



RAHS 2025 Third Quarter Newsletter

Website: <https://www.rosemountmnhistory.org>
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We would greatly appreciate feedback to help me improve the newsletter. Send your comments to rosemounthistory@charter.net.

Gopher Ordinance Works Video Available Online

A History of the Gopher Ordinance Works (GOW) is now available online. Go to [rosemountmnhistory.org](https://www.rosemountmnhistory.org) and click on the image with the heading "What are these walls in Rosemount." It is a short 30 minute video.

Cold Closet

Before refrigerators, homes in communities like Rosemount had ice boxes, often referred to as the "cold closets." The outer casing was made of oak or another wood. The walls were thick with insulation, and the inside was lined with metal. A large ice block was placed in an upper compartment that absorbed the heat as it melted to keep the food stored in the cold closet cool. The ice block was roughly 18x36 inches, although it varied. As the ice melted, the water would drain into a pan under the ice block that had to be regularly emptied. During the summer months, the ice man with a horse and wagon usually made daily deliveries. Residents would put a small sign on their door showing how much ice they needed that day.

I could not find any information about who the ice delivery businesses were in Rosemount, but someone had to harvest the ice, usually in late January to early March, from nearby rivers or lakes. It was then hauled to a special storage facility for later distribution to homes in the summer. The ice was stored in a building or cellar covered with straw and/or sawdust. Many farmers harvested their own ice from a lake or stream near the farm. They loaded the ice onto horse-drawn sleds and hauled it back to their farms to store it.

Ice was crucial for food preservation before the widespread use of electric refrigeration. Some ice distributors also delivered the ice to butchers, creameries, and breweries. It was also vital for refrigerating railroad cars to ship perishable goods such as fruits, vegetables, and meat.

Rosemount Area Historical Society (RAHS) 2025 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 are now meeting at the Robert Trail Library, 14395 S Robert Trail, Rosemount, MN.



The ice block is in the upper left cabinet of this cold closet. The lower left cabinet usually was used for bottles and things that would not be impacted by the potential of water from the melting ice. The water from the melting ice was routed to tray at the very bottom that was removed from the side of back.

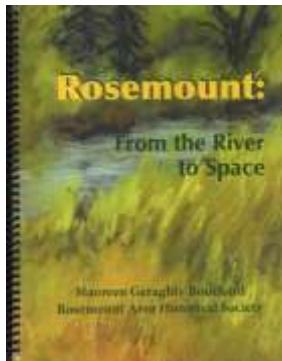
In the early 1900s, ice harvesting in Dakota County, Minnesota, was a significant industry vital for refrigeration before modern technology. Workers cut large blocks of ice from local lakes and rivers like the Blue Earth and Mendota, using horse-drawn plows and hand saws. This ice was then insulated with sawdust or straw and stored in ice houses for delivery to homes, businesses, and railroads to preserve food and drinks year-round.

The industry began to decline in the mid-20th century as electricity and mechanical refrigeration became more accessible, eventually making ice harvesting obsolete.



Ice harvesting on the Minnesota River at Shakopee. In the background you can see a huge wooden pulley system and conveyor belt used for moving blocks of ice from the river.
1905. Picture from the Scott County Historical Society

Even though I could not find information directly related to ice harvesting in the Rosemount area, I know that it had to have been a major winter activity in the late 1800s and early 1900s.



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

RAHS Book Club 2025 Reading List

Oct 14, 2025: 1177 B.C. By Eric H. Cline & Glynnis Fawkes

Nov 11, 2025: Women in the Valley of Kings By Kathleen Sheppard
Dec 9, 2025: His Majesty's Airship By S. C. Gwynne

A Look Back In History

The following articles and ads are from 125, 100 and 75 years ago from the Dakota County Tribune 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*, are comments from the RAHS Newsletter editor. 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 20, 1900: Rosemount

The rain which fell the first of the week has greatly benefited the corn, potatoes and pastures and the farmers are feeling pleased over the brightened prospects.

August 10, 1900: Rosemount

Died, on its way to Crystal Lake on Wednesday, "Bingo" a valuable St. Bernard dog belonging to James Geraghty. The dog was much attached to Mr. Geraghty's children and on Wednesday the family went to the lake to spend the day. It was impossible to make the dog remain home so they let him follow the team. He was a large dog and it is supposed he was overcome with the heat.

August 31, 1900: An Excellent Company

Rosemount, Minn., Aug. 29, 1900.

To Whom It May Concern:

We had our crops insured in the Alliance Hail Ins. Co. of Austin and on the 22d day of July they were damaged by hail. Within a few days the adjuster came and settled with us giving us in case just what we asked.

To-day we have received from Mr. Devitt, the agent of the company, the amount set opposite our names, in full payment of our losses.

We write this so that all farmers can judge in which Co. to insure. There is only one good hail Co. and that the "Old Austin."

Signed:	Amt. Received.
W. J. GIBBONS.....	\$100.00 (2025 \$3,857)
E. A. LONG.....	\$150.00 (2025 \$5,785)
F. E. HENRY.....	\$92.50 (2025 \$3568)
THOMAS REDICAN.....	\$120.00 (2025 \$4,628)
PATRICK HYLAND.....	\$50.00 (2025 \$1,928)
I. W. PORTER.....	\$17.60 (2025 \$679)

September 7, 1900: Rosemount

A most enterprising and well-to-do business man of our village has lately amputated his curly locks, which before the operation were a golden hue, but now sorry to say are of a

silver gray. But what makes it a sad case the enterprising business man is a young gentleman and people are inclined to believe now that he is old—especially among the seminine (*This was a typo in paper and should have been feminine*) sex. Don't worry "Jno." mother nature will replace those locks in a short time and will be able to take your place in the high social standing of our village society. (*No idea who this Rosemount business man might be*)

September 21, 1900 – Prohibition Convention

A Prohibition convention will be held in Farmington on Friday of next week, Sept. 28th for the purpose of nomination county offices. At the same time a noted speaker will be here and an address and a grand rally will be held.

A special train will arrive here in the afternoon, carrying Hon. John G. Wooley, the Prohibition candidate for President and other noted men of the party, and will stop for a time. Mr. Wooley will speak, and as he is a polished orator will be worth hearing.

The convention will organize at ten o'clock in the morning and sessions will also be held in the afternoon and evening.

The Dakota County Tribune article about has the name misspelled. It was John Granville Woolley (February 15, 1850

– August 13, 1922) who was an American politician, lawyer, and public speaker who served as the Prohibition Party's presidential candidate in 1900.

Rosemount Area 100 Years Ago

July 10, 1925: ROSEOUNT MAN NOW U.S. RANGER

Edward Tracy Is Only Gopher State Man to Get Appointment

Rosemount friends of Edward J. Tracy will be glad to learn that Edward has recently been appointed a U.S. ranger at Yellowstone park. Mr. Tracy is the only Minnesota man to get the appointment. Of the 2,500 applications received only 14 appointments were made.

The duties of a U.S. ranger consist of explaining the park to the tourists, riding a designated area for fire patrol and lecturing. It is a wonderful way to spend the summer vacation for a college man as the benefits derived thereof are a great educational value, Mr. Tracy says.

Tracy is a St. Thomas college graduate and last year taught and directed athletics for Dassel. He will be employed with the Interior department of the National park services from Jun 15 until September 20 and will then attend Minnesota university this fall taking up medicine.

August 28, 1925: Once Rosemount Man Who Aided

Younger Gang Capture, Is Dead

John J. Buckley Drove State Coach and Carried Mail Between St. Paul and St. Peter

John J. Buckley, 86 years old, and a pioneer resident of Minnesota identified with the colorful history of the state's early development, died Friday at Aneker hospital.

Mr. Buckley was born in Illinois and came with his parents to Minnesota when he was 10 years old. The family lived at Rosemount. In 1858 (age 19) Mr. Buckley drove a stage coach and carried mail between St. Paul and St. Peter.

While living at Shieldville, Minn., as a constable, he participated in the capture of the James gang in 1876. During the Civil war he served as a private in the Tenth Minnesota regiment and in 1864 fought in the Indian uprising.

In 1866 Mr. Buckley married Miss Celia Manley who at that time was teaching school in Shieldville. Mrs. Buckley died about 15 years ago and of the their seven children five survive. They are: Mrs. C. H. Dopson and Mrs. E.A. Tamm of Butte, Mont., Anthony of Seattle, and Mrs. Patrick Murphy and Frank Buckley of St. Paul.

Mr. Buckley came to West St. Paul about 40 years ago and had lived on 383 E. Bernard street. He was by trade a carpenter but later he was employed by the St. Paul post office to transfer mail from the Minneapolis street cars at Fifth and Wabasha streets. He retired from active work about 10 years ago.

He was a member of Garfield post, G.A.R. (*Grand Army of the Republic*). Members of the post attended the funeral which took place Monday at 8:30 A.M., from the home of Mrs. Murphy, 1230 Capitol avenue, and at , A.M., (*no specific time in original article*) from St. Columbia church, Blair street and Hamline ave.

A squad from Fort Snelling fired a salute at the burial in Calvary cemetery and one of Mr. Buckley's old comrades of Garfield post blew taps.

July 24, 1925: Match Thrown Into "Moon" Sewer Causes

Explosion – Three Injured

150 Gallons of Confiscated Alcohol Explode at Rosemount --- Joe Barger, Joe Heinen and Rex Clay Injured

A match thrown into 150 gallons of confiscated alcohol being dumped into the sewer at Rosemont caused an explosion that injured three persons standing nearby.

The accident occurred Monday noon when Joe Heinen, deputy sheriff, was dumping the 150 gallons into the sewer between the Heinen home and the Joe Stelter blacksmith shop.

Mr. Heinen warned everyone to keep fires of all kinds away, but someone thought he would play a joke and threw a match into the sewer. An explosion of course, followed.

Joe Barger was injured necessitating 15 stitches. Editor Rex B. Clay of Garvin sustained an injury to his left leg and Joe Heinen was struck in the left foot with a piece of the barrel. Dr. Flores dressed the injuries.

Rosemount Area 75 Years Ago

July 7, 1950: Rosemount

The First State Bank of Rosemount early this year completed streamlining job of the bank's interior. They have new fixtures, and all the latest (sic) up-to-date equipment.

July 14, 1950: Gene Geronime Candidate for Naval Academy



Gene Geronime of Rosemount has been appointed a principal candidate to the U.S. Naval academy at Annapolis, MN. His appointment was made by Rep Joseph P. O'Hara CR Minnesota of the Second district.

Gene is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Geronime of Rosemount. He has attended the college of St. Thomas the last two years.

July 28, 1950: 25 Frenchmen Inspect Local TCMP Plant; Knott Farm, Rosemount Research Center



PICTURED here alongside the powdered milk dryer at the local TCMP (Twin City Milk Producers association) plant, is part of the group of 25 Frenchmen. The tour was conducted Tuesday, and the men learned about the American way of life.

A group of 25 Frenchmen, four of them being interpreters, toured central Dakota county Tuesday, taking in the Rosemount Research Center and Ed Knott farm, Coates and Farmington plant of the Twin City Milk Producers Association.

The group of Frenchmen, from all parts of France were sent to the United States by the minister of agriculture in France. Their purpose is to get information on various types of farming in the United States.

Specifically in Dakota county they were studying dairy farming and the manufacture of dairy products, also the distribution of the fluid milk by the city dealers.

On Wednesday morning, they went to the Franklin Co-operative creamery in Minneapolis, to study milk distribution and then they went to the main office of the TCMP in St. Paul. There they will get information about the operation of a large co-op.

The tour through the Farmington plant began about noon Tuesday. They went through the intake department and then the group traveling by bus, went to Eaken's Café for a dinner. Each one ordered individually, make use of the interpreters.

After the dinner, they returned to the Farmington plant and made the inspection, after dividing up in four groups. They were accompanied to Farmington by Mr. Hanson of the extension office. Ralph Wayne, extension dairyman; LeRoy Jarl, main office TCMP; Richard Bonny, and Lee Hill, all of the main office, TCMP.

August 4, 1950: ROSEMOUNT SCHOOL DISTRICT MAKES TENTATIVE PLANS

The Rosemount Reorganized School District has made the following tentative plans to take care of the students in the newly organized area.

Grade and high school students from the following former school districts who have attended the Rosemount school in the past will be transported to the central school at Rosemount Former School Districts Nos. 79 110, 13, 14, 93 and 88. Grade and high school students from former District 108 will also be transported to the central school.

The following rural schools will remain open as attendance units – former school districts Nos. 17, 106, 8, 20, 22, 41 and 94.

Students from former School Districts 18, 11, 36 and 61 will be enrolled in one of the attendance units.

Because of crowded conditions in the Rosemount Central School it will be necessary to provide for additional space during the time it will take to plan and complete the building program.

Two tentative plans for accommodations for 4, 5, and 6 of the Central School at Rosemount are now being considered. On August 8, 1950 Tuesday, at 8:00 p. m. there will be a joint meeting of the new school board of the Rosemount Reorganized School District for parents of children in grades 4, 5, and 6 of the Rosemount Central School and any other parents and voters who are interested in this problem. The meeting will be held in the gymnasium of the central school. Temporary arrangements for these grades will be discussed and the new school board will then make a decision.

August 18, 1950: Rosemount Girl On TV Program

Becky Ueland, 17-year-old daughter of Mr and Mrs Titus Ueland of Rosemount, appeared on a TV talent program over KSTP on night last week. She sang "Teasing."

Becky, a graduate of the Rosemount high school last June, twice appeared on Cedric Adam's talent show, winning the judges' decision that first time and the audience vote the second time.

Cedric Adams was a broadcaster on WCCO radio and well known in the Midwestern United States. WCCO was what they called a clear channel transmitting at 50,000 watts. s

September 8, 1950



AFTERMATH OF SILO COLLAPSE AT GEORGE ELLIOT FARM NORTH OF ROSEOUNT: STEVE DELANEY, BOB DALY ON PHOTO

A wartime, cement poured silo at the George Elliot farm, a mile north of Rosemount took its time and gave plenty of warning before it collapsed Saturday at noon.

Ten men had finished filling the 40X14 (40 feet tall with 14 foot diameter) silo with about 140 tons of silage. Then they moved to another silo on the farm.

Vie Rolfin, was coming in from a nearby field and her noticed a black shadow on the filled silo. He told the other men, and investigation revealed a 4 inch crack.

Twenty minutes later, the silo split wide open and of half of it collapsed. The worker stood at a safe distance to watch the unusual "show." Nothing could have been done to save the silo on such short notice.

Mr. Elliot said the silo was constructed in 1943, when the proper reinforcing was not available.

Members of the silo filling crew were: Frank Krietz, Ray Wilson, Albert Hinrichs, Al Kirchner, Julius Evans and Cedric Kirchner.

The silo was worth about \$1,000 Mr. Elliot estimated. *Approximately \$13,480 in 2025.*

September 8, 1950: Rosemount Is Defeated In Regional Finals

(By Harold Ervasti)

In the finals of the Region 6B baseball tournament, Rosemount was defeated by Bloomington, by the score of 4-1, in a "sudden death" contest at Shakopee, on Monday afternoon.

It was a well-played game all the way through, and the Rosemount team displayed the never-give-up spirit until the ninth inning, despite three costly errors throughout the contest.

Had Rosemount won the game, they would have been in the state tournament for the second straight year. Counting all the league games played, Rosemount had 15 games won and only one loss up to the Bloomington game.

Bloomington had 17 wins and one loss throughout their league season.

Both teams showed good sportsmanship in spite of the heavy pressure in the regional finals. It was a 2-1 contest until the eighth inning.

Replacing Strese who suffered a sprained ankle in the Friday victory over Burnsville was Harold Walls the Cannon Falls pitcher drafted for the contest. He pitched five-hit ball, going all the way until the top of the ninth, when Strese relieved him.

Virgil Miller, Hopkins pitcher, drafted for Bloomington, also hurled five-hit baseball going all the way. His catcher was Skogmo, also a draftee.

Bloomington scored two runs in the second inning, partly as the result of errors. Then Rosemount came back in the fourth to push across a run. Marv Ratzlaff hitting a double to bring in Rechtzigel.

The game continued a "tight" contest until the eighth inning, when the Bloomington team scored two more runs again with the help of Rosemount errors.

Rosemount threatened in the last of the ninth as Holz got on, H. Nival hit into a double play. Bloomington helped along their cause by scoring three double plays during the contest.

ROSEOUNT 17, BURNSVILLE 0

In the opening, region game on Friday night at Cannon Falls under the lights. Rosemount's two pitchers, Strese and Walls hurled a non-hitter against Burnsville of the Scott Dakota league. The final score was 17-0.

Besides two walks only one Burnsville man got on base, and that was through an error.

Marvin Ratzlaff hit a homer, and D. Nivala hit a triple to lead the hitting for the Rosemount team. In short, it was a merry-go-round for Rosemount.

Rosemount pitchers Strese and Walls collected 20 strikeouts. Strese was on the mound until the sixth when he stole second and sprained an ankle. Walls did a fine job of relief.

This ends a very successful season for Rosemount which won a total of 19 games and two losses. Several of these games were exhibition contests.

The team is grateful to the home fans for the good support given during the season. The team is in good shape in every way, and they are already looking forward to next year's season. It was an all home-town team, with no paid players.

September 22, 1950: MOST IRISH REGULARS ARE SENIORS: SEEK 10TH STRAIGHT WIN FRIDAY

Rosemount Irish started practice on September 8, and thirty-five players reported to coach Pates.

This year's Irish squad is with seniors at almost every starting position. Back at their old post, are co-captain Gordon

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Holz, End, who has been all conference for the past three years. Also Gordon Motz who is at his tackle post in which he has made all conference for three years. Loren Dittman center, Tom McCarthy tackle, Gerald Ratzlaff guard, Marvin Perron guard. In the backfield co-captain John George at right half. John has been one of the main reasons why the fighting Irish maintained their undefeated record. He is a hard runner, good passer and good kicker.

At the quarter-back post is old faithful Lloyd Bartelt, Roger Wiereke at full and Martin Heuer at left half. Also in the backfield we have Harry Karnick left half, Russell Vorwerk, right half, Jack Tilden, full back, and Walter Daly at quarter back.

The new men fighting for starting assignments are Dick Klingen, Jerry Slater, Richard Larson, Jerry Brand, ends; Arthur Fransmeier, and John DeShaw, tackles; Tom Slater and John Delaney, guards; Harold Baughman, Bob Smith, center; Joe Springer, QB; Bob Daly LH; Francis Beierckert, RH.

Rosemount will be seeking their ten straight win when they meet St. Paul Park September 22 at Park. Game time will be at 2:00 p.m.

September 29, 1950: Rosemount Gets 10th Straight Victory 31-0

The Rosemount Irish started on the their winning way as they defeated St. Paul Park in their tenth straight victory 31-0, at St. Paul Park.

John George, the Irish RHB started the afternoon's scoring in the second quarter, when he blasted through for five yards and made the first touchdown. Martin Heuer, starting the first game as a regular for the Irish, went over for the second touchdown in the same quarter on a four-yard plunge to make the score 12-0 at the first half.

In the third quarter John George scored his second TD from the thirteen yard line, the extra point failing again. A few minutes later, George, who had been sparking the offensive of the Irish all afternoon scored again on an intercepted pass when he traveled forty yards for this third touchdown of the afternoon.

Late in the fourth quarter Rosemount's second team scored the last touchdown with Harry.

September 29, 1950: LAKEVILLE FACES ROSEmount IN HOMECOMING FRIDAY

Rosemount is seeking their 11th straight victory and wrecking of Lakeville's homecoming Friday afternoon at Lakeville.

Rosemount beat St. Paul Park 31-0, and didn't let the Parkers have one earned down. The Irish have shown great offensive – defensive power in a recent scrimmage with Farmington a team that beat Lakeville 15-0 last week.

On the other hand, fans shouldn't sell that Lakeville team short. Coach Fred Norgaard has a speedster in his

quarterback, Tom White, who didn't break away Friday due to some bad breaks. Tom will no doubt be the fastest man on the field. Lakeville's line is not to be sneezed at either. They can be tough when they want to.

In any event, it will be a game worth seeing.

Captain Tommy White is the king for the homecoming occasion, and Betty Ann Thomas is the queen. There will be a bonfire on Thursday night and a 1 p.m. parade before the games begins.

Rosemount ends up beating Lakeville for their 11th straight win.)

July, August and September 1900 Historic Events

July 2, 1900: The first successful flight of the Zeppelin LZ-1 over Lake Constance, Germany, ushered in a new age of lighter-than-air flight.

August 25, 1900: The word "television" appeared for the first time, as part of a paper presented at the International Electrical Congress in Paris. Constantin Perskyi of France delivered the paper "Télévision au moyen de l'électricité". The term was first used in the American press in 1907

September 8, 1900: A powerful hurricane hit Galveston, Texas, killing at least 6,000 of the island's 38,000 residents. The storm reached Galveston Island, off the Gulf Coast of Texas, at 2:00 a.m. By noon, the waters were over the bridges to the mainland and flood waters rolled in after 3:00 pm. The anemometer measured the wind speed at 84 miles per hour (135 km/h) before blowing away at 6:15 p.m. At 7:32, the water level suddenly rose 4 feet (1.2 m) as waves rolled in, and within 30 minutes, the water was 8 feet (2.4 m) deep.

September 18, 1900: The first primary election in the United States took place, as an 1899 Minnesota law was given its first trial. There were 254 candidates seeking their political party's nomination for various positions in the city of Minneapolis. In the race to be the nominee in the November general election for Mayor of Minneapolis, Mayor James Gray was the Democrat's pick, while former Mayor A. A. Ames was the Republican choice.

September 24, 1900: A tornado swept through Morristown, Minnesota, dropping a barn upon Gatske's Saloon, where 16 people had taken refuge. Eight were crushed in the collapse of the saloon, including a candidate for the state legislature.