



Rutherford

CEMETERY & COLUMBARIUM ASSOCIATION
STILLWATER, MN • EST. 1850

NEWSLETTER

March 2020

Our Mission

Our mission is to honor the memory of those who have chosen our hallowed grounds as their final resting place. We include people of all faiths and offer ground burials as well as a columbarium. We are an all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of this lovely historic site. To this end, we rely on individual and community support as well as donations.



A message from our President



JoEllen Lange

Hello Members! It is my privilege to have been Rutherford's president for the 2019 calendar year. As we've turned the corner into 2020, however, we are navigating the unprecedented COVID-19 epidemic. In the interest of individual and community health and safety, this year's

annual member meeting will be postponed from April 14th, if not cancelled. Our May 2 cleanup kickoff may also look different this year. Details forthcoming. Until we can safely reconvene, please be well and take very good care.

Announcements: Ron Johnson expressed his desire to begin his retirement from Rutherford some time ago. In 2020, we're honoring Ron and his request and will gather to celebrate and thank him for his decades of loyal and attentive service. Details forthcoming for this celebration of Ron. THANK YOU, RON!

Cleanup days: We tried two new things in 2019. In the spirit of our mission, as members of community, at our May kickoff event, Julie Speltz organized a food drive to benefit Valley Outreach, a local community service organization. They were grateful for the 81 pounds of

food plus monetary contributions we collectively donated. The other was that we had only two "formal" cleanup days in 2019 – a sunny Saturday in early May and an equally bright Saturday in mid-September.



Spring Cleaning Crew, May 2019

In 2020 we plan to return to a monthly summer cleanup schedule after the big spring cleanup kick-off in May. See the schedule in this newsletter. Please come when you are available. We'll cancel if the weather is too hot for safe working. You are always welcome to do – and are heartily thanked for – any light maintenance if you are on the grounds for a visit.

President's Message - Continued on next page

MAC: You may have read in previous newsletters that the president or another board member attended that year's annual MAC (Minnesota Association of Cemeteries) meeting. We were unable to attend in 2019, but I want to mention MAC by way of reminding us of our relationship with them. For example, these annual meetings serve as learning conferences where we might learn of trends such as increases in cremation over embalming and burial or green cremation or the importance of having documented and published bylaws and rules, and so much more. In addition, we look to them for passing along operating information, such as updates to or regular reminders of Minnesota statutes that are relevant to proper operations of cemeteries.

Memorial Day: A cool day with light rain on Memorial Day 2019 would not and did not deter folks from honoring and paying respect to those who served our country. It is a special gift we receive in being present to hear the moving tributes offered by the esteemed Honor Guard and Auxiliary of Stillwater's VFW Post 323.



Memorial Day Service 2019



Rules: We are fortunate that Rutherford is naturally beautiful. And it's gratifying to hear members and visitors comment on both its natural beauty and the care that is put into the grounds.

In the spirit of ensuring that Rutherford may always be experienced in its natural beauty, we ask members to be aware of the association rules regarding what may and may not be placed on or near stones. This reminder is included annually in the newsletter as well as on our website.

1. Only live plants in stands that are drilled into the base are allowed. Plant stands already installed are exempt.
2. No artificial flowers, decorations, solar lights, or hanging planters allowed.
3. No pots or other decorations may be placed on the ground.
4. The Association reserves the right to remove any of these items.

Tree fund donations: At this time, all plant life donations must be made to the tree fund via checks to Maxine or the online option. There are currently no available locations for tree placement. As trees are removed because they have reached their life span limit or are struck by disease (ash, for ex.) we will again be able to consider what and where we are able to place new plant life. We understand that living memorials are meaningful; so, in the meantime, please consider planting your living memorial in your or a family member's yard.

Website: We are fortunate to have an attractive, robust and informative website! And did you know that websites inherently contain "living content"? This means that changes must be made occasionally to reflect updates or changes to site navigation (for ex., ease of use helps a website rank higher in searches). We are working on implementing a newly updated website this year. Also, please be sure to "Like" our Facebook page if you haven't already done so. We'd also appreciate a positive "review" left by members on our Facebook page. Having an online presence in today's world is another important element in sharing the good word about the neat community of Rutherford (your word of mouth is the other way this happens!).

President's Message - Continued on next page

Thank you, All! Rutherford wouldn't be the gem that it is if it weren't for the members and volunteers who show up on cleanup days, who offer maintenance while they're visiting, who donate generously via checks to Maxine or via the website for special funds or regular care, who volunteer as board members and give extra time and energy to special projects and the regular maintenance that running a current and operating pioneer cemetery require.

Sincerely, JoEllen Lange, President, 2019-2022

With Hearty and Heartfelt Thanks to Ron Johnson



Ron Johnson expressed his desire for retirement from his Rutherford salesperson duties back in 2006. Wow, did Ron go above and beyond in his commitment to Rutherford and the families he has served!

In the 2019 newsletter in the Rutherford Honors Society section, Ron shared that his service to Rutherford "[had] always been a secret passion." For Ron, there were no small tasks, only tasks that needed to be done in order to honor the deceased and their families and to create relationships that enhanced the Rutherford identity and community.

Live a Legacy, Leave a Legacy

Anyone can make a difference to their favorite charities today and beyond their lifetime in the form of a legacy gift.



Including Rutherford Cemetery and Columbarium Association in your will or estate plan is a simple way to ensure what's meaningful to you today, continues tomorrow. Please speak with your personal estate and/or tax planner about the how to include Rutherford in your trust or will.

In Memoriam

Our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of Association members who recently lost loved ones.



Marcella Carlson
Alan Donnohue
Robert Kroening
Marilyn Masterman
Reginald Meissner
Floyd Munkelwitz
Mary (Peggy) Murphy
Elsie Mae Pearsall
Phillip Pearsall
Brad Putnam
Gert Kurt Schmalenbach
Kenneth Seefert, Sr.
Cynthia L. Sigsworth
Seng Simphilavong
Vincent Switala
Gary Walker

Online Donations

Thank you to members who are making donations online, we are truly grateful! During 2019, a total of \$2,725 in donations were made; \$1,100 via online and \$1,625 via check. Our donations webpage can be found online at: rutherfordcemetery.org/donations. Click on the "Donate" button and a PayPal window will open. Remember, donations of any amount are vital to the upkeep of the grounds and are tax deductible.

Also note that now that we are incorporated (again), I will be filing taxes for Rutherford.

-Julie LeMoine, Treasurer

Rutherford Cemetery Board

JoEllen Lange	President, 2019-2022
Don Grund	Vice President, 2017-2020
Julie LeMoine	Treasurer, 2017-2020
Leslie Dorendorf	Secretary, 2018-2021
Julie Speltz	Trustee, 2017-2020
David Stone	Trustee, 2017-2020
John Rutherford	Trustee, 2018-2021
Betty Welke	Trustee, 2018-2021
Tom Lange	Trustee, 2019-2022
Jim Masterman	Trustee, 2019-2022
Lori Swanson	Trustee, 2019-2022



The Rutherford Cemetery & Columbarium Association newsletter is published annually each spring.

Connect with us



www.rutherfordcemetery.org
rutherfordcemeteryassociation@hotmail.com

Lot Sales Update

Although generally cremation over burial is trending, in 2019 there were 14 lots and 3 niches sold.

Burial lots or columbarium niches may be purchased at any time, including, perhaps especially, for the purpose of preplanning. *Preplanning* offers unique benefits:

- Peace of mind knowing your wishes have been made known and arrangements have been made
- Comfort knowing your family will not have to make important decisions during the difficult time of initial grief
- Lessening the potential for disputes, hard feelings, or uncertainty over decisions
- Costs are covered at today's prices

Lot or niche fees are due at the time of purchase. Opening and closing fees may be paid at the time of purchase or at interment (at which time higher rates may apply). Note that additional fees will apply for winter burials due to additional equipment required to thaw frozen ground. For current prices, please visit www.rutherfordcemetery.org/sales.

For more information on purchasing a burial lot or columbarium niche, please email us at rutherfordcemeteryassociation@hotmail.com.

Lot Salesperson Needed

We are seeking a qualified individual to assume the role as Lot Salesperson. If you know of someone who might be interested, please feel free to share this information with him/her. A \$500 per annum stipend is provided.

Qualifications desired:

- Must have a flexible schedule
- Is personable and able to have conversations with interested members during their preplanning or in time of grief
- Is able to navigate the hilly terrain of the Rutherford grounds
- Complete necessary tasks related to the sale of lot(s) and niche(s), such as paperwork and ground marking
- Coordinate necessary tasks related to the actual burial or niching, such as arranging for snow removal and ground digging
- Will focus on the needs of the new member during the Sales process while ensuring the bylaws and rules of the Association are followed
- Will collaborate with board members to resolve concerns or solve issues

For additional details please see "Section 5. Duties of the Lot Salesperson" of our bylaws on our website: www.rutherfordcemetery.org/bylaws-and-rules/.

This position works closely with, and receives support from, the Vice President/Grounds Committee. If you are interested, please email us at rutherfordcemeteryassociation@hotmail.com and we will contact you. Thank you!

2019 Donations Report

Our sincere thank-you to everyone who donated time, services and/or made financial contributions this past year. **A total of \$2,725 was received in donations in 2019.** You'll find included with this newsletter a self-addressed envelope should you wish to mail in a donation. Alternately, you may donate online at rutherfordcemetery.org/donations. All donors will receive a thank-you note and donation receipt. -*Maxine Enfield, Donations Coordinator*

MEMORIAL DONATIONS / IN MEMORY OF

Maxine Enfield	<i>Frank Enfield</i>
Ruth Guse	<i>Marilyn Masterman</i>
Iona Holsten	<i>Roy Holsten</i>
Ann Mastrodicasa	<i>The Ramsden Family</i>
Susan & Jim Tobin	<i>Edward & Avis Kotoski</i>

MEMORIAL DONATIONS OF \$100 OR MORE

Scott & Kum Cha Kruse	<i>Linda DeValois</i>
Ellen St. Sauver	<i>Lois Vietor, Henry Hopkins</i>
Betty Welke	<i>Harold (Skip) Welke</i>

MEMORIAL DONATIONS OF \$500 OR MORE

John Rutherford	<i>Edward Wesley Rutherford (1928-1986); Edward Wesley Rutherford (1896-1949); Edward Wesley Rutherford (1865-1926); William Wallace Rutherford (1828-1888); Edward Rutherford (1797-1856); Patricia Rutherford (1931-2019); Nora & Mark (1986)</i>
-----------------	---



GENERAL DONATIONS

Tom & Cheryl Arnold
Charles & Ute Buehler
David & Marsha Chizek
Harold Harper
Daniel & Terry Jozefow
Fred & Ruth Kruger
Janet K. Meisterling
Diane & Michael Putnam
Kimberly & Matthew Rowley
Joseph & Julie Speltz

GENERAL DONATIONS OF \$100 OR MORE

Darrell & Julianne Benson
Bruce & Judy Goldstrand
JC & MA McComas
Darlene & Roger Mooney
Steve & Sandy Roth
Renee Salzbrenner

GENERAL DONATIONS OF \$200 OR MORE

James & Susan Burton
Susan Olson

TREE FUND DONATIONS

Leslie & Mike Dorendorf
Kathryn & Philip Siegle



dates to Remember

Members will be notified via email and Facebook if any of these events are postponed and/or cancelled.

Questions? Please email: rutherfordcemeteryassociation@hotmail.com

81st Annual Meeting & Ron Johnson's Retirement Celebration

Tuesday, April 14, 6PM

POSTPONED

Members will be notified when the meeting is rescheduled.

Spring Clean-up

May 2, 9AM

(weather backup date: May 9, 9AM)

There is always something for everyone, so please join your fellow members in giving the grounds a good sprucing up. We will have several tools and supplies available, but buckets, rakes, shovels & gloves will no doubt come in handy.



Memorial Day Service

May 25, 7AM (Sharp!)

Military service provided by Stillwater VFW Post 323. Refreshments will be available on the cemetery grounds. Everyone welcome!

Please be sure to "Like" and follow our Facebook page for event reminders and updates.



Monthly Clean-up Nights

June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9 - 6PM

Please try to attend if you are able, all are held the second Wednesday of the month at 6PM.

Volunteers Wanted

We Want You! Because the terms of our board members are staggered, we are always in need of your help, gifts of talent, and energy! We appreciate that Rutherford is dear to you, for whatever reason (and we would love to know your whys) and would welcome your input in planning for Rutherford's future while honoring its present and past. Please consider joining the board. Visit the website to review the duties of the roles, www.rutherfordcemetery.org/bylaws-and-rules, and let us know you're interested via email rutherfordcemeteryassociation@hotmail.com.



Board Members 2019-2020 at the Fall Board Meeting. Pictured left to right: David Stone, JoEllen Lange, Tom Lange, Ron Johnson, Julie Speltz, Lori Swanson, Leslie Dorendorf, Betty Welke, John Rutherford, Jim Masterman, Don Grund. (Not pictured: Julie LeMoine)

Help us Stay Connected to You

Unique to Rutherford is that all owners (and/or their families) of burial lots or columbarium niches are *automatically* considered "Members" of our Association. Unfortunately, we don't always receive names and addresses for everyone. We know there are individuals who are not on record as being a member, so we are unable to communicate important Association news and events with them.

- If you have a family member who isn't currently receiving our emails and the annual newsletter,

please send us their name(s), mailing and email addresses.

- Do we have *your* email address? If not, or if you are unsure, please share it with us. Currently we only have email addresses for approximately half our members.
- Please email the Secretary with additions/updates: rutherfordcemeteryassociation@hotmail.com.



Rose Floral Offers Urn Service

Did you know Rose Floral, located in Stillwater, offers local cemeteries a Cemetery Urn Service? According to their website: www.rosefloral.com/services/cemetery-urn-service

"We will fill your pot in the spring and put it out a week before Memorial Day. In the fall, we will pick up the pot and bring it back to store indoors. The cost of this service is \$54.95 per season.

If you do not already own a pot and stand to use, we sell them for \$39.99 for the pot and \$39.99 for the stand.

The standard planting we use is:

- 3 red Geraniums
- 1 Spike plant
- 2 Vinca Vine
- 2 Springer fern



Currently, they do not offer a weekly "maintenance" service (watering, removing spent-blooms, fertilizing, etc.) to Rutherford.

Please contact Rose Floral directly, 651-439-3765 or 1-800-272-0715, with questions, to verify pricing, and/or to arrange for this convenient service.

Honoring Our Veterans

We are honored that Rutherford Cemetery is the resting place for veterans dating from the Civil War and we want to make sure all veterans are acknowledged. Iona Holsten keeps our Veteran list updated so please contact her if you have any updates at ionajh@aol.comph or 651-439-3708.

THANK YOU VETERANS



Members of Honor Guard and Auxiliary of Stillwater's VFW Post #323 – Memorial Day 2019.

Veterans – Current Members	
Benson, Darrell	Air Force
Christison, Dean	Korean War US Army 1957-1959
Dahler, Jodi	US Air force
Francis, David	Navy Captain
Harper, Edward Harold	Korean War US Army 45th Div. 1951-1953
Johnson, Ron	US Navy
Lange, Thomas (Dr.)	US Navy Vietnam 1968-1975
Olson, Jeffrey	Army
Michaletz, Robert	Army 1970-1976
Ramsden, Bruce	USAF 1959-1963 A1C
Siegle, Philip	US Navy 1960-1964 Honorable discharge
Tollefsbol, James	Marines
Wojtowicz, John	US Navy 1946-47; US Airforce 1948-66

Rutherford Cemetery Veterans (as of January 2020)	
CIVIL WAR	April 12, 1861 – April 9, 1865
Fairbanks, Joseph N.	Civil War: Co. D. 28 ME.INF. metal Veteran's star
Hall, Watson W.	Civil War: Co. E. 113 ILL. INF
Keene, John M.	Civil War: Co. C. 16th Maine Volunteers
Powell, Stephen W.	Civil War: GAR MN 24th INF 1861-1865 GAR
Ramsden, Thomas Peach Jr	Civil War: Co. B. 11 Minn. INF
Rutherford, William	Civil War: Co. K 13th Reg MN Vol.
SPANISH AMERICAN WAR	April 1898 – August 1898
Masterman, Joseph N.	Spanish-American War Captain.
Rutherford, William Henry	Spanish-American War - CO K 13th MN INF
WORLD WAR I	July 28, 1914 – November 11, 1918
Beecroft, Albert Ernest	WWI MN PFC Signal Corps
Ramsden, Charles (Chas) J.	WWI US American Legion Star in front of marker
Rutherford, Lyle S.	WWI US Army
Seifert, Frank L.	WWI Minnesota Sgt 161 Depot Brigade 1917-'18
WORLD WAR II	September 1, 1939 – September 2, 1945
Benson, Ronald Martin	WWII US Army
Brosious, James Elmore Jr.	WWII US Army
Brosious, William A.	US Army (WWII and Korean War)
Carlson, Dale V.	WWII US Navy Merchant Marine
Chizek, Shirley	WWII US Navy - PHM 2
Chizek, Vernon	WWII Army Air Forces
Collins, Robert C.	WWII US Navy Medical Corp
Gimmestad, Richard Allen	WWII US Navy
Grund, Robert A.	WWII US Navy
Guse, Reinhold Bud Ludwig	WWII US Army - Europe
Guse, William	WWII US Army Tech 4
Jordan, Robert Manseau	WWII US Navy
Kruger, Fred E.	WWII US Navy, Seabee
Marshall, Warren J.	WWII US Navy
Masterman, Royal James	WWII US Navy - Veteran star
Michaletz, Raymond H. Sr.	WWII Seabee
Peterson, David LeRoy	WWII US Navy Vet AVCAD
Schilling, Clinton John	WWII US Army PFC
Schoonover, Charles A.	WWII USNR Minnesota SF 2
Stone, George D.	WWII US Coast Guard
Stone, Ronald S.	WWII Navy Seal
Van Duren, Arthur Dale	WWII US Army Air Corps
Kotoski, Avis	US Coast Guard
Kotoski, Edward, Jr.	US Coast Guard Veteran
Roth, Paul	USMC
COLD WAR	1947-1996
Speltz, Robert	US Army
KOREAN WAR	June 25, 1950 – July 27, 1953
Brosious, William A.	US Army (WWII and Korean War)
Kroening, Robert	US Army Corp of Engineers
Joslin, Robert George	Veteran: US Naval Air Corp. from 1950-'53 in Guam & Fallon NV (He was a B24 tail gunner)
Krueger, Roland Henry	Korean War US Army
Maley, Ron	Korean War Veteran
Speltz, Donald	Korean War US Army
Wilfer, Bob	Korean War US Army 1952-1954
Derosier, Elmer	Korean War US Army
VIETNAM WAR	November 1, 1955 – April 30, 1975
Colombo, Barrett Lorne	Vietnam War US Army Captain - 1968-1972
Donnohue, Alan	Air Force 1969-1975
Michaletz, Raymond A. Jr.	Vietnam War US Army
Welke, Harold 'Skip'	Vietnam War US Navy
VETERAN	
Haire, Gerald Lee	US Navy - 1958-1961
Hurley, Dennis P.	Army
SPECIAL MENTION	
Cora Hall (nee Ramsden)	Spanish-American War - WRC GAR – but not official Veteran status

Rutherford Honors Society Ruth Masterman Guse



Ruth Masterman Guse is rather modest about her contributions to the care and honoring of Rutherford grounds and community. But if we were to create a timeline of how Ruth has been involved with and at Rutherford, it would go on for a long time and include many joys and responsibilities.

Ruth Masterman Guse

In her youth, Ruth remembers Rutherford as “a place where I played and grew up.” To know that the Masterman homestead was where Axdahl’s Garden Farm & Greenhouse is today, it makes sense that this is Ruth’s experience.

The tombstones were ‘horses’ during playtime...and Memorial Day service military salutes would compel the kids to rush to get those precious spent shells.

The tombstones were “horses” during playtime, summers meant taking flowers from Grandma’s

garden to the cemetery, and Memorial Day service military salutes would compel the kids to rush to get those precious spent shells.

When it was cleanup day on the Rutherford grounds, it was also cleanup time at the Masterman homestead, Ruth recalled, with not quite as much affection. With the homestead being the host of many cleanup day picnic gatherings (the times when the picnics were not at the cemetery) it meant an extra house cleaning with all female hands on deck.

The picnics came first, she recalled, and the ice cream socials followed, which were fund-raisers for the cemetery. For the ice cream socials, Ruth stated that “all the women had to bring cake” and indicated that there was a lot of cake on site. The ice cream might be offered with chocolate topping and cake could be purchased to

go with the ice cream. She recounted that another fund-raising effort for maintenance was a one-time set fee of \$2.00 per family with lots.

In a newspaper article, likely from 1954, about a “summer lawn social” for Rutherford to be held at the Masterman homestead, it indicated that Ruth Masterman was named “general chairman of the social committee” and given two assistants, Carl Benson and Adele Lindholm.

In 1962, Ruth, by now Ruth Masterman Guse, was a trustee during the time when the board proposed a resolution to establish the Perpetual Fund for Rutherford’s continued care.

In 1963, the Priscilla Club’s 50th anniversary year, Ruth helped sew and donate a 50-year Priscilla Club quilt to Washington County Historical Society. For a real treat, you can see the actual quilt at the Washington County Historical Society’s Warden’s House Museum (www.wchsmn.org/museums/wardens-house-museum/).



Ruth Masterman Guse 1963 with Priscilla Club quilt

Ruth also contributed to the labors of the association by holding the offices of Treasurer, for which she stated she got occasional help from her finance-savvy banker husband Reiny, and of Secretary.

Not only did Reiny occasionally provide help with Ruth’s tasks as treasurer, but Ruth and Reiny made participation at Rutherford a true family affair! Ruth recalls that Reiny and their three sons, Ron, Rick, and Randy, all contributed to the groundskeeping by applying their lawn-mowing skills.

Ruth has been a mostly life-long resident of Grant, Oak Park Heights, and Stillwater save for a brief time away in Colorado.

Ruth Masterman Guse - Continued on next page

Stillwater may have been calling Ruth back when she returned from Colorado to care for the farm while her parents were out of town and she decided to stay. Ruth said of Rutherford, “whenever I was home, it was never far away.”

That Ruth understood Rutherford Cemetery to be essentially an extension of her home is certainly a different way of looking at a burial ground compared to view one might of them today. It was a place where she played, it was sometimes the reason the whole house had to be cleaned, it was where community melded into family. The community was Rutherford cemetery. And Ruth could never recall a time when she didn't want to go to Rutherford.

It seems to me that the care that was given to Rutherford when Ruth played among the monuments and trees as a child and then as Ruth's own family grew has extended to how this special place is perceived and experienced today.

Rutherford continues to be served by volunteers and members who understand that it's when folks join in community they can accomplish, share, and enjoy much.

My interview experience with Ruth was that she both enjoyed and was conscientious in the task of answering questions and curiosities and remembering the details of the time. She spoke fondly, and always unassumingly, of her involvement with and memories of Rutherford as she perused a memory book in which she had stories, photos, and articles of the neighborhood's bygone years.

It's quite clear that you can't have Rutherford without Ruth. So, **Ruth, thank you for having always called the Rutherford community home** and for your contributions to the growth and strengthening of the community in such caring ways that have allowed future families to be appreciative in calling Rutherford *home* for their loved ones as well.

*...you can't have
Rutherford
without Ruth.*

- JoEllen Lange, President, on behalf of the Rutherford Cemetery & Columbarium Association, February 2020



The following piece was written by Ruth Masterman Guse in April 1989. It was submitted by her nephew, Jim Masterman, current cemetery Trustee. Leslie Dorendorf, current Association Secretary, is Ruth's niece.

Masterman's Crossing



1932 Plowing the garden: Daniel A Masterman, Royal and Ruth

In 1845 my great-grandfather purchased land in Grant township for \$1.25 an acre from the government. Approximately eighty years later the great-grandchildren have arrived. First Royal, second Ruth, and a few years later Daniel Masterman.

We grew up in a large farmhouse with our parents, Myrtle and Stillman, and our grandparents, Mary Ann and Daniel Masterman. If Mom or Dad wouldn't give us an extra cookie or piece of cake, we could always go to Grandpa. There was always room for the relatives to spend a few days with us too.

Masterman's Crossing - Continued on next page

The streetcar line was a few blocks south of the house. Royal went to kindergarten on the streetcar. The motorman would stop and wait for him if he wasn't at Masterman's Crossing. Mom took the streetcar to the hospital when Daniel was born because of a March storm. That summer the streetcar line was taken out.

When Royal started first grade, District 7 decided to buy a school bus. What excitement! It was a 1930 Model A Ford. As the years passed and our district still had the same bus it became known as "The Cracker Box." The bus was narrow, and the seats were along



Royal Masterman, Leonard Siefert, Bob Carlson - Model A school bus 1940

the sides, so we faced the middle. Eventually a narrow bench was bolted down the middle which had to be straddled. There was a back door and I don't think the older boys ever entered or left by the front door.

The bus rides home from school on a Friday night was a good time to plan a get-together such as a skating party on Long Lake with lunch afterwards at one of the farm homes. Hayrides were just as spontaneous with the tractor from one farm, the wagon from another, and the girls always got stuck bringing the lunch. We always had hot chocolate in the cold weather and lemonade in the summer furnished by the host family.

We were fortunate to live on a farm but have close neighbors to play with. Lindberg's were across the road, so I spend a lot of time with Helen and Marilyn. Donna Jacobson lived on the Jackson farm. There was a swimming pool there so Helen, Marilyn, and I enjoyed the hot summer days by biking to visit Donna

and using the pool. The boys had a favorite swimming hole out in the "back 40".

We belonged to the Jolly Juniors 4-H Club. Benson's, Seiferts, Welanders, Lindbergs, Carlsons, and Jacobsons were some of the families that belonged. We put on plays, minstrel shows, had wiener roasts, and sliding parties. That was a fun time. We carried the usual 4-H projects and exhibited at the County Fair. We had the prize winning 4-H booth one year and got to put it up at the State Fair. I don't remember how we placed there.

The neighborhood women belonged to the Priscilla Club. They met bimonthly to quilt or mend and get caught up on the neighborhood news. When the kids were too young for school, they were brought along to



Priscilla Club 50th Anniversary - 1963

these meetings. When someone in the neighborhood got married, the Priscilla Club held a shower which included the men, women, and children. Everyone brought food and what a feast that was.

In the winter Royal, Rod Lindberg, Robert and Dave Carlson, and Gerald Benson would ski the ditches while being pulled on a rope behind a car. It seemed they spent more time unwrapping the rope from a mail or paper box pole and brushing themselves off than skiing.

Masterman's Crossing - Continued on next page

Masterman's Crossing - Continued from page 11

Summers were busy with the usual farm work but over the years the Masterman-McHattie family picnic, the Trinity Lutheran Church picnic, and the ice cream social for the Rutherford Cemetery was held at various times.



“Plow Girl” Ruth Masterman,
Pioneer Press Photo

The Rutherford Cemetery was close. In 1939 the cemetery was cleaned, stones reset, trees trimmed, and the Rutherford Cemetery Association was formed.

The caretakers have always been local boys and men. The first caretakers were Royal and Gerald Benson. Leonard Seifert, Karl Benson, Lee Masterman (an uncle), and Daniel Masterman were among the many that earned a little money cutting the hilly cemetery. As the years went on, the sons of many

of these former caretakers have taken their turn at the job. It is now a beautiful, peaceful place.

After we kids were on our own, Mom decided to work. She did the cooking at Reed's Drug for a number of years. Her homemade pies were well known. Roger Erickson would check the menu with her each morning on "Reed's Time to Trade" over WAVN radio.

At one time my parents lived in an apartment upstairs at the farm. Mom could look out the kitchen window and see all her children and grandchildren and that was very special to her.

When Royal came home from the service, he worked at Olson Transfer, married Jeanette Alcorn and now lives just south of the farm. Ruth worked at Maple Island after High School, and married Reiny Guse. They lived the first place south of the farm until recently. Daniel returned from the Navy and ran the farm for several years, then worked for Stillwater Manufacturing. He now lives in what was at one time a woods owned by Mastermans. He is married to Joan, who came from England. *- Ruth Masterman Guse, April 1989*