

*Vision 2000 of Optimism***"Lighting the Way" in the Iowa District, Zone 4**

Club Officers for 1999-2000

President	Gene Seran	323-4773
Int. V. Pres.	Bob Hibbard	487-3673
Ext. V. Pres.	George Schneider	487-3255
Sec./Treas.	Richard Vorthmann	487-3342
Past Pres.	Kevin Underwood	566-2525

Board Members

1998-2000	1999-2001
Marsha Underwood	Milli Harvey
Bill Stephens	Jeff Nelson
Gerald Forristall	Bill Vorthmann

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NEXT CLUB MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Optimist Club of Treynor is planned Saturday morning October 7, 2000 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. It will be the first meeting of a new Optimist year and will start the 17th year of our Club. President BILL VORTHMANN will preside. Coffee, juice, and rolls will be available at 6:30 a.m. The meeting starts at 7:20. Bring a guest.

REPORT OF LAST CLUB MEETING

At the last Club meeting there were 14 members and 15 guests present. It was a dinner meeting for special guests and the Treynor community was invited. In the absence of President GENE SERAN, LARRY KRAMER presided. GENE was visiting his brother Orhan who was afflicted by a stroke. Sgt. at Arms BOB HIBBARD asked LARRY to draw a name for the attendance pot and he drew his own name. (Well, no one else had drawn it for quite a while.) BILL STEPHENS won the 50/50. He donated it to our guests.

Special thanks to GEORGE and Lillie SCHNEIDER for hosting our guests and to Lillie and MILLI HARVEY for setting up for the pot luck dinner prior to the meeting.

TO FINISH THE JOURNEY

Club members and guests were privileged to have as guests four gentlemen who were nearly finished with their walk across Iowa with a handcart. John Lodefink of Utah, Peter Block of Cornwall England, and Gordon and John Beharrell of Shropshire England were on a mission of two objectives. They were sponsored by Children and Families of Iowa, (CFA), a nonprofit agency in Des Moines that serves children at risk to violence, abuse, chemical dependency, and family turmoil. Their 285 mile walk across Iowa from Iowa City to Council Bluffs was used to bring a greater awareness of at risk children and CFA programs. John organized the walk with a handcart and enlisted the help of his friends from England to reenact the immigration of British Mormon residents in the 1850s and their journey across Iowa. John also sought a cause to give their trek additional purpose which led him to CFA.

John Lodefink and Gordon joined 220 others in the 1997 Mormon Trail Wagon Train by walking with a handcart from Omaha, Nebraska to Salt Lake City, Utah to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Mormon migration to Utah. Gordon said he was inspired to participate in the walk to Salt Lake City after reading a book describing the original journey. Since the English Mormons started their journey to Salt Lake City in Iowa City, John and Gordon did not finish the complete journey in 1997. Thus Gordon returned to the United States, with his son John, to complete his personal tribute to the thousands of British Mormons who left their homes in the 1850s to escape persecution and seek religious freedom in a foreign country.

John Lodefink explained he constructed the two-wheel handcart with the help of Iowa Amish. One modern feature of design was sealed bearings on the large wooden spoke wheels. John noted that greasing the wooden bearings found on the original handcarts was a chore they were glad to circumvent.

Peter especially noted the warm reception they had received across Iowa. He noted the group had stayed in parks, basements, and bed rooms overnight and that Iowa people were the most friendly that he had ever met.

John Lodefink and Gordon Beharrell are the only handcart walkers who have reenacted the entire journey from Iowa City to Salt Lake City. Gordon noted that in 2006 there is proposed a 150th anniversary of the British Mormon handcart trek. This could include one to two hundred handcarts and eight to nine hundred people.

We hope to see our guests again on that occasion.

CALENDAR

Oct: Can Collection for S.W. IA Honor Band.

Oct. 7	Club meeting, program TBA.
Oct. 13	Football game, (Stanton), 6:15 p.m.
Oct. 14	Club meeting, New Officer Installation.
Oct. 21	Club meeting, program TBA.
Oct. 27	Football game, (Nishna Valley), 6:15 p.m.

BIRTHDAYS 10/17 MARSHA UNDERWOOD

10/29 BILL VORTHMANN

ANNIVERSARIES 10/24 BILL STEPHENS

(# recognized to date)

P.S. After a rural preacher died and was standing in line to enter the Pearly Gates, he noticed a dirty, grungy man wearing soiled blue jeans who was allowed to go in before him. I don't understand," the preacher said, turning to St. Peter. "Why—that's a cab driver from New Orleans! I devoted my entire life to my congregation. Why should he go in before me?"

"Our policy is to reward results," St. Peter explained. "Now what happened, Reverend, whenever you gave a sermon?"

The minister admitted some people in his congregation occasionally dozed off.

"Exactly," St. Peter said. "And when people rode in this man's taxi, they not only stayed awake, they prayed!"

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FRIENDS OF YOUTH