



World Travels

Kirk Funkhouser presented the Treynor Optimist program on Saturday, April 9. He summarized his six month trip around the world which involved visiting 18 different countries. Highlights of his trip were a hike to Mt. Everest base camp, the climb to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro, and a safari in Tanzania.

Kirk's vivid descriptions included the beautiful country of New Zealand, the opera house and harbor bridge climb in Sydney Australia, the Great Wall of China, and the pyramids of Egypt. He was surprised at the tremendous growth in China which had extremely modern airports and high speed rail service. New Zealand was Kirk's favorite country because of its great beauty, the cleanliness, and the fact that English was spoken there. The countries he least appreciated were India and Egypt.

Kirk met travelers from many other countries who were also traveling where he went. He also connected with friends from the U.S. who also were traveling and met other U.S. citizens who were living in some of the countries.

Speech Contests

Laurie Stogdill, the English and speech teacher, came to the Optimist Club with some of her eighth grade students to have them read their essays about the benefits and risks of buying a home. The paper was limited to 300 words. The eighth grade students in Treynor competed in the Iowa contest. Of 250 contestants, the five finalists were all from Treynor. The entire eighth grade class of 55 competed in the contest.

Kay Ticer received a \$1000 scholarship at the State speech contest. Lexi Wood, Madison Hough, Megan Peters, and Kay Ticer read their papers at the Optimist Club.

In speech class the youth learn use a variety of activities to gain experience. For example, in one exercise they draw a topic from a bowl and then talk on that topic while wrapping a long string around your hand.

Meeting Minutes

Dennis White opened the Optimist Club meeting on April 16 with the Pledge of Allegiance and Kirk Vorthmann gave the opening prayer. Gary Guttau and Chuck Nielsen provided jokes. There were 17 members and 11 guests at the meeting.

Steve Irvin contributed to the Youth Fund in recognition his new granddaughter, Hope. Gary Guttau helped the Silver Creek 4-H club with Can Kennel sorting this past week. They had 20 bags of cans and 12 of plastic.

Jim Clausen won the 50/50 drawing. Steve Chambers won the attendance drawing, but did not collect.

Bicycle Safety will be April 21 at the Elementary school. Sgt. Richie will speak at the school. Extreme Wheels will conduct bicycle inspections. The club will give away one boys and one girls Schwinn bike from Target, costing \$162.

CALENDAR

Apr 21 – Bicycle Safety, 3:30 p.m. at Elementary School

Apr 27 - Can Kennel sorting at 5:30 p.m. for the Silver Creek 4-H Club

Birthdays

Apr 6 - Kevin Abbott

Apr 20 – Steve Chambers

Apr 25 – Rocky Saar

Apr 28 - Gene Seran

Anniversaries

Apr 7 – Jim & Diane Clausen (recognized)

Speakers

Apr 23 – Dee Guttau from Jenny Edmundson Hospital

Programs

Apr – Gary Guttau

May – Keith Denton

June – Dick Baber

July – Judy Guttau

Aug – Treynor Bank Employees

Sep – Jeff Jorgensen

Oct – Gary Funkhouser

Nov – Arlyn Norris

Dec – Chuck Nielsen

HOW THE DOLLAR SIGN WAS BORN

The dollar sign was originally an abbreviation for pesos. Two hundred years ago, when we were still using Spanish money (believe it or not, we didn't get around to minting our own money until 1794, nearly 20 years after the Declaration of Independence), it was only natural to shorten 200 pesos to ps 200. As time went on, the P and S began to get smushed together. Eventually people started writing the up-and-down stroke of the P on top of the S, and the dollar sign was born. -- Ed Zotti, The Straight Dope

WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

Now that the people of the world have begun to understand that our survival depends equally on ending the war with nature and on ending the wars among themselves, the path to peace on both fronts becomes clear. To make peace with the planet, we must make peace among the people who live in it.