



Oct. 5, 2024

Vol. 40, No.38

Gary Guttau: How We Intertwine



Gary shared his personal history of the Guttau family and how they settled in Treynor area in 1876; however, he stated the Guttau name is slowly disappearing. The first Guttau families in the area had many daughters and

few sons. Chad, Dane, and Josh Guttau appear to be the only ones left to carry on the Guttau name in this area. But there are still a large number of descendants in the area.

Comparatively, Gary mentioned that Gene Stewart's family came much later in 1953 and there have been a large number of descendants in that period of time and not all have the name of Stewart.

There was lots of good discussion about topics such as: What was the original reason for people moving from Germany to Treynor? When did Treynor officially become a town? What is the oldest building that now stands in Treynor? When did Treynor become incorporated? A lot of information can be found in the Treynor History Book.

Ancestors came over from Germany, and it was very common back then that the first-born son inherited everything. How many came over that were only 14-15 years of age? Why did they make a trip on their own without any other family members? Why did they settle into a nation that didn't speak German? Gary stated that every town settled for a reason, and it is so hard to move forward as a community if you don't know where your town came from.

This summer Gary awoke from a dream and felt the need for a museum in Treynor; however, today where do most people look for information? Online was the answer.

Gary spoke with Shelley Reed recently about updating the Treynor History Book. They discussed if people care about family history.

Shelley indicated, "Yes". The red Treynor History Book was compiled in 1961. Shelley had a student copy all of the pages in the Treynor History Book and sent it off to the Council Bluffs Library, where all can have access to it online. But to be able to update the Treynor history, a digital copy for people is needed. The only way that is possible is that someone would have to type the whole book so that families could add to it.

Gary also discussed how history changes names. For example, he had a stack of Treynor football game rosters and asked the Optimists to look over them and talk about how many players are from several generations of the Treynor community and how we are intertwined. There are also those names that are not recognized.

Gary pointed out that we realize with time we may not know as much about as many of the people in our community compared to the early years of the community. Gary would like to see the families that are listed in the original Treynor History Book be updated and added to an online version of the book. In addition, newer families to the community could be added as well. It is something to think about in our community and helps preserve history.

If anyone in the community has ideas as to how to bring Treynor historical information online or who is willing to help, please contact Gary Guttau, cell: 402-616-4873, email: garyguttau@gmail.com

Thanks to Kathy Luedke for taking speaker notes.

Next week's Program:

Meet at "The T" for a program by Travis Castle in the new building. Bring your own chair. Gary will bring card tables.

FAMOUS QUOTE

“Minds are like parachutes – they only function when open.” Thomas Dewar

Meeting Minutes

Bill Vorthmann called the meeting to order at Zion Congregational Church. Fourteen members were present.

Guests today: Mike Holton, City Administrator, Rich May, Past Governor of the Iowa District of Optimist International, and Jolene Jorgensen, Assistant to the Governor of the Iowa District of Optimist International.

The group recited the pledge and Dale Willenborg gave the prayer.

Jokes: Steve Chambers, Bill Vorthmann

50/50: Jim Clausen

Attendance Award: Jon Jacobsen who wasn't present.

Football Contest: Jim Clausen won in a 5-way tie.

Birthdays/Anniversaries: None

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

- Jim Clausen announced his two granddaughter's birthdays.
- Gary Gutttau bragged about the football game victory of Treynor over Underwood and Peter Young's great game.
- Kathy Luedke bragged about her granddaughter being a part of her school's Homecoming Royalty.
- Mike Holton bragged on several things:
 - His granddaughter was selected to be the Crown Bearer for Homecoming.
 - The Four Corner's fall decorations in Treynor came out of the Treynor's Tomorrows Beautification & Signage Action Team. He stated "good job" and is proud of things going on in Treynor, the game, and projects.
 - Housing Beautification, Beautification Murals and Safety projects are happening.
 - The light on Highway 92 will be transformed to have two push buttons (both sides of street)
 - He's proud of the new carpet in the Community Center.
 - The Charles E. Lakin Foundation's one-time gift (not a grant) of \$165 million to SW Iowa

is considered a transformative gift and was gracious to the four cities selected: Treynor, Atlantic, Malvern, and Stanton. Travis Castle, Kelsey Stupfell, and Mike Holton attended the announcement meeting in Atlantic on behalf of Treynor and Vision Treynor Group. Hot topics from Iowa cities for projects are housing and childcare. Treynor receives over \$3.4 million towards housing projects. The money given stays in the foundation forever, but a 5% return will be given out yearly, which will be \$170,000.

Community:

- Mike Holton stated the City Council will begin discussions Monday night at 7 PM about the gift for housing received from the Lakin Foundation. The project will need to be well thought out.

Optimist Guest:

Jolene Jorgensen, Assistant to the Governor of the Iowa District of Optimist International, lives in Grinnell and spoke briefly. She and Erin Houseman, Council Bluffs, cover the western side of Iowa. She asked: What made you want to become an Optimist? What was your Optimist moment? She passed out cards and encourages us to pass out to others to encourage membership.

Personally, Jolene stated she wanted to give back to youth. She had major health issues when growing up. The Grinnell club was great about giving gas cards or money to those who needed it for medical purposes to get to Iowa City.

Jolene stated, "Optimist bring out the best in their youth and there are those that need to be touched and hear the Optimist story." We are to share our project cards and explain to potential members how fun our group is and invite them to come to see what all we do. She said she heard very good things about the clubs in Treynor and Red Oak.

Thanks for visiting, Jolene!

Business:

- Dues of \$75 are due. Dues amount to \$103.75, but the club pays the difference from the Can Kennel collection.
- Gary Gutttau stated that the Can Kennel took in \$17,000 for the past year and paid out \$15,000. Flags took in \$9000+ thus far this year.
- Steve Chambers stated there is a need for a metal detector as spots for the flags aren't always easy to find.
- Mike Holton stated that the proposal about the Droppitt trailer is on the agenda for the Treynor

City Council Meeting on Monday. He stated the Can Kennel is a wonderful project, but the decision will be the council's not the city.

Community Events this week (In Treynor):

- All of October – Community Cereal Drive (cereal and pop tarts), sponsor is Treynor Dance Team to benefit Treynor Food Pantry. Drop off at any school office.
- Mon. Oct 7 – JV FB vs St. Albert
- Tues. Oct. 8 – 7th/8th grade VB, JV VB, JV Reserve VB, and Varsity VB vs. Tri-Center
- Tues. Oct 8 – Treynor VB Team Spaghetti Dinner 5-7 PM Treynor High School, Free Will offering for teammate Ryley Hemmingsen, who has papillary thyroid carcinoma.
Also this is a Pink Out game.
- Thurs. Oct. 10- 7/8th grade VB, JV VB, JV Reserve VB, and Varsity VB vs Riverside
- Fri. Oct. 11 – Varsity FB vs Shenancoah
- Fri. Oct. 11 – Treynor Fall Clean Up Day
- Sun. Oct. 13 – Legion Pancake Breakfast, 8-12:30 Treynor Community Center

Other Events Mentioned (Not in Treynor):

- Sat. Oct 12– Loess Hills Marching Band Festival- Glenwood

Auction:

A 3x5 flag was donated by Gary Gutttau. Glenrose Meier purchased it for \$5.

There being no further business, the pledge was stated and the meeting adjourned.

HUMOR



CALENDAR

Events:

- Oct. 7 Optimists and others to meet with Town Council about Droppitt Trailer.
- Oct. 12 Optimist Meeting at "The T" – 8 AM. Bring your own chair.

Birthdays:

- Oct. 17 Marsha Underwood
- Oct. 29 Bill Vorthmann

Anniversaries:

- Oct. 13 Dale & Dianne Willenborg
- Oct. 17 Dennis & Kay White

Programs:

- Oct Gary Gutttau
- Nov Jordan Campbell (first three)
Jerry Hempel (last two)
- Dec Mick and Judy Gutttau

Speakers

- Oct. 12 Meet at "The T" for a program in the new building and a program by Travis Castle. Bring your own chair.
- Oct. 19 TBA
- Oct. 26 TBA

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