



Feb. 15, 2020

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### Mark Funkhouser Speaks

Mark Funkhouser spoke to the Treynor Optimists on Saturday, February 15 about his experiences with the Nebraska State Patrol and as an investigator with National Indemnity Insurance Co. where he is the first full time fraud investigator employed. Mark is the son of Gary and Julie Funkhouser.



Mark joined the Nebraska State Patrol in 1987 and served as a trooper first at Beatrice, NE. He moved on to Omaha for five years and was involved with the DARE program and narcotics investigation. He became a sergeant and served in Lincoln for four years where he was in charge of evidence for the state. There he dealt with some insider fraud.

From 1997-2013 Mark ran the Investigative Department which dealt with the Nebraska state crime lab, fingerprint repository, sex offender records, vehicle fraud, narcotics, auto theft, etc. He dealt with crime in NE and in prisons.

After his retirement from the state patrol, Berkshire Hathaway hired Funkhouser to be the first full time investigator with National Indemnity Insurance co. There are now four full time investigators. They cover 50 states and deal with lots of commercial property. They avoid commercial property in hurricane areas. He spoke of the Gattenburg, TN fire where 600 properties were lost by fire. \$100 million was paid out over six weeks.

In fraud cases, the bar is set high as both sides determine if they can win in a jury trial which requires a 51% vote. Jurists for fraud are now instructed to decide if "beyond a shadow of a doubt", rather than "beyond a reasonable doubt" as before.

Funkhouser stated that ten percent, based on value of payouts, of all insurance claims are fraud. In 2018 they installed claims system filters as triggers for fraud. Triggers would be if a claim is made (a) in the first 30 days of a new policy, (b) in the last two weeks of a policy, (c) exceed x number of claims on a policy, (d) change VIN on reported accident, (e) a rental property, etc.

Mark concluded by telling about a 2005 mummy case he was involved in investigating. It just came out as a feature on a tv program last March, "Secrets of the Morgue".

And.....we learned that being truthful and humble if stopped for speeding may just change a trooper's mind about a ticket!

Next week's program will be by Scott Wallace, new Treynor high school baseball coach. Join us from 8-9 AM on Saturday at the Treynor Community Building. All are welcome!

### Meeting Minutes

Bill Vorthmann, President, called the meeting to order at the Treynor Community Building. Seventeen members and many guests were present, including Julie and Mark Funkhouser, Jeff Schoening, Jill Davis, and 14 Silver Keg Feeders 4-H members plus three leaders.

Bill shared that on this day in 1903 the first teddy bear went on sale. It was named after President Teddy Roosevelt with his permission.

Thank you today to the Silver Keg Feeders 4-H Club for serving us breakfast! It was delicious.

Jokes/stories were shared by Dale Willenborg, Keith Denton, and Bill Vorthmann.

The group said the Pledge of Allegiance. Dale Willenborg gave the opening prayer.

The 50/50 Drawing was won by Keith Denton, and the Attendance Drawing was won by Mick Gutttau, who was present today but not last week so therefore wasn't awarded.

### Birthdays/Anniversaries:

There were no birthdays or anniversaries observed.

### Bragging Rights: (\$ to fund youth activities)

1) Ken Graham donated to recognize the birthday of Terry Bahl's mother, who is 104. 2) Kevin Underwood and Marsha Underwood donated because of Bailey White's good game and scoring of 12 points for the College of St. Mary. 3) Judy Gutttau contributed to honor the five wrestlers who are competing today at the District Meet: Mitch Lutz, Cory Coleman, Carson Burhenne, Logan Young, and Brock Fox. She also contributed for Joslyn Gutttau's speech group which

won three I's at State. 4) Jeff Schoening contributed because the Music Boosters met their goal of \$40,000 for the new uniforms and also for the boys basketball win. 5) Jim Clausen and Keith Denton each contributed for the great breakfast served by the Silver Keg Feeders 4-H Club. 6) John Klein donated because the Dunk-o-meter for the boys basketball team has reached 50. 7) Julie Funkhouser donated to announce that three former Treynor girls basketball players would be playing for Briar Cliff against St. Mary's: Madelyn Deitchler, Konnor Sudmann, and Alyssa Carley. 8) Mick Gutttau shared that he and Judy had recently heard a speech by Paul de Roeder who survived a shark attack. 9) Gary Gutttau contributed to state that he saw six pheasants on the drive today (5 roosters, 1 hen).

**Community News:**

Monday is the District Jazz Festival at Glenwood, featuring two high school and two junior high school jazz bands. The top two go on to state.

March 12 is the Pops Concert. A meal of lasagna will be served. There will also be a silent auction. New this year is the opportunity to buy an unbaked lasagna and bread sticks for 12 all for \$25. Also six tables are available to purchase for the evening at a price of \$250, which includes the meal, servers, and reserved seating for the evening.

Tuesday the Treynor Girls play Nodaway Valley in the first tournament game. Thursday the boys play the winner of the Red Oak/Shenandoah game in Treynor in tournament play.

Tonight there is a homemade sausage dinner starting at 4:30 PM at St. John's Lutheran Church in Mineola.

Tomorrow there is a pancake meal from 8:30-12 sponsored by St. Paul youth in Treynor.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

**Music Boosters receive Can Kennel Check**



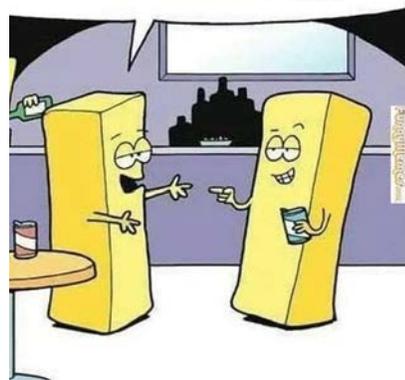
Jeff Shoening and Jill Davis were present with music students to receive the \$1091.45 check for the Music Boosters from the can kennel. The money will be used for both instrumental and vocal music purposes including the band uniform fundraising drive, an African drum for the dept. and for expenses for a trip to Creston for a clinician event. They thanked the Optimists for making this possible.

The can kennel sorting will take place at 4:00 this Wednesday for the Treynor Dance Team.

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

**HUMOR**

THERE HE IS! MY BUTTER FROM ANOTHER UDDER!



**Calendar**

Feb. 19 Can Kennel Sorting- 4 PM

**Birthdays**

Feb. 25 Lou Howell

**Anniversaries**

**Programs**

Feb. Gary Funkhouser  
 Mar. Gary Gutttau  
 Apr. Jeff Jorgensen (first two)  
 Matt Saar (last two)

**Speakers**

Feb. 22 Scott Wallace, new baseball coach  
 Feb. 29 To be announced

Judy Gutttau, [judy.gutttau@tsbg.com](mailto:judy.gutttau@tsbg.com), 402-670-4330

Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 51575

