

RICHLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE
THURSDAY, MARCH 04, 2010

#4

on Ross Phillips (Update)
3:25pm.

Richland County Sheriff Darrell Berglin is reporting that the body of **Ross Phillips, 86**, of rural Soldiers Grove who was reported by family members as a missing and endangered person Monday afternoon was found Thursday afternoon in a dry creek bed shortly after 1pm Thursday **less than a mile from his abandoned vehicle found Thursday morning.**

The Richland County Sheriff says that a continuing death investigation has indicated that the death appears to be associated with the victim's condition related to Parkinson's Disease and dementia and that no foul play is suspected in the case.

Berglin said that Phillips' body was found in a dry creek ravine about 7 TENTHS of a mile west of where his vehicle was found stuck in the snow up against a group of small trees on Shannons Way. Shannons Way is a rural curvy gravel road located in Dayton Township, about 4-5 miles west of Richland Center.

According to the sheriff, fire personnel from the Richland Center Fire Department identified a set of tracks in the snow at the top of the ridge away from the accident scene and summoned a deputy and the sheriff's department's K-9 animal. The deputy and his K-9 accompanied by an officer of the Richland Center Police Department then followed the tracks westward finding Phillips' body about 500 yards east of Forrest Lane less than a mile from the abandoned auto.

According to Richland County Assistant Coroner Jerry Crotsenberg, an autopsy of the victim in this case, Ross Phillips, is pending.

The sheriff said a 5 hour search was initiated Thursday morning shortly after 8am when a citizen reported the Phillips vehicle off the roadway up against a small group of trees. The search by ground and air included deputies as well as citizen volunteers and personnel from the Richland Center Volunteer Fire Department, Richland County Highway Department, Dayton Township Highway, Richland County Emergency Medical and Emergency Government Services, the Richland Center HAM Radio operators group (ARES/ RACES) and an officer of the Richland Center Police Department.