One of the milestones in film history was the first narrative film, “The Great Train Robbery”. Created in 1903 by director Edwin S. Porter, a former Thomas Edison cameraman, it was the first time an actual story or movie as we know them today, was created for a mass audience. Silent films of this era would have been shown in large metropolitan cities with an entire orchestra as its soundtrack, but by the time it was shown in small Midwestern towns, a single local pianist or organist would have played the only music or sound for the film. The film was based modern events, with its plot based on an August 29th, 1900 train robbery by four members of the Butch Cassidy outlaw gang who halted the No. 3 train on the Union Pacific Rail Road and escaped with almost $5,000 in cash!

Trains were modern innovations that were changing the United States and its future. So it only makes sense that a Train would be the biggest actor in the first action movie ever made. “The Great Train Robbery” will be shown on the Museum’s newest technology, our 70 inch Smart TV, but its soundtrack will be historically accurate, with musician Bev Wangerin recreating the sound and experience of the old time silent movies!

Tickets are just $5 each, with free popcorn and punch served. We hope to see you at the Movies!
**Director’s Review:**

How time flies when you’re having fun, and this summer is whizzing by us here at the Historical Society and Museum. At the right are just a few photos from the Hutchinson Depot Grand Opening. We were so pleased that Gerald Karstens was the winner of our “Golden Spike” membership contest. Gerald, just like Agnes Bonniwell back in 1886 when the first train made it to Hutchinson, MN, had the honor of driving a golden spike to Christian the newly renovated structure. The Museum set up a display of Historical photos and artifacts from throughout McLeod Count. The Museum also had two photos from our extensive archive blown up to be used as display pieces in the visitor space at the Depot. And of course, it would not be a party without Beans the clown having a little fun with the kids!

I want to thank all our hard working volunteers and most generous sponsors for making our 2014 Pork Chop Supper Fundraiser a huge success. We had around 150 guests stop by the Museum to grab a meal and listen to some great bluegrass music. We would not have been able to raise the much needed funds, without all the donations from our sponsors, so please be sure to support the local businesses who support us and say thanks the next time you stop by their business! Thank you, Benny’s Meat Market, Subway on Hwy 7, KFC, McCormick's Family Restaurant, Schwan's, Citizens Bank & Trust and the Bill Arndt family!

Well before you know it, we will be at the McLeod County Fair, and this year our booth and programs will be bigger than ever! The Museum will be partnering with the McLeod County Fair to bring you our “History Hot Spot” game. Each day of the Fair the Museum will designate a new Spot that will give guests a chance to unlock a Historical video to the past via their smart phones. Once you’ve unlocked the past, you can win a great prize that day!
On June 28, 1862, a tiny steam locomotive built in New Jersey named the William Crooks pulled a passenger train from St. Paul to St. Anthony, near what is today Minneapolis’ St. Anthony Main area. It was the first run of a train in Minnesota, and marked the beginning of the railroad industry in Minnesota.

It’s hard to imagine Minnesota without railroads, or for that matter much in the way of transportation at all. When Minnesota territory achieved statehood in 1858, fewer than 200,000 people were living within its borders, and transportation was largely by riverboat, horse, or ox cart. For Minnesota to grow, it needed better transportation, and that meant railroads.

From those modest beginnings, Minnesota’s railroads grew and prospered. After the Civil War, the state and its railroads grew up together: when one thrived, so did the other. Unless you lived near a river, the railroad was the only practical way for Minnesotans and their products to travel more than a few miles.

Minnesota became a center of railroad activity. Great Northern and Northern Pacific were based in St. Paul, while mid-sized lines such as Minneapolis & St. Louis and Soo Line were based in Minneapolis. Duluth was headquarters for the Duluth, Missabe & Iron Range, owned by US Steel.

In Hutchinson, the Great Northern built a 44-banch line to service the city from its main line at Wayzata, while the Luce Line built west from Minneapolis to Wesota, passing through Hutchison. The Milwaukee Road built a branch from its western main line from Glencoe to Hutchinson.

With the end of the World War II, railroads spent millions to re-equip their passenger trains, thinking the public would not want to drive long distances, especially on substandard roads.

To tell this story, author Steve Glischinski has written “Minnesota Railroads A Photographic History 1940-2012” published by the University of Minnesota Press. The book offers a look at Minnesota railroads from near the end of the era of steam locomotives and luxury passenger lines to the reemergence of railroads as one of the few profitable transportation industries.

Glischinski began taking photographs of railroads in 1970, at the age of thirteen. Since then, his photographs of railroads in action have been published in many books and magazines. He is a correspondent for Trains Magazine, organizes railroad photography charter trips, and each year makes several presentations about Minnesota railroads to organizations around the state. He is the author of seven books on railroading and lives in Shoreview.

Glischinski will discuss his book, and the history of Minnesota railroads with a special emphasis on McLeod County, during a presentation at the McLeod County Historical Society on July 21 from 7 to 8 p.m. In addition to discussion, he will show photographs from his book, and from railroads in the McLeod County area. He will also have copies of his book available for sale.
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 - January 29th, 1858**

“The Homestead Bill”

On our outside impression will be found the Homestead Bill as it passed the House of Representatives. We hope it may pass the Senate, but we fear there is no such good luck in store for us. The passage of the bill will not be of any benefit to us in this part of the State until the land sales have taken place. Then parties can obtain the advantages to be derived from the bill. But we have no idea it will become a law for a while longer.

Times are hard and the Government is poor. The proceeds of the public lands are wanted to pay the salaries of lazy office holders. This could be remedied by giving us the good old fashioned tariff. But the one idea men in Congress had rather make the poor Western farmer pay a big price for his soil than to tax the rich nabobs and codfish aristocracy for the fine coats they have on their backs, and the lined and silks their good for nothing wives and daughters wear. This class of people are the parties that would be injured by the tariff. The most of their clothing is imported. Fabrics made in the United States are not good enough for their use, hence they patronize the factories of the old country. They had of course rather see goods of a fine texture come into the country free of duty, and let the West support the Government by paying a large sum for their homesteads, and unfortunately they have a majority in Congress now who agree with them. Never mind—we will have or day yet.

---

**Taken from: The Glencoe Register - February 12th, 1858**

“State Loan for Railroads”

A bill is now before the Legislature having for its object the loaning the credit of the State for the benefit of the land grant railroads. The proposition had given a rise to much discussion both in and out of the legislature, but it appears to meet with general approval. It is a matter of grave importance, and we hope it will not be hurried through the House until it has been duly examined and its consequences fairly calculated on. The same thing has been done in other States, and has proved beneficial beyond expectation; we anticipate the same results in Minnesota…

---

**Taken from: The Glencoe Register - September 11th, 1858**

“Railroads in Minnesota”

There is considerable work being done on the various land grant railroads, in the shape of grading and building culverts. We hope the work will be done in a good and permanent manner. We have heard, but do not know that our information is correct, that the road up the valley of the Minnesota is not graded in the manner it should be. If this should prove true, we trust that Gov. Sibley will withhold the bonds. Let the work be done in a good substantial manner, not only on the Minnesota valley road, but on all; then let them come in for their bonds, and not before.
**Donations & Memorials:**

**Log Cabin Home Fund:**
*In memory of Donavan Schiro from Dennis and Marilyn Witzel*

**General Fund:**
Pat Clabo; Debby LeMere; Robert & Jacqueline Pendergast; Vivid Image
Citizens Bank & Trust Co.; Clifford & Betty Johnson; Delores Gustafson & Robert Hatlestad

**Archives Fund:**

**Heritage Garden Fund:**

**Endowment Fund:**
*In memory of Gladys Gasow from Ron & Karen Sommerdorf*

**Technology Fund:**

**Restoration Fund:**

**Genealogy Fund:**

**Annual Support Drive:**
Marlys Hodge; Cheryl Rusch; Darrol Bussler

**Pork Chop Supper Fundraiser:**
KFC, Benny's Meat Market, Cashwise, Subway, Citizens Bank & Trust Co., McCormick's Family Restaurant, Schwan's, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

---

**Welcome New and Life Members:**

Doug Krant, Austin, MN; Pat Clabo, Minnetonka, MN; Cora Wortman, Brooklyn Park, MN

---

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

Claire Larson  Marie Hillemeier  Margaret Hoffman  Marjorie Ruzicka  Clifford Johnson
Donna Betker  Judy Peterson  Carlos P. Avery  Kathy Parker-Parke  Donald Benz
Beverly Graupmann  Florence Hovda  Robert Pendergast  Peter Smyth  Jacqueline Pendergast
Dorothy Dornfeld  Gina Elke

---

**Artifact/s of the Month:**

Donor: Leonard Erickson  Accession #: 2002-0209-012

**History:**
Wooden Train #78 and wooden track. Steam engine, coal car and caboose on an elevated wooden track. Made of black walnut by Leonard Erickson in 1988 in one year of work. Engineer's area with wooden dials & tools. Coal car has 8 moveable wheels & steps. Caboose has 8 wheels, steps and ladders, 14 windows, 2 opening doors, 2 steering wheels, handrails. Track has wooden rails and ties on lower and upper levels. This 4-4-2 vintage steam locomotive was popular in the late 1800s and well into the 1900s.
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:

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 ~

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:

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 ~