



Rosemount Area Historical Society (RAHS) 2024 Board Members

- President:** Jerry Mattson
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- Treasurer:** Maureen Geraghty Bouchard
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- Newsletter Editor:** Ghislain Devlaminck

RAHS Meetings

Meetings are on the first **Wednesday of every month at 7 PM.** There are no meetings in July and December. Due to remodeling at the Rosemount Community Center, we are now meeting at the Robert Trail Library, 14395 S Robert Trail, Rosemount, MN.

RAHS 2024 Second Quarter Newsletter

Website: <https://www.rosemountmnhistory.org>
Contact Email: rosemounthistory@charter.net

As the editor of this newsletter I would greatly appreciate feedback from the readers to help me improve the newsletter. Send your comments to rosemounthistory@charter.net.

Horse Ass Engineering

One hundred years ago, the economy of Rosemount village was driven by providing products and services to the surrounding farms. This included parts of what is now Rosemount, Apple Valley, Eagan, Inver Grove Heights, etc. At that time, horses were used for plowing, cultivating, seeding, and harvesting at farms.

In 1923, an International Harvester (IH) engineer named Bert R. Benjamin had a vision for a tractor that would replace horses and could do all the various fieldwork on a farm done with horses. IH came out with the Regular Tractor, the first-row crop tractor named the Farmall. In 1924, only 501 Farmalls were built in the first year of production. Over the next eight years, IH built 389,397 Farmalls.

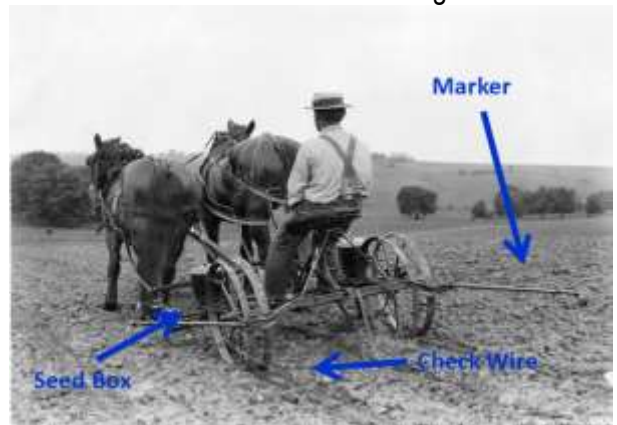


The IH Regular Tractor called the Farmall

The rear wheel spacing was based on the space need for a team of two horses the horses needed when towing a farm implement. Designing things to replace horses was

sometimes referred to as "Horse Ass Engineering," which dates back to the ancient Romans. The Romans built roads to for carriages pulled by a team of two horses. The wheels of the carriage were 56.5 inches apart.

Corn rows were separated by 40 inches to allow enough space for a two-horse team pulling the implement. Using a wire check planter, two to four seeds were dropped every 40 inches. A special wire was laid out on the field with a stake in the ground at each end. Sometimes, the wire was as long as a half mile. In the wire, there was a knot every 40 inches. As the wire slid through the planter's tripping mechanism, the knot would trip it, and the seeds would drop into the ground. So, every 40 inches, there would be a hill of corn with two to four plants. When the farmer reached the end of the row, he moved the wire stake over the two rows just planted and repeated planting two rows going the opposite way until the field was completely planted. The row crop tractor also influenced the end of wire check planting, because the weed cultivators were designed better.



Two row horse pulled corn planter could now be pulled by a row crop tractor. When planting corn each horse's feet would straddle where the row of seeds was planted.

The corn was planted in a grid, which allowed the farmer to do the first weed cultivation parallel with the rows. A week or so later he would weed cultivate again but perpendicular to how the rows were planted to get rid on the weeds in the row between corn hills. Several weeks later he would cultivate a third time parallel to the rows.



First cultivation of a wire checked corn field with the horse walking between the rows pulling a single row cultivator. The second cultivation would be perpendicular.

The "Farmall Regular Tractor" allowed the farmer to use the tractor to pull the implements that horses pulled, and there was no need to keep the horses. Because the tractor was more powerful, they could now use a two-row cultivator instead of a single-row. Plus, the belt pulley on the tractor could power a stationary thresher, which horses could not do.

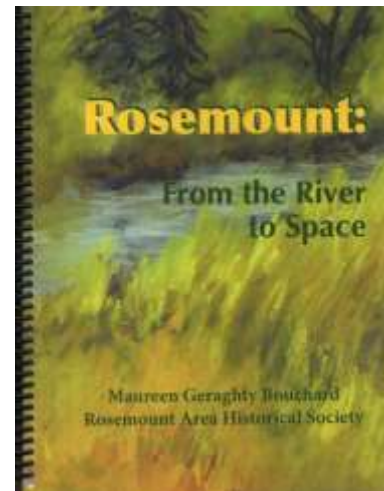
In 1918, John Deere purchased Waterloo Gasoline Engine Company, which got John Deere into the tractor business. The John Deere Waterloo Boy debuted in Kansas in 1918, but it wasn't until 1920 that the two brands came together. The tractor got its first makeover with John Deere's green and yellow colors, as well as its leaping deer logo. The John Deere Model D tractor was introduced in 1923 and became the first tractor built, marketed, and named John Deere. It replaced the Waterloo Boy in the company's product line. To compete with IH, John Deere responded with its first "General Purpose" tractor, the Model "GP," in 1928, but it was a few years later that John Deere released its first actual row-crop design in 1934 with the Model "A" and its smaller counterpart the "B," in 1935.

Mike Corcoran and Mike Ryan had a hardware and implement business in Rosemount that in its early years

was associated with IH, but later they sold John Deere equipment. Like many dealers of that time they would take horses in trade for farm implements. With the advent of the row crop tractor the need for horses was greatly reduced and many of the horses traded in probably went for slaughter to the glue factory.

From 1935 to 1942 Rudy Rechtzigel had a IH dealership in Rosemount and he'd cut all the weeds along the Rosemount roads in the spring and summer with the new tractors in his showroom.

The 100th anniversary of the first-row crop tractor is another piece that connects Rosemount from river to space. Horse-ass engineering determined the gauge of the railroads in most of the world, which are separated by 56.5 inches. When I was a kid, some of the kids would deflate the car tires a bit and drive with their car down the railroad track to the neighboring town. I measured the separation of the rear tires on both my cars, and it is still 56.5 inches. The Space Shuttle design was also influenced by horse-ass engineering because the railroad gauge determined the size of the engines that had to be shipped from Utah to Florida by rail.



Rosemount: From the River to Space

A reprint of the book *Rosemount: From the River to Space* by Maureen Geraghty Bouchard is now available as a spiral bound book with tax included for \$30 each. To purchase a copy call 651-423-4603 or send an email to: rosemounthistory@charter.net

RAHS History Book Club 2023

The RAHS history book club meets at 6:30 PM on the second Tuesday of every month at the Robert Trail Library, 14395 S. Robert Trail, Rosemount, MN.

The book club meetings are open to everyone. If you are not a regular attendee, but see a book that interests you come to the meeting. If you have not read the book you can come just to hear the comments. Spread the word to your friends and neighbors. Email questions rahsbookclub75@gmail.com or contact Gish Devlaminck at 651-470-8905.

RAHS Book Club 2024 Reading List

Aug 13: The Shattering By Kevin Boyle

Sep 10: *A Peace to End All Peace* By David Fromkin

Oct 8: The Pope at War By David I. Kertzer

Nov 12: The Soul of America By Jon Meacham

Dec 10: The Infidel and the Professor By Dennis Rasmussen

A Look Back

The articles and ads are from 125, 100 and 75 years ago of events and ads from the Rosemount area that were in the Dakota County Tribune. The text in italics, are comments from the RAHS Newsletter editor regarding the article presented. The date shown in the title is the date the article was originally published in the Dakota County Tribune.

Rosemount Area 125 Years Ago

May 12, 1899: Edward Warweg

Edward Warweg was the son of Louis and Caroline Warweg who own a hardware and implement business in Rosemount.

Edward Warweg met with a painful, but not serious accident last week. He and some other boys were out hunting squirrels. He was approaching one on a tree with the gun by his side, muzzle down, when something touched the trigger and the bullet struck on some of his toes.

May 19, 1899: Baseball Game

From the Rosemount news section and "this place" referenced in the article is Rosemount.

A game of baseball will be played here on Saturday afternoon between the "Dirty-Necks" of Farmington and the "Neversweats" of this place. It will be a hot game.

April 4, 1924: Wall and Roof of Garage Collapse During Storm

Rosemount Garage Is Wrecked When High Gale Blows Over Wall-Roof Crashes Onto Several Autos-\$3,000 Damage on Structure Covered By Insurance.

The front of the J. J. Hynes garage at Rosemount was wrecked causing the roof to collapse and on fall on

several automobiles after being lashed by a terrific wind which accompanied the severe snow storm Saturday.

The tops of the wind shields of several cars were demolished.

The damage done to the building, estimated as \$3,000, is fully covered by insurance. Most of the 12 automobiles, owned by Rosemount residents, are insured.

The building will be re-erected at the earliest possible date.

Contrary to reports, the building was not wrecked as a result of the weight of snow as the high wind blew the snow from the roof.

The roof collapsed after the wind blew over the brick front. A five foot projection of the brick front was lashed viciously all night by a 50-mile east wind. By 6:45 Saturday morning the front gave away and fell into the street. The roof, supported by the wall and heavy beams, crashed onto the cars below. The rear of the roof was supported by the back wall and did not fall to the floor.

Wm. Downey, who as on this to ring the 7 o'clock bell, was walking on the opposite side of the street when the crash came.

The cars are not damaged as much as at first thought.

Mr. Hynes said yesterday that expects to erect a more modern and better garage in every way.

April 4, 1924: ROSEMOUNT

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES ARE HONORED AT BANQUET HERE

The banquet for the presentation of letters to the basketball team and the election of the captain for 1925 was held at the Martin Café, Saturday, March 22 at 6:30 p. m.

Edwin Doyle, speedy little forward of the 1924 quint got the call as captain for the coming year. Louis McCarthy, star pitcher, was the unanimous choice for baseball captain after E. P. Doyle had declined a nomination.

A will-worded speech by Rev. L. Carey in which he commended the team on its post success was the feature of the evening. Coach B. C. Winkelman acted gracefully in the capacity as toastmaster. The letters were presented by H. J. Geraghty, treasurer of the school board. Short but stirring addresses were given by Captain Ryan and Captain-elect Doyle.

The men receiving letters were Captain Ryan, Captain-elect Doyle, McCarthy, W. Cunniff, E. P. Doyle, W. Cunniff, Schwanz, Ward and Kane. Others in attendance were Rev. Carey, John Cunniff, A. J. Ward,

H. J. Gerathy (*name spelled incorrectly in article*) and Coach Winkelman.

The event terminates a very successful season for the local quint. The Blue and White won 9 or their 10 games and met many schools of much larger enrollment. The men who remain with the squad assure us of another good aggregation next year tho five veterans will be lost through graduation.

April 25, 1924: Farm Home Looted --- Gypsies Blamed

A group of gypsies which camped north of Rosemount Sunday is believed to be the reason for the disappearance of about \$200 worth of clothing from the Jas. Doyle home.

While the Doyle family was in church at Rosemount Sunday night the house was looted. Five dresses, two Easter hats and linens were taken. Other less valuable articles were strewn about the floor.

A gang of gypsies which invaded the community that day is suspected. The Doyle home is three and half miles north of Rosemount on the Jefferson highway. (*Today the Jefferson is Minnesota Highway 3*)

May 16, 1924: 3 Teachers to Return to Rosemount

Only three instructors will return to Rosemount this year, it was announced this week. They are Catherine Hawley, seventh and eight; Marion Scott, third and fourth, and Supt. B. C. Winklemann.

Miss Gertrude Lillejord, high school principal for the past three years, will teach at Randolph, this county, next year. Miss Lillejord is returning to Randolph for the reason that her sister, who is beginning her teaching profession, has signed up to teach at the Randolph school. The Lillejord sisters desire to be together. Rosemount is unfortunate, indeed, in losing Miss Lillejord. She has been the backbone of the high school; she is energetic, conscientious, and has the interests of the students and school close to her heart. Success is bound to follow her wherever she goes.

Marion Mans, Mary Quinlan and Miss Hallickson will also teach in Randolph next year.

Miss Smith of St. Catherine's college in St. Paul, has been engaged as principal for next year. Gladys Scheiber of Macaleester (*college name misspelled in article*) will be the other high school teacher. Miss Keonig of Mankato Normal school will teach the fifth and sixth grades, and Armilla Robel of St. Cloud Normal school will teach the first and second grades.

May 16, 1924: REBUILDING OF GARAGE HAS BEEN COMPLETED

Workmen have completed rebuilding the J. J. Hynes garage which was partly demolished by a snow and wind storm this spring. The garage is more modern in every way and is in a better position to serve Rosemount.

June 6, 1924: Rosemount Lad Twirls College Ball Team To Victory

Pitching his first state conference game and showing form that made old fans sit up and take notice, Daniel Farrell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Farrell, formerly of Rosemount, twirled St. Thomas to victory over Macalester Tuesday afternoon. It was the last game of the season for the championship St. Thomas baseball team. St. Thomas won by a 14 to 2 score.

Wednesday morning's Pioneer Press said of young Farrell: "Dan Farrell, pitching his first state championship game, for the cadets showed lots of stuff and had the Macs at his mercy throughout. The Thacker pupils were only able to gather seven hits off the offerings of Farrell, three of which were of scratch variety."

Young Farrell is a product of Rosemount and learned to put the proper spin on the ball while twirling for his home team.

June 27, 1924: 3,00 AT LAYING OF CORNER STONE Rosemount Was Mecca for Hundreds of Old Residents and Others Sunday CORNER STONE WAS LAID WITH IMPRESSIVE SERVICE Archbishop Says New Edifice Is Symbol of Faith of Builders

More than 3,000 persons attended the impressive services at the laying of the corner stone of Rosemount's new \$75,000 St. Joseph's Catholic church Sunday afternoon at three o'clock. Many from Farmington, Lakeville, the Twin Cities and other points attended the ceremony.

Hundreds of automobiles were lined along the highway for several blocks. The large crowd prevented many from getting within hearing distance of the ceremony.

The procession accompanying the archbishop and visiting clergy started from Rev. Carey's house. The A. O. H. and Knights of Columbus lined up on both sides of the sidewalk. At the head of the procession was the United States flag and crucifix, the former was carried by Ray Sieckert, a Legion boy, and the latter was carried by Thos. Corrigan. After them marched 10 members of the

building committee, followed by the A. O. H. and Knights of Columbus, follow in them were the altar boys and then Archbishop Dowling with assistants consisting of Rev. Lawrence Ryan, pastor of the St. Paul Cathedral and Rev. John Dunphy, pastor of St. Mary's church, St. Paul. Rev. D. J. Moran of Farmington was an able master of ceremonies of the parade and other arrangements. Rev. Doherty assisted the Archbishop in the lay of the corner stone.

On arriving at the new church the procession to the proceeded to the sanctuary where a temporarily erected cross was blessed by the archbishop. The corner stone was blessed and marked on four sides by a trowel, the Litany of Saints was recited by the clergy and the corner stone and foundations of the church sprinkled during the chanting of the Psalm "Miserere."

The following articles were placed in the corner stone: coins, pictures of the old church and pictures of various buildings in Rosemount, a copy of the Dakota County Tribune, and the first page of the St. Paul Pioneer Press (which contained a picture of a "Merry Widow bob" to give future generations an idea of the style of hair dressing used in this age, so Rev. Carey said) Catholic Bulletin, history of the Rosemount church written by M. J. Martin, history of the American Legion, history of the Hibernian lodge and letters from the A. O. H., K. C.'s of Farmington, Hastings and South St. Paul to Rev. Carey accepting the invitation to the ceremonies, also the names of the clergy present, and a document containing a list of the national, state and village officers and a brief history of the church.

The archbishop was then escorted to the speaker's stand which was decorated with the American flag and papal colors of white and yellow. He congratulated the people of Rosemount on achieving what they had so long looked for. The new building, he said, was a symbol of faith.

Rev. Carey entertained the priests in the parsonage, and the ladies of the parish served supper to 650 persons. If the storm had not interfered they would have served 600 more.

The sum of \$1700 realized during the day.

Rev. Carey wishes to thank the community, both Catholic and non-Catholic for the presence Sunday.

The Rosemount band furnished the music for the occasion.

Parchal Stelter sold 85 tickets and received a prize.

The Legion handled the traffic in an able manner.

May 27, 1949: 1949 ROSEMOUNT SENIOR CLASS

Those still living they turned or will turn 93 in 2024.



Raymond Holz Douglas Lood Lois Rueger



Delphine Mueller Lavern Boesel Richard Brand



Marty Jo Slater Dorothy Erickstrup Joseph Fox



Bernard Garvin Delores Sell Arlene Bartelt



Frank Schuller Marvin Sell Lucille Lehary

**June 17, 1949: SUNSET VALLEY BARN DANCE
COMING TO ROSEMOUNT**

The K.S.T.P. Sunset Valley Barn Dance and Main Street Radio and Stage Show will be broadcast from Rosemount School grounds, Saturday evening, June 18. Everyone is invited to come and see Billy Folger, Jim Weston, Cactus Slim, Fiddlin Russ, Andy Walsh and all the others.

Added to this will be a special feature and talent show by the Rosemount High school Band beginning at seven o'clock. The Barn Dance broadcast will start at 8:15 p.m..

See your radio favorites in person. Don't forget the date, Saturday evening, June 18, Rosemount School grounds.

June 24, 1949: New Tourist Hotel, North Rosemount

This might be what today is the Diffely House located just past the junction of Cliff Road and Highway 3. What was the Jefferson Highway shows up on a 1949 Dakota County map as Highway 218.

A new tourist hotel will open soon, 3 1/2 miles north of Rosemount by Andrew Andreson, who moved the building near Highway 218 some time ago

It will have 15 rooms, newly decorated and furnished all modern.

June 24, 1949: Rosemount Wins 9th Straight

Rosemount defeated Hampton at Cannon Falls Tuesday night to remain undefeated in the first half of Dakota County league race. Rosemount has won its ninth straight game.

The score was 2 to 1.

Strese pitched a wonderful game, allowing three hits and striking out 26 in 11 innings. Doffing of Hampton also pitched a nice game allowing but four hits.



Robert Rechzigel Joan Thul Alfred Daly



Glenn Gill Ray Wenzel Noel Smith



Bernice Johnson Beverly Vought Esther Cliff

June 10, 1949: Rosemount High School News

The following students of Rosemount high school in grades non to twelve have an "A" average for their year's work during the school year 1948-1949. They are to be commended for the results they have gotten from their efforts.

Seniors – Laverne Bosel and

Joan Thor.

Juniors – Alice Jensen, Dorothes Kirchner and Beverly Steffen.

Sophmores – Loyd Bartelt, Joyce Jensen, John Reeder, Sandra Sachs, Robert Smith and Doris Wachter.

Freshman – Esther Flores, Verna Kirchner, Donald Kohls, Delores Millard and Lawrence Rahn.



Ellen Farron