



RAHS 2023 First Quarter Newsletter

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

Contact Email: rosemounthistory@charter.net

Message from RAHS President

I am sure glad I don't live in Apple Valley (three blocks west), where the last storm dumped 20 inches. I think my driveway only got 19.7 inches; before the snowplow came by! We have a good chance to make some snowfall history this winter.

Our annual officer elections were held at the November meeting. Again this year, it didn't take long. After asking if anyone wanted to run for a different office, especially for president, and hearing total silence, a quick vote was taken, and all officers remained in their positions.

Work on the play "Free Air" is picking up speed. The final script is almost completed, and work on props has begun. The main prop is the "Gomez-Deperdussin" auto, and building it requires a lot of thought and labor.

Another of our projects is almost completed. The reprinting of Maureen Geraghty Bouchard's history *Rosemount: From the River to Space* has been completed and should soon be available for purchase again. This limited edition run will be softcover like the original but will be spiral bound. If you missed out on obtaining a copy the first time or know of someone who might want one, this is your chance.

Keep Shoveling, but be careful,

Gerald (Jerry) Mattson

President, Rosemount Area Historical Society.

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

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

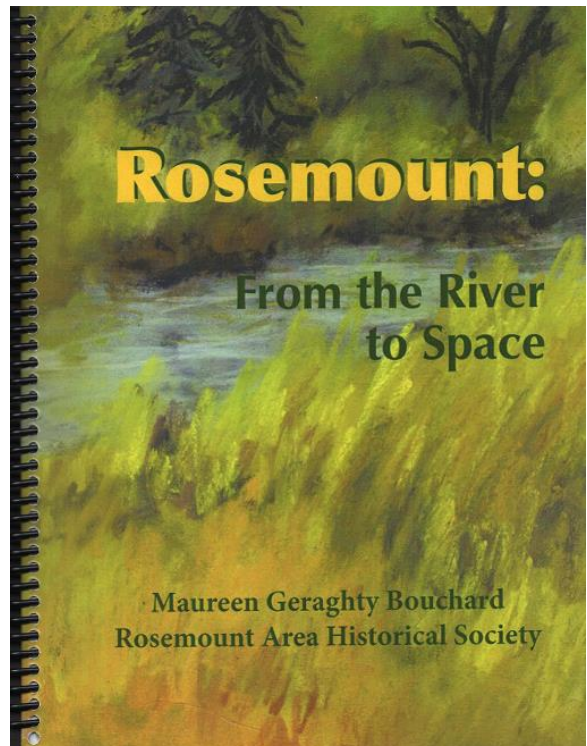
Newsletter Editor: Ghislain Devlaminck

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. Upcoming meeting date is Wednesday, Apr 5th. 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



Rosemount Area Arts Council (RAAC)

"FREE AIR" Performance.

The planning for the play's production based on Sinclair Lewis's novel "Free Air" and the silent movie partially filmed in Rosemount in 1921 continues. Board Members John Loch and Maureen Geraghty Bouchard have submitted an application to the Minnesota Historical Society for a \$9500 grant. The grant request was for a series of talks and exhibits related to the filming of the silent movie, which is officially categorized as being lost. They would focus on four topics: the Non-Partisan League, Sinclair Lewis's life, the two young St. Paul Hamline University students who produced the film, and the actual filming of the movie. We are anxiously waiting to hear if we will be awarded this grant.

Using the fifth revision of the script, which the Rosemount Area Arts Council will produce, three RAAC members, John Loch, the producer, Keith Reed director, and Charlotte Kodner, artistic director, added director notes, stage movement, lighting, sound effects, and when and what kind of music will be played, photograph placement, etc. Next, a group of ten actors will read through the play to determine the length of the play and where to place the intermission.

A full-size car has been designed and is being constructed using foam boards and plywood by RAAC member Craig Macintosh. It will be the main prop used throughout the play.

The Public Relations consultant has begun promoting the play to radio and TV stations.

Auditions for the play will be the first week of June, with rehearsals starting the third week of June.

A lot of work and planning remains to be completed.

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 to just hear the comments. Spread the word to your friends and neighbors. Email questions rahsbookclub75@gmail.com or contact John Loch at 952-255-8545.

Upcoming Books

April 11: Imperfect Union by Steven Inskeep

May 9: Isabella the Warrior Queen by Kristin Downey

June 13: The Great Bridge by David McCullough

July 11: 1947 Where Now Begins by Elizabeth Asbrink

August 8: Prisoners of Geography by Tim Marshall

September 12: Fascism; A Warning by Madeleine Albright

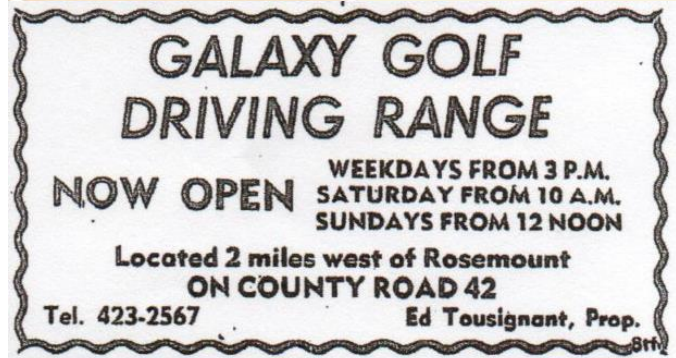
October 10: In Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

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

December 12: Catherine de Medici by Leonie Frieda

Historic Artifacts Received or Purchased

Below is a photo of the front and back of a match cover from Galaxy Golf Driving Range that was located on the southwest corner of County Road 42 and Diamond Path in Apple Valley, but the address was Rosemount, Minn. The land is now occupied by a CVS Pharmacy and homes. Match book front on right and back on left. Below the match book image is an ad from May 1, 1969.



The RAHS also acquired four photos of the Rosemount Launderette. The Rosemount Launderette was originally located on 145th street east of Robert Trail that is now the parking lot on the east side of Celt's Pub.

The following is from the May 5, 1960 Dakota County Tribune.

Rosemount Has New Launderette

Rosemount has a new business. It is a coin operated launderette, which opened for business May 5, this week. It is located in the Kane Bldg., just east of the stop and go signs. It will be open 24 hours each day.

The machines are all top loading, favored by most women. All machines have been factory tested and have the shortest wash cycle.

Installations were made by George Zanmiller, J. P. Sauber and Corrigan Electric. See ad.

In April 1967 the launderette opened in a new building located on Main avenue north of the Ash street intersection. *Today Ash St. is 145th St Main Ave is South Robert Trail. The building was where Shamrock Pet Hospital is now located.*

Pat McMenemy, owner of the business said they have been doing their contract laundry in the building since December. The installation of the self-service drying cleaning machines and putting up signs will be completed in the near future. At time this was the Bill Moeller Cabinet shop.

NOW OPEN
AT ROSEMOUNT

COIN OPERATED
G. E. Filter-Flo
LAUNDRETTE

The Exclusive
Four Temperature
Wash Selection

SEE THE FINEST IN
LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT

1/2 Block Off Main Street
STOP . . .

OPEN 24 HOURS
FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE



The following four pictures are from the original Launderette that opened in 1960.



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. Some of you may find some of these articles dull, but turn on your imagination and put yourself back in that time. Would you have enjoyed dancing at one of these balls or learned something in the class about dairy farming?

Rosemount 125 Years Ago

Jan 13, 1898: The L. O. F. ball Monday evening was a grand success, socially and financially. About 120 couples were in attendance. The Committee in charge deserves great praise for the part taken in making the affair such a grand success.

Jan 20, 1898: Everyone here is getting to be a champion on roller skates. The latest aspirants for championship honors are Wm. Cadzow and T. E. Devitt.

Feb 3, 1898: Sunday evening last, at the skating rink, there was a very good race between several of our local experts. The race was so close that the judges have asked for a week's time before giving their decision, and it will likely be declared a draw. *Why do the judges need a week to decide?*

Feb 10, 1898: There will be an auction sale on Saturday, Feb. 12, by J. L. Hyland at his farm south of this place and he will dispose of all his stock and farm machinery and a farm of 240 acres in the town of Empire. *They probably meant the township of Empire since it did not become a town until February 28, 2023.*

On Monday evening, Jan. 31, Daniel Delaney was robbed of a pocketbook containing \$20 cash, a grain ticket and a school order. The book was taken from Mr. Delaney's room during his absence by Edward Welsh, a man who has been working for Mr. Delaney. Mr. Delaney has offered a reward of \$25 for his arrest.

Mar 3, 1898: The Rich Valley school will give an entertainment in the schoolhouse Friday evening Mar 11. An admission of 15 cents for adults and 10 cents for children will be charged and the proceeds used to improve the inside appearance of the school house. All are cordially invited to come and enjoy the fun.

Mar 17, 1898: Joseph Hynes received, a few days ago through the mail, a very handsome present from some of his friends. It is a very useful article and there are a good many of the kind in use in this locality. We will not mention what it is as other young men might be jealous. *Was this, a tool, a gun, a hat???* *Anyone have an idea?*

James Geraghty was setting up the cigars quite freely one day the past week all on account of a twelve pound boy that arrived at his house lately.

Mar 24, 1898: The entertainment given here on the evening of March 17th, by the Guardian Angel church of Hastings entitled "The Arabian Nights" was largely attended, over \$100 being taken in at the door. Everyone who attended was well pleased and claim it was one of the most interesting plays that has come to our village. All are anxious that they give us another entertainment in the near future.

Feb 9, 1923: Second Team Beats Farmington; The Rosemount second basketball team defeated the Farmington high school second team on the local floor Thursday night. At the end of the second half the score stood 7 to 7, and in playing off the tie, Rosemount annexed a field counter, making the score Rosemount 9, Farmington 7. Many commented on the impartial and efficient work of Referee Dan Farrell of St. Thomas College.

Feb 16, 1923: Dairy School at Rosemount; This Dairy School at Rosemount February 23rd promises to be one of the best meetings of its kind held in this part of the county for years.

L. V. Wilson, dairy specialist from the University Farm will give the dairy work. Mr. Wilson is one of the best informed men along this line there is in the state. His decision on growing and feeding a balanced ration should be heard by every dairyman in this part of the county. One of the greatest drawbacks to the dairymen in this section is their lack of ability to produce on their farms the feed necessary for the most efficient production. Mr. Wilson's discussion along this line will certainly be very profitable, also his illustrated talk on dairy type and the effect of good breeding will be worthwhile.

County Agent W. E. Watson, will give a talk on growing alfalfa and soy beans.

This meeting will held in the Geraghty's hall, starting at 10 a. m. and lasting until 4 p. m.

Bring your picnic lunch and enjoy the day.

This meeting is being put on under the auspices of the Coates Community Club and they extend a cordial invitation to all to attend.

Feb 16, 1923: The basketball team accompanied by Margaret McDonough, Marie Corcoran, Charles Syfford, and Coach Ryan as rooters were in Farmington

Wednesday evening at the big game. The score was 10 to 12 in favor of Farmington.

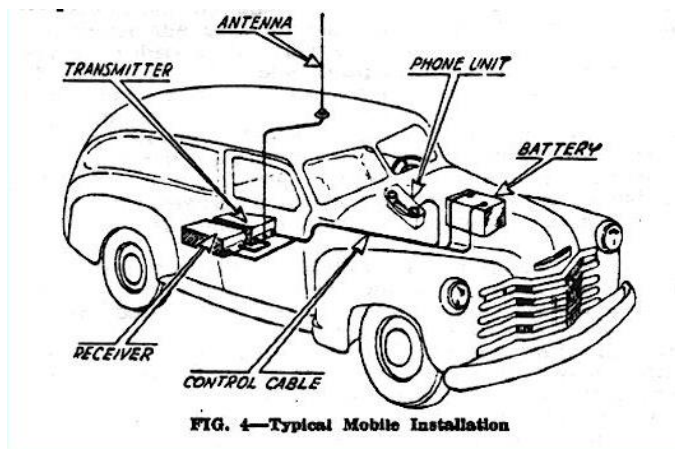
Feb 16, 1923: Contractor Herman Erier gave the Tribune reporter the following lineup of work this season; New modern home for H. F. Joesting on his farm three miles north of town on the Jefferson. It will be a five room bungalow and modern throughout; also a six room house for Otto Wachter three miles east of town. He has a modern dairy farm 34x54 to build for William Kimber near Randolph, a barn 38x60 for Otto Schaar of near Hastings and a barn 24x48 for Peter McHugh. Besides these he has the contract for building the Bernier garage at this place. The aggregate foots up to about \$25,000.

Mobile Phone in Rosemount - 1955

The first mobile phones in northern Dakota County were installed in trucks owned by Corrigan Electric. On the right is a photo from the book *Rosemount: From the River to Space* by Maureen Geraghty Bouchard.

The first mobile phone was developed in 1947. It was not something you could carry in your pocket. It may not even have been possible to carry it as a backpack and you might have had to wear a steel helmet to mount the antenna. It weighed 80 lbs. and almost filled the trunk of a car.

By 1955 the mobile phones in the Corrigan trucks would have had the receiver and transmitter combined into one box that weight about 40 lbs., but other than that all the other pieces would still need to be installed in the trucks. Below is a graphic image a 1947 mobile phone installation in a car.



First Mobile Phones

In April 1955, Thomas J. Corrigan, and his crew of electricians had mobile telephones installed in his company's three trucks. This was a "first" in northern Dakota County. They talked directly with the long distance telephone operator, and thus were connected to any telephone. Likewise, those wanting service could talk directly to men in the trucks.

When the men were away from the trucks, an incoming call blew the truck horn, attracting their attention. A light on the telephone receiver remained lit until the call was answered.



Tom Corrigan, Rosemount electrician

The mobile phone transmitters in the Corrigan trucks would have had transmitter power output of between 15 and 30 watts. The cellphone in your pocket only has a transmitter power output of a half watt. The Corrigan trucks could only use their truck phones within range of a central base station. To make a call they would contact the operator at the central station who would then route their call to the desired number.

In the book *The Last of the Doughboys* by Richard Rubin originally published in 2013 the author asks one of the World War I veterans, "What is the biggest change you have seen in your lifetime?" Pointing the author's pocket he answers, "That little thing in your pocket," the author's cellphone.

Man found dead in Rosemount in 2014 identified

*After lengthy investigation, DNA profile helps solve case.
Dakota County Tribune July 15, 2022
By Tim Nelson Minnesota Public Radio News Partners.*

He'd been dead for as much as a year, after apparently living in an abandoned Union Pacific railroad shed and using newspapers to line his shoes.

He was dressed in a leather jacket and ill-fitting jeans.

And for years, after his remains were found in September 2014, nobody knew identity of the man found dead in that shed along the tracks in Rosemount, a chunk of rebar wedged into the inside door handle to keep it closed.

Now, thanks to a DNA match, he finally has a name: James Everett, age 48, from New York.

Hennepin County Medical Examiner Dr. Andrew Baker said a lack of evidence – and the length of time between when Everett died and when his remains were found – stymied investigators for nearly a decade.

“Our John Doe consisted of skeletonized remains, he was dressed warmly in multiple layers. We could tell from the autopsy that had long brown and gray hair, we could also discern that he had an earring in his left ear. And that was as much as we could say,” Baker said.

Previous clues had been a dead end. He left no identification. An FBI reconstruction of his face brought in tips that were systematically ruled out. Investigators even looked for patterns in electronic benefit card transactions among stores nearby. Initial DNA profiles hit dead ends.

But multiple tries at finding a genetic match finally paid off earlier this year, when the DNA Doe project matched mitochondrial DNA and investigators finally tracked down Everett's family.

His family said in a statement that he was supposed to have left on a work trip in 2013. He turned up briefly in Montana and his vehicle was found abandoned in the Scott County in the Twin Cities suburbs that fall.

“We don't know a lot,” said Mikael Dahlstrom, Rosemount police chief. Rosemount police were called to investigate when a railroad electrician happened on Everett's remains in a switching shed the railroad was about to demolish.

His family said he'd been a cook in the Rochester, N. Y. area, and that a missing person case had been closed after a Montana trooper talked to him shortly after he initially was reported missing. It wasn't clear how long

he'd been living in the trackside shed or what drew him to Minnesota.

And it remains unclear how he died.

“I'm quite confident there's no reason to believe his death was criminal in nature given that there was no trauma to his skeleton; there certainly nothing to suggest that anyone had harmed him. But you know, whether his death was an accident or due to environmental exposure or intoxication or whether his death was natural, I'm afraid we'll just never know the answer to that,” Baker said.



The remains of James Everett, 48 of New York, were found inside an abandoned shed near the railroad tracks in downtown Rosemount in September 2014. Below is picture of James Everett.



Rural Wit & Wisdom

By Jerry Apps

Enjoy the snow and feel sorry for those who live in southern climes, who can't look out the window and see the beauty of winter.

Realize that winters in years past were so cold that when a man cussed, the words froze and you didn't hear them until the next spring.

Remember that the best thing you can do when it is snowing is to let it snow.