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Bob Keysor, Radar Operator at Missile Base



Bob Keysor spoke about his experiences serving in the U.S. Army as a Radar Specialist at the Treynor Missile Base from 1963 to '65-'66 when it was closed. The Base was about six miles west of Treynor, where the Green Hills Area

Education Agency (also known as Area 13) is now located on the south side of Hwy 92. There were also missile bases at Beebeetown as well as a couple in Nebraska.

Jeff Danker was present and stated there are six pits at the Treynor Missile Base which are still there. They were launching sites for missiles. He said most copper was stripped. A warheading building and a ready building there have been converted into simple homes which people are living in.

The barracks, the radar site, mess hall, rec room and all offices were located where Area 13 is now. There would be 115 – 120 people working on the base at one time. The motel across the road from the Missile Base was used to provide housing for officers and their families.

An interesting tidbit was that Laverne Goss was asked to come to the Missile Base to give haircuts. Because he was doing that he thought he might as well open a shop in Treynor, which he did and became Treynor's long-time barber.

The missile base was designed to protect Offutt Air Force Base and the missiles were manned all the time. Bob said there was the Nike Ajax Missile and the Hercules Missile. The only thing different was that one had target tracing for radar and one had acquisition radar. The missiles would be raised up once a month.

He stated that commanding control over all air space is vital to winning any war. He would work 24 hour shifts, but frequently got called in during his next 24 hours off. As a radar specialist, he was able to observe up to 500 miles from where he was.

If a threat was detected, a ranking officer was sitting right next to him talking to Offutt and would pull the switch if the missile needed to be fired. There would also be a guy behind him who plotted everything. Once the missile was raised, which took 5 mins., it was armed and it would go.

The missile had a range of 300 miles and could be rotated any direction you wanted. Missiles were designed to hit airplanes.

He stated the blast radius for a Hercules missile would have gotten rid of an area the size of Treynor and part of Council Bluffs. He shared an interesting story about a time one of the missiles was being tested and stuck in a raised position the height level of Treynor. Great security was put into place until it was fixed.

Prior to his Treynor mission, Bob was stationed in Alaska which he said was during a pretty scary time. There was lots of concern about getting invaded by Russia through Alaska. He was called in to replace an operator one night who had broken down in tears. Bob was to come fast and not put his uniform on. The missile was raised and ready to fire, but it was called off.

Bob is married to Jnelle Trede, who he met while stationed here at the restaurant where Silos is now. She worked for her aunt as a waitress. They have three sons as well as a number of grandchildren.

Next week's speaker will be Jeff Casey, Treynor Football Coach.

The public is invited to attend all meetings. The coffee is always on. Gary Funkhouser coins our club as "The best informed club in Treynor!"

"There can be no courage unless you're scared." Eddie Rickenbacker

Meeting Minutes

Bill Vorthmann, past club President, called the meeting to order. Present were 16 members and guests, Bob Keysor, Jeff Danker, Doug and LaJean Wehring, George Volz, Linda Frink and Bret McVey.

Bill Vorthmann led the Pledge of Allegiance and Judy Gutttau gave the opening prayer. Bill Vorthmann and Keith Denton provided humor. Ken Graham won the football contest.

Birthdays/Anniversaries:

We observed Bill Vorthmann's birthday and the 48th wedding anniversary of Kirk and Lynell Vorthmann.

Bragging Rights: (\$ are used for youth activities)

- Marsha Underwood contributed to announce that Bailey White plays basketball for the College of St. Mary and they are undefeated. Kevin Underwood contributed also.
- Judy Gutttau contributed because three of our guests today were also at the New Optimist Members pizza party Tuesday night.

COMMUNITY:

Chad Gutttau stated the Iowa legislative redistricting plan is final. Chad is a Legislative Assistant to Jon Jacobsen. Jon will be running for State Senate in District 8.

The Treynor School Musical is this coming Saturday, Nov. 6 at 2:30 and 7:30 PM.

BUSINESS:

Dues have been paid by 2/3's of the members. Gary Gutttau is looking forward to receiving the remaining members' dues which are due now.

Can Kennel sorting was done this week with the following helping the Boy Scouts: Gary Funkhouser, Gary Gutttau, Chad Gutttau, John Klein, and Bill Vorthmann.

An auction item of a big cooking mitt donated by Gary Funkhouser raised \$2, purchased by George Volz.

George Volz, our District Lt. Governor, shared various projects our club could consider, such as the Music Happiness Contest, Visual Arts and Photography Contest. Nov. 15 there will be a gathering of clubs in western Iowa to come brag at UMBRA (Community center in Underwood) and enjoy a catered Mexican meal by Garcia's. Building and flying kites will be a project for members (to share with youth in the future) will be presented. See the below calendar for other upcoming events.

Dennis White stated that Treynor 3rd grade students now have access to dictionaries electronically. It was decided to donate the 13-14 remaining dictionaries to the Mana Optimist Club who works with youth that have challenges in learning.

Doug Wehring asked if anyone knew where the Ehrig Street name in Treynor came from. After the meeting, he provided info he found on page 20 of the Treynor History Book:

Mr. Fritz Ehrig was a salesman from Council Bluffs who became involved with the city of Treynor before it was Treynor. In 1896 Mr. Ehrig was the person who worked with the Council Bluffs Postmaster, Mr. Treynor, to get a post office here if the town was named Treynor. Mr. Ehrig also had another tie to the community; his wife was the sister of Ben Volkens.

John Klein stated that related to Bob's speech today, if you go to the Treynor Post Office you will note the mural. You will note there are bubbles on top which represent the Treynor Missile Base.

The meeting was adjourned with members reciting the Optimist Creed.

HUMOR



Calendar

Events

Nov 15 Western Iowa Optimist Clubs – dinner at
UMBA Hall in Underwood.
Catered meal. Program:
“Fly kites”
Feb 2 Optimist Day. District Conference – Cedar
Rapids
Feb 28 Club Youth essays due

Birthdays

Nov 8 Mick Guttau
Nov 18 Phil Waggoner
Nov 18 Diane Willenborg

Anniversaries

Nov 6 Ken and Linda Graham
Nov 22 John and Carol Klein

Programs

Nov Jerry Hempel
Dec Linda Danker (first two)
Mick Guttau (last two)
Jan Kirk Vorthmann and Doug Dillivan

Speakers

Nov 6 Jeff Casey, Treynor Football Coach
Nov 13 Tony Leick, Investigator, Pott Co.
Nov 20 Kara Huismann, Treynor Softball Coach
Nov 27 Brad Bailey PGA Professional, 2012 Grad

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