

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

RAHS Meetings

Meetings are on the first **Wednesday of every month at 7 PM.**

Due to remodeling at the Rosemount Community Center, we are unsure where to meet. Contact Maureen Bouchard for the meeting location. Email; mmbouchard@charter.net, Phone or text 612-239-6288.

RAHS 2023 Fourth Quarter Newsletter

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

Contact Email: rosemounthistory@charter.net

Free Air Main 2023 RAHS Event

RAHS, in partnership with the Rosemount Area Arts Council (RAAC), performed the play Free Air in November. It was an original Play script written by John Loch (RAHS & RAAC member), based on the Sinclair Lewis novel Free Air that was published in 1919, where Claire Boltwood and her father take a road trip from Minnesota to Seattle in a Gomez-Dep roadster, exposing them all to the perils of early motoring. In 1921 a silent black and white movie based on Free Air was partially filmed in Rosemount.



Free Air scene with Styrofoam prop of Gomez-Dep roadster. LR Standing: Shannon Lien playing Minnie, Xavi Reyes playing Mickie, Craig MacIntosh playing Sheriff, In Car: Liz Sawbey-Keith as Claire Boltwood and Steve Genrich as Henry Boltwood, Claire's father.

It was a great success and the six performances were well-attended. A Premier was held on the evening of the first performance and was attended by a number of special guests including relatives of Sinclair Lewis, relatives of local Rosemount citizens who appeared in the

movie, relatives of one of the movie producers, a retired Illinois University professor who is recognized as a Sinclair Lewis specialist and is the President of the Sinclair Lewis Society, the mayor and members of the Rosemount City Council.

Sacred Pipe Bowl Found in Rosemount

In 2006, members of the RAHS conducted several digs in the City of Rosemount in an area to be redeveloped. Among hundreds of items found was a Native American "Plains" style pipe bowl. The stone appeared to be Catlinite from Pipestone, Minnesota. Based on other items found in this pit, the pipe was probably over 100 years old. This past summer, a newspaper article about recent facility upgrades and new exhibits at the Pipestone National Monument in Southwestern Minnesota prompted RAHS president Jerry Mattson to visit the Monument and he brought along the pipe bowl.

Seeing the pipe bowl, a Native American craftsman at the Pipestone National Monument said it was old just by the feel of it. Modern pipes are finished with very fine sandpaper, which was not available in the old days. The bowl was drilled by a hand-driven steel drill bit, which he stated came into use after the 1830's. He also knew it was old due to the number of tiny light-colored spots in the stone. The Catlinite seam deposit at Pipestone is only 12 to 18 inches thick and slopes downward towards the east on an eight-degree slope from the surface. The deposit was originally exposed but currently is mined in open pits ten to 15 feet deep. As the seam goes deeper, the spotting in the Catlinite decreases.

At the Native American gift shop in Pipestone, the pipe bowl was recognized as an older pipe bowl. Its smaller size (2 3/4" x 2") and design were of the type that was owned by a Native American for personal prayers and petitions. Jerry purchased a short handcrafted eight-inch pipe stem and donated it to the RAHS to add to the pipe bowl. The pipe appears to have never been smoked. Originally, most pipe stems were made from ash or sumac. Today, sumac is still used along with pine, redwood, and cedar.

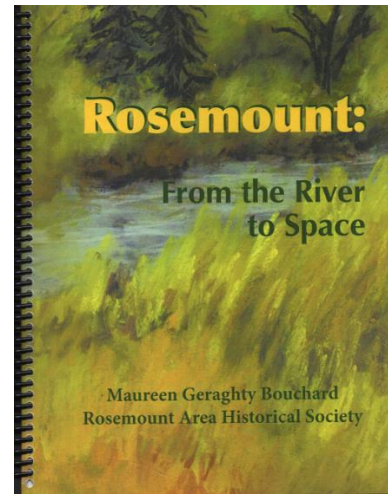


Catlinite pipe bowl found in 2006 Rosemount digs.



Handcrafted eight inch pipe stem purchased by Jerry Mattson at the Pipestone National Monument Gift Store

Native American "Sacred Pipes," also referred to as "Peace Pipes," were a popular collector and tourist item, especially from about 1893 until around 1900, which may have been driven by the popularity of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Smoking a pipe made from the deep red rock is believed to connect the smoker with "the Creator." The creator is similar to what many religions mean when they discuss God. Early white settlers and soldiers took note of the pipe being smoked at treaty signings, resulting in their misunderstanding of the pipe as something used only to symbolize peace. The pipe bowl was filled with a mixture of tobacco and Kinnikinick (Bearberry leaves), Willow Tree bark, and other herbs, although tobacco was not always available in the upper Midwest



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 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 or contact Gish Devlaminck at 651-470-8905.

RAHS Book Club 2024 Reading List

Jan 9: *When Minnehaha Flowed with Whiskey* By Karen E. Cooper

Feb 13: *A Fever in the Heartland* By Timothy Egan

Mar 12: *Battle of Wills* By David Alan Johnson

Apr 9: *The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams* By Stacy Schiff

May 14: *Wise Gals* By Nathalia Holt

Jun 11: *The Romanov Sisters* By Helen Rappaport

Jul 9: *The Wager* By David Grann

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 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

Nov 3, 1898: Escaped Steer

The steer which escaped from W. H. Kraft at Castle Rock and got into the woods near Hampton, on Oct. 24, was captured after a wild chase last Sunday. Over thirty men, friends of Mr. Kraft, turned out for the hunt, some on horseback and some afoot. If it was found impossible to capture it alive, it was agreed that they would shoot and dress the steer. The party was well provided with guns and butchering tools. But after a wild chase, which contained more fun than wolf hunt and was quite as exciting, the wild animal was finally driven out of the woods and into a barn, where it was securely roped. At one time the animal outran a horse on a keen run.

Nov 3, 1898: The Looks of Our Town

On Tuesday morning when our good citizens arose they were surprised at the looks of our town. Everybody was sure a cyclone had struck it. They then remembered it was Halloween last night. And it was celebrated in proper style by the boys. M.J. Corcoran's place of business looked like a modern equipped brewery, the restaurant resembled a hardware store, and the barber shop looked very much like a butcher shop on a summer's day, the city windmill looked as if it intended to be game sport with a trotting sulky hung on its highest beam. It took the butcher all day to look up his wagons and buggies and we are in doubt as to whether he found them or not. Numerous buildings were moved. It was well known that performers worked hard.

Nov 10, 1898: Not Replaced

A few of the obstacles which were moved about Halloween are not replaced yet.

Dec 8: A Serious Charge

A Rosemount Young Man Held In \$500 Bail to Appear Before the Grand Jury.

Last Thursday Marshal W. H. Brownell went to Rosemount and arrested Neil Mullen, on a warrant sworn out by Mrs. Mary Snorak, a Bohemian, also of Rosemount township, charging him with rape. Mullen was brought to Farmington and locked up until Friday, when he was given a hearing before Justice W. A. Gray, in the town hall. The hearing lasted from about: 10 a. m. until

evening, and the hall was crowded with an audience of people with a taste for the nauseating testimony necessary in such a trial. The State was represented by F. N. Crosby, Esq., of Hastings, of the firm of Hodgson, Crosby & Lowell, and defense by Leonard Aldrich, Esq., of Farmington.

Mrs. Mary Snorak testified that she lived between Farmington and Rosemount: was fifty years old and the wife of Frank S. Snorak. That on the night of Nov 29th, when she was going home from Rosemount Neil Mullen followed her and at Gilman's Lake (*This is now Wachter Lake south of the Marcus Rosemount Cinema*) he threw her down and committed the criminal outrage. She said she resisted all in her power, hitting him on the head; she then went home and Mullen went towards Rosemount village; she told her husband of the occurrence. Mrs. Snorak testified that she had five children and was in Rosemount after her husband. On cross-examination she said that she saw Mullen first outside of Hogan's saloon and soon saw that he was following her; that the crime was committed on the railroad track; that he tore her jacket badly; that she thought it was about eleven clock at night when the crime was committed; that she had a handkerchief over mouth; she was very much excited and rattled.

The woman's husband, Frank Snorak, was then sworn. He simply told about his wife informing him of the occurrence after he got home, which it appears was sometime after his wife did. John Snorak, a 15 -year-old son of the woman testified about hearing his mother tell the story to his father. This ended the prosecution's evidence.

The defendant Neil Mullen endeavored to prove and alibi. He testified that he was acquainted with Mrs. Snorak and saw her in Rosemount on Tuesday night, Nov. 29, as he came out of Hyland's restaurant; that she was standing in Hogan's saloon door; she asked him if her husband was in the saloon; he told her she was not, but was in restaurant. He said he then went in the saloon and the woman started off; he did not see her after that or follow her to Gilman's Lake. He said it was about quarter to 12 o'clock. At 11 o'clock was in restaurant and Mr. Snorak was there' remained about an hour; them (*sic*) went into saloon; was there for about twenty minutas; (*sic*) Mr. Hogan and John Gazon were in saloon; that when he left saloon went directly to boarding house and was gone about fifteen minutes; went to Hogan's saloon again and from there to boarding house, and did not leave again that night. On cross-examination he said he lived in Rosemount eight years; came from Ireland;

admitted conversation, but denied crime; that she did not tell him she would have him arrested; that he went to hell at 1:30 o'clock; that he was never arrested before. He denied sending Kernes and his brother to see Snorak and settle. He threshed at woman's house two years ago, was there a couple days and ate in house

John Hays was then sworn for defense. Lives in Rosemount; acquainted with Mullen; on night of 29th Nov. was with Mullen at 7:30 o'clock and was with him all the time but fifteen minutes up to 11:30 o'clock; Mullen was in Rosemount all the time and that he was not out of his company; to exceed fifteen minutes.

Mick Mullen, brother of defendant, swore that on the night of Nov. 29th, he was in Rosemount; waited on Neil at supper that evening, at about seven o'clock; saw him again at 11:20 and continually until 11:45; went to saloon and got him to come down home at 11:20 or 11:25, and then Dwyer gave his brother 25 cents to go and get whiskey. On cross-examination he said he asked a man who worked at the hotel if Neil was in and he said no, and said he could get him; went out.

Mick says he stayed in the office three-quarters of an hour and he did not come back; he then went to Hogan's saloon and asked the proprietor if he saw clerk around, or Neil and Johnnie Hays. That was between twenty and twenty-five minutes after eleven. They both came home. Neil stayed in office until 11:45.

The evidence then closed and the counsel for the defense and prosecution argued.

Justice Gray decided that the evidence was sufficient to hold Mullen to appear before the Grand Jury, and bail was fixed at \$500.

We have given this extended account of the hearing that our readers may judge of the merits of the case themselves. It has attracted a great deal of attentions and while the case in one that is a disgrace to the county, yet the public wants justice done. Mullen was released Monday morning by Marshal W. H. Brownell, E. F. Kennedy and John Kennedy becoming his bondsmen.

Oct 5, 1923: Rosemount – 500 See Clippers Vie for Honors at Baseball Fete

Before a capacity crowd the Rosemount Clipper baseball team closed on the most successful seasons of Rosemount's baseball history, Sunday, September 30, at Peaceful Valley Park. The game between the Clipper nines of '08 and '23 while not up to the standard of a baseball critic, nevertheless was a lively, novel contest, the '23 team winning 17 to 5.

Mayor Martin hung up a 500 average for the day when after pitching his drop to a point midway between the plated and pitchers box to start the contest he retired to his cook tent and failed in his miracle man attempt to feed 500 hungry people with one and one-half pounds of wieners and a loaf of bread.

Mills and Farrell, old-time batttery, showed flashes of former brilliancy as did Relief Hurler Heinen. Outfielders Geiger, F. Hagemeister, P. Heinen and A. T. Farrell contributed some spectacular fielding, especially in their rapid recovery of batted balls.

Dr. Carl Headge and J. Heinen of the old school, played comparatively good ball.

This contest will be the last played by Rosemount this season, having dug their spikes securely into the local hall of baseball history and fame by winning 11 of 14 games played. In addition to this they revived baseball from its position as a dead issue, placed Rosemount on the map and produced a baseball team equal to any that ever represented this village on a ball field. May their Clipper success of 1924 do as well.

Oct 19, 1923: ROSEMOUNT SCHOOL TO PRESENT "ALL A MISTAKE" NEXT THURSDY

"All A Mistake"

That's the title of a 2-set comedy to be presented by the Rosemount high school, Thursday evening, Oct. 25. Supt. B. C. Winkelman, who will appear in the role of a retired sea captain, will play the "lead."

The Rosemount players are being coached by Miss Gertrude Lillejord, who has already established a reputation as an efficient directress.

The play will be staged at the Rosemount high school gymnasium.

The cast of characters is as follows:

Captain Obadiah Skinner – Supt Winkelman
Leiut. Gen. Richmond – Delmar Gibson
Ferdinand Lighthouse – Daniel Grady
Nellie Richmond – Julia Geraghty
Cornelia Skinner – Mary Hayes
Nellie McIntyre – Gertrude Whalen

Oct 1, 1948 HOMECOMING

What nostalgia it brings one! Parades, "snake dances," bonfires and then the climax—the big game! Many a town used to be burned in effigy the night before Homecoming day! Townspeople would turn out to see the snake dance and the huge bonfire which would light up that part of town! Sometimes one certain alumni class

would be feted on Homecoming day with some "illustrious son" perhaps giving a speech at the prep fest. Then the parade and the game! Fathers and mothers who have not quite forgotten other Homecoming days – needless to say have an urge to play "hooky." If at all possible they pry the nose away from the proverbial grindstone this one day of the year and go back to high school days again!

What relaxation! To yell one's self hoarse and have no other worries for the time being than wondering who'll win!

No, we wouldn't have the "good old day" back again, but we like to re-capture along about this time of year, that spirit of competition of exhilaration of good fellowship, that a rousing Homecoming gives us!

Oct 8, 1948: Fans Enjoy First Football Game Television

Remarkable television reception was enjoyed here during Saturday's Minnesota-Nebraska football game.

Football fans gathered around the few television sets in this community to watch the game from the "best seat in the Memorial Stadium." We say it was the "best seat" because the television camera apparently had a telescopic lens, bringing the image close up.

Even the sound of the referee's whistle could be heard.

In a television broadcast, less talking is necessary on the part of the announcer.

Occasionally he'd remind the television audience that they didn't have to worry about bucking that big crowd to go home.

The commercials consisted mainly of humorous cartoons, accompanied by the voice of the announcer. Commercials usually originate from the studio.

J. Stedman and Larry Boody, Farmington dealers, said reception is much improved now that KTSP has their power up to their allowed capacity.

I found this article interesting because they never used the acronym TV. Even though this article is referring to people in Farmington, I am sure there were also some watchers in Rosemount.

Nov 19, 1948: Rev. O. H. Dorn, Rosemount, Goes to Crown, MN

Rev. O. H. Dorn, pastor of St. John's Lutheran church, Rich Valley, since August 1940, resigned to accept a call to the Zion Lutheran church, in Crown, Minn., 20 miles north of Anoka.

Rev. Dorn gave his farewell sermon Sunday at the Rich Valley church, located three miles east of Rosemount. He and Mrs. Dorn, sons Paul 12, Richard 9, and John 6, also daughter Gretchen, nearly 3, were scheduled to leave Wednesday for their new parish. Rev. Dorn's successor has not been announced.

Rev. Dorn was born in Tacoma, Washington, where he lived for 11 years. Moving to Lewiston, Minn., he remained three years, and entered high school and junior college at Concordia, St. Paul.

Later he attended Concordia Theological seminary at St. Louis, Missouri (Missouri Synod).

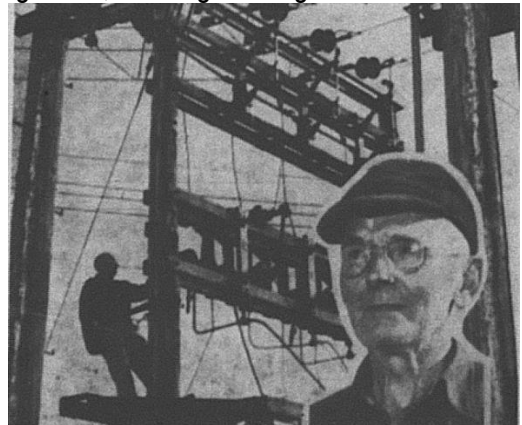
He became assistant pastor at Hamburg, Minn., for one year, and from there went to, Randall, Minn., north of Little Falls for 1 1/2 years. Then he went to Royaltown, Minn., as pastor for 6 years before spending his eight years at Rich Valley.

The congregation at Rich Valley also operates a rural school, grades 1 to 8, with a total of 32 pupils. G. P. Markworth, of Rosemount Rt. 2, is the school instructor, and the pastor teaches religion classes only.

Friends of the Dorn family wish them success in their new field.

Dec 24, 1948: Once Burned By 13,000 Volts--

J. L. Madison Plans Retirement This Year After 48 Years Climbing Poles, And High-Voltage Work



Mr. Madison is shown at the sub-station of Northern States power company here. The "hottest" wire at the sub-station contain 66,000 volts. Inset is a close-up of Mr. Madison.

After 48 years of climbing poles and working around high voltage wires, J. L. Madison of Farmington plans to retire some time this year. His present capacity is that of district foreman for the Northern States Power

company. His time for retirement is in January 1949, but he plans to working for part of the year.

They speak of a cat having nine lives, but we think Mr. Madison has done better than that during his career as a lineman.

In 1924 he climbed atop a pole east of town near the Hill farm, where his body short circuited a 13,000-volt line for 30 seconds. He remained conscious as the “juice” went in one leg and out the other, and he was finally able to free himself, that is, after 11 holes had been burned in his body.

On November 15, 1927, he was in a head-on crash near Northfield. His forehead was shattered so badly that a small part of his brain was lost at the scene. Still he didn't lose consciousness. Mr. Madison didn't move of is (*spelled wrong in article*) own accord for three weeks following that ordeal.

In 1941 an oil switch exploded in a small brick building at the Northern States substation, west of Farmington, blowing Mr. Madison out the door. The blast set fire to the substation, and bulged the walls. Again he didn't lose consciousness.

Many times he has taken shocks of electricity up to 3300 volts. As an example, on time he accidentally took hold of a 220-volt line with a pair of pliers. Conditions were just right and his made a good “ground.” As a result, Mr. Madison couldn't let go.

With the voltage burning through him, he began to dance, hoping that breaking the contact with the ground would free him. It did.

At first Mr. Madison's dance appeared as a strange action to another electrician, who was up a nearby pole.

Every time a fuse blows at the substation the lights go out in Farmington and community. Rain or shine Mr. Madison must take a “hot stick” (insulated and treated rod) and put a new fuse in place.

Working around the highest voltage (66,000 atop the steel towers) is when the going really gets rough. A person wouldn't touch it—when a good ground comes within a half a foot, the electricity will jump to the object, forming an arc.

Mrs. Madison, the former Fanny Hostetter of Glenville, Minnesota, doesn't know what it would be like when the Madisons move their house from underneath buzzing maze of wire, to a lot in Farmington. She also knows about the physical work of the business to a certain extent, having read meters, and strung wires during the time her husband was incapacitated in 1924,

for nine weeks. This included collecting as well as meter-reading at the farms in Farmington district.

Not so many farms used electricity in those days, but today there are 350-400 Northern States customers in this district, which includes Castle Rock, Lakeville and Rosemount. Farm meters are read every three months.

The Northern states substation here furnishes current to the REA, also the Central Electric company.

Ralp Wenz of Cannon Falls is assistant foreman in this area.

Mr. Madison was born in Farmington the son of Joel and Adella Madison, who resided in the house now occupied by Elaine Smith and Mrs. Nellie Pjetland. Mr. Madison lived here until he was eight years old, at which time his parents moved to St. Paul. They returned to Farmington after a short time.

At the age of 22, he began Working as a lineman for the Tristate Telephone company and stayed with them 14 ½ years.

His first year was at Glencoe, then he worked out of St. Paul on a wire crew, before moving to Glenville where he remained for 2 years. It was at Glenville where he met his wife and was married in the year 1907.

After Glenville, he was transferred to Albert Lea for a year as assistant wire chief: then to Morris Minn., as a line maintenance man having charge of 130 miles of wire.

Then he was transferred, to Faribault as wire chief remaining there 6 yrs., resigning to work for Northern States Power company. He started work with the latter company July 1, 1918 at Faribault. In 1919 he was made an assistant superintendent, and in 1920 he came to Farmington as a district foreman.

The most expensive damage to the lines he can remember was from a storm at Rosemount several years ago, when five steel towers (\$1,000 per tower) were knocked down.

The Madisons have a lot on east Kim street where they will move their house from the substation. Mr. Madison was due to retire in December (this month), but will keep working until about next March.

Mr. and Mrs. Madison have the following children: Mrs. Lawrence (Leona) of Ashley, of Austin; Mrs. James Magree (Mary), Mrs. James Messers, Jr. (Ida) of Minneapolis. The Madisons have seven grandchildrem

Feedback Appreciated: Let us know how to improve this newsletter. Text 651-470-8905 or join us at a meeting.