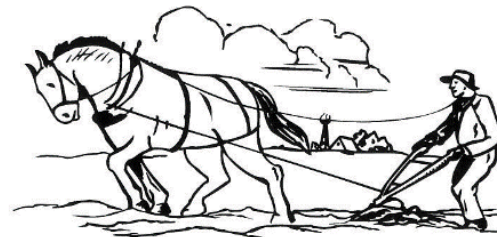


MEMO



Duluth Dukes Bus Crash

On July 24, 1948, the Duluth Dukes baseball team endured one of the worst transit accidents in minor league baseball history. On Highway 36 near Dale Street, the team's bus, driven by manager George Treadwell, collided head-on with a truck.

The team had spent the night in Eau Claire, Wisconsin and departed for St. Cloud, Minnesota the next morning, where they were slated to play an evening game.

The team's 18-passenger bus was traveling west on Minnesota Highway 36, then a two-lane highway, in Roseville at 11:20 a.m., when a Liquid Carbonic Corp. truck carrying dry ice driven by 36-year old James Grealish hit a rough patch of road, lost control, and hit the team's bus in a head-on collision. The bus then rolled onto its side and burst into flames a few blocks east of Dale Street and west of Western Avenue.



Frank Kurkowski, a 61-year old farmer, was working in his adjoining farm field when he heard the crash, and immediately ran over to render assistance.

"I could see the flames shooting into the air and hear the screams of the people in the bus before I even got to the highway. It was awful," Kurkowski said at the time. "I smashed out the rear windows and began pulling out the victims. I know I got out five. Others pulled some more out but then it got too hot and I guess

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Please leave a message

President's Message

Greetings to All,

Lots of excitement is happening with our Society. The artifacts and office have been moved to our permanent location at Roseville City hall. Thank you to all who helped and those still helping. It is looking wonderful. Most all artifacts have been restoraged in archival boxes with help from an historical preservation expert.



We have an open house/ribbon cutting ceremony set for October 24, 2019 from 3-6 p.m. Please stop by to visit and see the progress. It would be a great time to sign up for volunteer hours. Currently, we are planning on being open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. Don't feel like you have to wait until then to sign up. There is already a sign-up sheet at the office.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our upcoming meeting in September and also at our open house/ ribbon cutting.

Rynetta Renford

Important Dates

Monday, Sept. 16, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 24, 2019 – 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. OPEN HOUSE

Monday Dec. 9, 2019 – Potluck – 6:00 p.m.

Membership meetings are held in the Fireside Room at the Oval.

Door prizes, snacks and fellowship provided at all meetings.

Board Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.

Board meetings are held in the Aspen room at City Hall.



September Program

Pletschers' family greenhouse in New Brighton will be celebrating 100 years of business. Fresh flowers are grown on site with a full-service garden center.

Jake Pletcher will be happy to bring us some great ideas for our fall planting along with helping us get ready for the winter months.

How to store and winter our deck pots, how to take care and winter over our outdoor gardens.

Have questions? Jake will help you with them. Come join us September 16th and share some refreshments.



Thursday, October 24, 2019 – 3:00 p.m.

The Roseville Historical Society will have a ribbon cutting and open house to celebrate the new home of the Society in the lower level of the Roseville City Hall.

Artifacts will be on display in the museum area telling the story of Rosetown/Roseville.

Society members will be available to explain how the artifacts are stored and how the new space is being utilized.

Delicious jams, breads, etc. will be available for purchase. These sales provide a large amount of income for the Society to purchase supplies and equipment.

Join us for this exciting celebration of a permanent home for the Society.

Archivist Report

By LaVerne Dickhudt

My, how time flies when you're having fun.

We're getting closer to being back to "normal."

The artifacts are now in their new boxes and are in the process of getting put in proper numerical order on the shelves.

Herb Dickhudt put up a display hook board in the archive storage room. Now our farm tools, etc. are hanging. The artifacts that can't hang or fit in boxes are put on the metal shelves that were installed in that room. Good job done by all.

Our newest artifact addition is an Edison phonograph from 1925 donated by the Ted Schultz family who had farms in Rosetown. Very unique.

We've had people look in on us with questions and one even brought us a family history of the Mollet dairy farm in the area of Roselawn (County Road A-2) and Dale street, not far from Larpenteur Ave. (County Road A) from the early 1890s. There were many dairy farms in Rosetown that served the St. Paul area.

I guess that somewhat puts you up-to-date in my area.

I also want to thank all the men that helped Herb put up the shelving, etc. I'm grateful for all the help. It makes our society a better place.

See you at the "Open House" on October 24.



Heritage Director Report

By Sharon Pillen

The canning season is well on its way getting ready for our open house in October and our craft sale December 7th and 8th. Fundraising has been successful in purchasing items for the new museum. With our money earned we now have a new display cabinet for selling gift items, a jelly stand for the many jams that are made, a new glass top for the desk displayed and a well needed vacuum cleaner for our space.

Profits to date have been \$1,990.00 and purchased items for the museum \$ 1,028.00—turned in profits to the museum is \$ 425.00—thanks to everyone who has helped to make all this possible—it's always the many extras that allow this to happen.

I am in need of **Sugar** for my fall projects along with decorative small to medium cans to use for cookies and candies at the sales. Small glass dishes or decorative coffee cups are great also. Many of you have been good bargain hunters throughout the year and it helps to keep the expenses down. GRANNIE'S ATTIC at the craft fair has been a big success for three years--if you have new or slightly used things you would like to donate I will be happy to accept them—I am in need of greeting cards like those you get from charities because they make great toppers for the jelly jars. I love to recycle, so think of us for those unused items. We have received donations of jars—all sizes—love to have them—always need them for our product. All donations can be taken to the office or call and leave a message.

Hard work is ongoing at the museum to put the display cabinets together, so all can see the heritage of Roseville and the many families that have donated for us to enjoy. This project and others will be ongoing always to make our space come alive for the heritage of Roseville. If anyone has a collection that they would like to loan to the museum we would be happy to have your display your things for several months. All our cabinets are secured for this purpose.

A motto to go by: Do what you love and love what you do. Thank you everyone who helped make this year a success.

Sharon



Roseville Fun Facts

45° Latitude North

45° Sun Angle on Equinox

45° Average Temperature

45°C Highest temperature ever in Roseville
(equals 113 degrees Fahrenheit)

Duluth Dukes Continued

the rest were dead, anyway, because they didn't make a sound. I think they were killed by the crash. They were up front where the bus caved in." The last one that Kurkowski pulled out was catcher Bernard Gerl.

Kurkowski was not alone in rendering assistance. Mrs. O.W. Posteher was in her kitchen peeling potatoes when the crash occurred. She saw the thick smoke coming from the highway and called the police department. Four ambulances were dispatched to the scene and St. Paul's Ancker Hospital was alerted for the mass casualty event.

Harry Sobel was driving a car behind the truck with Dr. Earl Hill of the Veteran's Administration hospital as his passenger when the collision occurred. They pulled over to help as did K.J. Vorwerk, who was behind the bus. St. Paul and Rose Township fire departments soon arrived on the scene, as did the Minnesota State Patrol and the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department.

"During the war I was with a salvage outfit in the Air Force and I've pulled men from burning planes, but I never saw anything worse than this," recalled Gene Krause, a Rose Town firefighter. "I felt sick to my stomach when we got to the scene of the accident. There was a man on the road with his head split open. He was moaning. Other than the moaning and the crackling of the flames, there wasn't a sound. It was still as death."

Ramsey County coroner C.A. Ingerson, who had been serving in that capacity since January 1919, admitted that several of the bodies had been cremated by the flames before they could be removed from the wreck.

Grealish, a WWII Marine veteran, was killed instantly and survived by his wife and three daughters. Treadwell, the 42-year old manager, was also killed instantly; as were outfielder Gerald Peterson of Proctor, Minnesota; pitcher Donald Schuchman of St. Louis, Missouri; and outfielder Gilbert Krirdla of Duluth. Most of the remaining players were injured, with several inhaling toxic fumes before being rescued.

The survivors were brought by ambulance to Ancker Hospital at the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Colborne Street in St. Paul's West End neighborhood.

It was while recovering at the hospital that 21-year old first baseman Melvin McGaha recalled, "I always sit in the back. I was half asleep and opened my eyes just before the crash. The truck suddenly came right for us and the next I remember was lying on the ground."



Bernie Gerl, Duluth Dukes baseball player, 1948. Source: Chicago Sun Times

Catcher Bernard Gerl suffered burns that were so severe that his throat was closed. Doctors had to perform an emergency tracheotomy and insert a breathing tube in his neck. Gerl was the only one hospitalized who did not suffer broken bones, but he was badly burned both inside and out.

On Monday July 26, second baseman Steve Lazar passed away at the hospital, bringing the final death toll to six people.

News of the accident stunned the baseball world. Minor league teams from around the country pledged temporary players so the Dukes could continue their season. The Cardinals, as the parent organization, scoured their other minor league affiliates to find permanent replacements for the temporary ones. The Washington Senators pitched in with extra uniforms to replace the ones that were destroyed.

The Dukes took the field seven days later with replacement players and finished the season with a 53-61 record under new manager Ted Madjeski,

Continued on page 5

Duke's continued – who came from Houston in the Texas League. An hour long service was held in memory of those who died or were hospitalized prior to the 2 p.m. game at home against the Superior Blues and was broadcast on the twenty-seven radio stations in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin, with an appeal for donations to a fund that was set up by the league to benefit the families of those involved. The Blues took the contest by a score of 5-3.

The disaster was the second-worst in baseball history, following two years and one month after the June 24, 1946, bus accident that killed nine members of the Spokane Indians. It left Duluth with one uninjured player, pitcher Sam Hunter, who was not aboard the bus at the time of the crash. The Dukes completed the season with new players and a manager supplied by the Cardinal organization, and \$80,000 was raised in contributions to aid the victims' families and survivors.



Membership Report

The Roseville Historical Society has 120 members.

Renewal letters will be sent on November 1, 2019.

It would be very cost-saving for the Society if members would mail in the form on the last page of the newsletter with their dues for 2020 before November 1.

Thanks for your help.

Treasurer's Report

August, 2019

By Beverly Kroschel



Checking	\$	38,000.20
CD		<u>6,257.05</u>
Total	\$	44,257.25

Roseville Historical Society

Membership Minutes

May 20, 2019

Meeting called to order by president Rynetta Renford at 7:00 p.m.

Sixty-two people were in attendance.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The treasurer's report was approved.

All other reports will be found in the Memo.

The Historical Society is moving into its permanent home at city hall. Members are in the process of restoring all items.

The next membership meeting is on September 16.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Bob Murphy did a presentation and pictures of around Roseville.

Judy McCauley
Secretary



Roseville Historical Society Membership Form

Send to:
Roseville Historical Society
2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, MN 55113

Annual Membership
___\$10 Individual
___\$15 Family

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Dues for calendar year(s) 20 _____ 20 _____

Date _____

Roseville Historical Society
2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, MN 55113

Next meeting: Monday, September 16, 2019, 7:00 p.m.- Roseville Oval Fireside Room