display area and will give everyone a chance to learn more about the group and all the good they do in our communities. I have been busy making movies about the history of the McLeod County Fairgrounds and am so happy we were able to partner with our local and state Ag. Association to create our “History Hot Spot” game for the Fair this year. As a historical society, we are usually all about the past, but this project will use present technology, smart phone and QR codes, to link people to the past through documentary style Youtube videos. We hope to use these videos to help educate the public about the history that is all around them at the Fair, get people moving and searching for each of the five QR codes that will be placed, and to maybe get a younger generation interested in history.

As you can see by our photos at the right and below, we have been busy this summer at the Museum. Our movie night at the Museum featured the first silent narrative film ever produced, “The Great Train Robbery”. It was an eye opening look about how far movie making has come since 1903 when the film was shown and it gave me the chance to research what was going on in McLeod County during that time and why trains were so important that the star of the first film was a train. We had a great turnout and thanks to Jacquie Frerichs, the film was not silent, but filled with music. Jacquie truly made the event, with music that fit each scene of the movie and gave guests the chance to experience “The Great Train Robbery” much the way the first audiences would have seen it, with live music.

A huge thanks to photographer and author, Steve Glischinski. Steve, shown during his Museum presentation at the right, gave a spectacular overview of the history of trains in MN. He covered not only the early days of MN train history, but how trains are booming once again today. Mr. Glischinski’s book, “Minnesota Railroad, A Photographic History-1940-2012” is available for sale in the Museum’s Gift Shop and at our Fair booth.

Below you can see our little Log Cabin Home was the backdrop for a lovely July wedding. Congratulations Mitch and Kim on your new life together!
History of The Railroads of McLeod County:

McLeod County Historical Society & Museum 2014 Historical Theme:

The McLeod County Historical Society and Museum would like to introduce you to our 2014 Theme, “History of the Railroads of McLeod County!” The McLeod County Historical Society and Museum is filled with historical information about how the Railroads changed Minnesota and McLeod County forever, as well as artifacts and documents that show the progression of railroad technology and all the tools and schemes used to keep the rails running.

Each month, the Museum will feature an excerpt from our theme booklet, “History of the Railroads of McLeod County”, which will be available for purchase in the Museum’s gift shop. The Booklet will cover the early history of the railroad system in Minnesota, each of the railroad lines that ran through our county, plus the “Paper Rails” that were never to be. So come along with us, and ride the rails of history in 2014!

Taken from: The Glencoe Register-March 26th, 1859-
“Land Grant Railroad from Hastings”

We are gratified to learn that the remarks of our correspondent in regard to a Land Grant Railroad from this city to St. Peter meets with such universal favor among our citizens. The first thing necessary to consummate the object in view is to create a sentiment along the line in its favor, and resolve to make this sentiment felt. To effect this we suggest that public meetings be held here, as well as at other towns along the route at which a favorable expression should be made. Such a number of people as are interested and such a wide and fertile country as it penetrates, will make such a road immensely popular.

A road such as contemplated would connect at this place by ferry with the Wisconsin Road at Prescott, thus placing central Minnesota in direct communication with Chicago, the East and South by Railroad. In fact the road now contemplated is but another link in the great chain that is gathering the wealth of remote regions. (Hastings Independent)

Hastings and Nininger are due east from Glencoe. The line should start from one or both there places, and run directly west. It would then open up the great agricultural depot of the State, and make a town out of Hastings and Nininger or both, larger than St. Paul, or any other town on the Mississippi above Dubuque. There is no use to talk; there is but one great vast agricultural region in this State, and that is the country west of Hastings and north of the Minnesota River. And, strange to say, it was entirely overlooked in the disposal of the land grant railroads. Hon. Joel B. Bassett in the council, and Gen. Joseph R. Brown in the House, were all the members who looked out for the portion of the State west of Hastings, and they, knowing that eventually the whole balance of the State must ultimately depend upon the part of Minnesota north of the Minnesota River, for their breadstuffs, did the best they could to plant a railroad through this part, but they were thwarted by St. Paul, St. Anthony, and a portion of Hennepin County members, who, when they voted against this reasonable proposal, cut off their own right arm. Which would have been of more moment to them than all of the country up the Mississippi, including the sandy barren, God forsaken soil, pine lumber, and everything else…
Welcome New and Life Members:

Joan & Franklin Svoboda, Hutchinson;  Charles Lavallee, Hutchinson;
Gretchen Lind and family, St. Peter, MN

Donations & Memorials:

Log Cabin Home Fund:
General Fund:
June McLean, Thrivent Financial; Charles Lavallee
Archives Fund:
Heritage Garden Fund:
Louise Carlson
Endowment Fund:
In memory of Brigetta Wachter from Ron & Karen Sommerdorf;
In memory of Kathy Klitzke from Anne & Vern Hahn;
In memory of Dr. Paul Leroy Hodge from Gary & Carol Voight;
In memory of Leslie Smith from Bill & Joan Arndt
Technology Fund:
Restoration Fund:
Genealogy Fund:
Annual Support Drive:

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

Annette Zimmerman  Chuck Lavallee  Mary Ebent  Marlin and Ruth Torgerson
Beth Kasal        David Beach        McLeod County         McLeod County Attorney's Office
Sue Rolf                Walter Sturges     John Shamla         Jacqueline Pendergast
Beverly Graupmann  Ardis Waller        Eileen Mielke        Luce Line Railroad Club
Jorunn Kastens         Peter Smyth      Milton Navratil    Stearns County Historical
Mavis Kottke            Alice Karg      Marjorie Ruzicka   Society Museum
Ken Cote                Roger Krantz     Therese O'Fallon   Senior Center Card Makers
Matt McMillan         Charles Shamla

Artifact/s of the Month:

Donor:  City of Hutchinson/Hutchinson Depot
History:  Kaitie Garvin, pictured below, has spent her summer volunteering her immense talents here at the Historical Museum. Kaitie is a recent graduate of Concordia College with a double major in Classics and Art History. Ms. Garvin has studied in Greece and Athens and has experience with artifact condition reporting of 19th century letters. We have been so lucky to have Kaitie working on several collections in the Museum archives, but below is an example of her preservation and restoration skills on two documents. The delicate and very damaged papers were found in the Hutchinson Depot and had sustained fire damage, making them almost unreadable. With a skillful hand and the right tools, Kaitie brought back a part of history that may have been forever lost. These documents will now be housed in our archive, preserved for future generations to come. Thank you Kaitie for sharing your time & talents with the Historical Society! Ms. Garvin will be pursuing her Masters degree in Classical Art History at the University of Oregon in the fall.
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

Sponsored by:

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