

**Rosemount Area Historical Society (RAHS) 2023  
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**Newsletter Editor:** Ghislain Devlaminck

**RAHS 2023 Second Quarter Newsletter**

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

Contact Email: [rosemounthistory@charter.net](mailto:rosemounthistory@charter.net)

**FREE AIR**

In partnership with the Rosemount Area Historical Society (RAHS), the Rosemount Area Arts Council (RAAC) is producing a unique theatrical project. Per the Minnesota Historical Society the silent black and white movie "Free Air" based on Sinclair Lewis' Pulitzer and Nobel Prize winning novel "Free Air" was the first movie filmed in Minnesota. Parts of the movie made in 1921 were filmed in Rosemount. It was one of the first films with a dominant female character, travelogue story showing the country, and shot on-site rather than at a studio in Hollywood.

As has happened to the vast majority of silent films, all copies have been lost. But the daughter of one of the producers kept a library of still photographs from the production. She donated copies of her collection to the RAHS. John Loch re-created the story for the stage with live-action, photographs projected on a large screen, and accompaniment by live piano music and narration.

Performances at Steeple Center

14375 S. Robert Trail, Rosemount, MN

*Friday, November 10 - Premiere - Reception at 5 pm,  
Show at 7 pm (Reception includes hors d'oeuvres,  
refreshments and cash bar)*

*Saturday, November 11, 2 pm and 7 pm*

*Friday, November 17, 7 pm*

*Saturday, November 18, 2 pm and 7 pm*

*Livestream Performance, Saturday, November 11, 7 pm*

Premiere \$40 (\$36 RAAC Members)

All Other Shows \$22 (\$18 RAAC members)

Tickets: <https://www.rosemountarts.com/box-office>

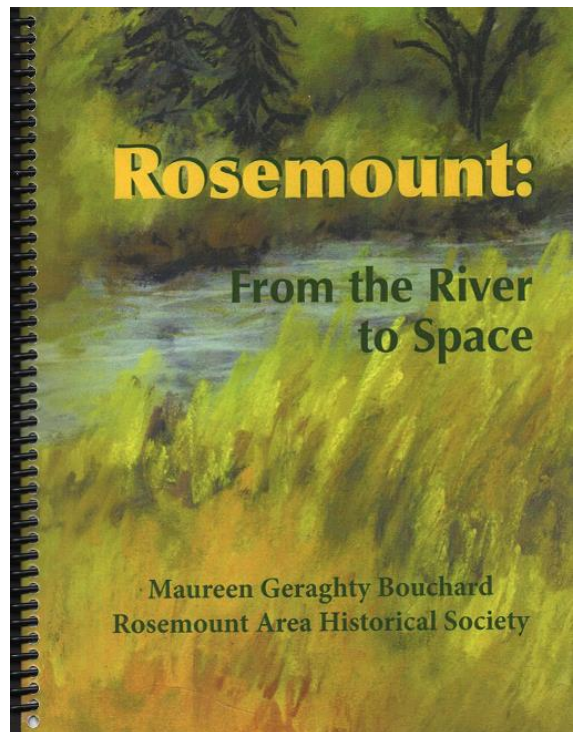
**Feedback Appreciated:** Let us know how to improve this newsletter. Text [651-470-8905](tel:651-470-8905) or join us at a meeting.

**RAHS Meetings**

Meetings are the first Wednesday of every month at **7 PM** in the **Rosemount Community Center**. Check the video screen when you enter the building for the room number. There are no meetings in July and December.

**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](mailto: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 meeting is 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](mailto:rahsbookclub75@gmail.com) or contact John Loch at 952-255-8545.

### Upcoming Books

**October 10:** In Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

**November 14:** Lies my Teacher Told Me by James W. Loewen

**December 12:** Catherine de Medici by Leonie Frieda

### 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 Dakota County Tribune.*

#### Rosemount 125 Years Ago

#### July 14, 1898: Rosemount Department

Ed. Hyland who lives half a mile west of the village lost his barn, several out buildings and about twenty tons of hay by fire Wednesday morning, cause of the fire unknown. The fire started about 6 o'clock p. m. in the hay barn. The dwelling and granary was saved by hard work. Loss about \$1,000. We cannot state if there was any insurance, Mr. Hyland and men being on his farm in the town of Empire, where he went early in the morning to cut rye.

#### July 28, 1898: Rich Valley

Another one of the territorial pioneers has passed away in the person of Thomas Clark, lately of Rich Valley, Dakota County. He died at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Reuben Shepard, 1088 Fourteenth Ave. Southeast. The deceased was seventy-six years of age and had been a resident of the state since 1855, where he took up a(sic) the first claim in Rich Valley, which was his home up to a few weeks prior to his death. Mr. Clark was a veteran of the First Minnesota battalion, and among the best known and most respected men of his community. He will be buried from the Methodist church at Rich

Valley Sunday morning. He was the father of Thomas and Edward Clark, of the Pillsbury-Washburn company. *Pillsbury-Washburn company split at some time after 1898, but then reconnect in 1923 and eventual became Pillsbury, but I have no idea what Thomas and Edward Clark did at Pillsbury-Washburn.*

#### July 28, 1898: Ira Sanger

Ira Sanger, of Rosemount, is one of the most successful bass fishers at Crystal Lake. He has succeeded, in addition to catching fish while others are hunting for them, in giving those who have seen him at this sport, a poor impression of the intelligence of the bass. Mr. Sanger makes his catches with a small piece of red flannel for a bait. It does not seem probable that Crystal Lake bass waxes fat on red flannel and the only other influence is that the bass is a very silly fish. A possible additional explanation would be their near sightedness, in which case Dr. A. P. Roper might be able to aid them on his next visit to this locality.

#### August 4, 1898: Drowned

Joseph A. Geraghty, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Geraghty, of St. Paul, was drowned in Crystal Lake on Thursday, July 28, at about tow o'clock p. m. Joseph with his two elder brothers Johnny and Tommy and Martin Kennedy, son of M. F. Kennedy of St. Paul were camping at the lake. The four young men had been over to the Sanger place on the opposite of from where their camp was located. On their return the wind began to blow harder causing the waves to roll high. When they were about 300 feet from the their landing place the boat filled with water from the heavy waves dashing it on both sides and tipped over throwing the occupants into the lake in over 25 feet of water. The elder Geraghty boys clung to the boat while Mr. Kennedy swam to the shore over 250 feet, against the heavy waves, but Joseph Geraghty seemed dazed during the struggle in the water, as though struck on the head. When he came up beside the boat and could not retain his hold on the overturning craft, his brothers made every effort to save him but without avail and the young man sank within a few of the boat. Meanwhile Kennedy had reach the shore and he then ran to the camp, got another boat and put out with all speed to rescue his companions struggling for their live in the water. Mr. Sanger had the seen the boys in danger and he also proceeded to their assistance with a boat reaching them at about the time Mr. Kennedy had got there. The Geraghty boys were taken up nearly exhausted from their struggles but the boats arrived too

late to save Joseph, who sank in over 25 feet of water. The news of the tragedy reached here in about an hour after its occurrence and in a very short time a crowd was on its way to the lake to find the body. The lake was dragged all that evening, the next day and Saturday, about 75 pounds of dynamite being use with no success until Sunday morning when the body was found floating near the spot where he had gone down. The people of Farmington, Lakeville, this place and the surrounding country turned out to keeping up a continual search for the body. The body was taken to Rosemount were it was taken in charge by the undertakers, Donelly and McCarthy, of St. Paul.

The deceased was born in this village and about nineteen years ago living here until about 5 years ago when the family moved to St. Paul. He was a promising young man, loved and respected by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

The funeral was held from St. Joseph's church, Monday, August 1, at 10:30 a. m., Rev. Father Quinn, of Lakeville, officiating. After a lengthy and touching sermon by Rev. Father McNutty, of St. Paul, accompanied by the usual impressive and beautiful ceremonies of the Catholic church (*church was lower case in article*). The remains were followed to the cemetery by the largest procession of sorrowing friends and relations that has ever attended a funeral in this parish, an evidence of the high esteem in which the deceased was held and respect for the family who mourn his departure from this life.

### Rosemount 100 Years Ago

#### July 27, 1923: Truck Crash

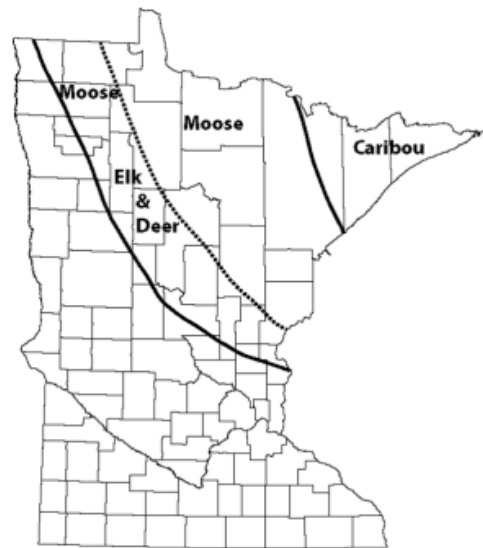
A truck from Faribault plunged over a 7-foot embankment at Wescott Saturday and was partly demolished. It was being towed in by another truck. When the truck ahead put on its brakes the rear truck did likewise, but it failed to stop, and plunged in the ditch.

#### August 3, 1923: Robbers Break In Oil Station - GET 16 Tires

Robbers broke through the north window of the John Bartelt filling station at Rosemount Tuesday night and stole 16 tires. They left no clue. The filling station is insured by Gale Burglar Insurance company, of St. Paul. Mr. Bartelt informed the insurance company of the robbery Wednesday morning and action was started immediately.

#### August 10, 1923: Wild Deer Rosemount

Henry Hagemeister Jr. tells the Tribune reporter that while at the E. B. McMenemy home last Friday evening, he with a number of the McMenemy family, saw a deer in the pasture. He says they approached within three hundred feet of the deer when it jumped over the fence and ran away. Where it came from no one knows, other than it is supposed to have strayed down from the deer country in the north woods. This is said to be the first wild deer seen in these part in 37 years. (*Map below was not part of article, but helps explain why a deer sighting in Rosemount made the news.*)



Minnesota Deer, elk, moose & caribou range map around 1880

#### August 17, 1923: Wild Deer Seen Again

The deer seen at the McMenemy place northeast of Rosemount as reported in last week's Tribune was seen by Christie Ratzloff seven miles west of Rosemount.

#### September 14, 1923: Rosemount School

The Rosemount High School will put on a play in the near future for the purpose of raising enough money to buy 100 new books for the library.

In two years the Rosemount high school has doubled its enrollment, according to attendance figures at the school this year. Two years ago the enrollment totalled (SIC) and this year the figures mount to 56 with a prospect of several more students soon. The total attendance in the grades and high school this year is 179.

#### September 28, 1923: Rosemount Woman Writes Views of Convention by Mrs. John McLafferty

The A. O. H. and L. A. of A. O. H. convention opened in St. Paul Tuesday morning, September 18, with a mass at the cathedral. A joint session was held at the cathedral school following the church services. Mayor Nelson gave the address of welcome, to which the State Superintendents T. J. Doyle and Mrs. Ellen Conroy of St. Paul responded. H. A. McCarthy, president of the Ramsey county organization, preside at the meeting.

Morning and afternoon sessions of the A. O. H. were held at their club house on the corner of Summit and Arundel. The L. A. A. O. H. held their sessions at the banquet hall of St. Francis hotel. After a short business session Tuesday afternoon the delegates adjourned until evening when an open house entertainment was held at the club house.

The annual ball of joint state convention of Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Auxiliary was September 19, at the Hibernian club 435 Summit Ave.

Officers of men's organizatin (*SIC*), besides the president, who attended the convention were: Vincent P. O'Brien of Duluth vice-president; J. O'Donnell of Minneapolis, general secretary; T. A. Rafferty of St. Paul, insurance secretary, and John Sheeny of Montgomery, treasurer.

The state officers of the women's auxiliary in St. Paul are Mrs. Mary Murphy of Duluth, vice-president; Mrs. Anna K Bryant of Minneapolis, general secretary; Miss Margaret Grady of Stillwater, insurance secretary and Mrs. Thomas Cashman of Owatonna, treasurer.

There were 225 women and 150 men delegates registered at the convention headquarters at St. Francis hotel. The concluding session of the convention was held Thursday September 20. Many good resolutions were made for the good and welfare of the orders.

*So why did your newsletter editor put this letter about this convention in the newsletter. It is written by a woman from Rosemont and Rosemount is considered and Irish settlement. The Ancient Order of Hibernians is America's oldest Irish Catholic Fraternal Organization founded concurrently in the coal-mining region of Pennsylvania and New York City in May, 1836. The Order can trace its roots back to a series of similar societies that existed in Ireland for more than 300 years. Today the AOH exists in America, Canada, Ireland, England, Wales and Scotland, however, while the organizations share a common thread, the American AOH is a separate and much larger organization. Hibernia is the Classical Latin name for the island of Ireland.*

## Rosemount 75 Years Ago

### July 2, 1948: Polio Hospital

The polio hospital which has been in operation here for the past year, was closed Wednesday and the patients have been taken to other hospitals for treatment. The hospital has been under the direction of the state university since January 1947. What use the facilities may be put to in the future has not yet been decided.

*This facility was located UMore which was the Gopher Ordinance plant during WW2. The Gopher Ordinance land was sold to the University of Minnesota at the end of WW2.*

### July 9, 1948: New Account Service Begins At Rosemount

Newman's Accounting Service, featuring bookkeeping for the small business, is beginning operation at Rosemount this week, according to an ad this issue. Joyce Newman is the proprietor of the new firm.

The accounting service will take care of bookkeeping, all accounting, income tax and business survey etc.

Newman's have been granted the franchise for "Easy Do" business survey and recording book.

### July 9, 1948: Rosemount Pre-Cut House Soon Ready For Occupancy

The pre-cut seven-room house of Mr. and Mrs. John Balkowitsch will be ready for occupancy within two weeks at Rosemount near the high school.

The dwelling was begun about six weeks ago, and work has been going ahead with rapid progress. The lumber comes ready cut.

*Does anyone know where this house is? Pre-cut houses were sold by Sears, Montgomery Ward and other companies, but after WW2 the pre-cut housing operations were cut way back by most companies.*

### July 16, 1948: Rosemount Band Plans Concerts

The Rosemount band will meet on Thursday, July 16, 7:30 p.m. to arrange for the annual summer concerts.

The band has been asked to play August 1 in Mendota for the Fireman's celebration.

Lessons will commence during the week of July 19. All those interested in taking lessons on any band instrument please contact Mr. Bussmann or Mr. Baumgartner at the school Registration for summer lessons will take place on Thursday morning, July 15, and again on Thursday morning, July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Plans are being made for the annual band picnic.

The Rosemount High school vocal groups will meet later on in August to plan their program for the coming year.

If it is more convenient, please address a letter to the school.

The first summer concert is scheduled for Saturday evening July 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **July 16, 1948: Rosemount Mother's Club**

The Rosemount Mother's club is sponsoring a party for the children of Rosemount on Thursday July 22. Children up to 8 years of age will be entertained at the Recreation Hall from 2:30 to 5:00 P. M. The 8 through 12 group will go roller skating at the Farmington Roller Rink from 2:30 to 5:00 P. M. This group may register with Mrs. Earl Corcoran before July 22. The roller skate fees for this group will be 25c. The 13 up group will go skating at the Farmington Roller Rink from 8:00 to 10:30 P. M. The group may register with Mrs. Al Kirchner. The fees for this group will be 45c. Meeting place will be at the recreation hall for all groups. If there are any volunteer drivers contact Mrs. Earl Corcoran or Mrs. Al Kirchner.

### **July 30, 1948: Gopher Plant May Be Army Research Center**

It was announced Tuesday that the former Gopher Ordinance Plant of Rosemount now belonging to the University of Minnesota, may become a new "hot and cold" army testing laboratory research center according to Dr. John, aero engineering chief, reported Monday.

A Washington army spokesman said prospects are favorable that will award the project to the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Ackerman has listed the following facts to the army which would be favorable for the establishment at Rosemount.

A supply of qualified personnel in Minnesota.

A laboratory out of the congested city yet nearby population center to provide living quarters for scientists.

The hot and cold tests apply to clothing such as the right kind of gloves in the cold, and still enabling a man to handle delicate instruments.

The Rosemount area is an 8000 acre tract of Dakota County and was turned over to the University of Minnesota by the war assets administration after the war.

It has already become a center for research in aeronautics, medicine and biology, animal and poultry raising and crop breeding and testing.

### **August 8, 1948: Kids Parade at Rosemount**

Members of the American Legion club at Rosemount are sponsoring a Doll Buggy parade to be held in Rosemount on Wednesday evening, August 18 at 8 o'clock p. m.

The high school band will participate in the parade and play later in their regular evening concert.

All children are urged to decorate their doll buggies, tricycles, bicycles and scooters. There are a number of nice prizes in store for the prettiest buggy and bike.

All those interested in taking part in the parade are to be at the Rosemount high school at 7:30 p. m. on August 18.

Three out of town judges will pick the winners..

### **August 20, 1948: Army Makes Big Scoop**

The army made a big scoop in Rosemount last week according to T Sgt. Orff, the local recruiting sergeant. Two former Navy men, after much consideration decided to cast their lot with the army and are now enlisted in the service. Darrell Harris, husband of Phyllis Harris, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernst Harris, enlisted in the counter intelligence corps. Sgt. Orff enlisted Darrell in the grade of T Sgt., again proving the opportunities open to veterans who want to go in now and get some of the good ratings that are open to veterans.

The other enlistee was Stuart Page husband of Phyllis Page, and son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. George Gill of Rosemount. He enlisted in the American Security agency.

Both of these units work along the same lines, that of investigative work, sabotage, subversive intelligence etc. Both of these men will go to school for about three to six months and then will be assigned to special offices to the army or air forces.

There are still many openings in these service and many others for men who like to this interesting type of work.

Sgt. Orff said he will be glad to explain anything that is confusing in the prospective draftee if they will only stop him on the streets or drop him a line making know their problems.

### **August 20, 1948: Rosemount News Clothing Donation**

All women's organizations have been asked to participate in a national drive for 5-million infants and children's garments, to be sent to the Pope's store room, from whence the clothing is to be distributed to needy children over the entire world. Every Catholic woman has been asked to contribute ONE new garment. This

particular project of post-war relief will end September 8<sup>th</sup>, and will be conducted in addition to the “used clothing” project which will continue throughout the year. All garments for the Pope’s store room will be sent through the parish organization to the War relief service, New York City.

### **September 10, 1948: Rosemount Outdoor Movies**

The Rosemount out-door movies have gone over with a bang! The gripping serial with its never-ending explosions, etc. etc., have kept at least the “small fry” busy contemplating the outcome from week to week. The Junior G-men find themselves in many a tight place, but inevitably get themselves out, in the end of course, our heroes will be rewarded! Something to think about a theater in town.

### **September 17, 1948: Traffic Accidents**

One man was killed and seven were hurt in three traffic accidents near Rosemount, within four days.

John Beekenkamp, 68-year-old janitor of the Rosemount school, was fatally injured Saturday evening at 9:30 at the west edge of Rosemount, when he was struck by a Farmington car.

The Rosemount man, who had been residing at the Hubert Uitenborgerd home, died while being rushed to Sanford hospital in Steele’s ambulance. The deceased had fractures of the skull, a nearly severed right foot, a fractured left arm, and multiple body bruises.

Mr. Beekenkamp was walking westward on the left side of County 11 blacktop, at the west edge of Rosemount near the Martin Stock home. A westbound car driven by George August Betzold, age 19, of Farmington, swerved to the left to pass another west bound machine driven by Ferdinand Sieben, of Hastings.

The Betzold car, a 1948 Chrysler owned by the youth’s father, George Betzold of Farmington, struck Mr Beekenkamp throwing his head against the windshield.

Betzold, who was alone in the car, stopped to give first aid, calling an ambulance and summon authorities. He told police he was traveling about 30 miles per hour, and he didn’t see the man who wore dark clothes. A large crowd of motorists and Rosemount residents gather at the scene.

The left headlight and left side of the windshield were damage by the impact.

At Sanford hospital Mr. Beekenkamp was pronounced dead by Dr. Flores.

### **September 24, 1948: Rosemount Man’s Mother Makes Home For Vet’s Family**

Mrs. Lenore Bussmann, mother of George Bussmann, Rosemount music instructor, gave a helping hand where it was needed this week. But first here’s the story from the beginning.

Joe Lytic, 23, unemployed marine veteran, who was wounded on Guadalcanal during 40 months service overseas, lost his job as a baker, Sept 1. He has been living with his wife and three children, Ronnie, 3, Bobby, 20 months, and Garland, five months, in a basement hotel room at 1301 Fourth avenue South, Minneapolis.

Monday, in desperation, Lytic offered to give up one of his eyes in exchange for a down payment on a house.

Nobody wanted either of Joe’s eyes, but Mrs. Bussmann, 1740 Marshall avenue, St. Paul, offered to share here eight-room home with Lytics.

Joe said, gratefully, he will accept it.

### **History Trivia Question**

*Come up with the correct answer and you can select one of the books listed below and get it free.*

*Text your answer to 651-470-8905.*

### **About 150 plus years ago, what was a hand-held “sunder” and what was it used for?**

Where Mountains Roar by Lesely Hazleton - A personal report from the Sinai and Negev Desert

A Way Through the Sea by Robert Elmer - Jewish kids escape from Denmark to Sweden in WW2

The Conquerors by Michael Beschloss – Roosevelt, Truman and the destruction of Hitler’s Germany

Genghis Khan by Jack Weathford – The making of the modern world

Acres High by Alan Clark – A war in the air over the western front 1914-18

South to the Pole by Ski by Joseph E. Murphy – Nine man and two women pioneer a new route to the South Pole