



# Planningram

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## *Ramblings from the President*

We had a very successful Annual Meeting in Fargo, with some 50 members and interested parties braving the weather. Dr. Clyde Forrest, Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Attorney at Law and chair of the APA Divisions Council, presented a four hour workshop on "Avoiding the Pitfalls of Zoning." He talked at length about the legal basis of planning and zoning, and the steps that can be taken to avoid problems. An outline of this presentation is in the Members Only section on the NDPA website.

The conference included sessions on how the Trails and Scenic Byways and the Renaissance Zone programs are being successfully used in our state. Representatives from Watford City, West Fargo, and Fargo talked about the exciting impact that the Renaissance Zone has had in their communities. Representatives from various levels of state and federal government talked about how the Trails and Scenic Byways programs can and are being used throughout the state. The conference concluded with a special dinner at Bonanzaville, complete with museum tour and a Theodore Roosevelt interpretation.

NDPA's past year has been exciting one in that several of our major goals for 2003 were accomplished: the start up of the web page and working with League of Cities for Legislative tracking. One of the major items left undone is the revision of the planning handbook from the 1970s, which will assume priority in 2004. The executive board was expanded to include 3 at-large members (welcome to **Donna Bye**, **Larry Weil** and **Dennis Potter**). The annual meeting concluded with plans for participation in MarketPlace 2004, establishing the 2004 meeting in Bismarck in order to prepare for the next legislative session, and the 2005 annual meeting in Grand Forks. We also voted to submit a proposal to Western Planner to hold the 2006 Western Planner Conference in North Dakota in August, 2006

Christmas and New Year's are rapidly approaching, so I'd like to wish all of you the very best as we end 2003 and begin 2004.

**Stephen E. Miller**

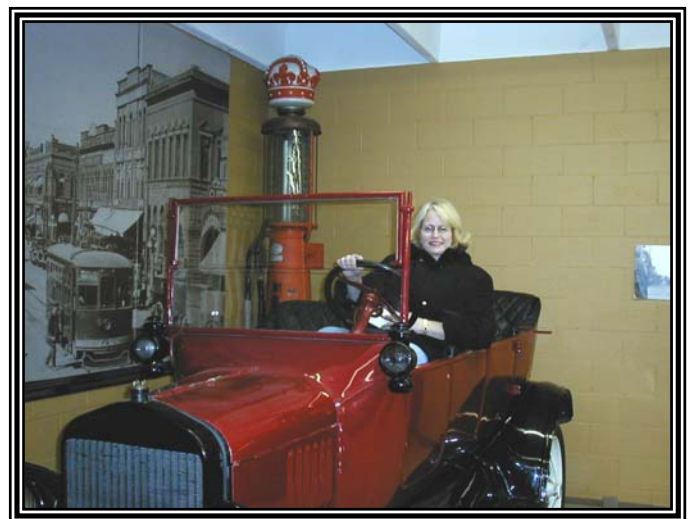
# 2003 NDPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Dr Forrest showed us how to avoid the many pitfalls of planning ...



... and we learned about trails and trail planning, among many other things.

We had a great time at the Bonanzaville Museum (can you identify the drivers?!)



Of course we  
ate well ...



And enjoyed a terrific presentation about the settlement of the west,



And a visit from  
"Theodore  
Roosevelt".