



The Optimist Club of Treynor, IA  
Iowa District, Zone 3, Club Number 40-

Iowa District Governor: Donald Pfeiffer  
International Pres: Ken Garner

## NEWSLETTER

[www.treynoroptimist.org](http://www.treynoroptimist.org)

Treynor Optimist Club President:  
Dee Guttau



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### Harvesting Rubber Trees



Dr. Allan Tiarks spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on January 31, 2015. He has been recognized with the Emeritus Scientist Award in recognition of his significant research contributions during his 30-year career with the USDA Forest Service. He has a Doctorate in Forestry and has been to China, South America, and Africa. He also spent two

years in Tanzania in the Peace Corps.

Dr. Tiarks mainly talked about when he visited Liberia in April 1979 to see rubber production. Thailand is the leading rubber production country with 3.5M tons/year. Indonesia is second with about 3M tons and Liberia is 14<sup>th</sup> with 64,000 tons/year. Firestone stated rubber plantations in Liberia in 1926.

To harvest rubber, workers cut off a small slice of bark off every few days to get the sap. The real skill lies in cutting as small of slice as possible to keep the sap running. A single worker will do 500 trees a day, covering 1000 trees every two days and then repeating. Other workers pick up the latex sap every day. The latex will spoil if left out very long. The latex is put to milk cans, then moved to a truck.

All rubber trees are grafted to get the same quality of product from them. The trees will last 60 years.

#### Calendar

Jan 7 – Can Kennel Sorting  
Jan 28 - Can Kennel Sorting

#### Birthdays

Jan 19 – Dennis White

Some people outside the plantation produced dried latex and sold it to Firestone, since they didn't have the capability to keep it good in liquid form.

The tappers lived in small mud huts. As a side job, they made rum out of sugar cane.

Rubber production in Liberia ended in the early 1980s, due to the civil war. It began again in the 2000s.

#### Meeting Minutes

Dee Guttau opened the meeting and Chad Guttau gave the opening prayer. Kirk Vorthmann, Dale Willenborg, and Keith Denton provided jokes.

For bragging rights, Gary Funkhouser contributed to the Youth Fund to recognize having 17 youth in wrestling this year. There was a good write-up about them in the Daily Nonpareil. Dale Willenborg contributed because he had completed treatment for kidney stones. Gary Guttau had completed a bone scan. John Klein said his wife had foot surgery.

The spaghetti supper will be Friday, February 6. Cub Scout soap box derby is February 7. February 28 is the Quarterly Regional Optimist conference at St. John's United Church of Christ at 9:00 a.m.

John Klein said he would like to do some tree planting around the baseball field. He would like to find 11 trees for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade to plant. That would be one tree for every 6 youth. He is looking for a good place to buy them.

Can kennel sorting was January 28. Gary, Dee, and Chad Guttau, Gary Funkhouser, Bill Vorthmann, and John Klein assisted with the sorting. They had 18 bags of cans, 9 of plastic, and 1351 bottles.

Arlyn Norris won the 50/50 drawing. Chuck Nielson won the attendance drawing, but did not collect. There were 16 members and 3 guests at the meeting.

#### Anniversaries

None

#### Speakers

Feb 7 – Tom Lewis & Bryce Poland

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#### Talking Frog

A 72 year-old guy loves to fish.

He was sitting in his boat the other day when he heard a voice say, "Pick me up."

He looked around and couldn't see anyone.

He thought he was dreaming when he heard the voice say again, "Pick me up."

He looked in the water and there, floating on the top, was a frog.

The man said, "Are you talking to me?"

The frog said, "Yes, I'm talking to you. Pick me up, then kiss me, and I'll turn into the most beautiful woman you have ever seen. I'll make sure that all your friends are envious and jealous because I will be your bride!"

The man looked at the frog for a short time, reached over, picked it up carefully, and placed it in his front pocket.

The frog said, "What, are you nuts? Didn't you hear what I said? I said kiss me and I will be your beautiful bride."

He opened his pocket, looked at the frog and said, "Nah, at my age I'd rather have a talking frog."

With age comes wisdom.