



RAHS 2025 First Quarter Newsletter

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

Contact Email: rosemounthistory@charter.net

As the editor of this newsletter I would greatly appreciate feedback from the readers to help me improve the newsletter. Send your comments to rosemounthistory@charter.net.

Rosemount Engineering

Frank D. Werner Sr. was born in Junction City, Kansas. He had a bachelor's degree in physics from Kansas State University and worked a few years in a lab at Johns Hopkins University in Maryland. In 1947, John Ackerman, the head of the University of Minnesota (U of M) Aeronautical Engineering Department at the U of M started the Rosemount Aeronautical Lab (RAL) at the Rosemount Research Center in Rosemount and hired Frank Werner.



Rosemount Engineering founder from left to right Robert Keppel, Vernon Heath & Dr. Frank Werner outside the apartment where made the devices.

In 1956, Werner, Vernon Heath, and Robert Keppel founded Rosemount Engineering in an apartment unit that had

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. Due to remodeling at the Rosemount Community Center, we are now meeting at the Robert Trail Library, 14395 S Robert Trail, Rosemount, MN.

been Rosemount's Cooperative Creamery and later a chicken hatchery. The total temperature sensors they produced enabled precise readings of the speed of prototype jet aircraft for the first time.




The interior of the apartment building with the calibration lab on the right and the winding area on the left.

The start-up company sold \$30,000 (\$350,372 in 2025) worth of sensors in their first year. The next year, it became a full-time operation with 20 employees and sales of \$196,000 (\$2,215,783 in 2025). In the space program's early days, Rosemount's sensors were soon in demand for deep space exploration applications such as the Titan II rocket.

Rosemount's founders, Frank Werner and Vernon Heath, took up skiing in the 1950s and decided to introduce a better ski boot. This led to the Rosemount ski boot of 1965, one of the first all-synthetic design molded-plastic ski boots--which eventually found its way to a place in the Smithsonian Institution--but plagued the company with manufacturing problems and high costs. The ski factory was sold to Bass Sports in 1968, but the Rosemount brand name was used until it was purchased in 1972 by Raichle, a Swiss company that made hiking and climbing footwear.

High-performance aircraft and the space program continued to propel the company forward in the 1960s. Rosemount celebrated the end of its first decade with sales of \$8.5 million



Rosemount:
From the River
to Space

Maureen Geraghty Bouchard
Rosemount Area Historical Society

We are taking orders for *Rosemount: From the River to Space* now, but the books will be printed later. Contact Maureen Geraghty Bouchard at 651-423-4603 or email rosemounthistory@charter.net. The spiral bound book with tax included is \$30. .

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.

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Today Rosemount Inc. is headquartered at 6021 Innovation Blvd, Shakopee, MN with a second location at 8200 Market Blvd, Chanhassen, MN. The total number of employees at these two locations is approximately 8,500 employees that include administrative, engineering and manufacturing. The buildings are identified as “Emerson” but all the products and the boxes they are shipped in are still labeled “Rosemount.”

Mar 11, 2025: How the South Won the Civil War By Heather Cox Richardson

Dec 9, 2025: His Majesty's Airship By S. C. Gwynne

Artifacts Acquired Sugar Bowl



This sugar bowl is now part of a collection that the RAHS has that includes a matching cream cup. These items were sold by St. Joseph's Pastor Rev. Lawrence Cosgrove around 1914 in effort to raise funds to the replace the 35 year old church. Rev. Cosgrove even sold the parish owned horse and buggy, but the fund raising efforts were not adequate to start the construction of the new church and it was delayed until 1924.

St. Joseph Parish Rectory Post Cards



Both of these postcards are from around 1914 and were part of Pastor Rev. Cosgrove's attempt to raise funds for a new church. These are pictures of the new rectory completed in 1912. The black & white postcard was made from an actual photo of the rectory. The majority of colored postcards during this era were produced in Germany by hand coloring a black & white photo. The Colored postcard includes a photo of Father Cosgrove in the upper right. These postcards are special to the RAHS collection because the back of one card contains a note written and signed by Rev. Cosgrove as shown above on the right.



Match Book Cover



Phillips 66 provided the matchbooks to service stations. August Ratzlaff owned Ratzlaff Service Station from 1942 until 1980 when his son Donald took over the business. The telephone number listed is 4141 and dates from the mid 1940's to the early 1950's. This is the latest matchbook cover added to the RAHS collection of matchbooks covers.

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 January 5, 1900: Rosemount

St. Joseph's choir wishes to express their sincere thanks to all the patrons of the their party given at Rosemount on New

Years (*sic*) evening, which proved a grand success both socially and financially. Special thanks be given to the floor managers, who proved themselves equal to the occasion.

February 2, 1900: Rosemount

A runaway team belonging to Julius Swantz caused quite an excitement here Monday afternoon. They started from the depot with Mr. Swantz and Fritz Warweg in the wagon, both had hold of the lines, but could not subdue the team. The horses came up Main street, turning the corner at the Cadzow hotel. They ran straddle of a large tree in front of the office, smashing harness and wagon. The occupants of the wagon escaped with a few scratches.

February 9, 1900: Rosemount

The entertainment given by the R. H. S. L. C. in the opera house Friday evening, Feb. 2, was largely attended, over two hundred people being present. After a few songs and recitations by the members Miss Mayme Biondo and John Kneeland of Farmington was called on for a song, for which they received great applause. The mock trial by talent was interesting and caused great amusement. Dr. L. A. Faulkner acted the part of the tramp soldier, who had been arrested for being drunk and disorderly. This was the most interesting part of the trial, as he had very long poem to recite and it was highly appreciated by all.

March 9, 1900 – Rosemount

Several of our young men have shaved of their mustaches for some cause not known. We have noticed that John O. Ryan has blocked out a new one that promises to be a very heavy growth. We would advise Mr. Ryan to keep it well trained or it will surely crimple.

Out village elections will be held Monday, April 2d. We have heard of no new candidates for office. Some one (*sic*) may spring up before that day and cause a little excitement.

Peter Heinen has been on the sick list the past week. He was hauling wood from about three and half miles north of the village. He and his oldest boy had gone after a load. Arriving at the wood lot Mr. Heinen jumped of the wagon and as he landed on the ground he took a spell of weakness and became unconscious. He was brought to his home here and Dr. Faulkner was called. He is better at present.

Rosemount Area 100 Years Ago

January 2, 1925: Thieves Strip Farm Home of Light Fixtures

While Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wetterlin of near Rosemount were away from their farm home one day last week, someone broke into their house and stole all of their electric light fixtures. Lights, chandeliers and drop wires, in fact, everything in the ceiling, were stolen,

"The robbery is not a mystery – we know by whom it was taken" Mr. Wetterlin said Tuesday.

January 23, 1925: PHONE CO. OPERATES AT A LOSS AGAIN

Annual Meeting Tomorrow—Books Will Show Loss of From \$2,000 to \$3,000

Stockholders of the Star Telephone Co. are notified this week of the annual meeting of the company which will be held here tomorrow (Saturday) January 25, according to Manager E. P. Ruh who passed through here Friday.

The company's books will show a deficit of from \$2,000 to \$3,000. The severe hurricane which swept across Castle Rock and Eureka townships last June played havoc with Star's telephone lines and the destruction of lines and poles caused the loss. Had it not been for the storm, the company would have come out about even the past year, Mr. Ruh said.

Discussing the possible sale of the phone company, Mr. Ruh stated that the company has had offers from other companies, but he doubts the feasibility of selling. If the company is sold now the stockholders will realize little, if any, on their stock, but if the company can operate in the future and break even it will be worthwhile as a sale of the phone company would undoubtedly mean a raise in the phone rates.

The matter will be threshed out again at the meeting tomorrow.

February 27, 1925: STOLEN ROSEMOUNT CAR IS FOUND IN FARIBAUT

A Ford car recently stolen at Rosemount was in Faribault on Friday. People living in the north of the city on second avenue noticed that a car had been parked there for two days and three nights. When one came for the machine the police were notified and in looking over the records discovered that a car corresponding to this make and having the same license number had been stolen from Rosemount some time ago. The owner was notified and came for the car on Saturday—Faribault Journal.

March 6, 1925: THE ROSEMOUNT—FARMINGTON BASKETBALL GAME

Rosemount, Minn. March 1, 1925

In the last issue of the Tribune some writer wrote up the Rosemount vs. Farmington game. They said it was half basketball and half football. When Rosemount gets a referee they get one and they make him understand that he is to referee basketball and not football. Didn't Farmington furnish the referee? Then they tried to make us believe that the entire second team was put in to play one half the game but we are not fooled so easily. They were the first team subs dressed in black jerseys.

The girls played a fairly good game. There was a little trouble about a referee but then one of the boys offered his services. Rosemount was just as much or more out of luck

when their good forward was ill. Although her sub did good the regular could be expected to do better.

A Rosemount Reader

Rosemount Area 75 Years Ago

January 6, 1950: Dog Which Saved Master is Missing

(Picture, Page 12)

Rover, the farm-dog here who saved his master Al Kirchner from a mad bull in a blazing barn, has disappeared. He is still missing after nearly two weeks.

Perhaps this letter to the Tribune can best tell the story. It is signed, but the writer—a Rosemount resident—prefers not to use the name. The letter follows:

Dear Tribune Editor,

We all read two ago of the tragic fire which occurred at the Albert Kirchner farm, north of Rosemount. We also read of the heroic act of their dog, Rover, of his lunging at an enraged bull which had pinned his (Rover's) master to the barn wall as it was being lead to safety. Rover had surely proved to proverb "—man's best friend"—

The Kirchner family certainly have a bigger place in their heart for Rover. But Rover isn't home to know how they feel. Someone else saw to that. Someone who felt they'd acquire wordly(sic) gain by stealing such a doy, selling him perhaps. If that person should see this letter, would they have it in their heart to return Rover to his home. Leave him by the driveway, he'll come home. I know the Kirchner family would be most grateful forever to have Rover home."

A friend of Rover's family.

Checking with Mr. Kirchner, we find that he took his dog to town in the truck, something he has done hundreds of times. This was two days after the fire.

He says he believes he left dog in the cab and shut the door. The truck was parked near the Fluegel elevator in Rosemount. When he came out, the dog was gone, and the truck door was shut.

Nothing has been seen or heard from him since.

Since it was a small puppy, the dog has been with the Kirchners. His is now about three years old we understand.

The same night of the fire, young Cedric, 9-year-old Kirchner boy, got rather close to the flaming barn embers, and the dog barked to shoo him back.

Rover always knew the Kirchner phone ring, two short a long. At night he would go to the Kirchner's bed and whine whenever that ring came through.

January 6, 1950: TAKE GOOD LOOK AT ROVER

If you see the dog anywhere kindly notify Al Kirchner, Rosemount framer, whose life perhaps was spared when the animal drove off a mad bull in a blazing barn. The dog is pictured here with Mr. Kirchner's daughter Dorthea. "Losing the dog was a worse blow than losing the barn". Kirchner said. The dog has been missing since two days after the fire. He has either been stolen or has strayed away.

(Page 12 Picture)



February 17, 1950: Rover, Hero-Dog, Returns Half-Starved—Missing 49 Days



ROVER, who save Al Kirchner from a mad bull in a burning barn last December, came to the George Busse farm last Wednesday, and finally got home Friday. The dog is pictured with Mr. Kirchner. If Rover could talk, folks would know where he had been for 49 days, disappearing two days after the Kirchner barn fire. The dog had no marks, and bore no evidence of much walking. He was half-starved, and the Kirchners believe he was a captive somewhere.

Rover, dog-hero who saved Albert Kirchner from a mad bull in a burning barn has returned home after a mysterious 49-day disappearance.

Half-starved and thin from lack of care, Rover drank a gallon of milk Saturday—the day after arrival at the Kirchner farm, three miles north of Rosemount.

Where has he been? The question is still unanswered.

On Wednesday of last week the George Busse farm had a forlorn-appearing visitor. It was Rover, a different looking animal than the plump collie farm dog who lived eight years with the Kirchners. The dog wouldn't eat and was restless.

Ed Doebel, milk truck hauler first recognized the dog as belonging to his friend, Al Kirchner.

But, Al, who had been answering calls and traveling throughout the country on "wild goose chases" didn't take much hope in the call at first. Finally on Friday he made a trip to the Busse farm. He was first greeted by a strange dog, and he thought for sure it was another futile chase. Then Rover appeared hopping into the truck and greeting his master with big "kisses." Rover would hardly let Al drive home he was so happy and full of pep.

The dog today is rapidly regaining weight. He has not marks of abuse and he did not show evidence of much hiking. The dog disappeared December 23rd in Rosemount. The Kirchner barn was destroyed by fire December 22, and had driven off a mad bull which attacked Mr. Kirchner as he was trying to unloosen the animal. The bull, a 1700-pound three-year-old Guernsey, had pinned Al to the side of wall but had reared back when the dog lunged at the bull. All escaped with only a head bruise.

The dog then proceeded to help his master safely free 36 head of cattle and three horses.

The barn was destroyed.

Two days later the dog made the trip to Rosemount in the truck with his master. When Al came out of the Fluegel elevator, the dog was gone.

Al is thankful to the person holding the dog captive for releasing the animal before he died of starvation.

Besides that gallon of milk Rover was given half a big batch of fresh baked cookies after his return home.

March 24, 1950: Teacher Resigns at Rosemount

George A. Bussmann, for the last five years director of music at the Rosemount Public School announced his resignation this week effective at the end of the present school term. Mr. Bussmann recently celebrated his eighteenth year in music, having directed his first four-part choir at the age of eleven. When he finished his course at St. Thomas College he enrolled at the MacPhail School of Music, where he studied with Theodore Ganschow and the late John Jacob Beck. Later he became a member of the Catholic Choirmaster Guild of Organists and Directors of the Twin Cities and the Catholic Choral Society under that direction of Rev. Francis A. Missia. He has served as director of many choral groups and is at present director of the choir of the Corpus Christi church.

During his stay at Rosemont Mr. Bussmann produced and directed three operettas, including "Windmills of Holland", "Belle of Bagdad" and "Pickles". He took charge of every Christmas program and produced the annual Christmas Tableaux. He organized and directed a forty-four voice Glee

Club which entered district competition for the first time last year and received a superior or "A" rating and according to the judges: "Music achievement superior to the ordinary high school level."

He originated a triple trio which has rendered outstanding work in this community and received acclaim for its radio broadcast over station KDHL at Faribault.

Last year he started a boy's three part chorus of 45 members which had to be discontinued because of overcrowded conditions in the Rosemount school.

The Rosemount Band, which was also started by Mr. Bussmann at present consists of fifty-one members and has served as a prep band and given regularly scheduled concerts and music programs. In the field of vocal music he has coached many outstanding singers, including Anita Ueland who won first place in the Region Five Talent Contest conducted by the women's instituted of St. Paul.

As a teacher, Mr. Bussmann will be remembered for his advisor-ship to the Freshman class, as a teacher in History, Latin, English and music. His versatility has meant much to a small system hampered by and acute lack of space.

As a community we wish to extend our best wishes to Mr. Bussmann's continued success and happiness and to express our gratitude for the fine scholarly (*sic*) work done at Rosemount high school during the past five years.

Rosemount Area 141 Years Ago

March 20, 1884: ROSEMOUNT

In company with M.J. Lenihan, of Lakeville, we had the pleasure of visiting Rosemount last Friday, and forming the acquaintance of its leading business men, some of whom we to be old friends of former years.

At the Harper House, a card of which appears elsewhere, we found A. A. Harper, one of the pioneer settlers of that region. At the various places of business we called on Messrs. L.P. Warwig, Gollon Kloppling & Hyland, T.J. Brice, Garrity (*sic*) & Mulrooney, M. Hynes. Welch & Moran, and many others, all busy and doing a good business. They all received the TRIBUNE representatives with cordiality and extended to us many hearty and substantial tokens of their appreciation of the TRIBUNE for which we return our sincere thanks.

Rosemount is one of the liveliest burghs in the county and its merchants are doing a large and increasing business. The country tributary to the village is as fine as can be found anywhere and is occupied by an industrious and thriving class of farmers, many of whom are young men who have grown up in that vicinity. A large number of these farmers were friends of our boyhood days and we find more than ordinary pleasure in thus renewing the acquaintances of years ago, as the whirligig of Time brings us once more into same neighborhood.