

Dakota Attitude

Glen Sailer

Interview: June 16, 2014
 County: Mercer
 City: Stanton



Conversation at the Service Station

“There was 15 of us in the family,” says Glen Sailer, who was born in 1935 and grew up on the family farm near Stanton. “Four girls and 11 boys. Small house,” Glen chuckles. “Not much room. Mom just worked day and night. Well, I’m the oldest one of the family, and I, of course, did not live with all those 15 kids. I was off on my own quite young.

“When I was eight years old, I was already driving a tractor pulling a binder. We got fed well. I went to German Sunday school. German is a helluva lot different than English. The ministers all preached in German.” Glen first learned English in school. “But then we got home and start talking German again.”

Glen still remembers the tail end of the Great Depression. “There’s a lot of good things about it but a lot of bad things about it. The friendship was great, the visitation was great, everything was nice [to each other], but it was tough times on the farm. We couldn’t raise any crops there; seemed like the rain never went through there.”

Glen and his wife, Merlin, were married shortly after he graduated from high school. They have five children. “I think in North Dakota we’re pretty fortunate. Usually most of them are pretty good workers. You’re brought up from home, from the parents. Oh, yeah. We worked hard on the farm. You know, they work, you get them to work, and then it’s just natural.”

Glen worked for Peter Kiewit Construction and in 1996 retired from Great River Energy Company. Now he does woodworking in his garage. He also regularly goes down to the service station for coffee. What is interesting at coffee? “You always say, ‘It’s nice out’ or ‘It’s gonna rain’ or ‘The wind is gonna blow.’ That’s the main topic. That’s how you start your conversation. Like everybody else you’ve gotta listen to a little gossip. There hasn’t been much going on, nothing. I went down there this morning, and nobody had nothing to say. Pretty quiet.”

Kenneth and Delores (Ackerman) Vettel

Interview: April 4, 2016
 County: Traill
 City: Caledonia



Ripe Skunks for Bait

Delores grew up near Hillsboro and attended an all-girls’ high school, Mount St. Benedict. After graduating, she married Kenneth in 1955.

He was born in 1927 and grew up in Caledonia. The family lived near the Red River and the Goose River. “I fished a lot. We trapped. After the work was done in the fall, then we’d go trapping. We trapped mink for quite a few years, and then when fox prices went up we trapped fox. The best year we ever had we caught 375 fox. We skinned the first year, but then we started catching so many that we just couldn’t keep up with the skinning, so then we’d freeze them and sell them whole.”

For the fox traps, they used skunk bait. “We’d catch skunk and freeze them. Then we’d chop them up in chunks, and we’d put them in pail and let them ripen up a little bit. We used dirt hole sets. We put the skunk bait down in the small hole then set a trap and covered it with dry dirt. They like it when it’s ripe. Yep. I always joked about one year we tried fish, but we caught too many Norwegians, so we had to quit. No, fish didn’t work as good as skunk.

“For trapping mink, we set our traps in runways on the edge of the river and wherever they traveled. We set the trap always in the water, for mink. I’d say about an inch.

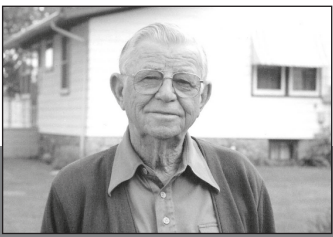
“We probably started in a few days in October and all of November and then in December a little ways, but if we got a big snow then we quit.”

Kenneth entered the Navy in 1945. He served on the USS New Jersey but missed out on the signing of the peace treaty with Japan when President Truman, a Missourian, changed the ceremony from Kenneth’s ship to the USS Missouri.

Eventually Kenneth farmed with his brother “for 30-some years. Growing up, what I was thinking was I didn’t want to farm,” he laughs. “But after I got out and found out how things are, I was glad to come back to farm. Yeah, it’s a good life.”

Emil Schaffer

Interview: June 27, 2003
 County: Logan
 City: Gackle



He Never Said Sorry

Emil Schaffer credits his late wife of 62 years, Lillian, for his every success, but when reflecting on how they met, he does have one regret that she knew all about it: it involved Emil’s earlier girlfriend. “I was dating a gal who lived [near] Gackle,” he says. And they had a routine. “I used to go out to see her every Friday and Sunday nights. I was a junior in high school when I started to go with her. When I arrived at her place, she would jump into the car and hug and kiss me and say how she was glad to see me.

“One Tuesday evening, after three years of going together, the song I’m in the Mood for Love was playing on his car radio. I drove to her farm, and my girlfriend came to the door. She said, ‘How come you are here tonight? Isn’t this the wrong night?’ I didn’t say anything. I just switched on the car, didn’t say anything, and drove away. Just let her stand there.”

He went to town and shared the story with a friend, Reuben, who had a plan. Two sisters, who were young, single teachers at rural schools, whom my friend Reuben had not yet met, were living on farms south of Gackle.

Reuben’s plan? Ask them out! “Since I was mad about what happened with my girlfriend, I agreed to go,” says Emil.

The sisters agreed to accompanied Reuben and Emil to town for a sundae and a soda. One sister jumped in the front seat with Reuben and the other jumped in the back seat with Emil.

“I’m telling you this is the whole truth,” Emil laughs. “We sat in the car for a while where Reuben’s date lived. The girls then said it was getting late... so they had to go. I took my date to the door and kissed her good night. “She said, ‘You can come out anytime.’ The date I had that night was the first date with my future wife, Lillian.”

This gleaming memory is a little tinged. Emil says, “I regret that I never went back to my former girlfriend to say I was sorry for the way I acted. They moved away. I asked for forgiveness many times. It was a dirty trick. I regret that I never said sorry to my old girlfriend because I never talked to her again.”

(Editor’s Note: The following profiles of North Dakota residents were collected by author James Puppe between 2004-2018, covering 617 subjects and 113,000 miles. He has given permission for his book to be serialized in North Dakota Newspapers at no charge. To find out how you can read the entire collection of Dakota Attitude profiles go to dakotaattitude.com.)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Barnes County – Planning And Zoning Minutes – March 11, 2025
 Members Present: Mike Schwehr, Bill Carlblom, Jeff Erickson, Vern Roorda, Dave Carlsrud, Darrel Brudevold
 Also Present: Jessica Jenrich, Mark Ertelt, Brittini Rodin, Lucas Rodin, Kristen Lindgren, Garth Lindgren
 Meeting called to order by Administrator Jenrich at 6:00 p.m.
 Jenrich called for the election of the Chairman for the 2025 year. Motion made by Carlblom, 2nd by Erickson, to nominate Mike Schwehr. Motion by Carlsrud, 2nd by Carlblom to cease nominations & cast a unanimous ballot. Motion carried upon roll call vote, with all members voting “yes”.
 Chairman Schwehr called for the election of the Vice Chairman for the 2025 year. Motion by Carlsrud, 2nd by Carlblom, to nominate Jeff Erickson. Motion by Carlsrud, 2nd by Carlblom, to cease nominations & cast a unanimous ballot. Motion carried upon roll call vote, with all members voting “yes”.
 Motion by Carlblom, seconded by Erickson to approve the February 11, 2025 minutes. Motion carried
 Meeting recessed for Jon Owen for a Drain Tile Setback Variance of less than 75’ and more than 33’ from the center of township roads 17th St SE & 126th Ave SE. No one appeared to protest. Schwehr reopened the meeting for discussion. Motion by Brudevold, seconded by Carlblom to approve the Variance of less than 75’ and more than 33’ from the center of township roads 17th St SE & 126th Ave SE. Motion carried.
 Meeting recessed for Jonathan Hannig for a Drain Tile Setback Variance of less than 75’ and more than 33’ from the center of township roads 33rd St SE & 124th Ave SE. No one appeared to protest. Schwehr reopened the meeting for discussion. Motion by Carlsrud, seconded by Roorda to approve the Variance of less than 75’ and more than 33’ from the center of township roads 33rd St SE & 123th Ave SE. Motion carried.
 Meeting recessed for Kristen Lindgren for a Structure Setback Variance of 50’ from the center of the subdivision road. Kirsten & Garth Lindgren were present to answer questions from the board. No one appeared to protest. Schwehr reopened the meeting for discussion. Motion by Carlblom, seconded by Roorda to approve the Variance of 50’ from the center of the subdivision road as there is a drop off if they went back to the 75’ requirement and there is already other buildings same distance or closer. Motion carried.
 Meeting recessed for Lucas Rodin for a Tree Setback Variance of 75’ from center of township road 97th Ave SE and 100’ from center of State Highway 46. Lucas Rodin was present to answer questions from the board, he did state trees that are already closer than the request will be removed. No one appeared to protest. Schwehr reopened the meeting for discussion. Motion by Roorda to approve the Variance of 75’ from center of township road 97th Ave SE and 100’ from center of State Highway 46 as there is already trees closer and a building closer. Motion Carried.

Meeting recessed for Janette Hanson for creation of Ertelt Acre Subdivision with a variance of less than the 5 acre total required for a subdivision. Mr. Ertelt was present to answer questions from the board. It was understood that Ms. Hanson was going to sell the house to have it moved when they built the house. Mr. Ertelt stated all the land around Hanson’s home is his land and he would not like to see a non-family member living on his same farmyard. No one else appeared to protest. Schwehr reopened the meeting for discussion. Motion by Carlsrud, seconded by Brudevold, to deny the creation of the subdivision and the variance for under the 5acre requirement as the board believes Ms. Hanson should list house for sale to be moved and there should be an agreement between homeowner and landowner to make 5 acres. Motion carried.
BUILDING PERMIT REVIEW
 John Stevens – Storage Building – Aud L11 of E1/2 less 10.00A, 10-138-58, Nelson Twp; Chad Kjelland – Shed – 6.02 acres tract 4.50A of NE1/4 Sec 32 1.52A NW1/4 Sec 33, 32-138-56, Binghamton Twp
 Jenrich had a question for the board, she was contacted by the construction company that will be demolishing and rebuilding the Tower City rest area this spring/summer. Jenrich wanted to find out if we should have them go through Mike Blevins for Commercial building permits or leave it up to the state as it is all within State Right of Way of the I94. The board advised Jenrich to have the construction company contact Mr. Blevins to go through his process for building permits.
 Motion by Carlblom, seconded by Brudevold to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:26pm.
 Jessica Jenrich, P&Z Administrator

(April 10, 2025)

Barnes County Commission March 18, 2025
 Valley City, ND 58072
 The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, with Bill Carlblom, Mike Schwehr, Vicky Lovell, Pete Paulson, and Shawn Olauson present. Chairman Bill Carlblom called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m., roll call was taken, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the agenda was reviewed.
Planning and Zoning
 Jessica Jenrich discussed variance applications from John Owen for drain tile located on the SW¼ 30-143-56 in Ellsberry Township; Vicky Lovell made a motion to approve the setback for John Owens; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting yes apart from Shawn Olauson who stepped out of the meeting. Jonathan Hannig applied for a variance setback for drain tile located on the North Half of 23-140-57 in Alta Township; Vicky Lovell made a motion to approve the application for Mr. Hannig; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting yes. Kristen Lindgren variance of 50’ from the center of the subdivision road located in Section 25-143-58 Lot 2 in Sandy Beach Subdivision in Sibley Trail

Township; Shawn Olauson made a motion to accept the variance for Kristen Lindgren; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting yes. Lucas Rodin applied for a variance setback on trees located in the SE¼ 137-61 Auditors Lot 1 in Greenland Township; Vicky Lovell made a motion to accept the variance application for Lucas Rodin; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting yes. Janette Hanson applied for a variance creating a subdivision on lot size located in sections W½ of SW¼ 19-137-57 and N½ of NW¼ 30-137-57 in Thordenskjold Township in which she owns the building but not the land it sets on. This is also less than five acres of land. Vicky Lovell made a motion to deny the application; Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. The motion to deny carried with all members voting yes. Building permits were reviewed.
VC-BC Development Corporation
 Jennifer Feist and Mary Lee Nielsen discussed the request for funds for a Single-Family Housing Pilot Program in the county. \$60,000 is being requested from non-Economic Development funds and \$118,750 from Economic Development funds to help fund the Single-Family Housing Pilot Program with a goal of drawing more people to move to Barnes County by making more affordable housing and increasing housing inventory and increasing the tax base. This is for new construction homes only. Home and Infrastructure bills are currently before the legislature. This would put the funds in place to leverage and access as much of the state funds as possible. Currently, the commission is not interested in investing in this program with non-economic development funds. Bill Carlblom made a motion to approve the release of \$118,750 of Economic Development funds for the exclusive use of new home construction to be built in rural Barnes County towards the Single-Family Housing Pilot Program with the effective date of April 1, 2025, and must be used for primary residences subject to property tax. Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mike Schwehr, Shawn Olauson and Bill Carlblom voting yes and Vicky Lovell and Pete Paulson voting no.
Tax Equalization
 The Abatement Applications for Parcel #63-4180125, #63-4180242, and #63-4180251for the Valley City Christian School was discussed for the 2023 and 2024 years. Valley City Christian School is a 501C3 Tax Exempt school, but the bookkeeper was not aware that this made them exempt from all taxes she paid the tax in full. The correct paperwork was not filed until that realization. Vicky Lovell made a motion to approve the abatement application; Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. The motion carried upon roll-call vote with all members voting yes. The current contract assessing rate of \$4.00 per parcel was discussed for cities and townships. Shawn Olauson made a motion to increase the rate to \$4.50 per parcel; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting yes.

Highway Department

Jamie Smith discussed quotes for a used truck and a new trailer. Gravel is harder to obtain and a 62-mile round trip with a tandem truck isn’t very efficient. This is approximately twelve yards of gravel. The recommendation is a 2022 Peterbilt truck with 181,000 miles from J & M Truck Sales for \$75,900.00 and a new 2024 Cross County trailer for \$68,000.00 with a one-year warranty from RDO for a total of \$143,900.00. Bill Carlblom made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2022 Peterbilt and the RDO trailer for a total of \$143,900.00. Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting yes.

Auditor’s Office

Mike Schwehr moved to approve March 4, 2025, minutes as presented; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes. County Government week will be March 30 through April 4th making April 1st as County Government Day in which the county will be serving walking tacos and ice cream floats to the public.

Sheriff & Corrections

Jeremy Wolff and Randy McClafflin met with the commission to discuss sharing a full-time position. Melissa Neitzke currently works part time now for corrections and comes to us with experience and a degree in criminal justice. She is a certified law officer, she has been a jail administrator, she knows the CIS system, she knows the Guardian software that is used at the jail. Judge Thornton will be requesting security at all his trials which will take an officer. Sharing this employee would work best for both departments since she has all the knowledge needed for each department. Randy would like to increase Melissa from part time to full time and have her work for both departments. Pete Paulson made a motion to hire Melissa full-time at the rate of \$25.00 per hour with a start date of April 9th to be shared between the Jail and Sheriff departments; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting yes. Gunnar has been doing Truck Patrol. Grant funding has been received from the VC Eagles Aerie of \$7,500 and the state contributes \$1,500 per radio for two radios. Total cost to the county would be approximately \$4,000.00 to \$5,000.00. Vicky made a motion to move forward with the purchase of two radios utilizing the donated funds from the Eagles and the state. Motion carried with all members voting yes. Randy wanted to say thank you to the Eagles for the donation and Sarah Miller for writing the letter to the Eagles.

Commission Discussion

Pete Paulson attended the Economic Development Corporation meeting and the Airport meeting. Carry over fund balances were discussed. Shawn Olauson attended the School Annexation meeting and the Water Board meeting. Snagging and clearing was stopped on the river because of ice issues. He attended the Thordenskjold Drain meeting which they are thinking of extending. They were looking for farmer input now so if they extend the drain in five years they will

need bigger culverts. Vicky will be having some county interviews on Thursday and the annexation of City of Valley City was looking into was discussed. Bill Carlblom attended the NDSU meeting in which evaluations were conducted. Amy teaches some classes to inmates at the jail. The Winter Show went well. The VC School Building fund under levied was discussed. The legislator fix was discussed, and the auditor will look into this option.
 With no further business, Vicky Lovell made a motion, seconded by Shawn Olauson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously, with all members voting “aye” and the meeting was adjourned at 10:03 a.m. Bill Carlblom, Chairman
 Barnes County Commission
 Julie Mindt
 Barnes County Auditor

(April 10, 2025)

Kathryn City Council Meeting Minutes February 11, 2025
 Ron Kruger called to order the regular meeting of the Kathryn City Council at , Kathryn Community Center. Present: Ron Kruger, DelRay Trzpcu, Billy Foster, Sabrina Foster, Robert Collier & Jamie Smith. Also present: Eric Nelson- Kathryn Fire Chief
 Motion to approve minutes of the January regular meeting by DelRay Trzpcu; seconded by Billy Foster. All were in favor, motion carried.
 Old Business:
 Motion by Sabrina Foster to contribute \$500.00 to the Kathryn Anniversary Committee. Seconded by DelRay Trzpcu. All were in favor, the motion carried.
 New Business:
 Motion by Billy Foster to re-invest CD that is at term. Seconded by Sabrina Foster. All were in favor. The motion carried.
 Fire Chief Nelson informed the Council that a Kathryn Fire District Board of Directors meeting will be held on February 24th at the Kathryn Fire Hall. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. Bills presented for payment: Barnes Rural Water \$56.28, Otter Tail Power Company \$498.20, Fatman Trash \$587.20, Valley City Times Record \$79.20, Work Force Safety \$250.00, US Treasury \$444.46, Jamie Smith: \$461.75
 Motion to approve payment of bills by Billy Foster; seconded by DelRay Trzpcu. All were in favor. The motion carried.
 Sabrina Foster moved to adjourn; seconded by Billy Foster. All were in favor. The motion carried.
 Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM. Next meeting: March 3rd, 2025 @ 7:00 PM.

Jamie L. Smith, Auditor
 City of Kathryn

Ron Kruger, Mayor
 City of Kathryn

(April 10, 20025)

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