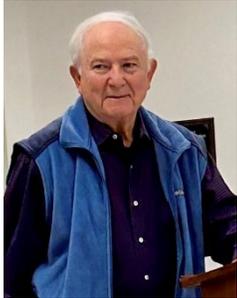




Oct 29, 2022

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## Gene Seran Speaks About Turkey



Gene Seran, one of our Optimist members, spoke about his life coming from Turkey in 1958 at the age of 17. He worked at the Turkish American Air Force Affiliation in the Base Exchange Building in Ankara which supplied materials to power the US

Army, Navy, and Air Force.

There he met and became good friends with Ev Johnson from Omaha, who sold insurance for building airplanes during WW II. Gene was able to get Turkish law info to Ev Johnson which Ev then gave to the Air Force and the AF won the contract from Turkey.

The AF rewarded Gene by sending him to the US. Ev Johnson helped him settle in Omaha. His parents said, "If you have wings, go."

In Turkey Gene could no longer get an education. In America he attended Creighton University, got his Masters, and a Specialist Degree too. He became a teacher and counselor at Ralston for 28 years. He shared that he attended schools in Turkey without his parents even knowing just to exchange ideas.

In 1991 Gene quit teaching to do real estate. Losing a child was a deciding factor to not need anyone's help anymore and do whatever it takes to care for his family. He believes teachers should be paid more and education is very important. He said America is the only country where you can start with nothing, accumulate wealth, but education is more valuable than wealth. He enjoyed teaching and coaching every day.

If Gene had stayed in Turkey, there is a caste system. Unless you know somebody, you can't advance. The Turkish custom is bad – you have to bribe to get what you want. Gene refused to ever take a bribe. He stated the contrast here in America is you are treated so well. But in

America we have 48" of snow and you have to dig yourself out to get from the house to school!

After leaving education, Gene acquired rental houses which are still a headache today. He helped Rod Miller get a furnace working and was told about a farm on Applewood Rd, which they lived on for a number of years. Through Rod and working together with Bob Hibbard he became acquainted with Treynor and owns real estate on Main Street. He considers Treynor his home town.

We enjoyed his story about Mrs. Joe, who owned the Treynor Hardware Store. Gene and one of her sons owned a gas station. The son would buy outdated cigarettes. Gene would give them to Mrs. Joe, who smoked them all. She asked him if he would like to buy the local hardware store. He did.

Gene shared his thoughts on immigrants. He said there is nothing wrong with being an immigrant and becoming a citizen to then have rights, earned, but not given to them. He feels immigrants must contribute to this country. Today instead they start living just like everybody else.

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**Next week's speaker will be:**

**Rick Nickerson, Treynor HS Principal**  
**8-9 AM Sat. Treynor Community Building**

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### Meeting Minutes

Jordan Campbell, President, called the meeting to order. Present were 21 members and guests, Glenrose Meier, Dane Gutttau, Tessa Gutttau, and Jona Kuenstler.

Jordan stated that on this day in 1929 the Black Market crashed leading to the Great Depression.

Jordan led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the opening prayer.

Jokes were shared by Bill Vorthmann, Keith Denton, Steve Chambers, Dale Willenborg, and Gary Gutttau.

**50/50** was won by Keith Denton. Mick Guttau won the **attendance drawing**.

**Birthdays/Anniversaries:** Bill Vorthmann celebrated his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday and provided pastries.

Dale Willenborg contributed to announce that he and his wife Dianne celebrated their anniversary two weeks ago.

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

- Kevin Underwood and Marsha Underwood donated to announce that Bailey White had scored 21 points for the College of St. Mary's.
- Gary Guttau donated to announce the Pott Co. Lincoln/Reagan event last night (Friday) had many great speakers.
- Gary Funkhouser announced he was proud of a former Treynor student, Brooke Goss Flathers, having a good year coaching the Riverside Volleyball team and they earned the right to play at their first state tourney.
- Jordan Campbell stated that Thursday night's Terrifying Tour was successful with many positive reviews.
- Dale Willenborg reported they attended their grandson's band concert and marching competition in Seattle. They got third in the state and first in the Open Class of bands with 100 members or more.

**Auction Items: NONE**

**Football Pool:** Kevin Underwood won!

**Business:**

- Can Kennel sorting took place on Wed. with cans and bottles overflowing! Bill Vorthmann, Gary Guttau, Gary Funkhouser, Steve Chambers, Dale Willenborg, and John Klein helped the St. Paul Pre-school group.
- Optimist dues are due in October. Glenrose Meier expressed her desire to join.
- The Program Speaker sheet was circulated inviting members to sign up to arrange speakers for this coming year. Just a few slots remain.

**Community:**

- The Music Boosters are sponsoring a Pumpkin Walk tomorrow (Sun.)
- The FCA is having a hayride party Sun. eve.
- Trick or Treat in Treynor is Mon. eve.

The meeting was closed with reciting of the Optimist Creed.

## HUMOR



"Good morning, Mrs. Keith — you weren't home last night, so..."

## Calendar

### Events

Nov 9

Can Kennel Sorting – Time TBA

### Birthdays

Nov 8

Mick Guttau

Nov 18

Phil Waggoner, Dianne Willenborg

Nov 22

Kathy Luedke

### Anniversaries

Nov 22

John & Carol Klein

Nov 25

Ward & Suzanne Chambers

### Programs

Nov

Jerry Hempel

Dec

Linda Danker (First 2 Saturdays)

Mick Guttau (Third Saturday)

### Speakers

Nov 5

Rick Nickerson, High School Principal

Nov 12

Jeff Casey, Treynor Football Head Coach

Nov 19

Kara Huisman, Softball Head Coach

Nov 26

Matt Hempel, John Deere Engineer