Country School Potluck Picnic
Rich Valley Township Hall
Country School, Dist. #66
16543 Ideal Ave.
Glencoe, MN
Sunday, July 26th
Noon-2 PM

Every country school kid looked forward to the end of the school year and the traditional end of school picnic! This time honored tradition was enjoyed by students, teachers, parents and school board members alike. It was not only a social event, but a way to discuss the year’s progress and start the planning for next year.

In honor of all of McLeod County’s Country Schools, the Museum will be reliving this tradition at Rich Valley, District #66 schoolhouse. This wonderful facility is now used as the Rich Valley Township Hall. With a playground, paved parking lot and a great meeting space, District #66, or as it was once known “Pleasant View” school, was the perfect location for our Potluck Picnic event.

The McLeod County Historical Society and Museum hope you will help us recreate the fun and memories of the “End of School—Beginning of Summer” Country School Picnic! There will be a short presentation on the history of District #66, with Potluck lunch to follow and tours of the facility and grounds. Admission is free, just bring a dish to pass and your memories of Country School!

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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
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Bev Swenson, Collections
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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.
Museum Educational Media Center

Director’s Review: What a busy and fun summer we have been having here at the McLeod County Museum. Top right is a photo of the brave young historians who participated in our first ever 7th Grade Historical Character Presentations. These five students researched, dressed and portrayed historical figures for a 7 minute presentation at the Museum. Three will win a cash prize at this year’s Annual Meeting, sponsored by Citizens Bank & Trust Company and Home State Bank. Great job kids!

Huge thanks to everyone who braved the great outdoors for our Dist. 6 School Marker Dedication. Virgil Voigt, as a representative of the McLeod County Pheasants Forever Chapter that financed the sign, gave a great talk on the public land that the sign will reside on in Rich Valley Township. DNR Public Lands Manager, Joe Stangel, also talked about how the sign would be a part of a Wildlife Management Area teaming with wild flowers, animals and now interpretative history of how the spot was historically used. Congratulations are in order for Verda Templin, who at 96 years old and an 8th grade graduate of Dist. 6, received her honorary high school diploma. The photos at the right show the emotional presentation and hard earned recognition of a life long devotion to learning!

A round of applause to Liz Marcus on the release of her mini-documentary- “Weseloh Wagon Repair”. This historical look at the early wagon shop and repair work done by the Weseloh family in the early community of Hutchinson was terrific. Historic photos from the Museum’s collection and interviews with Datlaf Weseloh made for an insightful and well produced video!

Below are a few photos from our Annual Pork Chop Supper. We raised some much needed funds to keep the Museum operating and it could not have been done without our volunteers and our food sponsors: Benny’s Meat Market, McCormick’s and Subway. Thanks everyone for making the event a success.

Great news! The Museum just found out that we have been awarded two grants. The first is a SMAC Facilities and Equipment grant for $11,258.00 to upgrade the lighting in our Les Kouba Art gallery. The second is a $47,653.00 Heritage Partnership Grant that will allow the McLeod County Historical Museum, the Glencoe Historical Preservation Society and Historic Hutchinson groups to create a formal partnership to help share resources and make history in McLeod County even stronger! We are now looking for a qualified candidate to fulfill the one year role of Partnership Developer/Director. If you or someone you know would be interested, check out our website position posting!
Award Winning Photography
by Milt Brinkman

Please join us for a special Exhibit:
August 31st – September 30th

Museum Educational Media Center

The McLeod County Historical Society and Museum is pleased to bring you the private award winning photography collection of long time local photographer, Milt Brinkman.


It was during this time that the couple sought out individuals and landscapes for artistic subjects for their submissions to the Minnesota Professional Photographers Association and the Professional Photographers of America. These prints went on to win many awards for the Brinkmans. After retiring from his Photography business in the 1990’s, having taken professional photos for every type of celebration, community event and program, Milt had amassed a huge photographic history of McLeod County life. He then made the decision to donate that collection to the Historical Society and Museum, where it is still being cataloged, identified and preserved today.

These photos, as a part of our museum’s archive, can be researched by our volunteers or staff and reproduced for private use. They can also be used to showcase the history of our people and communities as they changed throughout the 40+ years that the Brinkman Studio operated. We will be featuring some of Milt’s work over the next few months, with an exhibit and program by Milt Brinkman in late September, 2015.

The Award winning artwork prints need to be identified. Many of the subjects are unknown, and it is Milt’s wish to reunite the photos with the people who sat for the photographs. If you can help us with any information, please contact the Museum’s Collection Manager Bev Swenson-320-587-2109 or artifactdonations@mcleodhistory.org
The McLeod County Historical Society is thrilled to announce our 2015 Historical theme, “History of the Country Schools of McLeod County”! The Museum will feature the development of free public education in the state of Minnesota and in McLeod County. We will feature our collection of country school artifacts, photographs and documents that help tell the story of rural McLeod County education. We are also looking for your memories of teaching and/or attending a McLeod County country school. Contact us or go to our website to share your story! I think I hear the school bell ringing...so don’t be late for class—and be sure to join us for a year long look at all things country school!

District # 31-Collins Township:
Known as the “Round School”
Organized in 1866 and closed in 1953

*Taken from The History of McLeod County*, 1978-p 660

For many years, an old landmark between Brownton and Stewart, along Highway 212, was known as the “Round School”. Its unique shape probably made this the only rural schoolhouse of its kind in the whole country.

The inside classroom was a semi-octagon shape. The outside entrance to the building was to the east, and along the entrance on one side was a cloak room—on the other side a washroom. This made the east wall a straight wall. On the west was a door that led to the library, making another straight wall. That left the south and north walls of the classroom shaped like the outside of the building.

It has proved impossible to find out the exact date of building this school, but Art Kasal and Lucy (Metelak) Schilling both started in the first grade in 1913 and the building was quite new then. They both agreed it was probably built about 1905. Mrs. Leo Plaisance was the first school teacher. This landmark was torn down in the fall of 1965.

District # 81-Collins Township:
Known as the “Garfield School”
Organized in 1898 and closed in 1958

*Taken from the memories of Curtis L. Nelson of Rehoboth, DE*

“Our Rural One Room Schoolhouse”

I had the privilege of attending two one room rural schools. District # 81 near Lake Whitney and District # 41 near Heatwole. Both located between Hutchinson and Stewart, MN.

Each school was a one room structure,
Each had a front entry porch where the students hung their coats and placed their overshoes on the floor and their lunches on an overhead shelf.

Each had outdoor toilets, called “Summer Houses”, meaning one for the boys and one for the girls, and a pump to obtain water to wash their hands and obtain drinking water. The drinking water was pumped and brought in by the boys. The boys also had to bring the wood in for the heater. The girls cleaned the blackboards, dusted the erasers, put up displays and kept the floors clean.

The school day was from 8 am to 4 pm five days a week. The teacher had all eight grades to teach with 15 to about 22 students attending each school year. The teacher had about one year advance training before becoming a teacher. A year of “Normal Training”, it was called...

We had four students in my class. Three went on to college obtaining Bachelor Degrees, and four advanced degrees. The fourth student became a very successful farmer. I would say she was a very successful teacher.

Our lunches were in the hallway most of the time, except when the outdoor temperature hit 10 degrees or lower. We were then allowed to bring our lunches into the school room and place them below the wood heating stove...

...I do not miss those cold noon lunches in our one room rural school. These lunches were brought from home. No such thing as a free school lunch. This noon time meal was carried to school in a paper bag, a half gallon pail, an empty syrup pail or small hand made lunch box. A balanced meal might consist of a peanut butter and jam sandwich, a pickle, and a cookie. That is if you had peanut butter in your home. Usually a jar of milk, because these were all rural boys and girls with dairy cows on their farms...

...We had our lunch time at noon. We grabbed our lunch containers, ran outside to sit under a tree or sat by our ball fields and ate these delicious lunches between innings of a ball game. In those cool Minnesota winter months it was a different story. Many times when the temperature hit the below zero mark, our lunches might be frozen solid at noon. Our teacher did have a kind heart though. Anytime we informed her that the temperature was below zero she allowed us to bring our lunches inside the school...

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Spotlight on the Collection/Artifact of the Month:

The artifacts shown below are all objects used by McLeod County residents who taught or contributed to the Rural Educational System:

**Donor: Alice Kennedy**  
**Accession #:** 1989-0040-001  
**History:** Raccoon coat worn by Henry G. Kuhlmann of Lester Prairie. It has a beaver collar and wooden toggle buttons. Henry was the father of the donor. Henry G. Kuhlmann was born on November 28th, 1870. On February 19th, 1893 he married Helen Meyer (1873–1963). Henry helped form School District # 84 and was Treasurer until he retired from farming in 1936. He was the first rural telephone subscriber and helped organize the Farmer’s Elevator. He died in December of 1942.

**Donor: Lida Rolander**  
**Accession #:** 1989-0011-002  
**History:** Wine colored velvet purse with inner and outer pockets, leather covered handle and snap closure. It belonged to Emma Juergens in 1886. She taught school at the age of 16 years old and used this purse. Emma Juergens was born on January 19th, 1871, daughter of Johan Frederick and Maria Witte at Hutchinson. She taught school in McLeod County for a number of years. In 1906 she went to New York City and operated a jewelry business and later a gift shop on the boardwalk at Atlantic City, New Jersey. In 1916 she moved to Little Sauk and took over operation of the farm that had belonged to her brother. She died of cancer on December 19th, 1948. Emma was the sister of Mrs. C.J. (Helen) Heller and aunt of donor Mrs. I. J. (Lida Heller) Rolander.

**Donor: Fred Kuehl**  
**Accession #:** 1992-0023-007  
**History:** Pair of white leather high heeled shoes with single button straps. Ella Bach wore the shoes for her wedding to Walter B. Kuehl on August 25th, 1926. They were the parents of the donor Fred Kuehl and Shirley Kuehl Meline. Ella was born January 15th, 1900 in Henderson, Sibley County, MN. She attended Henderson Schools and Mankato Teachers College. She taught school at Arlington and Acoma Township in McLeod County. Walter and Ella farmed in Acoma Township until 1955 when they moved to Hutchinson, MN. Walter died in 1977 and Ella died in February of 1988.
Donations & Memorials:

Log Cabin Home Fund:

General Fund:
Steve Cook & Kay Nelson; First Lutheran Church, Glencoe; Cynthia Coleman; Ron & Karen Sommerdorf; Alice Karg; Pat Chapman; Bonnie Mauritz; Loren & Miriam Jilek

Archives Fund:
Delores Gustafson

Heritage Garden Fund:
In memory of Maxine Ladd from Lorenz Ladd

Endowment Fund:
In memory of Marion Starke and Margaret Schaefer from Bill & Joan Arndt
In memory of Barb Betker from Darlene & LeRoy Karg
In honor of Jim Knutson’s 90th Birthday from Darlene & LeRoy Karg

Technology Fund:
Merlin Overlie

Annual Support Fund:
Robert Hatlestad; Esther Hoof; Joyce Schnobrich

Restoration Fund:
Pork Chop Dinner Fundraiser:
Benny’s Meat Market, Subway; McCormick’s Family Restaurant,

Welcome New and Life Members:
Bev Templin- Glencoe, MN

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

Irene Micka  Roger Karstens  Gerald Karstens  Beverly Templin  Mavis Kottke  Helen Dossett  Tom Kajer  Ron Pulkerbek  Margaret Abbott
Dorothy Lindeman  Larry Macht  Elaine Rickeman  Helen Popp  Kathy Bauer  Kari Becker  Elizabeth Tonn Schwochow  Al Schochenmaier  St. Pius X Catholic Church
Albert Teubert  “J. P.” John Peter Meier  Verna Kaufmann Kunkel  Linda & Art Benjamin  Cathy Fluck  Sharon Bargel  Karen & Rick Pachan  Mary Ebent

Donations Needed for the Collection:
The Museum is missing photos and stories from the following Country Schools:
Dist. #21, 23, 28, 43, 44, 45, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 61, 62, 65, 66, 68, 70, 71, 75, 82
The Museum's Parking lot will be under construction for the Summer Season. The Museum and Research Library will still be open to the public, but we request that you call ahead for details on parking. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

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 Guests!

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 ~ Main Street Sports Bar ~ Littfin Lumber Co. ~ Benny’s Meat Market ~
~ Family Farms Wholesale of Minnesota ~ Crow River Winery ~ McCormick’s ~

Make a donation, become a member or make a purchase from our Gift Shop, now accepting: