



**1940 Census**

Dale Willenborg talked at the Treynor Optimist Club on March 17 about the 1940 Federal Census. On April 2 the 1940 census will be released as free digital images. Federal law doesn't allow the census to be released until 72 years after it is taken.

Dale showed information from the 1930 census that are available on several websites, including FamilySearch.org (free) and Ancestry.com (paid subscription). For example, as shown in the 1930 census, his father, Leo Willenborg, lived in Eden township, Carroll, County, Iowa. He was 5 years old and had two older sisters, a younger sister, and two younger brothers.

The 1930 census also shows the age of each person, where they were born, whether they owned or rented their house, whether they had a radio, at what age they got married, their occupation, what year they immigrated (if not born in the United States), and other information. The 1940 census included much of that information, along with where the people lived 5 years earlier, their highest educational grade, and detailed income and occupation information.

The 1930 census included 123 million people. The 1940 census included 132 million people.

Dale also showed information available on Ancestry.com. A two week trial or a paid membership will give non-census information about addresses and phone numbers for people, their birthday, World War I and II draft information, death records, and other public information. Every address where you have lived is available.

Every census since 1790 is available on the internet. The 1880 census was one of the most popular census since it was the first census to be fully indexed and access to the index is free.

Dale didn't talk about it but Iowa also conducted its own census several times, especially in 1856, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, and 1925. The Iowa Census includes much of the census information from the Federal Census, but also provides a value for people's homes.

**Meeting Minutes**

Keith Denton provided jokes for the Optimist club meeting on March 17. The club watched a youtube

video of Red Skelton about the Pledge of Allegiance. Chuck Nielsen opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and Mick Guttau offered the opening prayer.

Gary Funkhouser announced that in the Quiz Bowl, Treynor got 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place of the 16 teams represented. Judy Guttau and others contributed to the Youth Fund in recognition Iowa State winning their tournament game. Judy also contributed because of her Irish heritage.

Can Kennel sorting was Wednesday for the Jr. Optimist Club. They filled 19 bags of plastic and 17 bags of cans. The next sorting will be at 6:00 p.m. on March 28 because of sports and other activities.

The Jr. Optimist Club (JOOI) has been very active this year. They have 29 members. They served at MOMS Place this past week and will be visiting several nursing homes in the area.

Bob Hibbard won the 50/50 drawing and Dianne Willenborg won the attendance drawing but did not collect. There were 14 members at the meeting.

**Calendar**

- Mar 28 - Can Kennel sorting for JOOI, 6:00 p.m.
- Mar 31 - PEO Brunch at 9:30 a.m. \$10/person
- Apr 26 - Bicycle Safety

**Birthdays**

- Mar 2 - Ward Chambers
- Mar 11 - Kenneth Graham (recognized)
- Mar 20 - Jon Jacobsen
- Apr 6 - Kevin Abbott
- Apr 20 - Steve Chambers
- Apr 25 - Rocky Saar
- Apr 28 - Gene Seran

**Anniversaries**

- Mar 4 - Gene & Erika Seran
- Mar 8 - Keith & Georgia Denton (recognized)
- Mar 15 - Jeff & Carrie Nelson
- Apr 7 - Jim & Diane Clausen

**Speakers**

- Mar 24 -
- Mar 31 -
- Apr 7 -

**Programs**

- Mar - Dale Willenborg
- Apr - Jim Clausen
- May - Ken Graham

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**Census taker**

An elderly man was sitting on his porch, when a young man walked up with a pad and a pencil in his hand. "What are you selling young man," he asked. "I'm not selling anything," the young man said. "I'm a census taker." A census taker. We are trying to find out how many people are in the United States." "Well," the man answered. "You're wasting your time with me. I have no idea."

The Census Bureau should expect as much, scheduling the official Census Day on a day of April Fools' jokes.

Ranging from the seriously silly to the dourly serious, Americans are playing around with Question 9 of the 2010 Census form: What is Person 1's race?

The question includes the option: Some other race -*print race*. And that is where the shenanigans begin. Census workers report literally thousands forms that include, well, creative self-identified races. They include Vulcan and Borg ( nods to "Star Trek"), Cylon (for the "Battlestar Galactica" fans), and, yes, NASCAR. (Get it? *Race*?)