



Benjamin Joseph Heinen

Ben Heinen was born on November 1, 1895 in Vermillion, Minnesota to Joseph Michael Heinen (1867-1935) and Sarah Agnes Bennett Heinen (1867-1929). His father was the caretaker of the Dakota County Poor Farm in Empire Township for 15 years. The family lived there until 1915 when he was elected as Dakota County Commissioner.

Benjamin graduated from Farmington High School in 1914. He then started working for the post office as a clerk. By the time he registered for the draft on June 6, 1918 he had been Assistant Post Master for three years. He was put into a deferred status since he was already working for the government but he requested that be changed so he could participate in the new US Army Student Training Corps at Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota. During WWI, Dunwoody trained 8,683 men for military mechanical and technical positions including courses in radio telegraphy and aviation mechanics. Students were required to live and take all meals on campus. The men were all considered officially men were all considered officially enlisted on the date they entered. It took several months to build these programs to meet the Army requirements. When they were finally ready in October of 1918 the war abruptly ended on November 11th and orders were received to close all of the programs across the county, including Dunwoody. Benjamin was released on December 11, 1918.

He returned home to his parent's farm in Vermillion and then took a job as bookkeeper at the Farming State Bank. He also worked as Deputy County Auditor for Dakota County for a short time. He married Marie Mullery (1898-1987) on November 27, 1928. At this time, Ben returned to the Post Office and was a rural mail carrier in Rosemount for 35 years. Ben was past Commander of the American Legion Post 65. The couple had two children. He died on February 19, 1956 of cancer at the age of 60. He is buried at St Joseph Cemetery in Rosemount.