



May 23, 2010

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### House Building

Ben Lake was the speaker at the Optimist Club on May 23. He is the owner of Ben Lake Homes Ben was born in California and lived in Iowa for four years when his father was the Principal at Abraham Lincoln. Ben and his wife Shawn have five children, the youngest being six weeks old.

Ben wanted to be a dentist, but decided to get a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree when he had trouble with microbiology in college. While in college he helped with painting and remodeling homes. A friend in Key Real Estate convinced him to try building homes, so in 2004 he built his first house.

In 2008 Ben built eight homes. With the housing market falling, they did not sell, providing a lesson in economics. He likes to build Arts and Crafts style homes, preferably using empty lots in older neighborhoods. He has his own woodworking shop for creating the wide style woodwork common in those homes.

Ben likes to hire one or two youth in his business and train them, the way his father and others trained him. They make mistakes like anyone learning, but they learn quickly from their mistakes.

His home construction business is losing customers because they cannot get home loans. The county has also adopted new codes, including putting fire sprinklers in homes beginning in 2011. Ben thinks the market for new homes will not pick up anytime soon.

### Meeting Minutes

On May 23 Gary Gutttau opened the meeting with the pledge and Dee Gutttau gave the prayer. Gary Funkhouser provided jokes. There were 18 members and one guest in attendance. The club celebrated Linnea White's birthday with a song.

After the meeting the club members put flags on poles in preparation for Memorial Day next weekend. They also put in footings for new flag customers. The Optimist Club Flag project funds scholarships for graduating Treynor Seniors.

The speaker next Saturday is Orien Hodges from Santa's Children Christmas Village in Macedonia.

### CALENDAR

May proceeds for the Can Kennel will be for the Saint Paul Youth Red River Reservation trip  
 May 26, can sorting, 6:00 p.m.  
 July 29 to August 1 - Iowa Optimist District Convention

### Birthdays

May 11 – Keith Denton (celebrated)  
 May 20 – Kelly Sutherland  
 May 21 - Steve Irvin  
 May 22 – Linnea White (celebrated)

### Anniversaries

May 27 – Bob & Mary Francis Abbott  
 May 29 – Bill & Rhonda Matthew

### Speakers

May 22, Ben Lake, Ben Lake Homes  
 May 29, Orien Hodges, Santa's Village

### Programs

May – Dale Willenborg  
 June – Linnea White/Judy Gutttau  
 July – Jeff Jorgensen  
 Aug – Charlie Johnson  
 Sept – Eric Allen  
 Oct – Steve Irvin  
 Nov – Arlyn Norris  
 Dec – Chuck Nielsen/Keith Denton

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Two simple carpenters were working on a house. The one who was nailing down siding would reach into his nail pouch, pull out a nail and either toss it over his shoulder or nail it in.

The other, figuring this was worth looking into, asked, "Why are you throwing those nails away?"

The first explained, "If I pull a nail out of my pouch and it's pointed toward me, I throw it away 'cause it's defective. If it's pointed toward the house, then I nail it in!"

The second simpleton got completely upset and yelled, "You fool! The nails pointed toward you aren't defective! They're for the other side of the house!"