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## Gary Guttau: Treynor School History



Gary stated there was no school in town in the early days as everyone went to nearby rural schools. One of the first country schools was where St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery is located. Other schools were located all over and out by

Quick. The one by Raymond Guttau's farm is where Ward and Steve Chamber's mother taught school.

It became apparent in 1900 that this couldn't be continued as there were too many town children. In 1901 it was decided a town school was needed in Treynor. In 1904 a one-room school building was ready for use as the Treynor Independent School (located across from where Patty Walters lives 11 N. Eyberg St). The bell at that school was restored and is now located at the current school.

In 1911 another room was built. Eventually this two-room building was converted into a corncrib, used by Dr. Stephens, and Jim Clausen remembers playing in the crib.

Shortly after, the building at the current City Maintenance Shop on S. Eyberg was leased and used for both high school and some of the grade school. A proposal was agreed upon to consolidate the schools in 1919 into one building. This new building was also known as the 'fire escape building' because of the big tube that came out of the building and kids could slide down in case of a fire. Eventually they added a stair fire escape.

Gary started school in this original building. On the east half of the top floor was the auditorium. On the south end was a stage and on the north two roll down classrooms. This is where they held alumni banquets and the women's groups from different churches prepared the meals and the youth groups served the meals for the banquet. New

members were initiated into the alumni association at the banquets. Plays were also held there.

Under the top floor there were elementary classrooms. The gymnasium was on the bottom floor and basically considered a 'pit' and was very small. You would walk downstairs to get into it. Gary played grade school basketball there.

On the west side of the top floor was the science classroom on the north and a regular classroom and library and girls' bathroom on the south side. The superintendent's office was above the stairwell in the front of the building. Delbert Pidgeon was the Superintendent. Gary's father, Detlef Guttau, stated that Pidgeon would say, "What man could imagine, man could achieve."

Obie Mann was the next Superintendent. In 1942, Detlef Guttau was on the school board and the school bought a new school bus. Gary and his parents, Detlef and Ethel, went to Ohio by train to get the school bus and drove it back. They stayed several nights in the bus and hotels. Gary remembers the narrow bridge in Keokuk and they could look down through it.

Later the school was at full capacity, but plans for a new addition didn't jell until 1949. The building was completed for use around 1950 which included a gymnasium, a stage on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and locker rooms, shop class, home ec. room and school cafeteria on the bottom floor. The bus barn was built in 1952.

In 1957 a state mandate was issued that schools must consolidate into community school districts. At that time many areas were added to the school district. One area that Treynor was fortunate to get was the Bluffs City Farm, which is now the Bent Tree Golf Course and the houses around that. Gary said we can thank Jim Davie for putting that farmland into the Treynor School District instead of the CB school district. It added a great deal to Treynor's valuation.

During the process of becoming a community school district, many areas were added and people complained and there was a lot of gerrymandering. If you lived right on the district line, you had a choice of going to school in Treynor or Underwood.

Gary will continue with more at a future date. Thanks to Kathy Luedke for taking speaker notes.

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### Next week's Program:

**Jeff Casey, Treynor Historical Football Statistics with some older facts from Gary Guttau and Steve Chambers.**

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### FAMOUS QUOTE

**"Optimism is a happiness magnet. If you stay positive, good things and good people will be drawn to you." Mary Lou Retton**

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### Meeting Minutes

Dale Willenborg called the meeting to order. Thirteen members were present.

Guests today: Ward Chambers

The group recited the pledge and Glenrose Meier gave the prayer.

**Jokes:** Keith Denton, Gary Guttau, Dale Willenborg

**50/50:** Bill Vorthmann

**Attendance Award:** Dave Danker, who wasn't present so was unable to claim.

**Football Contest:** Jim Clausen won in a 3-way tie.

**Birthdays/Anniversaries:** Dale and Dianne Willenborg celebrated their 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

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

- Chad Guttau bragged on the Lincoln-Reagan Dinner. The speaker was Brenna Bird, Attorney General for Iowa
- Glenrose Meier stated she was impressed and encouraged with Bird's speech at the Lincoln-Reagan Dinner.
- Keith Denton bragged on his granddaughter who runs cross country and hasn't lost.
- Keith also commended Governor Kim Reynolds who spoke on tv and how she is helping reduce expenditures.

### Community:

- The Treynor Football team will play in a play-off game and this was discussed. Since the meeting, it has been determined it will be in Treynor against West Sioux, starting at 7 PM this Friday, Oct. 25.

### Business:

- Michael Holton, City Administrator, stopped in briefly to inform the group that the city council still has the Droppett Trailer proposal (for hauling cans/bottles from the Can Kennel). He stated that no decision has been made yet and the proposal is still out there.
- Gary and Dee Guttau suggested that anyone from the Optimist Club who resides in Treynor could encourage the city council to allow Droppett to park the trailer in the Community Building lot.
- Dale Willenborg will send out application requests for the Can Kennel for the coming year – 2025.
- Thank you, John Klein, for picking up 5 boxes (200 – 55 gallon bags) for use in the Can Kennel. These were donated by Home Depot!

### 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.
- Fri., Oct. 25 – Treynor Play-off FB game against West Sioux 7 PM in Treynor.

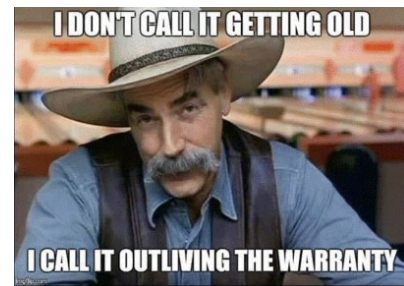
### Other Events Mentioned (Not in Treynor):

- Wed., Oct. 23 – Treynor vs Tri-Center Volleyball @ Tri-Center- Region 2 Quarterfinal
- Thurs., Oct. 24 – Girls/Boys Golf State Qualifying Meets
- Sun., Oct. 27 – Treynor's Trunk or Treat 1:30-3 PM

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

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### HUMOR



## CALENDAR

### Events:

- Oct. 26 Optimist Meeting 8 AM. Treynor  
Community Building  
Nov. 9 Silver Creek 4-H Club Can Kennel  
Sorting

### Birthdays:

- Oct. 29 Bill Vorthmann

### Anniversaries:

### Programs:

- Oct Gary Guttau  
Nov Jordan Campbell (first three)  
Jerry Hempel (last two)

Dec Mick and Judy Guttau

### Speakers

- Oct. 26 Jeff Casey, Treynor Historical Football  
Statistics, with some older facts from  
Gary Guttau and Steve Chambers.  
Nov. 2 Michael Holton and Kelsey Stupfell  
Update on Treynor's Tomorrow  
Nov. 9 TBA  
Nov. 16 Travis Hitchcock, Mills County  
Emergency Management Agency  
Director  
Nov. 23 TBA  
Nov. 30 TBA

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