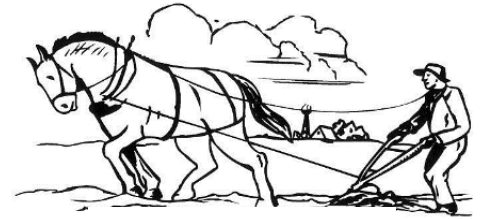


MEMO



Founded in 1977

Civil Defense and Robert Valois

By Nancy Adomeit

In the 1950s, our country was still recovering from the aftermath of WWII. The Cold War between the communist USSR and the United States was causing national security concerns. Families were digging and outfitting bomb shelters in their back yards. School children were subjected to Air Raid drills where they huddled under desks in case of an attack.

Civil Defense was a priority for every community in America, including newly incorporated Roseville (1948). The federal Civil Defense Act of 1950 established a *“basic framework for preparations to minimize the effects of an attack on our civilian population, and to deal with the immediate emergency conditions which such an attack would create.”* During WWII, there had been a Ground Observer Corps and in 1950 it was reactivated by the U.S. Air Force.

This group of mostly young men were amateur HAM radio operators, a skill many had learned as soldiers in the war. When they came home, they wanted to keep up their radio skills and many built their own radio sets using the knowledge the Army had taught them. These boys and men scrounged for parts in military surplus stores or made their own. They relied on a network of like-minded enthusiasts for problem solving. This unorganized group was allowed to operate their radios within certain frequencies and times of day/night so as not to interfere with Federal communications. Once the Civil Defense Act was signed in 1950, it was possible for these amateurs to join, what today is known as the American Radio Relay League.



One such young veteran was Roseville’s Robert “Bob” Valois (1925-2016). He enlisted in the Army at age 17. Yes, he did lie about his age, but he desperately wanted to be a pilot. He spent 2 years in a Texas Army Air Force school learning to be a pilot, but did not achieve his pilot’s wings before the war ended and he was discharged.

Continued on page 5

Officers

Alyssa Kroschel
President/Website Manager

Dick Wenkel
Vice President

Sharon Pillen
Jonn Pillen
Co-Heritage Directors

Judith Payne
Archivist

To be elected
Secretary

Beverly Kroschel
Treasurer/Communications

Director-at-Large
Mark Lowe

Director-at-Large
Dallas Leier

Committee Chairs

Gloria Sandberg
Historian

Ila Black
Cheer

Sharon Pillen
Hospitality

Judith Payne
Greeter

Mailing Address
2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, MN 55113

Email
rosevillemnhistory@gmail.com

Website: rhsmn.org
Phone: 651-792-7440
Please leave a message.

Important Dates

Membership Meetings

February 19, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.
See information below.
May 13, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.
September 16, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.
December 9, 2024 – 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 Meetings:

April 11, 2024 – 4:00 p.m.
August 8, 2024 – 4:00 p.m.
October 17, 2024 – 4:00 p.m.

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



February Program

"Making Wood"

Presented by Dick Wenkel

Cutting, sawing, splitting, and stacking firewood was part of life for many of us. This will be a brief program to show some of the varied equipment and innovative techniques that people have used to make use of our abundant woodlands to keep us warm during our Minnesota winters.

Election of Officers

The following officers will be elected for a 2 year term at the February meeting:

President
Secretary
Heritage Director
Director-at-Large

In Memory of Betty Danks

Elizabeth "Betty" Danks, age 94 of Roseville, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on December 24, 2023.



Betty was a charter member of the Roseville Historical Society. She volunteered for many years entering information on the computer and maintaining the files. She was always willing to do whatever needed to be done. Betty's smiling face and positive attitude were a joy to those she worked with at the Society.

Many items on display in the Museum were donated by Betty. They tell of her childhood growing up on a market garden farm.

Betty grew up in Rose Township in the area that is now Falcon Heights. After marrying her husband Alfred, they moved to Roseville where they raised their 2 daughters.

She was preceded in death by Husband, Alfred; parents, Conrad and Elizabeth Klatt; siblings and spouses, Evelyn Smith (Raymond) and Roy Klatt (Elizabeth).

Survived by daughters, Karen (Mitch) Jorgensen and Cheryl (Kevin) Fiedler; grandchildren, Kate (Bryant) Johnson, Allie (Matt) Hallstrom, Melissa (Matt) Champ, Jenny (Tyler) Cogswell and Tommy Jorgensen (Kristi Manning); great-granddaughters, Blakely and Adelyn Johnson and Madilyn Hallstrom; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.



Greetings from your Heritage Director!



We have closed our sales for our fundraiser for 2023. Our year ended with a total Of \$4,963 dollars. This project could not be done without the help of the volunteers for October, November and December. These funds are what we use for funding our organization's expenses during the year. During this time, we had close to 2 thousand people stop by.

This coming year, I am asking for more helping hands to keep our museum open for visitors. There is no experience needed, you need to be a volunteer with a smile and helping hands to keep us going. Several volunteers have had to step back in hours and we need your help. Please call the office and leave your name and phone number and we will contact you. Three hours a week or every other would help us a lot.

Grannies' attic will remain a hot item for us to make money---if you have new or next to new items to share, please call and we will take your donations. Pickles and jams will also be available year-round for sale. If you need a gift for any occasion, please let us know and we will help you out. Breads and cookies can be ordered anytime. Orders need to be placed a week in advance to honor your requests. Banana chocolate chip bread and old fashion sugar cookies are a great seller this year.

We have a lot of vintage items and some very unique things for sale. Come in to see the change of displays and the new items for you to choose from. If you have vintage items you would like to share, we would love to have them and add them to our fundraiser items or catalog them into our archives for Roseville.

Every year I try for a new item of can goods to sell---do you have any ideas? I am open to suggestions. Last year we had pear butter and blackberry syrup. When people come in each year the question we get is--what's new this year!

A quote for positive energy-----

Success in life is not for those who run fast, but for those who keep running and are always on the move. Energy is an attitude that encourages productivity and makes you feel alive. *Author unknown*

A recipe to enjoy for the cold days:

Hamburger Soup

1 lb. hamburger-browned
2 cups potatoes
2 cups canned tomatoes your choice
½ cup onion
½ cup celery
¼ cup rice
½ cup carrots
5 cups vegetable broth

Put in your crockpot and let cook until your veggies are tender, or simmer on stove until veggies are soft. A recipe from 1960's.

Thank you to all the members and friends for helping make us a success.
Sharon Pillen



Who Names Hurricanes?

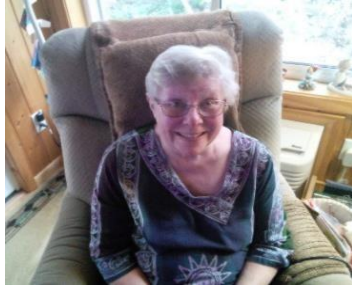
Hurricane season officially begins on June 1 and ends on November 30 each year. The lists of hurricane names for each season are chosen by the World Meteorological Organization. There are six lists of names for Atlantic and Pacific storms, which are cycled through every six years.

The names of especially destructive hurricanes are usually retired and not used again.

Archivist Report

By Judy Payne

This has been a slow time for artifact cataloging and acquisition. I was laid up for the month of January.



We did acquire a 1938 wedding gown and veil. They will need some cleaning and conservation, but will be a nice addition to the collection.

We are in the process of doing some cleaning and reorganizing. This gives us a chance to look through the collection and lets me know what the society has.

This will make it easier for Sharon and me to do some exhibits.

As always thank you to the volunteers who help with the cataloging, filing, and care of the artifacts.

Judy Payne



VOLUNTEER



The Society needs volunteers to do the following tasks. Please consider helping with one of more of the jobs.

Newsletter editor – the newsletter is printed 4 times a year. Most articles are written by members.

Membership Chair – this is mostly done at the end of the year with new members added as they join. Information is entered on the computer at the office.

Helping with artifact conservation. – The Archivist will train and supervise the volunteers.



Arden Dairy
Corner of Hamline and County Road C



Milkers at the
Arden Dairy

Civil Defense Continued from page 1

However, in that school he did learn about radios and Morse Code and that became a passion in his new civilian life.

He was noticeable around town with his custom license plate:



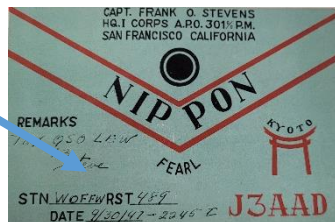
He joined the Twin Cities Radio Club (TCRC) and soon became its president.

The club held regular meetings and field activities. One of these was called a "Find". The objective was to pinpoint a member who had parked in his vehicle with a mobile radio set. Other members with mobile sets would try to locate the person. Bob, in later years, loved to tell his children of the member who parked down on the river bank. This was a very difficult "Find" because the radio frequencies they were tracking confusingly traveled both up and down the river.

Bob and his fellow TCRC members played a vital role in the 1952 Mississippi River flood, the worst since 1881. According to a 2016 St Paul Pioneer Press story, "The flood caused \$7 million in damage to St. Paul and South St. Paul — nearly \$63 million in today's dollars. It was also blamed for two deaths." With mobile radios in tow, TCRC members went in boats to assist evacuated residents retrieve their important belongings. One such evacuee returned to the boat with his beer rather than his "important papers"!

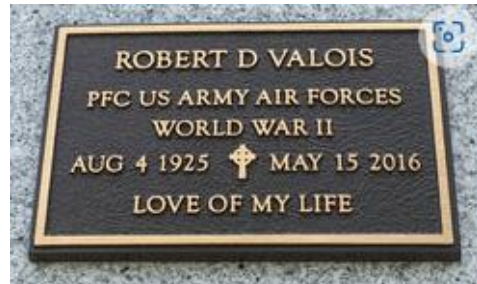
Bob loved receiving QSL cards from around the world. Each card indicating a person he had made contact with via his radio set.

[A QSL card is a written confirmation of a two-way radio communication between two amateur radio stations. It is a way for ham radio operators to acknowledge their contacts and show their](#)



In October 1955 Bob married the love of his life, Sharon (Knutson). They raised their five children in the Roseville home on property they bought from George Schaub with a Land for Deed agreement. Bob earned his degree from the University of MN in horticulture and built the Valois Greenhouse and Nursery at the corner of Skillman and Cleveland in Roseville. He later worked for Impressions Inc. in Arden Hills, with his best friend, Greg Ferrey.

When Bob died at age 90 in 2016, his funeral was held at Corpus Christi Church of Roseville, where he had been a founding member. He is buried at the Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Spooner, Wis.



Country Clothesline

By Veronica Free

When I think of country living,
Many thoughts come to mind,
But none are as prominent
As thoughts of a country clothesline.

Blue jeans, flannel shirts
And overalls hang there,
Absorbing country sunshine.
There is something very refreshing
About a country clothesline.

When your body is tired
From a day of hard work,
There is nothing quite as fine
As resting between sun-scented sheets
Brought in from a country clothesline.

Membership Form

Name _____ Date _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email _____ Phone _____

Mail completed form with your check to: _____ Individual membership \$10.00/year
Roseville Historical Society _____ Family membership \$15.00/year
2660 Civic Center Drive _____ Donation
Roseville, MN 55113

The Roseville Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) organization. Money given above membership amount is tax deductible. All memberships are for the calendar year (January – December).

Roseville Historical Society
2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, MN 55113