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### Vicki Dowling, Treynor History Memories



Vicki Dowling, long-time Treynor resident, is a treasure trove of Treynor history memories. She stated the Treynor History Book published in 1961 is full of great information up through 1959. Vicki shared mostly info about the business area in the early years.

Vicki grew up in a house right next to the current post office. She shared an 1891 photo; It was first built as a Cooperative Creamery. There were 60 patrons on the milk route and each day 6000 lbs. of milk and 200 lbs. of butter were handled. Vicky has an old roll top desk presumably from the Cooperative. Found in a drawer was a terse note on a bill telling someone to pay up! The bill was dated 1893 and the bill was for \$1.50. After the Cooperative failed in 1901, Eybergs moved into it. Later it became a General Store.

The Treynor Record Office and old Post Office were where the old bank is now. Later it moved up the street. The newspaper press was the largest in SW Iowa for a weekly newspaper. Four pages could be printed at once. Vicki remembers watching her dad, Emmett Butler, the owner and editor, handset each letter. Her mom would grab the paper off the press and fold it in half. When she was little, her dad started taking the layout to Neola to Tom Frye who had linotype and hot lead who could do the job faster. The print shop minus the press is now the "Print Shop" at Living History Farms in West Des Moines. The press was so big it had to be broken up for iron. It was built in 1861.

The old post office had a wall of oak postal boxes which now is in the museum at Macedonia. Vicki stated their house was connected to the post office.

Vicki said Treynor was definitely a German community. Everyone was from Germany or their parents were. Lots of German was spoken. When her dad bought their place, then got married, she said people were talking about them in German. Soon her mom, who grew up in Donavan, NE, also German, surprised the locals when she spoke back to them in German.

Back then the post office had tax forms and applications for social security. Her dad was considered the only federal official and during WWII, they wanted him to keep an eye out for subversive Germans! During WWII, people had to declare their citizenship. Men were asked if they had ever been in the Army. One local gent said he was in the Kaiser's Army in Germany during WWI.

A big fire, which almost took the town down, was put out with a bucket brigade from a shallow well. Norm Bruning, Joe Karrer, and her dad, were the nucleus to then organize a fire department. The current post office was the first fire station. Vicki remembers going to the fire station daily with her dad during cold weather to make sure the kerosene stove was full to keep the truck thawed.

Years later the town finally got city water for the fire department. It was a much smaller water tower than now. The riser pipe froze one time so there was no water. The fire truck had to be used to force the frozen water out. All was fine, but it had been forgotten that the water in the truck had detergent in it so it wouldn't freeze up. For 2-3 days every glass of water drawn had a foam head.

Vicki said Harvey Saar, with only a 6<sup>th</sup> grade education, was one of the smartest people she knew who repaired TVs and tinkered with electronics, designed controls for the water tower so that water would come down during the day, and flow up during the night so that water was always moving in that riser pipe.

Charlie Rook, a brick mason, built the building to the south of the current post office. It has served many purposes. At one time her mom was mortified that she was going to be living next to a pool hall. There were two snooker tables and one pool table, according to Jim Clausen, and ice cream up front. Her mom did send her over to get her mom a chocolate marshmallow sundae. So Vicki said she was probably age 5-6 when she was sent to the 'den of iniquities'. The sundae cost 25 cents. A game of pool cost 10 cents. That building has served lots of purposes through the years, but one time was Collins Casuals where all things Treynor were sold. Today Vicki was wearing her vintage Treynor T shirt bought there probably 40 years ago.

It used to cost to call long distance to Council Bluffs. Vicki said her dad could take all calls for Iowa Power and call them in. She said they also had a red fire dept. phone on their porch and it was never to be touched. It would ring as a backup if Joe Karrer was gone.

The service station on the corner was just the part with the canopy in the beginning. In the back there was a lunch counter separated by a wall, which Edna Apple ran. All old German guys would come play cards there. Vicki's grandfather lived with them and he had a pet pig which he would take with him to go there. Vicki said her mom was mortified.

Next to the service station going west was Charlie Rook's house. Then where Silos is was Nick Schumacher's lumber yard. Later Burnel Schumacher ran it. Later Burnell and his siblings built the building there now. The bar is on the right and on the left in front was the restaurant. Vicki said she worked there and the kitchen was half the size. Missile base guys came and worked part time in the bar also. Where the dining room is now was a six-lane bowling alley. The kids had leagues on Saturday. John Nish purchased it and eventually the bowling alley got repossessed. Hansen oil did have some storage tanks west of there.

To the east of the current post office was a big farm and house owned by Doc and Anna Stephens and it went north. Stephens Ridge housing got its name from them.

Going east from there was JC Clausen Trucking, later JC Clausen & Sons Trucking, then Clausen Brothers Trucking. Next was the Old Congregational Church. Christi Bruning's house was nearby and she took in laundry and did sewing for people.

Lamar Street which goes by Casey's now was known as the "Cut-Off". It was a gravel road that allowed trucks, etc. to cut-off from the Four Corners.

We all enjoyed Vicki's stories very much and are requesting she come back again to share more.

Someone also noted that the town was incorporated in 1905 and inquired if there would be a 125<sup>th</sup> celebration as so many towns have. That remains to be seen and hoped for!

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### Next week's Speaker:

Christine Buresh Ford, "Gather at the Table" coffee shop ministry – Old Market, Omaha

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### FAMOUS QUOTE

**"You cannot protect yourself from sadness without protecting yourself from happiness."**

Jonathan Foer

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### Meeting Minutes

Dale Willenborg called the meeting to order. Nineteen members were present as well as guests: Vicki Dowling, Kami and Allison Houser.

The group recited the pledge and Jordan Campbell gave the prayer.

**Jokes:** Jordan Campbell, Keith Denton and Kami Houser

**50/50:** Dick Fox

**Attendance:** Steve Chambers, but was not present.

**Birthdays/Anniversaries:** Jeff Jorgensen paid \$5 to announce his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and a request for no singing.

Dick Fox stated it would be his parents 89<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Bragging Rights:** (Dollars are contributed to benefit local youth programs.)

- Mick Gutttau stated he had a great turn-out for his retirement party and thanked those who came.
- Gary Gutttau shared a story about Mick wanting to farm, which didn't happen, and it would have been right before the ag crunch.
- Jordan Campbell gave kudos to John Klein for planning the swim lessons. It went smoothly and the ice cream cones were a big hit on Thursday, the last day.
- John Klein thanked the Optimists who are in his Community Committee meeting. They've completed their four meetings.
- Dick Fox stated he got a last minute plea to help move his oldest granddaughter into her new house. A truck and muscles were needed. Dick Fox also stated he had a total of 5.5" of rain this month.
- Mick Gutttau donated because it was his first Optimist meeting in about a year. His treatment will continue for another year.
- Gary Gutttau indicated his dad used to be in charge of family fireworks which they would buy in Bellevue after shipping hogs in Omaha. He always purchased one big finale firework. One time as they drove home with many fireworks, the back tire blew and Gary said he almost dived out of the car!

**Business:**

- Can Kennel sorting for the Optimists will be after the meeting on Saturday.
- Flags will be taken down on Friday at 5 PM.



- Allison Houser was present to receive her \$500 Optimist Scholarship. She will attend Dordt University in Sioux Center to study nursing with the desire to eventually be a nurse

- practitioner in the area of pediatrics. She will also play soccer and track for Dordt.
- Bingo volunteers for Saturday's Treynor Days are Kathy Luedke, Bill Vorthmann, Gary and Dee Gutttau, Glenrose Meier, Jordan Campbell, and Judy Gutttau. Bingo starts at 2:15 PM.

- Helpers will be needed to work gates at WestFair on Thursday, July 25. Dale Willenborg offered to help.

**Community Events this week:**

- Thurs., July 4: Underwood celebration, Avoca celebration, Belle Terra Vineyard celebration starts at 4 PM, Gene Leahy Mall – Omaha Symphony and Fireworks.
- Fri., July 5 – Treynor JV and Varsity Girls Softball vs ACGC in Treynor.
- Friday Food Truck will be: July 12
- Treynor Farmers Market will not be this week.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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**HUMOR**

**It turns out that when asked who your favorite child is, you're supposed to pick out one of your own. I know that now!**

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**CALENDAR**

**Events:**

- Fri. July 5 Flags to be taken down – 5 PM
- Sat. July 6 Can Kennel Sorting – Optimists After the meeting
- Thu. July 25 Westfair gate duty- Optimists

**Birthdays**

- July 14 Gary Gutttau
- July 25 Jerry Hempel
- July 27 Jim Clausen

**Anniversaries**

- July 15 Jordan & Katie Campbell
- July 25 Chuck & Kathy Nielsen

**Programs:**

- July Judy Gutttau (1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Sat.)
- Dale Willenborg (3<sup>rd</sup> Sat.)
- Joel Beyenhof (4<sup>th</sup> Sat)
- Chad Gutttau

**Aug**

**Speakers**

- July 6 Christine Buresh Ford, "Gather at the Table" coffee shop ministry – Old Market Omaha
- July 13 Treynor School Board Members, Brandon Vorthmann and Anica Buckingham Olsen.
- July 20 Aaron Terry, Football Offensive Coordinator for Iowa Western Community College
- July 27 Jill Kay, Treynor Elementary Principal