

February 2016

RHS Memo

A Newsletter for members and friends of the
Roseville Historical Society.



Geismann Family

Compiled by Beverly Kroschel

August C. Geismann was born in Germany 9/30/1827. He came to this country in 1847 as he did not wish a military life which was obligatory to all males in Germany. He was a Territorial Pioneer in Minnesota. He lived on the lower flats of St. Paul in 1849.

In 1849, he married Marie Zaspel. Marie's father had come from Germany, bringing with him plants. He started a nursery in the area which is now I94, between Snelling and Hamline. Among the plants he brought were yellow currants. When Como Park was being developed, he sold yellow currant plants to them. A family member still has a yellow currant bush descended from that stock.

Mr. Geismann was a harness and saddle craftsman.

After several miscarriages, August and Marie adopted a girl, Anna Mohr. They then had 8 children of their own, the youngest was August R. Geismann.

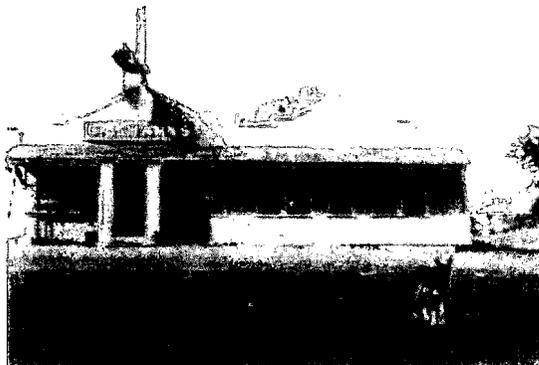
August R. Geismann married Mary Weinholzer June 9, 1908. Mary was born in Bavaria 10/24/1881. Her mother died when she was born. They came to this country and lived in northern Iowa. Mr. Weinholzer married for the second time. This marriage added half-brothers Joe, Charlie and Frank. One of the boys died from falling off the roof of Assumption School where he had gone to retrieve a ball. The family lived in Frogtown.

August and Mary's first home was at an area called Cardigan Junction - near the railroad tracks just west of Rice Street. Mrs. Giesmann would take baby, Ella, on the train with her when she took eggs, chickens and produce to St. Paul to fill orders for those items.

The family then moved to the family farm on New Brighton Road. There 3 more daughters were born. Customers for produce, chicken and eggs came by buggy. One of their customers was a Mrs. L. N. Scott from Summit Avenue, who very kindly brought helpful little gifts for the young family.

On one occasion, Mrs. Scott wanted strawberries very badly. The family carefully picked the berries and set them aside. However, the familys pet Guernsey cow ate all the strawberries they had picked.

August bought 6 acres on the southwest
(Continued on page 4)



Officers

Joyce DuFresne
President
651-490-5561

Frank Watson
Past President
651-762-2774

Bob Niederkorn
Vice President
651-488-3976

JoAnne Garlough
Secretary
651-489-5452

Rynetta Renford
Treasurer
651-485-6060

LaVerne Dickhudt
Archivist
651-484-4146

Co-Heritage Directors
Sharon Pillen
651-256-2986
Beverly Kroschel
651-484-1708

Committee Chairs

Betty Danks
Historian | 651-484-9572

Monica Muckala
Cheer | 651-261-7980

Ron Linebarger
Membership | 651-765-9789

Sharon Pillen
Hospitality | 651-256-2986

Betty Danks/Beverly Kroschel
Newsletter

Mailing Address
2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, MN 55113

E-mail: rsmn1977@yahoo.com

Website: rsmn.org

Office Open by Appointment

Phone: 651-792-7440
Please leave a message.

President's Message

By Joyce DuFresne, President

Dear Friends,

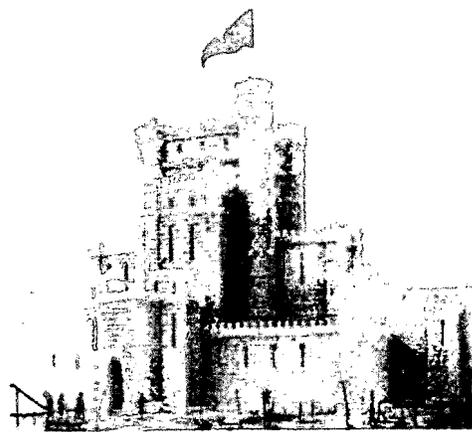
Hello to all members of the Roseville Historical Society. We are now in midwinter and hope we are all staying warm.



Our membership meeting is February 15. The election of officers for the coming 2 year terms of president, secretary and heritage director will be held. We need a vice president for one year until election in 2017.

Dues for 2016 may be mailed in or if you pay at the February meeting it saves postage. Thank you.

I need to step down and was pleased to have served this organization. Hope you can attend to hear our speaker and have some refreshments. Door prizes will be awarded.



1886 St. Paul Winter Carnival Ice Palace

In 1886, a New York reporter wrote that, in winter, St. Paul was, "another Siberia, unfit for human habitation."

In response, a group of St. Paul business leaders organized the first St. Paul Winter Carnival to show that not only was St. Paul habitable in winter, but its residents also fully embraced the season.

Minnesota's First Winter Carnival

Information
Courtesy of the
Minnesota
Historical Society

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Dates to Remember



Membership Meetings

Monday, February 15, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.
Election of Officers
Door prizes

Sample craft item will be for sale including jams, gingerbread and foot cream

Treats will be provided by:
Betty Danks
Beverly Kroschel
Joyce DuFresne

Monday, May 16, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 19, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 12, 2016 - 5:30 p.m. **Potluck**

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

Board Meetings

Board meetings are held in the Aspen Room at City Hall. Any member may attend and present a subject for consideration.

Thursday, April. 14, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 11, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 10, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.

February Program

**"85 Years"
Memory of a Small Town Boy**

Speaker: John Sweeney

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers have donated 1,874.25 hours to the Roseville Historical Society during 2015. This is the same as one person working 46 weeks. That is almost the equivalent of a full time person in the office!

Many more hours were spent at craft shows, making crafts and helping with moving and getting settled in our new office space.

Con't from page 2

The grandest ice palace was built in 1992 to coincide with Minnesota's hosting of the Super Bowl. It was 166 feet tall, used 1.5 million pounds of ice and cost nearly \$2 million dollars.

In 2015, event organizers constructed a royal courtyard. They also hope to bring back a full-size ice palace in 2018 (another Super Bowl year for Minnesota).

King Boreas and Queen of the Snows reign until Vulcan Krewe dethrones them and they bid farewell to his winter playground and - along with his brothers, the Four Winds - leaves his realm until the following year.



Winter Carnival marching units uniforms

The Winter Carnival reflects the attitude of 19th century Minnesotans that, since winter could not be avoided, it might as well be enjoyed.

The Minnesota Historical Society has documented the winter carnival from its earliest days.

From the Archivist

By LaVerne Dickhudt



Happy 2016!

Work continues. There's always pictures to catalog. Beverly Kroschel is always thinking and asking about stories for the next newsletter. It's a big job. If you have any neat stories, let us know.

We had a call asking if we had the Suburban Sun Newspaper books in our collection, which we do. The man came to the office to do research on his family and the area he grew up in.

In the future we hope to take pictures of our older artifacts in storage. They came before we took pictures (no camera). That'll keep us busy for a while.

The family of Eugene Richter donated many artifacts plus toys handmade by Eugene (sling shot, binder gun, long distance telephone), his famous straw hat with blackbird and Christmas decorations.

Eugene always decorated the office and for the Christmas potluck.

Thanks to Herb Dickhudt for hanging the fan in the office, hanging the Roseville flag and doing electrical work.

Roseville Historical Society Membership Form

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

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

Name _____

Date _____

Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

St _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail Address _____

Telephone _____

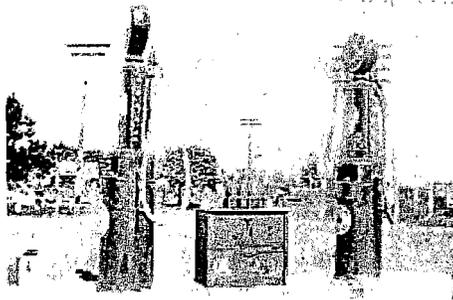
Dues for calendar year(s) 20__ 20__

Geismann Continued from page 1

corner of Snelling and County Road B in 1920. The deal included 1000 live chickens. They built a small convenience store there to sell bread, milk, eggs, candy, ice cream and live and dressed chickens.

Neighborhood children walked long distances to decide between licorice babies (6 for a penny), mint leaves, wine drops, Mary Janes and many other kinds of candy.

Between 1920 and 1924 they added a screen porch and tables so Mary could sell fried chicken. They also added gas pumps outside. These had to be pumped full by hand. When Snelling Avenue was paved, the men were kind enough to do some of the pumping. Mary often gave these men meals.



In 1929, Mary's brother Charles Weinholzer, purchased the property and replaced the store with a 2 story brick building for dining and dancing. As prohibition was still in force, near-beer and pop were sold. It was called Windsor Tavern and later the Golden Gopher.

In a few years, Mary opened a small restaurant south of her brother's tavern and catered to drive-in customers with curb service with 'girl car hops.' As many as 20 worked in the summer. Ads were placed in the paper to get girls from town to work. They came by streetcar to Como and Snelling where they were met by a Giesmann family member to take them to work.

Mary closed the restaurant in the winter except for August's birthday when a large party was held with dancing and singing German songs. Irv Zibell played his concertina making for a lively evening.

When beer came back in 1933, the breweries were asked to provide tap beer which could be sold on a curb service basis. Schmidts brewery agreed to do so. Business grew rapidly. There was a large parking lot, with two outside toilets. There were no laws concerning closing hours at first, but soon it was established that no beer could be sold after 1 a.m. These rules were strictly enforced, in spite of customers wanting "just one more."

August Giesmann and partner Otto Lindquist cut ice on Twin Lakes. Much of it was used to cool the kegs of Schmidt's beer.

Girls were expected to keep an eye on the customers so that they didn't make off with the steins.

Prices in the Early Thirties:

Beer	.05 - 12 ounce stein
Pop or root beer	.05
Hamburger	.05
Chicken	.25 - white or dark quarter served with toast and a pickle
Chicken	.50 - half (white and dark)



The Geismann's sold fireworks at a stand on the property during the summer. Above Irene Richter, Ella Geismann, Dorothy Geismann and an unidentified young girl stand in front of the fireworks stand.

A larger store with 10 tables was built about 1934-35. The store closed in the early 1950s. When it was sold the name was changed to The Arden Inn.

In Memory



Eugene Richter Sept. 9, 1928-Nov. 17, 2015

Eugene was born in Rosetown. His parents were Otto and Alma Richter. He enjoyed growing up on the family farm, known as the Otto Richter Feed store.

Eugene attended Wilson high school and graduated from Dunwoody Institute as a tool and die maker. He proudly served in the military at Camp Rucker in Alabama and while stationed there, married Eunice Smith from Benson, MN in 1951. He worked at Honeywell Residential Division until his retirement.

Eugene regularly offered his time and skills to the Roseville Community; volunteering at the Roseville Historical Society, Meals on Wheels and Roseville Park and Rec. He was honored as the Grand Marshall of Roseville's 50th Anniversary Parade in 1998.

A contributing 'founder' of Lyngblomsten, he was frequently seen there, serving older adults and their families. He loved gardening, hunting, fishing, camping and spending time with family and friends. He was a deeply spiritual man, very kind and generous.

Eugene is survived by his four children: Diane (Richard) Kadue, Wayne (Laurie) Richter, Karla (Kurt Franke and Randall Richter, seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter, brother Vernon Richter. Eugene was preceded in death by wife Eunice Richter of 49 years, daughter Susan Richter and siblings William, Norman, Gordon, Luella, Lucille and Lorraine.



Treasurer's Report

by Rynetta Renford
December 11, 2015

Checking	\$ 235.59
Savings	3,509.02
Building Fund	4,874.25
CD	6,125.05
Totals	\$ 14,743.91

Craft Show Update

By Sharon Pillen

At our Christmas gathering on Monday, December 9, we were able to present a check for \$900 to President DuFresne to pay office expenses for the coming year. What a great Christmas present to the Historical Society.

It was decided in early spring to try our hand at craft shows. With the help of the membership doing craft projects and giving their creative ideas to the committee, we had many items to sell. A great job was done by all.

During the summer, we started our travels. We went to the various communities with our crafts and ended with the craft show at city hall the first weekend in December.

We will proceed into the coming year with help and ideas coming from all of you and the community. We can always use more helping hands and great ideas to make our new year a great success.

At our shows this year we sold jams, breads, bonnets, winter scarves, towels, plants, candies, snack treats, jars of favorite drink mixes, a small cook book and miscellaneous items. All of our sale pieces had the Roseville Historical Society business card attached, as we were looking to attract new members and to let them know about the Society.

Thank you to Mary Skiba, Debbie Manke, Shirley Preda and Amie Pillen for donating crafts and helping with the sales.

Your help is needed!



We need supplies for our new venture of raising money for the coming year. If people could donate small decorative cans, Christmas coffee cups, old Christmas cards, pint to small jelly jars, sugar, flour or gift cards from Cub, Walmart, and Target to buy our supplies that would be wonderful. Money donations are always great since we buy ribbon, gift containers, ink, labels and material for our projects and also pay table rent at the sales we attend.

Fabric and yarn donations would greatly be appreciated as volunteers will make crafts to sell.



We have already received calls to invite us to join shows for 2016. Thank you cannot say enough for all the donations and helping hands to make our venture a wonderful success for 2015.

Watch future newsletters for more information on how you can help raise money to support the Society.



Hear Ye, Hear Ye

A committee to do brainstorming for ideas and plans for future craft sales will meet in March. If you would like to be a part of this committee, please call Sharon Pillen (651-335-1267) and she will contact you with the date.

Cheer

By Monica Muckala



Sympathy - Family of Eugene Richter
Get Well Card to - Betty Wolfangle



Sharon Pillen presenting a \$900 check to President Joyce Dufresne from the proceeds of the craft sales.

Roseville Historical Society
Membership Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by President, Joyce DuFresne.

The Secretary's minutes were read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was approved. Cash and bank balances total \$14,743.91.

Membership chair, Ron Linebarger reported 20 members had paid their 2016 dues. That consists of 3 families and 14 individuals. Eighty-five members had not paid and 2 members are in nursing homes and will be kept on as members without paying dues.

Sharon Pillen was in charge of the potluck Christmas party. Ben VanZandt provided the musical entertainment.

Betty Wolfangle spoke about the Roseville Community Fund grant and stated there was no money to be given out in December. The grant request will be presented in March 2016, the next time the committee meets.

Sharon Pillen presented President DuFresne with a check for \$900 earned at craft shows for the Society. Sharon was thanked for all the work she did to make this fund raising project successful. (See photo on left)

Several door prizes were awarded.

The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 15 at 7:00 p.m. Election of officers will take place at this meeting.

Our party included food and it was great. Thanks everyone.

Respectfully submitted,
JoAnne Garlough
Secretary



The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.

Helen Keller