



RAHS 2022 Third Quarter Newsletter

<https://www.rosemountevents.com/rahs-events>

Contact Email: rosemounthistory@charter.net

Message from RAHS President

It's been almost three years since we sent our last newsletter in January 2020! After February 2020 meeting, the COVID Pandemic rules and precautions pretty much shut us down until August 2021, when meeting rooms were again available. I am pleased to report our Merry Band of core historians have all come through (and in some cases overcome) COVID. With not much to report during the COVID hiatus, we held off doing a newsletter until now. We have been busy answering inquiries, adding historical items to our collections, and, most excitedly, beginning to work on a future project. You can find more information about this project in the activities section of the newsletter. We replaced the long-running display in our cabinet at the Community Center this spring. The new display "BLAST FROM THE PAST" has past business promotional items from Rosemount area businesses. If you haven't seen it, check it out next time you are at the Community Center. In April, several members of the RAHS made a field trip to the Lakeville Area Historical Society Museum to see a display of artifacts recovered in "Privy Digs" by Dave Labno and his son Sullivan. Some years ago, Dave Labno, Jerry Mattson, and John Loch dug many old outhouse sites in Rosemount and found thousands of artifacts. The display can be viewed from the hallway even if the Lakeville Area Historical Society rooms are closed.

If you know of any historically minded family members or friends who would like to join us or receive the RAHS newsletter, have them contact us at rosemounthistory@charter.net or call Maureen at 651-

**Rosemount Area Historical Society (RAHS) 2022
Board Members**

President: Jerry Mattson

Vice President: John Loch

Secretary: Mike Bouchard

Treasurer: Maureen Geraghty Bouchard

Trustees: Kate Mattson, Marty Jo Bruyer & Ghislain Devlaminck

Newsletter Editor: Ghislain Devlaminck

423-4603. We are continuing our policy of not requiring membership dues for the foreseeable future. Rest assured, the Rosemount Area Historical Society is certainly alive and well.

Sincerely,
Gerald (Jerry) Mattson
President, Rosemount Area Historical Society

RAHS Activities

Meetings are the first Wednesday of every month at **7 PM** in the **Rosemount Community Center**. Check the electronic screen when you enter the building for the room number. Upcoming meeting date is Wednesday, Nov 2nd. There are no meetings in July and December.

RAAC "FREE AIR" Performance.

Rosemount Area Arts Council (RAAC), in partnership with RAHS, is planning to present a play in August 2023 based on the Sinclair Lewis novel FREE AIR. Some scenes of the silent movie FREE AIR, based on the novel were filmed in Rosemount in 1921. In the Minneapolis Star and Tribune "Curious Minnesota" article of Dec. 3, 2021, a reader asked -What was the first movie made in Minnesota? The Minnesota Historical Society believed it to be FREE AIR, released in May 1922. The reporter contacted Gerald Mattson, who has done much research on this lost movie. RAHS has collected an extensive archive of information and photos of the movie and the film producer, Outlook Photoplays. Many scenes were shot in Rosemount in August 1921. After the "Curious Minnesota" article appeared, John Loch, a member of both RAAC & the RAHS, got the idea of doing a play based on the movie. The RAAC Committee was enthusiastic about the idea. Preliminary work on the

production is well underway with a script written by John Loch, and it is planning to use some original movie stills as backdrops. This is the most ambitious project RAAC has ever taken on.

RAHS At "DIG IN" Open House

The "DIG IN" open house on September 8, 2022, was sponsored by Dakota Aggregates, Cemstone, Wells, and Minnesota Paving & Materials (MPM). The four companies lease land from the University of Minnesota at UMORE PARK for aggregate mining. UMORE PARK was part of the Gopher Ordnance Works (GOW) during WW2. RAHS was asked to bring our diorama of the GOW and other related items for display. This event has been held for several years, except for 2020. Attendees are customers, employee family members, and interested area residents. Several members of the RAHS were present throughout the day to answer attendees' many questions about the history of the GOW and the process of making smokeless gunpowder.

Tournament of Roses Parade

The Rose Parade, also known as the Tournament of Roses (TOR) Parade, is an annual parade that is followed by the Rose Bowl Game, in Pasadena, CA, on New Year's Day. In July, Rosemount Historian Maureen Geraghty Bouchard was asked by the city of Rosemount to give a history tour that included the Gopher Ordnance Works area, Schaar's Bluff, and other city landmarks to the President, Vice-president, and spouses of the TOR Parade. After the tour, Maureen and her husband Mike were invited by the TOR President to be present at the ceremony to officially invite the Rosemount Marching Band to participate in the 134th TOR parade on Jan. 2, 2023. At the ceremony held on Jul. 29 at Rosemount Highschool Irish Stadium, TOR President Amy Wainscott and Vice President Alex Aghajanian made the official invitation. They also presented a TOR flag to the band.

New Rosemount Police Badge

RAHS was pleased to work with the Rosemount Police Department on the design of the new officer badges. This project was started in 2018. They were looking for designs that would represent the history of Rosemount. The new badge now in use is pictured below. Rosemount



Chief of Police Mikael Dahlstrom worked with RAHS to design the new badge. Police Sargent Jeremiah Simonson who was doing historical research on Rosemount area police shared his badge and patch collection with the RAHS. Among them were badges from Rosemount, the Gopher Ordnance Works, and the

St. Paul police.

RAHS History Book Club 2022

The RAHS sponsored history book club met virtually during the pandemic but has now switched back to in-person meetings at the Robert Trail Library located at 14395 S. Robert Trail, Rosemount, MN. Monthly meetings are at 6:30 PM on the second Tuesday of the month. The book club members are currently nominating the books that are then voted on in October to choose the 12 books for the 2023 reading list.

The book club meeting is open to everyone. If you are not a regular attendee, but see a book that interests you come to the meeting. Spread the word to your friends and neighbors. Questions email rahsbookclub75@gmail.com or contact John Loch at 952-255-8545.

Upcoming Books

Nov 8: *The Swerve: How the World Became Modern* by Stephen Greenblatt

Dec 13: *Unexampled Courage: The Blinding of Sgt. Isaac Woodward and the Awakening of President Harry S. Truman and Judge J. Waties Waring* by Richard Gergel

Historic Artifacts Received / Purchased

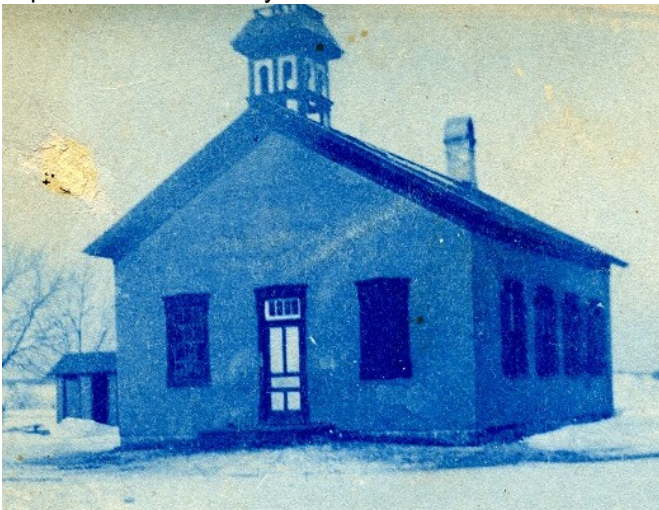
On page three is a photo of Rosemount municipal equipment that was shared with Dakota County Technical College prior to the 1974 bond issue. Three trucks and two tractors.



A picture of the German Methodist Church before 1927 that was located on what is now the corner of Burma Ave and 146th St. The church is now The Well, United Methodist Church located at 14770 Canada Ave W.



A picture of Rich Valley one room school house in 1910.



A Gopher Ordnance Works Pinback Button. Below is a picture of the button. The button will be displayed at the Community Center in the near future.



A picture taken in 1929 of the District #5 Public School that is now District 196 still standing and facing S. Robert Trl. at 143rd St W.



A 1962 photo of Gopher Village staff housing in 1962. The August 15, 1947 Dakota County Tribune article in "A Look Back in History" section of this newsletter also mentions the staff house village.



Other Items Received

- Genz Ryan Plumbing & Heating matchbook cover
- Strese Pure Oil matchbook cover
- Slide of the Rosemount Railroad Depot
- Vic's Welding Wooden Nickel Token

Feedback Wanted: Let us know how to improve this newsletter. Text [651-470-8905](tel:651-470-8905) or join us at a meeting.

A Look Back in History

Articles & Ads From the Dakota County Tribune

*The text in italics, are comments from the RAHS Newsletter editor.
The date shown in the title is the date the article was in the paper.*

September 16, 1897: New Opera House

The new opera house and dance hall has progressed rapidly the past week and is about ready for the grand opening Sept. 17. It has been reported that the tickets for the grand opening would be \$2. This is not true. The tickets will be \$1, the same as usually charged here in the past. (*\$1 in 1897 would be over \$30 in 2022*)

October 21, 1897: Frank Hackel Guilty

Frank Hackel was found guilty in Justice Devitt's court Tuesday of breaking into and robbing the dwelling house of Simon Moeller on the 18th of over \$200 (2022 - \$6,000) in money and considerable valuable papers. He was arrested Monday by officer Peter Heinen, and over \$200 found on his person. His trial was postponed until Tuesday, in order to secure the services of the County Attorney and more witnesses. Wm. Hodgson arrived here Tuesday morning and the case was called at one o'clock p. m. Hackel plead not guilty to the charge and claimed the money was his own and that he had had it in his pocket for the past six weeks. Several witnesses were sworn and testified in the matter and Hackel was bound over in the sum of \$500 (2022 = \$15,000) for his appearance at the next term of the district court in this county. Not being able to furnish the bail he was taken to Hastings Tuesday afternoon by officer Heinen to await the action of the grand jury. Frank Hackel is a young man well known in this locality and lived alone in a shanty about three miles north of this place. He was never known to do much work or to be very flush with money at

any time. Simon Moeller lives in the town of Lebanon, about two miles northwest of Rosemount, is a single man and lives alone. He was in the field working on Wednesday at the time this occurred. The tin cash box that contained the money and papers was found a short distance from the house with the bottom cut and money taken out but the papers left in the box. This man Hackel was seen several times around the place hunting and was suspected at once. This was a bold act and the guilty party should punished be for it.

October 21, 1897: Piano and Chairs

John L. Hyland was to the city Tuesday and purchased a very fine piano and seven hundred chairs for his new Opera house.

May 19, 1922: Free Air

"Free air" scenes of which were taken in Rosemount last summer in which a number of Rosemount business houses and personages, including Col. William Cadzow, are represented, will be shown at the Capital Theatre in St. Paul beginning Saturday, May 20.

August 14, 1922: Is Enjoying Radiophone



Art Stelter has installed a radiophone at his home and is enjoying concerts, speeches and market reports from all over the country.

May 23, 1947: FLUEGEL PLANS NEW WAREHOUSE DISPLAY ROOM

Leo Fluegel, Rosemount elevator proprietor, has purchased a frame building at Gopher Ordnance Works, and will move it onto his 42x90 cement block foundation at the south edge of Rosemount, within the near future.

Mr. Fluegel said the building will be used for a warehouse and display room. V. Wren of Lakeville, will attempt to move the building to town all in one piece.

May 30, 1947: Gopher Plant Gives Water To Rosemount

When fire swept through the administration building at the Gopher Ordnance Works last January, the Rosemount fire department aided the War Assets Administration in fighting the blaze.

Now the WAA has repaid the favor.

A "thank you" note from Rosemount's Mayor Leo Fluegel to WAA Regional Director Arthur W. Carlson reveals that when the Rosemount water supply failed on May 18, the Gopher Ordnance Works kept the city supplied for two days.

August 1, 1947: Fluegel Building Moved to Rosemount

Moving of the Leo Fluegel 42x90 warehouse and display building to Rosemount from the Gopher Ordnance works, was completed Monday of this week by V. Wren, building mover of Lakeville, and crew of about nine men.

No one window was broken. The building was hauled 2 ½ mi.

Mr. Fluegel purchased the building as a "war surplus" article, and built a foundation for it between Highway 218 and his elevator building.

Mr. Wren began moving operations last Monday, and completed the job last week. Placed on wheels, the building traveled at a rate of 15 miles per hour on the straight stretches of road.

August 15, 1947: TRANSFER OF 4,000 ACRES TO 'U' UNDER WAY

Gopher Ordnance Project At Rosemount Will be Research Center

The Federal Farm Mortgage (*spelled incorrectly in article*) Corporation set legal machinery in motion Wednesday for the actual transfer of 4,000 acres of Gopher Project land, to the University of Minnesota Research Laboratories at Rosemount.

Included in the 4,000 acres is farm land and residences, also the Gopher Village, consisting of 25 staff houses.

The University also plans at some future date to take over an additional 4,000 acres now controlled by the War Assets Administration. This will make a total of 8,000 acres of land.

A gigantic research center is the goal of University officials. Mr. Frank L. Fuller will be the superintendent in charge.

E. M. Deming, who has served as project manager for the FFMC said the 4,000 acres now being transferred consists of the follow - part of sec. 27, also sections 28 and 33, and part of sec. 34.

In Empire township, sections 2, 4, part of 10, all of 11, and all of 14.

The FFMC has been in control of the property for about a year. All residents leases expire August 31st.

The huge ordnance plant, which once was geared to high tempo of war activity, will soon become a center of peacetime research. At one time the project comprised better than 11,000 acres.

**October 17, 1947: PLANE CRASHES AT ROSEMOUNT
Motor of Cub Plane Quits And Dick Johnson of
Minneapolis, Tried To Land In Hilly Country Near
Rosemount**

Dick Johnson, of Minneapolis, a former chief pharmacist's mate, escaped death at 10:15 Monday morning when the motor of his Hinck Flying Service Piper cub airplane "conked out" over hilly country, and the plane crashed on the Simon Hagemeister farm, 2 ½ west of Rosemount.

Johnson who had 10 hours of solo flight to his credit, pulled himself out of the crushed cabin and walked 600 feet east to the Hagemeister farm. He had multiple gashes on his face, and he was taken to Dr. Emond office in Farmington by neighboring farmers Floyd Berg and Leonard Krueger.

After treatment he was allowed to return to his Minneapolis home.

Johnson, who gave his occupation as bank examiner, had a day off Monday so he went to Wold Chamberlain field to do some flying. When he was warming up the plane, the motor quit once, and he never should have flown the plane, he declared.

After the takeoff, he headed south over Dakota county. The motor quit, and the pilot, seeing he didn't have enough altitude to make Southport Field, banked to the east and tried to land with the wind on a green field at Hagemeister's. But he lost flying speed, and the plane stalled, and nosed straight down, landing on a hillside.

The nose of the "cub" was pushed straight up, and Johnson suffered face gashes. Blood spattered glass was strewn for several yards along the plowed field.

Johnson, holding his hand over his injured forehead, walked to the Hagemeister farm where Norma, in the milkhouse, heard someone calling "hello, hello".

Just then, neighbors Floyd Berg, and Leonard Krueger came to the place. They had seen the plane in trouble, but didn't see the crash behind the hill. They took him to Farmington.

Representative of the Civil Aeronautics authority investigated the crash.

The plane, which was owned by the Hinck Flying Service, was covered by insurance.

Editor's note: In 1914, Snelling Speedway sat where the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) operates today. The auto-racing venue was unsuccessful, and the Minneapolis Aero Club acquired the property for loftier purposes. The first hangar, a wooden structure, was constructed in 1920 to accommodate airmail service, and the 160-acre property became known as Speedway Field. In 1923, the airport was renamed Wold-Chamberlain Field in honor of two local pilots, Ernest Wold and Cyrus Chamberlain, who lost their lives in combat during World War I.

December 12, 1947: Rosemount Telephones Are Converted To Dial

Joe Flas, manager of the Central Telephone company of the Farmington, Rosemount and Lakeville telephone exchanges, state that on Wednesday the Rosemount telephone service was changed over to a dial system.

This change completes the first step toward the conversion of the towns in this group to dial operation.

Mr. Flas stated that the company is proceeding with the work and plans for the other two exchanges, Lakeville and Farmington, and expects that all of the people in this territory, which is served by the Central

Telephone company, will soon have the modern dial service.

The conversion at Rosemount was accomplished very smoothly and with very little trouble and service interruption. The new dial equipment which was recently installed in the new telephone building in Rosemount had been checked carefully by company engineers and worked very nicely as the new telephones were connected to its lines. The new telephones, which are all of the modern handset or "French phone" type, were installed just prior to yesterday so all was in readiness for the change.

In order to accomplish the actual work of making the change crews and workmen from various areas served by the company assisted with the task. These included men and ladies from Devils Lake, North Dakota; Sac City, Iowa; Canby and Slayton Minnesota, as well as construction crews and local employees. The actual change is the result of months of planning and actual work in reconstruction of all the line both in the town of Rosemount and in the rural territory. This work has been done under the supervision of K. L. Rasmus, district plan superintendent.

Comments made by the telephone users in Rosemount indicate that they greatly appreciate the new service and that they are glad to hear that Mrs. Kluckman, who has been the operator at Rosemount, will continue to work for the company at Welcome, Minn.

The First State Bank of Rosemount has been selected to be the local representative of the company and will handle collections and service problems for the company. As in the past, the repair work and supervision of the telephone service will be taken care of by the company employees at Farmington.