Nostalgia Nite Fundraiser

The coming of the Railroad Era...

Monday, May 19th 7-9 PM

Hutchinson Depot
Adams Street SE, Hutchinson, MN

$25 a ticket for tours, food, music, trivia and prizes!

It’s the late 1800s and the rails have finally made it to Hutchinson! Join us for an exciting evening as we learn about the history of the railroads of McLeod County, the newly renovated Hutchinson Depot and what the coming of the Railroad meant for a rural community in 1887. As a part of our 2014 Theme, “History of the Railroads of McLeod County”, the museum will be giving you a chance to see the inside of the Depot now. The Historical Society will be showcasing the Depot’s history with tours of the structure, including its historic coal drawn graffiti from the late 1800s. There will be a costume contest, railroad displays of photos and artifacts, plus a chance to win great prizes donated by local businesses by answering McLeod County Railroad Trivia. Oh, and best of all, we will be entertained by Hutchinson founders and performers, The Hutchinson Brothers. Get your name in the drawing to win the honor of driving the golden spike, that will be used to christen the new structure at its grand opening in June!

Donors & Sponsors:
Amazing Grace Boutique
Outdoor Motion
Hutch Café
Elena’s Bakery
Domino’s Pizza
Vivid Image
Lillian’s Boutique

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380 School Road NW
Hutchinson, MN 55350

Visit our Website: www.mcleodhistory.org
phone: 320-587-2109 e-mail: info@mcleodhistory.org
**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
- Karen Hendricksen, Vice President
- Tara Russell, Secretary
- Gary Ziemer, Treasurer
- Dave Horrmann, Ray Pavlish, Stan Ehrke, Scott Rehmann, and Lowell Ueland

**Executive Director**
- Lori Pickell-Stangel

**Assistant**
- Peggy Paulson

**Volunteer Staff**
- Gary Tessmer & Stan Ehrke, Tech Support
- Bev Swenson, Collections
- Marlys Fredrick, Research
- 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 P.M

**Director’s Review:**
It has been a roller coaster ride of opportunities here at the Historical Society and Museum! Over the past three years the Museum has been reaching out to partners to create collaborative programs, events and grant projects. We are now really beginning to see the fruits of our labor. Our partnership with the Hutchinson Library and Heart of Hutch gave us the opportunity to hold programs for the One Book, One Community Read outreach—a great partnership! Our final author event was outstanding, with over 275 guests coming out to hear the “Orphan Train” presentation by Christina Baker Kline. (See photo top right of Christina and Society member Tara Russell) We are looking forward to working with the Ag. Association again this year to bring history to the Legacy Stage in the Commercial building, as well as our “History Hot Spot” interactive video download game that guests can play each day of the Fair! We are also working with the City of Hutchinson on researching and preserving the interior of the Hutchinson Depot and many more great collaborations to come.

I also want to thank local historian, Gary Lenz, (second photo down at the right) for his terrific program on the Railroad Builders of McLeod County. We are so fortunate to have such talented and enthusiastic citizens, right here in our county.

If you have stopped by the Museum, seen the Hutchinson Leader, or checked out our Facebook page, then you may have seen or heard about the work that is underway on our 900 year old Dugout Canoe. (Photo of canoe base under construction by Dave Horrmann, top right, third down) Construction is underway to create a protective base and acrylic cover. Our next step will be to have a local artist create the illusion that the canoe is floating down the river and right out from the early landscape painting on the wall directly behind it. The Museum has seen some technological construction as well. Our hardworking volunteers have been adding so much history to our searchable database that we have outgrown our old system and have now just finished installing a new updated one, complete with eight new work stations. A huge thanks to our volunteer Technology team for all the months of research and problem solving to get us up and running again! We all know that technology is not cheap, but thanks to many generous 3M volunteer match donations, we have almost covered the cost of our new computers. The Museum still needs a little over $2,000 to fully fund the new system and we are accepting donations to our Technology Fund until it is paid for.

With all this going on, we can always use more volunteers to help. So stop by the Museum and take a tour and see how you can help make history happen in McLeod County!
Colorado Steamers
Train Video
by Terry Davis
Thursday, May 22nd-6-8 PM
Museum Educational Media Center

We invite you to join Terry Davis as he narrates his vivid and breathtaking video on the Colorado train steam engines. The video features several different models of steam trains from the late 1800s thru the 1920s. These are the types of passenger trains that were once used in McLeod County by anyone traveling to and from the area, but are now a thing of our past.

Terry Davis is a journalist by trade, but has a passion and knowledge of early steam powered trains, like the ones in his video.

7TH GRADE HISTORY PROJECT

WINNERS: Now on display! We want to thank our local Hutchinson 7th graders for displaying their class History projects, as well as Home State Bank for donating prize money to the top six projects. These projects get better every year, which makes it hard to choose just three from each of the two classes that submitted almost 100 projects. I also want to thank the judging committee who spent hours reading each project to pick the winners. The prize placements will be announced at our Annual Meeting in October, but you can see the projects anytime, on display now!

ANDREI MLINAR
MR. SCHMIDT’ S CLASS

ABBIE HATLESTAD
MR. SCHMIDT’ S CLASS

LUCAS SCHOETTNER
MR. SCHMIDT’ S CLASS

WYATT THOMAS
MS. MOHR’ S CLASS

TYLER DREY
MS. MOHR’ S CLASS

JADEN OWEN
MS. MOHR’ S CLASS
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 first railroad in the county was the Hastings & Dakota railroad co. line from Hastings to Glencoe. This company was sold, July 1st, 1872, before trains were running to Glencoe, to the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Co., the present owners.(1917) The line was open for traffic on August 14th, 1872. Direct railroad communication was thus established between Glencoe and Chicago, and thus with the Atlantic seaboard. The pioneer days were over; hereafter McLeod County was not to depend on horses or oxen for its connection with the outside world.

Mail, produce, and new settlers were to come over the route of iron rails, and the produce of the country was to be known to the markets of the world. The line built into McLeod County in 1872 is now a part of the great trans-continental line, over which run the famous coast trains from Chicago to the Pacific Ocean.

Hopes were entertained that the road was to be extended westward at once, and the survey was started. By the next year, the grasshoppers came, and for several years the county to the westward was too poor to support a railroad. But in 1877 the work was resumed, and in 1878 trains were running to Montevideo, 82.4 miles west of Glencoe. The first train reached Brownston June 18th, 1878, and Stewart, on June 28th, the work train arriving simultaneously with the laying of the rails.

This completed the east and west line of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul through McLeod County. It passes through the townships of Helen, Glencoe, Sumter, and Collins, with stations at Plato, Glencoe, Sumter, Brownston, and Stewart. The nearest station east of the county is Norwood in Carver County, and the nearest west of the county is Buffalo Lake in Renville County.

The same Company, in 1886, completed a spur to Hutchinson, a distance of 13.27 miles. This spur was opened for business Oct. 6th, 1886. It passes through the townships of Glencoe, Rich Valley and Hassan Valley, and has an intermediate station at Biscay.

The St. Paul, Minnesota & Manitoba Railway Co. built a line from Minneapolis Junction westward to Hutchinson in 1886, the line being opened for business Dec. 31, 1886. Thus Hutchinson was provided with two railroads the same year, one to Glencoe and one to Minneapolis. Hutchinson has continued to be the terminal point of both lines. The St. Paul, Minneapolis, & Manitoba Railway Co. was leased for 999 years to the Great Northern Railway Co. on February 1, 1890. The line in McLeod County extends due east and west in the extreme northern part of Bergen, Rich Valley, and Hassan Valley townships. Its intermediate stations in this county are at Lester Prairie and South Silver Lake. The nearest station outside of the county is New Germany in Carver County.

The Luce Line of the Electric Short Line Railway Co. was granted a right of way through the northern part of the county in 1909.

To be continued...
**Donations & Memorials:**

**Log Cabin Home Fund:**
*In memory of Alvin Schiroo from Liz and Bill Schwarze; In honor of Helene and Don Spllettstazer from Liz and Bill Schwarze; In honor of Evelyn Dobratz from Bev and Mike Wangerin*

**General Fund:**
*Dorothy Klawitter; In honor of Helene and Don Spllettstazer from Delores and Virgil Goebel; Pat Chapman*

**Archives Fund:**
*Judith Carl; Orlando Ruschmeyer*

**Heritage Garden Fund:**
*Dan and Rachel Murphy*

**Endowment Fund:**
*In memory of Doug Flaa from Margaret Hoffman; In memory of Loretta Jungclaus and Adelaide Popp from Eunice Peters*

**Technology Fund:**
*Karen Hendricksen and Ron Makovsky for Annual Support; 3M Foundation*

**Restoration Fund:**
*Shirley Cullar for Annual Support*

**Genealogy Fund:**
*Ann Ellen Lucas; Judy Srsen; Ronald Paggen of Hutchinson, MN; Hazel Sitz, Bethel Koeppen, Pete and Arlene pinske, Everett Hantge, Larry Watson, Marlyn Krueger, Esther Hoof, Reba Radtke, George Bonniwell, Betty Pulkrabek, Larry and Joan Karg, James Schwarze, Vernetta Brinkmann, Mr. and Mrs. David Jensen, June Schulz, John and Loretta Bernhagen, Susan Raveling, Linda Duesterhoft, Don and Helena Spllettstazer, Carol Jackson, Helen Piehl, Mary Alsleben, Martha Mercer, John and Faye Selck, Hutch Café*

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

**Artifact/s of the Month:**

**Donor:** Gerald Karstens

**Accession #:** 2014-0040-002

**History:**
Railroad switch lock that is attached by a short chain. Heart shaped brass case, brass shackle and dust guard; made by Hansl Mfg. Company. Incised “RT C M St P & P RR” on the shank. Used from the late 1800s to the early 1900s. No key was included.

Donor Gerald Karstens received the switch lock from Norman Pendergast. Norman claimed the lock came from the railroad yard in the southeast part of Hutchinson, MN. This was where the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific railroad, known as the Milwaukee Road, was situated. Members of the Pendergast family were some of the original settlers of Hutchinson, MN.
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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(Please support the local businesses who support the preservation of McLeod County History)
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