



April 14, 2012

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Santa's Camp and Wonderland

Orien Hodges spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on April 7 about his 15 years of work at helping children in crisis. This is accomplished through programs of Santa's Children Christmas Village and Santa's Camp and Wonderland.

Santa's Village was in the old Macedonia Middle School until last year when the school was torn down. They moved 7 semi-loads of books, clothing, and other items to an old calendar factory in Red Oak. Over 50 people from Zion church in Treynor and Jr. Optimist Club members helped with the move.

The main base of operations for Santa's Village is now Orien's acreage East of Oakland. AmeriServe International (ameriserveintl.com), which serves people with the diagnosis of developmental disabilities and unique intellectual challenges, has supplied over 3000 hours labor in Macedonia and Oakland over the past 1½ years through its outreach programs.

This is the fourth year for the garden project for Santa's Village. The garden project supplies fresh garden produce to local pantries and charitable organizations. They will have five gardens in Oakland this year. Earl May has supplied over \$1000 in plants over the past four years. The garden has supplied over 20,000 pounds of produce.

This fall AmeriServe and others helped construct a Tunnel of Hope light display in Oakland. Santa's visits were performed at the end of the tunnel, near some fire pits. Children in crisis received toys, books and clothing.

Santa's Village also sponsors trips to the fishing ponds at the John Henry farm East of Macedonia.

Orien would like to expand operations at his acreage over the next few years by building small buildings for various activities. He is planning to initiate a Capital Campaign by the end of the year. For more information, visit SantasCampAndWonderland.org, or call Orien Hodges at 402-657-6034.

Omaha Symphony

James Johnson, President and CEO of the Omaha Symphony, spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on April 14. Mr. Johnson is from Seattle, but his mother's family is from Iowa. He has a Masters degree from Southern Methodist in Texas. He spent 25 years in New York, and 10 years with the New York Pops.

Mr. Johnson came to Omaha in June 2011. The first thing he had to do was hire half his staff, about 16 people. The current program was already planned, so he is planning programs for next year and the following years. He said that the Omaha area has a higher percentage of the population in the area attend concerts than any other major orchestra.

The Omaha Symphony is 91 years old and has 40 full time musicians. They work September through June, with most of their performances at the Holland Center, which was built in 2005. Mr. Johnson said that the Holland Center is one of the finest facilities in the country. The musicians in the symphony are world class musicians.

The symphony also has 40 part time musicians and a \$6.5M budget. It is the largest orchestra in Nebraska and Iowa. The symphony is non-profit, with half of its funding coming from ticket sales and half is from corporate and individual contributions. Thomas Wilkins has been the conductor since 2005.

The Omaha Symphony plays more than 30 concerts each year, in six different series. Each series consists of several

concerts throughout the year. They also have special concerts. The series are:

- Masterworks series
- Pops series
- Rock series
- Joslyn series – at the Joslyn Art Museum
- Movie music series
- Family series

The Omaha Symphony has several specials for subscribers. They have 50% off on first time subscribers. There is also no fee for exchanges. There are tickets available in all price ranges, some even costing less than movie tickets. More information is available at www.omahasymphony.org.

Meeting Minutes

Keith Denton and Chuck Nielsen provided jokes for the Optimist club meeting on April 7. Chuck Nielsen opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and Ken Graham offered the opening prayer.

Jim Clausen is celebrating his 45th anniversary. His wife has three broken ribs.

Can Kennel sorting will be Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. for the Book Club. Bicycle Safety will be April 26. The Youth Appreciation Program will be April 29 at 3:00 p.m. this year.

Steve Irvin won the 50/50 drawing and Kevin Underwood won the attendance drawing but did not collect. There were 15 members and 2 guests at the meeting.

The Cub Scouts attended the meeting on April 14 to pick up their can kennel check. Keith Denton and a cub scout provided jokes for the Optimist club meeting on April 14. Chuck Nielsen opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chad Gutttau contributed to the Youth Fund because of 12 new fruit trees he planted. For can kennel sorting, 16 youth and 5 Optimist members helped.

Kevin Underwood won the 50/50 drawing and Chad Gutttau won the attendance drawing. There were 13 members and 24 guests (Cub Scouts and their parents/leaders) at the meeting.

The Cub Scouts picked up a can kennel check and Madison Clark picked up a can kennel check for the Jr.-Sr. Prom.

Calendar

Apr 29 – Youth Appreciation, 3:00 p.m. at Zion Church.

Birthdays

Apr 20 – Steve Chambers

Apr 25 – Rocky Saar

Apr 28 - Gene Seran

Anniversaries

Apr 7 – Jim & Diane Clausen (recognized)

Speakers

Apr 28 – Tom Lewis, Vision Treynor

May 5 - Tina Popson, Pottawattamie County Parks Education Program Manager

May 12 - Dan's Auto, Treynor

May 19 -

May 26 - Kevin Elwood, Treynor Community Schools Superintendent

Programs

Apr – Jim Clausen

May – Ken Graham