

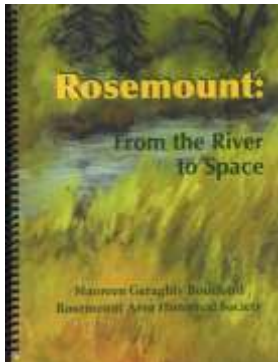


RAHS 2025 Third Quarter Newsletter

Website: <https://www.rosemountmnhistory.org>

Contact Email: rosemounthistory@charter.net

We would greatly appreciate feedback to help me improve the newsletter. Send your comments to rosemounthistory@charter.net.



Rosemount: From the River to Space

Books are available now for \$30. Contact Maureen Geraghty Bouchard at 651-423-4603 or email rosemounthistory@charter.net.

RAHS History Book Club 2026

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. Questions email rahsbookclub75@gmail.com or contact Gish Devlaminck at 651-470-8905.

RAHS Book Club 2026 Reading List

Apr 14: The Demon of Unrest by Erik Larson

May 12: Passionate Minds by David Bodanis

Jun 9: The Invention of Nature by Andrea Wulf

Jul 14: Unfinished Love Story by Doris Kearns Goodwin

Aug 11: Awakening the Spirit of America by Paul M. Sparrow

Sep 8: Separation of Church and Hate by John Fugelsang

Oct 13: Nexus by Yuval Noah Harari

Nov 10: The Wide Wide Sea by Hampton Sides

Dec 8: True West by Betsy Gaines Quammen

Rosemount Area Historical Society (RAHS) 2026 Board Members

President: Jerry Mattson

Vice President: Ghislain Devlaminck

Secretary: Mike Bouchard

Treasurer: Maureen Geraghty Bouchard

Trustees: Kate Mattson, Marty Jo Bruyer & Jack Gillespie

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. We meet in the Minnesota National Guard Readiness Center, 13865 South Robert Trail, Rosemount, MN.

Rosemount Inaugurates Police Alarm System

In the early 1920s, Rosemount was experiencing many robberies by bandits who came from Minneapolis and St. Paul. Rosemount night watchman Joe Heinen developed a unique plan to stop the bandits. Joe Heinen had served in WW I, and he may have gotten the idea for this unique plan from his war experience.

"When he sees the bandits, he touches a button at one of the nearby business. About three minutes later, young and husky lads armed with shotguns, rifles, and revolvers may be seen stealthfully(Sic) slipping up from all directions, and what follows in the next minute or so sounds a good deal like the battle of Argonne." *The Meuse-Argonne offensive was a major part of the final Allied offensive of World War I that stretched along the entire Western Front. It was fought from September 26, 1918, until the Armistice of November 11, 1918, a total of 47 days.*

It is not exactly clear how this system worked technically, but my theory is based on an editorial I read about Farmington, which had similar robbery problems. It encouraged Farmington to install an alarm system in the phone network. Back then, it was party lines that were part of a crank phone system. There were buttons on business doors and windows that were probably wired into the crank telephone system. All the night watchman were on the same party line and had a bell in their sleeping quarters that would ring when one of the buttons was pushed. Ringing bell would awake them and they would run out with their guns to stop the bandits.

The telephone switchboard was roughly in the middle of the village of Rosemount. Back in that time, there were extra unused party lines that would run to the outer edge of the village. My theory is that they dedicated one of these lines to the alarm system and wired it at the switchboard

so that when one of the buttons was pushed, the bells would ring without the assistance of the telephone operator.

The following are a few examples of the system in action.

In November 1921, two fellows undertook to rob the Bernier drug store. It took two doctors busy for three days picking shot out of different parts of one's anatomy. The other bandit, finding out that shotguns were being used, threw up his hands and gave up.

In early December 1921, three men and three women undertook the same job. Joe touched the button, and shooting began. A bullet from the bandit's automatic missed Will Hagemiester's head by only a foot, and Will shot him in the legs with a shotgun. One man and two women made their getaway. The third woman took refuge under a porch and later crawled into an automobile, where she was captured. The other bandits gave up. All three are in the county jail awaiting trial.

In April 1922, Joe Hienen noticed the outline of a stationary car and saw the forms of some men carrying something from Joe Stelter's blacksmith shop. Joe pressed the button, which rang bells in rooms where the minutemen slept. About the time they met the enemy, someone accidentally pulled the trigger of his shotgun. The robbers fled away, leaving behind their Ford and their spoils.

In May of 1923, night watchman John McDermot was mistaken for a robber when he ran across the street from First National Bank to Geraghty's store. He was shot by one of his comrades and ended up in critical condition in the Sanford hospital in Farmington. Several months later, he died and, as an ex-serviceman, was given a military funeral.

A Look Back In History

The following articles and ads are from the Dakota County Tribune 125, 100, and 75 years ago, with connections to the Rosemount area. The date shown in the title is the date the article was published in the Dakota County Tribune. The text in italics is a comment from the RAHS Newsletter editor. If "sic" is in a sentence, it means a quoted text includes a spelling or grammatical error from the original source.

Rosemount Area 125 Years Ago

January 25, 1901: Rosemount Depot Broken Into

The depot here was broken into on the night of Jan. 16th by unknown parties. One small satchel and a fur coat were taken from the express office an \$1.50 (2026 = \$50.78) in pennies and

two pairs of new shoes taken out of box of shoes I the freight house that were shipped to Geraghty and Hynes. The case was reported to the railway company at St. Paul. Dougherty the company's special detective came here on the morning of the 17th and got a full description of the property stolen. On the 19th Mr. Dougherty arrested one of the fellows in St. Paul and the other in Minneapolis. The goods stolen were found in a pawn shop, where the parties had disposed of the same. A warrant was issued here and Constable Heinen went to St. Paul Monday evening. Tuesday morning he arrived here with the prisoners, accompanied by Detective Dougherty. In Justice Murphy's court they gave their names Dexter and Walters. They waived examination and were bound over to the next term of the district court in the sum of \$500 (2026 = \$16,925) each. They could not furnish the necessary bonds and were taken to Hastings by Constable Heinen to await the next term of District court.

Rosemount Area 100 Years Ago

January 8, 1926: DAIRY EXPERT TO TALK AT ROSEMOUNT

L. V. Wilson Will Be Chief Speaker at Dairy School January 15

L. V. Wilson, the noted specialist will be the principal speaker at the Dairy School at the Thule Hall, Rosemount, January 15 at 11 a. m. and 1:30 p. m.

Our cow test records prove that some of our best dairymen are making twice as much net income from the herds as some of their neighbors with about the same kind of cows.

Mr. Wilson will discuss the care and management and feeding of the dairy herd as well as the breeding of up of an efficient dairy herd.

Everyone is invited to take advantage of this opportunity to get some "up to the minute" dairy information from one of the best authorities in the county.

January 15, 1926: Rosemount News

The Brenier Drug Co., are very busy installing a new 20 ft. iceless soda fountain. This new soda fountain is the first of its kind in the town and when completely installed will be a big feature to the drug store. *Bernier Drug Company was a historic, independently owned pharmacy opened in 1921 by brothers George and Richard Bernier.*

Radio fans of this village are getting very poor service for the last month. Somewhere in town there is a noisy motor which can be fixed and we all can hear then

January 22, 1926: Holds Successful Dairy Meeting

One of the best dairy meetings held in the county for sometime was the one held at Rosemount, January 15. About fifty of the best dairymen in the community were there and listened to the and took part in an especially good dairy lecture

by L. V. Wilson of the Dairy Extension Division, University Farm. Mr. Wilson is indeed a dairy authority and his discussion was "Different," therefore, particularly pleasing and instructive.

His outline of the feeding of the dairy cow was so clear that everyone could well see and know and profit by it.

At the morning session, figures were given from the Cow Testing association during the part year, showing the labor return for the dairyman with various production levels. These figures show that some men milking cows are actually paying for the privilege, while others are receiving from fifty to eighty cent per hour (2026 - \$9.47 to \$15.15) for the labor on their herds.

February 19, 1926: Chas. R. Boyle of DeGraff Minn., Takes Charge of Farmers State Bank

Chas. W. Boyle of DeGraff, Minn., has purchased a substantial interest in the Farmers State Bank of Rosemount and the assumed the cashiership(sic) of the institution, succeeding J. E. Beschta who has accepted the position of assistant credit manager of the Golden Rule, St. Paul. Mr. Boyle has already taken up his new duties.

Mrs. Boyle and the little daughter will arrive Monday and will make Rosemount their permanent home. They have rented a portion of the building known as "Sunshine Flats."

Mr. Boyle says he is favorably impressed with his position and Rosemount. He has had seven years of banking experience in DeGraff and Benson, and comes to Rosemount with highest of recommendations.

Mr. Boyle's middle initial in the article was 'R' in the article title and 'W' in the first sentence of the article. In 1926, the building that housed the "Sunshine Flats" was originally constructed as the 1896 brick schoolhouse in the old village of Rosemount, Minnesota. Following its time as a school, the building was later repurposed to contain the Sunshine Flats as well as the home and office of Dr. Miquel Flores.



Sunshine Flats

March 3, 1926: COSTS \$89.93 FOR AVERAGE PUPIL Cost of Educating Each County Pupil Is \$6 under State Average

Dakota county school costs per pupil are well the few counties that spend lavish sums on their education department but Dakota county costs are higher than of the bordering counties except Scott, according to a preliminary report of the state department of education issued last week by J. C. McConnell.

Dakota county shows the following: number of 4-year high schools, 3; grade elementary schools 11; enrollment, 4,512; maintenance, \$405,-774;(2026 = \$7,668-\$14,654) new buildings, bonds etc, \$37,886;(2026=\$717,314) average cost per pupil, \$89.93 (2026=\$1,702).

The average cost per pupil for the state in this class of schools was \$95.45(2026=\$1,788), St. Louis county having the highest with \$129.92(2026=\$2,459) and Todd, county by a close second with \$128.76(2026=\$2,437).

March 26, 1926: Welfare Board Take Care of 107 New Cases Past 6 Months

Executive Secretary Discusses Work of Board at Meeting of County Board – 50 Cases Are Closed

Dakota county is one of the 78 counties among the 87 in the state that maintain a child welfare board to look after the welfare of the children, Mrs. Laura Conklin, executive secretary, said this week in discussing the report of her work presented today to the board of the county commissioners in Hastings. The covers a period from July 1, 1925 to the January 1, 1926. The office of the secretary is in the Schult building in South St. Paul and recently a full time stenographer was added to the office staff, according to the South St. Paul Daily Reporter.

IN the period covered in the report 107 new cases were reported, the county commissioners were informed. Twenty-four were referred to other organizations, usually child welfare boards in other counties for usually the problem involves an unmarried mother or a family which has defective children moving to another county. Fifty cases were closed.

Mrs. Conklin reported that many person applied for permits to board children, who had not the proper knowledge not the proper kind of home to meet the standards set by the state board of control. Only children – under 14 are so boarded. Mrs. Conklin has worked on from 61 to 104 different cases a month in the period covered, but has a case load of 205 to 240 to be handled. Since January 1, 2025, \$2,888.77(2026=\$54,694) been paid into the office , much of it for the support of the unmarried mother and her child. The money is secured through court orders to men involved.

Fifteen children are being boarded, all being paid by their parents or guardian. Three are in homes for another organizations. Court action has had to be taken against most fathers to force them to support their children and keep them from being a county burden, \$550(2026=\$10,413) being received from one man who was in court for child abandonment. There are 35 county allowance cases listed, these receiving \$10(2026=\$189) to \$45(2026=\$852) a month, twelve cases of

feble-mindedness are recommended for commitment to the state board of control and 11 children were committed in the period covered. There are 20 cases so committed which are allowed to remain in their own homes under supervision.

Twenty-four unmarried mothers were during the past year, three in maternity homes, 4 are doing house work and have their baby with them and 6 are boarding their babies. Two have gone to other counties and 11 are in their own homes and have their babies with them and a number have been married.

One adoption has been approved, two are pending and six are contemplated, the report says. Twenty-nine boarding homes have been investigated, then approved and 19 closed and 4 are pending. A system of bookkeeping is invoked to care the accounting of receipt and disbursement of the funds.

In closing the report says: "There seems to be confidence in our work because we are an official agency."

Rosemount Area 75 Years Ago

January 19, 1951: New High School In Rosemount District

Rosemount's school district is planning a new high school building, for grades seven through twelve, it was learned here this week

The special election, held in Rosemount Independent Dist. No. 5 Monday, January 15, resulted in the following vote.

To authorize the School Board to purchase approximately eleven acres adjoining the present school site.

Yes----- 166 votes

No----- 75 votes

To authorize the School Board to sell the school site of former District No. 110 and former District No. 93.

Yes----- 163 votes

No----- 14 votes

The additional land will provide the necessary space as recommended by the State Department of Education, for the building of a high school for grades 7 through 12. The school board is making a study of the present and future needs, plans to visit many of the new high schools in Minnesota.

There are many advantages in the having the grade and high school located on the same site, according to the board. One noon lunch program can serve both grad and high school students in one building. The auditorium and gymnasium will be available to grade and high school. Since many of the students are transported, a central loading and unloading point will be provided. The work of special teachers and supervisors could be carried out more efficiently through all the grades. Maintenance of the school buildings and grounds would be more economical.

When definite plans for the expansion are made, they will be submitted to voters for approval.

January 19, 1950: 3 Towns Have 153 New Phone Subscribers

The Farmington, Lakeville and Rosemount telephone exchanges operated by the Central Telephone company, have gained a total of 153 phones in the past year, bringing the total number of subscribers to 1816.

The system was converted from the old manual operator system to the community exchange. The dial system has been operating more than a year at Farmington, and longer at Rosemount and Lakeville.

The largest gain in subscribers in subscribers was at Lakeville, which gained 101 in a year., bringing their total to 492 at present.

Farmington and Rosemount each gained 26, bringing Farmington total to 949, and the Rosemount total to 375 telephone subscribers.

More phones are being added in each town, manager James Humphrey said Monday.

January 19, 1951: Rosemount's Resuscitator Will Handle Many Emergency Calls

The Rosemount fire department is now set up to handle all types of emergencies involving the stoppage of breathing.

They have a new portable resuscitator machine which will work on two persons at the same time in giving them artificial resuscitation.



PICTURED with the new resuscitator at Rosemount are: Assistant Fire Chief Leo Flugel (lef); Joe Stelter, of the Twin City Fire Extinguisher company; and Fireman Edwin Doyle. The unit is always ready for use at the Rosemount city hall.

The machine gives oxygen to the persons suffering from the following ailments: smoke suffocation, electric shock, hear failure, poisoning with fumes or chemicals, industrial accidents, drowning, gas poisoning, drug poisoning, asphyxia of new born babies, hospital emergencies and neighborhood accidents.

The machine contains enough oxygen for one person for about one hour or two persons for half an hour. That would be time enough to produce a new supply if needed.

The resuscitator actually forces persons to breathe. If their throat becomes blocked, the machine immediately indicates that fact. The machine which was purchased from the Twin City Fire Extinguisher Co., operated by Joe Steller, formerly of Rosemount, also has a unit for cleaning the throat of an asphyxiated person.

Another important feature is the extension hoses for reaching trapped persons, such as those pinned under autos or in cave-ins.

The machine is ready to go 24 hours each day. It is part of the equipment at the Rosemount city hall.

See also the March 9, 1926, article about the Farmington resuscitator incident, where the resuscitator saves an infant's life. Many smaller cities began to acquire resuscitators in the early 1950s after realizing how critical they were for saving lives.

February 9, 1951: Nick Raica, Rosemount, Began Mink Raising As Hobby



ROWS of snow-covered mink pens can be seen at Nick Raica farm, north of Rosemount. At present he has only about two dozen mink on hand, but last summer there were 330 at the peak period.

Nick Raica, mink farmer living near the REA sub-station a mile north of Rosemount, began his mink-raising business as a small hobby in the year 1942.

Last summer at the peak of his season he had 330 animals. He started the business with four, and the hobby has grown to quite a large business.

Mr. Raica who purchased the place from Irving Goetzke in 1941, is regularly employed at Armour & Company. He finds that raising mink as a fur-bearing animal requires much patience.

One characteristic of the mink which is not desirable is that he can't be tamed. Mr. Raica tried it once with a small one, but when the mink began to grow up, one day the animal bit him viciously. One can see why it is necessary to wear special gloves when handling mink.

The mink is a natural fisherman. However, the water will singe the hair in the summertime. He can stand any cold weather—the colder the better for the fur.

He must have dry hay on which to dry himself occasionally, and fresh horse meat, cereal, fresh vegetables, carrots, cod liver oil to provide the right amount of vitamins.

Usually the mink is found in slough land and swamp areas. They sleep days and travel nights.



HERE is Mr. Raica with one of the animals. Care must be taken because all mink are subject to sudden fits of anger when they sink teeth into anyone. Thus the animal appears in a large cage in the above picture.

The Tribune's nature encyclopedia says that mink not only swims and dives with facility, but can remain long under water, and pursues and captures fish by following them under logs or other places from which there is no escape. It has thus been known to catch swift and agile a fish as the brook-trout, and Audubon says he has seen a mink catch a trout of upward a foot in length.

It is remarkably strong for so small an animal, and a single one has been known to drag a mallard duck more than a mile in order to get its hole, where its mate joined the feast. The minks are at home on both land and water.

The book mentions that minks have been tamed, but they are a strange animal in that they are liable to sudden fits of anger when no one is safe from its teeth.

March 9, 1951: Resuscitator Demonstration Changes To Real Act Of Life-Saving Tuesday New Machine Saves Life of Choking Baby

Local firemen, listening to a resuscitator demonstration, were called out of the meeting to use the machine in saving the life of a choking 3½ - week old infant, Ronald Gene Partlow, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Loretta McFee) Partlow, a block from the library, where the meeting was being held, Tuesday night at 10:45.

The infant's father was one of the 25 firemen at the meeting.

The men had just finished listening to E. A. Ammerman, who was instructing the men on the new resuscitator uses. They had just agreed to but it when Mrs. Otto Leidner came running in the door, telling that the Partlow baby was choking.

The child's bronchial tubes had become clogged due to bronchitis condition. He was too weak too cough them clear, and had stopped breathing. His complexion had turned blue.

The firemen picked up the new machine, ran to the Partlow upstairs apartment of Oak street, and placed the mask of the machine across the baby's face.



MRS. ROBERT PARTLOW holds the 3½ - week old baby whose life was saved by the Farmingtons' new resuscitator in the background. The machine was being demonstrated at the firemen's meeting when it was called to use, half block away. The baby stopped breathing and had turned blue.

The machine forced the child to breathe. His color restored within a few minutes—and then everyone breathed easier. About 10 of the firemen had assisted in the life saving.

Dr. Norton Rogin arrived a short time after firemen, and used the catheter, another feature of the machine, to clear the baby's bronchial tubes of the phlegm. The catheter is a tube which is inserted into the throat. A back-pressure does the job.

Mrs. Partlow said she had pounded on the baby's back, had blown in his face, and everything possible to get him to breathe. She juggled the infant as she telephoned Mrs. Babe Kuchera, asking help. Mrs. Kuchera called Mrs. Leidner, who ran across to the fire siren. She knew of the meeting, and ran to get the firemen.

The baby had two coughing spells Sunday, and the Wednesday spell was really bad. They left the resuscitator at the Partlow home that night, where it had to be used again at 2 a.m. and at 5 a.m., Wednesday.

Since then the baby has not had a bad choking spell.

Mrs. Partlow sat beside her child all night Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the day without a wink of sleep. Her husband a garage mechanic at the Community Auto & Oil Co., stayed home from work Wednesday to help her with the child.

The infant had to be watched every minute.

On Thursday morning, the Tribune checked with Partlows to find that the child was getting along nicely. Firemen at intervals checked the machine at the Partlow apartment to make sure it had plenty of oxygen, and was in working order, should it be needed again at any moment.

It will become a part of the fire equipment in Farmington. IT can be used in all cases where the breathing and heartbeat stops.

Should the machine be needed anytime, day or night, the fire department number is 662.

The machine, manufactured by the E & J company of Glendale, California, was purchased for \$625 (2026 = \$8,055). The local fire department, which conducted a drive for the machine recently, is about \$190 (2026 = \$2,445) within completing their goal.

March 16, 1951: MARINE PILOT MAKES CRASH LANDING; ESCAPES INJURY



CORSAIR LANDS BELLYFLOP ON JOHN FURLONG FARM 7 MILES E. OF ROSEMOUNT

Marine First Lt. John Gilbertson, of White Bear Lake, was practicing some instrument flying when the engine of his Corsair fighter, "conked out" at 9,000 feet, Thursday of last at 4:00 p.m.

He made an excellent belly landing in the John Furlong's field, seven miles east of Rosemount, thus saving his life, and only slightly damaging the expensive airplane.

Gilbertson, who had recently gone on active duty with the Marines, walked the half-mile distance to the Furlong place. Subzero temperatures caused the young pilot to be well-stiffened from the cold.

Johnny Furlong, 23, was in the barn when the plane came swooping in from the east. IT barely missed the wires along a north-south township road and belly flopped into the field with its wheels remaining retracted. Had he put down the wheels, he would have gone end over end.

Johnny ran down into the field where he found the pilot trying to plug in his radio cord. However, the pilot's hands were so cold he couldn't do it. The men walked the half mile to the Furlong farm where the pilot called his wife and commanding officers at Wold Chamberlin field.

One other witness to the crash was Al Artwohl, who lives a mile away.

The navy sent a guard down to the crash scene to keep an all-night vigil. One of the farmers nearby learned that one small part of the plane was worth \$30,000 (2026 = \$386,680).

The following morning a crew hauled the plane out with a tow truck, the Tribune was informed. It was not damaged too badly. A crew of state highway patrolmen assisted at the scene.