



Aggregate Production and Use in Iowa

Keith Norris spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on Saturday, November 12. He has worked as a materials engineer in the Materials Department of the Iowa department of Transportation for 23 years.

Keith said that Iowa is a national leader in roads development. Iowa started the No Passing Zone on highways and slip-form paving (where there are no forms on the sides of new concrete). Iowa also does more extensive testing on rocks for road concrete than any other state.

In this part of Iowa there is several hundred feet of silt over most rock. That is why you only find rock quarries near rivers, where the silt has eroded. There are still over 400 quarries in Iowa.

Bedrock in Iowa is made of limestone, dolomite, shale, and sandstone. Limestone is calcium carbonate and dolomite is magnesium carbonate. Both are good for making concrete. One of the purest sources of limestone in the state is in Mason City, Iowa.

Iowa uses physical and chemical tests to find good rock for road concrete. The physical tests include abrasion tests, freeze and thaw tests, and Iowa Pore Index tests. All rocks absorb water. The pore index test checks absorption of water in one minute and in 15 minutes. Chemical tests include x-ray diffraction, thermogravimetric (burning at 1000 degrees), and x-ray fluorescence. These tests all help determine how well a road will last when built using these rocks.

St. Paul Youth (SPY) Group Summer Trip

The SPY group went to Marvel, Arkansas for a week this summer, as part of the Youth Works project. Emily, Sadie, and Jenny reported on their trip, assisted by Denise Wilson, one of the adult advisors. There were 8 youth and two adults on the trip from Treynor.

This year they stopped at Joplin, Missouri to help with the flood cleanup on their way to Marvel. They stopped for the day, but were only able to help for two hours due to temperatures over 100 degrees.

In Marvel the youth worked on Kids Club, Sports Camp, and in a nursing home. Each day they had breakfast, devotional, work at their worksite, and a group meeting in the evening, sharing and singing. They enjoyed working with other youth from Colorado and Michigan, making about 70 youth in all.

Emily said she worked with the Kids Club for three days. She realized that those children did not have much of a home life. She said she still talks to friends she met on facebook and Skype. She was impressed with how the youth worked with some children with Downs Syndrome who came along on the trip.

Sadie enjoyed helping with the flood cleanup. She wished they could have stayed longer and was overcome with emotions their last night.

Jenny grew closer to her father who went along on the trip. He went far outside his comfort zone to help with the trip. She said that she learned a lot about wants versus needs.

All three girls said that they want to go next year. That trip will be to Colorado.

Meeting Minutes

Ken Graham opened the meeting on November 12 with the pledge and Arlyn Norris gave the opening prayer.

Kirk Vorthmann celebrated his 37th Anniversary last week. He met his wife in 4-H and gave her rides to college. Chuck Nielsen had a new granddaughter. Heartland Family Services recognized the Mick Guttau family for leadership. Gary Guttau also recognized his aunt, Sabina Altrock, who died last week at age 99.

Arlyn Norris won the 50/50 drawing. Dick Baber won the attendance drawing, but did not collect. There were 13 members and one guest at the meeting.

Gary Funkhouser, Gary Guttau, Chuck Nielsen, and Denise Wilson provided jokes for the Optimist club meeting on November 19. Chuck Nielsen opened the meeting with the pledge and Dale Willenborg offered the prayer.

The club celebrated birthdays for Dianne Willenborg (57) and Mitch Guttau (65). Several members contributed to the Youth Fund in recognition of Iowa State University football win over Oklahoma State. Chuck Nielsen contributed for a new granddaughter, and Dick Baber contributed for the free presentation of songs from Handel's Messiah on Sunday night.

Ken Graham, Gary Guttau, and Gary Funkhouser helped with the can kennel for the Cub Scouts. There were about 30 Cub Scouts helping.

Gary Funkhouser reported on the Zone meeting in Underwood this past week. Underwood reported that they had a new member meeting where they signed up nine new members. Gary also reported that IWCC has 7200 students enrolled this semester.

Bob Hibbard won the 50/50 drawing. Gerald Forrestal won the attendance award, but did not collect. There were 14 members and 4 guests at the meeting.

The Optimist Club presented a check to the SPY group for \$728.10.

There was an Optimist board meeting after the club meeting on November 19. The club approved can kennel collections for the Treynor Book Club for March, St. Paul Youth group for April, and Faith in Action (FIA) for May 2012.

Calendar

Nov 30 – Can Kennel for Cub Scouts, 3:30 p.m.

Birthdays

Nov 8 - Mick Guttau (recognized)
Nov 18 – Dianne Willenborg (recognized)

Anniversaries

Nov 2 - Kirk & Lynell Vorthmann
Nov 6 – Kenneth & Linda Graham (recognized)
Nov 21 – Les & Milli Harvey
Nov 25 – Ward & Suzanne Chambers

Speakers

November 26 –
December 3 – Eva Denton, Psychologist at Millard Schools

Programs

Dec – Chuck Nielsen