

PLANNING STAFF NEWS

ASSISTANT PLANNING
DIRECTOR
PHIL KAPPEN



Assistant Planning Director Phil Kappen retired on June 4, 2010. Phil worked in the Planning Department for nearly 20 years and specialized in drainage, CAFO's, code enforcement, and solid waste issues. He was also an integral part of The Sioux Empire Water Festival, an educational event where area children learn about water. Phil served on the organizational board and presented classes to the elementary students. Phil was well known in the county offices for his fondness of puns, which incited many groans, and his annual Christmas rebus. We wish him well.



HISTORIC MINNEHAHA COUNTY BEN CLARE, SD

Ben Clare, S.D. is located 6 miles south of Valley Springs. Once a thriving trading center, it had streets and avenues and platted lots. The community lies in the extreme southeast corner of Minnehaha County and is bounded on the east by the state of Minnesota and on the south by the state of Iowa. The corner where these three states meet is marked by an "iron post" first placed here by a United States government surveyor in 1859.

The name comes from the founder's sons Benjamin and Clarence. Benjamin B. Richards and his wife Eveleen of Dubuque, Iowa founded the town Sept. 1, 1888. Benjamin Richards was a banker and owned land in both Iowa and Dakota. As the population grew and agriculture flourished the town thrived, but not to the extent that was expected. In its heyday there were two stores, two grain elevators, hardware store, lumberyard, creamery-produce station, stockyards, Illinois Central depot and a church. A post office was established December 21, 1888 and discontinued September 30, 1912.

In 1892, B.B. Richards sold the town site to Frank Bowen. Mr. Bowen was a very impatient and hot tempered man. During the next ten years he instituted one lawsuit after another involving the Illinois Central Railway and caused much contention among the neighbors, so much so that in 1895 a part of the town was moved off of Bowen's land and on to an adjacent farm and called North Ben Clare. Bowen's end came in 1903 when the local depot agent informed him that he had a package at the depot. When Bowen appeared at the ticket window, instead of a package he was met by a gun. The depot agent shot and killed Frank Bowen and wounded his young son.



The Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated in 1894 and is still in operation. Some of the grain storage facilities and a grain elevator were incorporated into an adjacent farm and four residences.

Source: Minnehaha County Historical and Biographical Sketches - Minnehaha County Historical Society

DRAINAGE TASK FORCE

The Drainage Task Force is in the midst of holding public hearings to solicit comments and suggestions from the general public. The task force, chaired by Commissioner Dick Kelly, was formed to review the currently adopted drainage ordinance. As part of that process three meetings for public testimony were scheduled. The first two meetings, one held in Sioux Falls and the other in Dell Rapids, had an approximate attendance of 70 people at each location. Testimony was given about the merits and negative aspects of tiling and ditching, concerns about downstream owner notification, drainage into blue line



Task Force members L to R: Rich Barnett, Mark DeSchepper, Ron Klingenberg, Dick Kelly, Jeff Barth, Wayne Albers, Derry Benson & Joel Hanson

streams, and the type of permits required to replace or repair old tile and clean out ditches.

On **Wednesday, July 7th, at 7:00 pm** the task force will have its last meeting to take public input. Held in the County Commission meeting room at 415 N. Dakota Ave., any interested party is encouraged to attend and address the task force. The task force will then meet and formulate recommendations on the drainage ordinance and present these to the County Commission.



Attendees at the Dell Rapids Meeting June 23rd

WALL LAKE TRIATHLON



The 5th annual Wall Lake Triathlon was held on June 26th. There were 170 individual entries, 15 relay teams and approximately 200 spectators.