



For 30 years, Ozzie and Marie ran their enterprise. With help from a few hired hands who helped run the restaurant and the theater, and kept the place running.

By 1981, Ozzie and Marie Klavestad retired and sold the property. Though it was supposed to carry on the tradition, nothing happened, and the Stagecoach Museum began the slow descent of time into rubble, according to *How the West was Lost* by Joseph Hart, **The City Pages**, October 9, 1996

In 1996, five fire departments burnt the remnants of the restaurant, bar, Sand Burr Gulch, and Bella Union Opera House. The area is now the Dahlen Sign Company at 901 Stagecoach Road in Shakopee.



Marie Schneck Klavestad died on October 14, 1983. Osborne Ozzie Wesley Klavestad died in a nursing home on April 6, 1986, the abandoned dream museum already in broken fragments.



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Marie Schneck
Klavestad
1909-1983



Marie D. Schneck was born in Menomonie, Wisconsin on April 13, 1909, daughter of Gustavn Adolf Schneck and Marie Friendrike Hedwig Engel.

Marie moved to Minnesota and married Osbone Ozzie Wesley Klavestad, who was born on August 28, 1903 in Norway, son of Klaus Svensen Klavestad and Hilda Mathilde Roed.

Marie and Ozzie had one child, Marjorie Marie Klavestad Rines in 1928.

In 1951, during a thunderstorm, Marie, along with Ozzie, found the building on the former site of the Gellenbeck Stage Stop (1849-1880). The two of them bought it for a place to display Ozzie's gun collection. A lifelong collector, Ozzie amazed an assemblage of firearms including engraved rifles belong to Jessie James, Annie Oakley, and Buffalo Bill Cody on the walls. A four-barrel, percussion plains rifle of Šakpedarj was also there, though it is now part of the Hočokata Ti at the Mdewakanton Sioux Community.

Marie and Ozzie named it the Stagecoach Museum, and over the years it expanded to include the Stagecoach Restaurant, Stagecoach Opera House and the Sand Burr Gulch, a recreated old west street complete with blacksmith, barber shop, saloon, and



Sand Burr Gulch was in the back of the Stagecoach Museum. Marie Schneck Klavestad used to look at estate sales, garage sales, and junk stores to find things to use for the recreated old west street. Animated mannequins showed a blacksmith, barber shop, a saloon, and others demonstrated examples from the old west.

with animated cowboy puppets that acted out jerky wild west scenes for the general public.

The restaurant had waitresses dressed as cowgirls, with earrings that were little tiny six shooters that actually shot. Ozzie often came out looking like Wild Bill Hickok, shooting his pistols into the ceilings. One area had a Silver Dollar Bar, with silver dollars under glass. Heads of dead animals, such as buffalo and elk, were on the walls. A player piano played by itself and an old vending machine, called a mutoscope, had picture shows on it – put in a penny and turns a crank on the side and watch the pictures flip through to appear like a movie!

Behind the museum was Sand Burr Gulch, which was a replica of a western town with over 20 buildings containing 75 animated life-size figures synchronized with recordings in appropriate settlements. It recreated an old west street complete with blacksmith, barber shop, saloon, an underground gold mine, and the Palace which had an animated band playing Sousa's music. On Sundays a fast-draw shoot-outs happened in the 'Old West' town.

Next to the museum was the Bella Union



Opera House, where actors put on "mellerdramas" of yesteryear, where the audience can hiss the villains and cheer the heroes as loud as they want.

The Stagecoach Players company was founded in 1962 by Wendell Josal (president and managing director) and Robert Moulton (vice-president and artistic director) to perform melodramas with musical olios in the opera house of the Stagecoach Complex. In 1971, Moulton was succeeded by Lee Adey. The troupe mounted 44 productions in 18 years, playing to over 300,000 people in 1,898 performances, as a commercial company.

