



October 24, 2020

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Richard Miller, WWII Family Info



Richard Miller, Silver City, has a passion for world history because his grandfather fought in WWI and his father fought in WWII. Today Richard spoke about WWII. His father, George Miller, served in the Army and most

of the time was a Jeep driver.

Key points in WWII to remember: On Dec. 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor in Hawaii was bombed by the Japanese. Fortunately most US carriers were out to sea. On D Day (June 6, 1944) there were over 5000 casualties on Omaha Beach, but the event was successful for creating many landings to help win the war, Miller stated. The Battle of the Bulge (lasted over one month- began Dec. 16, 1944) was the last major German offensive campaign which resulted in an allied victory over Germany.

The Germans killed over 23 million Russian military and non-military persons. The Japanese killed over 20 million military and non-military persons. Poland was next in the highest kill counts. The Germans lost a few million citizens and the Japanese were the next highest count. Out of ten people killed in the war, six were civilians.

Hitler became a popular leader in WW II because Germany was humiliated in their losses during WWI, and Hitler declared they would win this time. Richard declared Hitler was the most evil man that lived in terms of death and destruction.

Miller shared excerpts of his dad's letters, which were censored and showed the censor seal. He shared digital pictures of pillow covers that were sent home, pictures of guns, swords, knives, a camera, currency, and a Western Union telegram about his father when he received shrapnel wounds and was hospitalized in Paris.

He also showed pictures of items belonging to his dad of rare propaganda literature dropped in

Germany, pictures of cities destroyed, picture of the Siegfried Line where his dad was responsible for guarding a bunker, also maps, and a picture of the medals his father received – Bronze Star, Purple Heart and WW II Service Medal.

Not until the last few years have many of these items been uncovered. Richard then learned that his dad won the highest award in his company as a sharpshooter with a rifle, and second place in his company with a machine gun.

One picture he treasures is a picture of a Gothic church which his grandfather had, his father also was there during the war, and now Richard, his wife Ruth, and two sons have visited there five years ago. He stated that many churches were preserved partly because they became reference points during the war.

Richard also shared that his mother, Viva, worked in a Bomb plant during this time with 4000 others and was one of ten finalists in a beauty contest there.

Richard is available to do other presentations about subjects he enjoys: Morman Trail – Potters Camp, local wildlife presentations, early weapons, the Civil War – in total about eight different presentations.

Meeting Minutes

Dale Willenborg, club president, called the meeting to order at the Treynor Community Building. There were fourteen members, plus two virtually, and one guest present. Dale led the Pledge of Allegiance and Jordan Campbell gave the opening prayer.

Gary Gutttau, Gary Funkhouser, Jordan Campbell and Keith Denton provided humor.

Ken Graham won the 50/50 drawing. Kirk Vorthmann won the attendance drawing, but was not present to collect.

Bragging Rights: (\$ to fund youth activities)

1) Gary Gutttau donated to announce they have a rental house ready for rent. 2) Jim Clausen announced his granddaughter made the Honor

Roll, 3) Marsha and Kevin Underwood were thankful their sister and her many horses escaped harm from the Colorado fires. 4) Jordan donated to announce that Treynor had the 1st place winner in both the District Boys and Girls Cross Country Meet - Cole Dooley and Clara Tiegland 5) Judy Gutttau contributed to thank Dale for establishing Zoom so she and Mick could attend today's meeting. (This will be available to others soon.) 6) Ken Graham announced his grandson, Kory Graham has completed his last course at Crown College in MN to get his Masters' Degree in Christian Studies. He will get his official degree in May, 2021.

Birthday: None recognized

Anniversary: None recognized

Can Kennel: Can kennel sorting for Girl Scout Troup 408 will be Wednesday, Oct 28 at 2:15 PM.

Other business: Dues are due to Gary Gutttau. \$75 annual dues, \$40 lifetime membership dues.

It was decided that there will be a meeting on the Saturday following Thanksgiving for fellowship and discussion, but there will be no speaker.

If it is not too cold and no worry about frozen footings, the club will discuss later whether to line the main street with flags for Veteran's Day.

There was further discussion about the donation of a big screen TV to the Community Building.

A Treynor Optimist Dinner for members and guests will be held at Silo's on Wed., Nov. 11 at 7 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and concluded with the saying of the Optimist pledge.

Dale Willenborg and Dee Gutttau contributors
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Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 51575

HUMOR



Calendar

Oct 28 - Can Kennel sorting for Girl Scout Troup 408.
Nov 6-7, Iowa District Optimist meeting at Holiday Inn and Suites Hotel on Merle Hay Road in Des Moines.
Nov 11 – Treynor Optimist Dinner, Silo's, 7 PM

Birthdays

Oct 17 – Marsha Underwood (celebrated)
Oct 29 – Bill Vorthmann

Anniversaries

Nov 2 – Kirk & Lynell Vorthmann
Nov 6 – Ken & Linda Graham

Programs

October - Bill Vorthmann
November - Jerry Hempel
December 6, 13 -Ken Graham
December 19, 26- Chad Gutttau

Speakers

Oct 31 - Kevin Ross, Underwood,
Pres. of National Corn Growers Association
Nov 7 - Travis Castle
Nov 14- Kara Huisman
Nov 21- Jeff Casey
Nov 28- Meeting, but no Speaker