

## Loess Hills



Gary Gutttau spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on Saturday, November 24 about the Loess Hills. The Loess Hills is windblown soil. His first interest in soils was in 1946 when his father had a meeting with the soil conservation service to discuss terracing.

China has a large area of Loess Hills soil near the Yellow River. It is called Yellow because of the fine dirt in the river. Loess Hills soil can also be found in Montana and the Rocky Mountains.

Gary taught Vocational Agriculture in Carson in 1967. He also remembers drilling north of Council Bluffs where they had to take a sample of the soil every 5 feet. After drilling 90 feet down they still did not hit rock.

Many glaciers covered Iowa long ago. These glaciers deposited rock. Winds from the west brought in dust, which settled in the area. Mick Gutttau said he likes to think of it as trees growing along the Missouri river. The trees act like a snow fence, interrupting the wind and depositing the dust on the East side of the river. To give an idea of the depth of the Loess Hills, the Omaha airport is 964 feet above sea level. The Council Bluffs airport is at 1245 feet. Therefore, there is probably at least 281 feet of soil difference.