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Susan Miller- Dreamland Theater Speaker



Susan Miller spoke today about the Dreamland Theater in Carson, Iowa. It is operated as a non-profit organization by the Carson Iowa Business Club and is located on 107 Broadway St., Carson.

The Dreamland Theater, a 166 seat theater, is a historical marvel about to celebrate its 100th Anniversary in 2026. Susan shared a movie schedule program from 1926 plus a photo of the theater in 1942.

Susan also shared a current showbill which named the movies for March – Marry Me, Death on the Nile, Dog, and Uncharted. Show times are 7:30 PM on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. It is a first come, first serve theater. The door opens at 7. Tickets cost \$4 for an adult and youth. A family of four can attend for \$16 for the movie and \$10 for concessions. Prices at Council Bluffs theaters cannot compete.

Find out more about the movies each month as they are posted locally at the Post Office and Bank and Social Media.

The theater first began as Cozy Theater, owned in 1921 by Frank S. Smith and was located in a hotel on Broadway. Noise from the bar in the hotel and bowling alley in the basement was a major factor in moving it to its current location. It was then opened under the Dreamland Theater name.

Back in those days, adding sound was a huge attraction as well as cushioned seats. Tickets were 15 cents each.

The advent of television hurt business. The competition of home videos and cable TV, and COVID also caused the theater to close for a time.

In 1999 the theater was operating in the red, then the projector also broke. Efforts to sell it to the city for \$1 were unsuccessful, but the Carson Business Club came to the rescue.

Many area volunteers have made the Dreamland Theater a success. There was a time that projectionists were very valuable and were paid \$10 a night plus a free bag of popcorn and a coke. Today a digital projector is used which can do 2 D and 3 D movies so pushing a button is all that is needed.

Susan explained that their booking agent schedules movies about two weeks before the upcoming month and they are not given a choice of movies but do request family friendly movies, which is what they receive for the most part. She stated sometimes what they expect to get is not what they get and they try to notify the public. They must put down a deposit for a movie and then after the movie shows, they may be charged extra if the movie has done well in all theaters.

When asked if there is an association of community theaters and the possibility of ever showing old vintage movies, Susan stated she is not aware of such an association but was interested in the possibility and possible advantages of partnerships.

Many improvements have been made through the years. We encourage everyone to go to Carson to see movies! Susan very graciously gave the club 20 free passes, which the board will discuss how to use next week.

It was mentioned by host Gary Funkhouser that Susan is a candidate for County Supervisor. She served on the Iowa West Foundation and is on the SWI Education Foundation Board.

Next week's speaker is about:

PowerTech, started by several Riverside grads.

All are welcome!

Quote

"Be quick to praise." Bernard Baruch

Meeting Minutes

Bill Vorthmann, past President, called the meeting to order. Present were 15 members plus our speaker, Susan Miller.

Bill shared that today in history in 1770 the Boston Massacre occurred and he shared facts.

Bill led the Pledge of Allegiance and Judy Guttai gave the opening prayer.

50/50 was won by Kevin Underwood. Gary Guttai won the Attendance Drawing.

Birthdays/Anniversaries: Keith Denton announced his anniversary is March 8. They were married in 1974. He first saw Georgia at Ewald's which led to memories being shared about Rudy's, A& W, and Todd's Drive in.

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

- Keith Denton donated to tell about his left shoulder surgery and that his son has a new job being in charge of the groundskeepers at UNO which requires a lot fewer hours than his previous job.
- Judy Guttai bragged on Norma Storm celebrating her 100th birthday Sunday.
- Gary Guttai shared a picture from 1969 of the Stephens Addition before houses were built.

BUSINESS:

- Gary Funkhouser announced the winners of the Treynor Optimist Oratorical Contest. Winners were: Cadence Quick – 1st, Danny Kinsela – 2nd, Caleb Cooper – 3rd, Mia Harter – 4th. On Tuesday they will be presented certificates, medals and cash awards. Thank you, Gary, for leading this effort for many years.
- Can Kennel helpers were Gary Guttai, Chad Guttai, Bill Vorthman, Steve Chambers, and Gary Funkhouser with about 40 Treynor Music Boosters. A large number of bottles and cans were reported.
- John Ross Biederman's Eagle Scout Court of Honor will be held at the Treynor Community Building from 4-6 PM on March 13. The Optimists are invited and Dee Guttai took names to RSVP.

- The Board will meet next Saturday, March 12 after the meeting. Member requests for discussion at the board meeting:
 - Paying for a membership for a school board member to join Optimists and keep us up to date on a regular basis. Perhaps the membership could be an open one for board members to take turns attending.
 - Distribution of Dreamland Theater tickets given to us by Susan Miller.
 - Possibility of being a sponsor of the Dreamland Theater for \$100/year.

COMMUNITY NEWS:

- Today the Treynor Jazz Band performs at 1:35 at the Bluffs Jazz Fest at AL School.
- Tomorrow is Speech Night starting at 2 PM at the school.
- Chad Guttai reported on some legislative news.
- March 14 is the first Legion Fish Fry.
- March 14 is also the Pops Concert at the High School. Lasagna will be served.

Susan Miller purchased the chocolate chip cookies made by Judy Guttai in the Auction for \$3, but paid \$8. Thank you, Susan.

The meeting was closed with reciting the Optimist Creed.

HUMOR



Calendar

Events

Mar 12 Treynor Optimist Board Meeting
Mar 19 Treynor Volunteer Awards Event
Apr 2 Cub Scouts will be going door to door-
Scouting for Food and will distribute the
Optimist flag flyers. A few Optimists are
needed as well.
Apr 28 Mulch Madness

Birthdays

Mar 2 Ward Chambers
Mar 11 Ken Graham

Anniversaries

Mar 8 Ken & Linda Graham
Mar 8 Keith & Georgia Denton

Programs

Mar Gary Funkhouser
Apr Chad Guttau
May Dale Willenborg

Speakers

Mar 12 PowerTech, started by several Riverside
grads.

Contributor: Dee Guttau

Editor: Judy Guttau, judy.guttau@tsbg.com, 402-670-4330,

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