



RAHS 2024 Third Quarter Newsletter

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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.

Brockway Glass

Brockway Glass Company was founded in 1907 in Brockway, Pennsylvania, by the Brockway Machine Bottle Company which later became Brockway Glass. Brockway manufactured and sold glass containers and tubing along with plastic products manufactured through wholly owned subsidiaries. In 1960, Brockway Glass Company was the fourth-largest glass company in the U.S.



Rosemount Area Historical Society (RAHS) 2024 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

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.

In 1942, George Elliot's 160-acre farm was taken by the U.S. Government through eminent domain for the development of the Gopher Ordinance Works. Mr. Elliot then bought a 110-acre farm north of Rosemount Village, where he moved his family. He later sold this land to Brockway Glass.

In March 1960, Brockway Glass Company asked the Village of Rosemount, MN, to rezone the 110 acres of the Elliot Family farm from agriculture to industrial. They built their 8th plant on this property for \$4 million (\$42,540,000 in 2024). Construction of the new plant started in June 1960, using 2,000 tons of structural steel, if put end to end would stretch for more than 59 miles.



2002 aerial image of closed Brockway Glass plant



1957 Aerial Image of Elliot farm with 2023 map overlay

The Brockway facility consisted of several buildings. One building contained furnaces and two large smoke stacks. On the same land, a 9-hole golf course, softball field, and trapshooting range were also built for employee recreation activities.

By April 1961, the plant had four production lines and produced one million glass bottles daily. The plant supplied bottles for the Midwest's pharmaceutical, canning, food packaging, and bottling businesses. The raw materials used to make these products were sand, limestone, and soda ash. Soda ash, also known as sodium carbonate, is a white, odorless, water-soluble salt that's a key ingredient in glass production. Three hundred tons of raw sand was used per day. By rail, much of these raw materials came from Le Sueur, MN.

In 1969, the plant had approximately 350 employees working three shifts per day, seven days per week. The plant was closed on holidays, but a skeleton crew had to be kept on duty to maintain the two large brick furnaces. These furnaces used to melt glass into a molten state at a temperature of 2,700 degrees, could fall apart if they got too cool.

In 1970, Brockway Glass completed a one-million-dollar (\$8,113,299 in 2024) expansion, which doubled the size of the warehouse and added four more production lines. In 1971, Brockway Glass was one of the first companies in the U.S. to start recycling glass bottles.

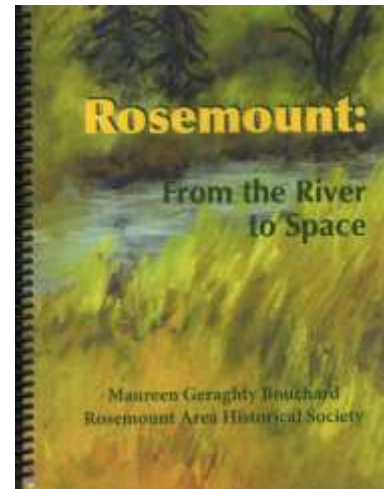
The increase use of plastic and some states requiring deposits on beer and soft drink bottles caused production to drop. On October 2, 1984 Brockway announced that the plant would close on January 1, 1985 causing the layoff of 450 employees. In 1987, Winko Warehousing modified the north end of the building for commercial warehousing. The other end of the building was primarily occupied by various critters such as birds, rats, mice, etc. In 2004 the building and smoke stacks were taken down. In 1987, Owens-Illinois made a bid of \$60 (\$166 in 2024) per share (worth \$750 million (\$2,078,318,661 in 2024)) to acquire Brockway, which the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) resisted. A Federal District Judge denied the FTC's request for an injunction and Owens-Illinois acquired the Brockway shares. The merger resulted in the wholly owned subsidiary, Owens-Brockway Glass Containers Inc.

Where the Brockway plant was located, is now the Harmony Village development which is mostly townhouses.



Smoke stack coming down in 2004

There also are photos, artifacts and other Brockway Glass information in the display case at the Robert Trail Library.



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 2024

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 Devlaminc at 651-470-8905.

RAHS Book Club 2024 Reading List

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 from the Dakota County Tribune with connections to the Rosemount area. The date shown in the title is the date the article was originally published in the Dakota County Tribune. The text in italics, are comments from the RAHS Newsletter editor regarding the article presented. If "sic" is in a sentence that means a quoted text includes a spelling or grammatical error from the original source

Rosemount Area 125 Years Ago

July 14, 1899: New Justice

The resignation of T. E. Devitt as Justice of the Peace for the village was presented to the Council at their meeting held on the 10th. The same was accepted and Peter Heinen was appointed to fill the vacancy. Mr. Heinen will make a good justice as he understands the business thoroughly.

August 11, 1899: Barn Burns

Patrick Hynes jr. of Empire lost his barn and his team of horses by lightning on the night of Aug. 8th. The barn was insured for \$150 (\$5,690 in 2024), but there was no insurance on the horses.

August 18, 1899: Horses Accepted

Nine horses out of twenty-one were accepted for the U.S. Cavalry service by the board of inspectors which met here on the 11th.

August 25, 1899: Elevator & Lumber Sold

The Geraghty elevator is now completed and ready to receive all kinds of grain for which the very highest prices will be paid.

The Rosemount Lumber Company has done a large business this season and at present there is a great deal of lumber going out every day.

September 22, 1899: Young Men Took Freight

Three of our most prominent young men took the freight Tuesday at 1:00 PM for Faribault. It is supposed they beat their way on the train as the last seen of them leaving here they were on top of a box car hanging for all was out. We cannot say when or how they returned, but can safely say they were very much disappointed when they arrived in Faribault.

Rosemount Area 100 Years Ago

July 18, 1924: Klansman Gives Address at Local Tourist Park

Rev. W. S. Harper of Minneapolis Outlines Klan Principles Tuesday Night

For the first time in the history of Farmington a representative of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan gave a public address here. The meeting was held at the Tourist park. Tuesday night and was attended by a large crowd.

The speaker, who afterwards gave his name as Rev. W. S. Harper of Minneapolis, said he had been going about the state the past two years giving addresses on the average of five per week.

The speaker opened the meeting by leading the audience in the first verse of "America." He then offered a prayer.

His speech was mainly made up of an explanation of klan's principles and platform. To be a klansman one must believe in the following he said;

The Tenets of Christian religion.

White supremacy.

Protection of pure womanhood.

Just Laws and Liberty.

Closer relationship of Pure Americanism.

The upholding of the Constitution of the United States.

The Sovereignty of our State Rights.

Freedom of Speech and Press.

Closer relationship between Capital and American Labor.

Preventing the causes of mob violence and lynchings.

Preventing unwarranted strikes by foreign labor agitators.

Prevention of fires and destruction of property by lawless elements.

The limitation of foreign immigration.

The much needed local reforms.

Law and order.

After explaining in detail the planks he said: "If any of you want to know more about the klan you may write to Box 152, Northfield, Minn."

July 25, 1924: Rosemount Area News

About fifty auto loads of persons of out of town came in Friday to take in the open air movies which are being put on by the business people of Rosemount to last through the summer months and until some time in October.

August 15, 1924: County Engineer Favors Gas Tax

County Engineer J. Swan passed through here Wednesday on his way to Lakeville to be on hand as Contractor George Oswald began the work of graveling State Road No. 1 between Lakeville and Rosemount. Later in the day the county engineer went to Castle Rock and inspected the recently graded road No. 13 which passes through Castle Rock. Mr. Swan stamped his seal of approval upon the proposed gas tax which Minnesota will probably inaugurate in the near future. "The tax will bring three or four million dollars into this state annually," he said. "Tourists laugh at us when they get the free use of the roads—they expect to pay a tax," he said.

Three to four million in 1924 would be fifty five to seventy four million in 2024.

August 29, 1924: Farmer Hit By Train—In Hospital
Albert Franz, of Rosemount, Is Injured While Returning From Threshing

Albert Franz who lives one half mile east of Rosemount was brought to Sanford hospital here late Wednesday afternoon suffering from injuries sustained when the auto in which he was riding was struck by a southbound Rock Island passenger train on the railroad crossing at the east edge of Rosemount. His back and arm were quite badly injured, but physicians said his condition is not serious.

Mr. Franz was returning from threshing at 4:30 and had just driven out of the Ted Wetterlin field. Approaching the crossing Mr. Franz did not see the train as it was shielded from view by a high wagon which was also approaching the crossing.

The auto was thrown two rods. The victim of the crash was pinned inside car. He was extricated by passing motorists.

Mr. Franz has a wife and three children. He worked for Wiliham Wescott last year.

August 29, 1924: 4 Caught In Moon Raid At Rosemount

Moonshiners Flee to Woods When Officers Call—Caught in St. Paul

Rosemount officers spread their net(sic) Monday and caught three moonshiners, 42 barrels of mash and a 152-gallon still, according to reports received here this week.

The three (sic) caught in the raid are A. Finkelstein, Max Herman, Walter Ball and Charley Franz. The men and the still were found on the Charley Franz farm in Eagan town. (Probably should be Eagan Township) The officers who made the raid are Joe Heine, Rudy Fischer, deputy (sic) sheriffs, and Fred Hagemeister, constable.

The men, according to police, had been operating the still since July 8 and had been manufacturing 60 gallons of moonshine a night and hauling it to St. Paul where it was sold for about \$3.50 (\$64.43 in 2024) per gallon.

When the officers approached the Franz farm Monday, the law violators spied them and fled into the woods and then to St. Paul. In the Capitol City the moonshiners were apprehended by the Rosemount officers.

They were arraigned before Justice of Peace M. J. Mullery at Rosemount Tuesday and each given a \$100 (\$1,840.91 in 2024) fine and costs.

September 5, 1924: ROSEMOUNT LOSES SECOND MAYOR BY DEATH IN 2 YEARS

W. E. Martin Dies in Mounds Park Sanitarium, St. Paul. WAS IN BUSINESS IN ROSEMOUNT FOR PAST 19 YEARS

Many Pay Last Respects at Funeral Saturday A. M.

Rosemount lost its second mayor in two years Thursday morning of last week when W. E. Martin, aged 43, president of the village board, and prominent business man, passed away at Mounds Park sanitorium, St. Paul, where he had been receiving medical treatment since June 25 following a long period of work which overtaxed his strength.

The news of Mr. Martin's death, although expected the past several weeks, came as a shock to his many friends. Skilled physicians, were consulted up the past but death struck its blow and his frail body gave way and he was ushered into eternity.

The deceased was born in Owensboro, Kentucky, Feb. 2, 1881. He came to Rosemount in the spring of 1905 and started in business in the building now occupied by the Martin Cafe. By hard labor he built up the business until his café is to be one of the between Rosemount and the Iowa line.

September 26, 1924: Rosemount Ad

Oxidite
 GUARANTEED BATTERIES
 ONE YEAR
\$13.50
 OTHER SIZED BATTERIES
 IN PROPORTION

30 Day's Trial
 In your own car
J. J. HYNES
 Rosemount, - - Minnesota

\$13.50 would \$249.52 in 2024

Rosemount Area 75 Years Ago

August 5, 1949: Rosemount Bank Changes Hands
Sells Rosemount Bank



F. A. RUHR

Ralph M. Toombs and Wm. Hagemeister have bought the interest of F. A. Ruhr in The First State Bank of Rosemount. The former has been associated with the bank for thirty-one years and became its Cashier in January 1929; the latter is proprietor of Hagemeister Fairway Market, Rosemount, which he bought in June, 1931. The bank continues to be a wholly Rosemount-owned institution.

Ten years ago he was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Hindrichs, a Rosemount girl.

When Mayor Cadzow died October 21, 1922, Mr. Martin was appointed mayor, and the past two years he has been honored by being re-elected to that office.

Due to overwork, Mr. Martin's health began to fall and this summer went to Mounds Park sanitorium, in St. Paul, where he remained until his death. It was thought on several occasions that he would recover and return home but that tide turned against him and death came at 8 o'clock Thursday morning, Aug 28.

The funeral services were held at St. Joseph's church in Rosemount, Saturday morning, Rev. Fr. Carey officiating. A large gathering witnessed the last rites. Burial was I St. Joseph's cemetery.

Besides his sorrowing wife, he leaves to mourn his death, two brothers, Gust of Rosemount, Joseph K. of Cloverport, Kentucky, two sisters Mrs. Bert Pendelton of Owensboro, Kentucky and Mrs. Jas. Mardesty of Evansville, Ind. His aged parents Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Martin reside in Owensboro.

He was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

During his 19 years of residence in Rosemount Mr. Martin, by his goodhearted nature and friendly smile, won many friends who sincerely regret his untimely death in life's prime.

Mrs. Martin will have charge of the management of the café at present.

At a meeting of the village board Monday night, Jim Hyland was appointed to the unexpired term of mayor but Mrs. Hyland said over the phone yesterday that her husband declined to accept the office.

September 12, 1924: Thieves Enter Rosemount Drug Store--\$70 Gone

Burglars broke into the Bernier Drug store at Rosemount Monday night and stole cash and valuables amounting to \$70 (*Would be \$1,288.64 in 2024*). The thieves broke into the front basement window but failing in their attempt to gain entrance to the door above the cellar stairway, they crawled out though the basement window and after prying at the east window of the store, gained intrance (*sic*) and ripped off the prizes on a punch board and stole nickles (*sic*) and dimes from cash register. They went out through the front door and left it open. This is the second time the drug store has been robbed within a year.

The officers of the bank now are Ralph M. Toombs, president and cashier, and Wm. Hagemeister, vice president. The board of directors consists of Ralph M. Toombs, Wm. Hagemeister and L. K. Toombs.

Capital surplus reserves and undivided profits of the bank total \$83,290.66 (*Would be \$1,101,662.46 in 2024*). Total resources are approximately \$1,300,000.00 (*Would be \$17,194,740 in 2024*).

A deal was completed August 1 in which F. A. Ruhr sold The First State Bank of Rosemount to Ralph A. Toombs.

Mr. Ruhr has been in the banking business for the past 40 years, nearly all of which time has been in Rosemount. Commencing as a bookkeeper in 1910, and has been president of the bank since 1929.

During that period of time he assisted in organizing banks at Mendota, Webster, Bixby and Almora, Minnesota, was the vice president of the State Bank of Northfield, selling his interests when he became president of Rosemount bank. He also was president of the Dakota County Bankers Association, a director of the Four County Division of the Minnesota Bankers Association and member of the Agriculture Committee of the Minnesota Bankers Association during his banking career.

Mr. Ruhr states that he has no plans for the immediate future but that he and Mrs. Ruhr intend to do some traveling and later spend some time in Los Angeles, California getting acquainted with their youngest granddaughter Susan Ruhr, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ruhr, born last December.

Mr. Ruhr said today he wanted to express his sincere thanks to all his friends for the splendid patronage and cooperation given to him during his many years in the banking business in Rosemount. He said it was a pleasure to be of service to the public.

September 16, 1949: 3 Men Admit Break-ins Here And Rosemount

Three young men from Fredric, Wisconsin, have admitted break-ins at Farmington, Rosemount, Albert Lea, Northfield and Alexandria, also about two dozen burglaries in North Dakota.

The places broken into about July 30, 1940, were the Pureoil (sic) company at Rosemount and the Schroeder's Standard station at Farmington. Total loot was \$136 (*Would be \$1,798.83 in 2024*). It is believed they were not implicated in the theft of two wheels and two tires at the Community Oil station, several nights later.

Picked up were Ralph Fees, 18 Kenneth Fees, 19 and Charles Sahr, 20. All three have admitted the acts were committed on a week end spree.

At Schroeder's station they broke through a back window and removed a Philco car radio, valued at \$41 (*Would be \$542 in 2024*). At Rosemount they entered through the east rest room, and took 3 sets of directional signals, 2 auto tubers, 2 one-gallon cans of white paint, \$6 (*Would be \$79 in 2024*) in cash, 6 bottles of Coke, and 30 gallons of gas from a truck. The total value there was estimated at \$75 (*Would be \$992 in 2024*).

The Dakota county sheriffs office will check on some of accessories recovered at Grantsburg and Balsam Lake, Wisconsin.

June 10, 1904 St. Paul Yesterday Group

This is a posting from the [Saint Paul Yesterday Group](#) on Facebook. This article was given to me by one of the RAHS members about two Rosemount farmers getting jailed in St. Paul. There are many interesting postings on this Facebook site for you history buffs.

Benjamin Ives and Harry Huych two Rosemount farmers had brought a wagon of hay to St. Paul to sell. As it was getting late they put their horses and wagon in a livery stable. They decided to avoid the expense of renting a room and instead went to sleep in a barn on south Wabasha and Fillmore street. St. Paul police were notified about two suspicious characters seen entering the barn. SPPD Detective Anthony Rowland and Patrolman Martin Kuettel of the Ducas substation were dispatched to investigate. Ives and Huych hearing the men enter the barn believed them to be bandits looking to rob the farmers. Huych hid \$18 (*Would be \$636.67 in 2024*) in his hat which he hid on the floor. Ives had \$5 (*Would be \$176.65 in 2024*) on him. The SPPD Officers believed they had encountered two desperadoes and the fight was on. After a hard fight Huych and Ives surrendered. It was discovered Huych's hat with the money had gotten lost in the fight. A long search followed ended when Officer Kuettel found the money. The two farmers got new lodgings in cells at the Ducas substation charged with trespassing.

August 15, 1899: Henry Ford resigned as chief engineer at the Edison Illuminating Company to start his own automobile company in Detroit, Michigan.