,,The Optimist Club of Treynor, Treynor, IA
Iowa District, Zone 2 Club Number 40-109
Iowa District Governor: Sue Wunsch

Lt Governor: Susan Enewold, CB

NEWSLETTER

Treynor Optimist Club President:
Dale Willenborg

Aug 9, 2025 Vol. 41, No.31

Jay and Sherrie Johnson – The TREK



Sherrie and Jay Johnson, Tabor, were coordinators of TREK, a pioneer reenactment that happens every four years for three days for youth in the Church of the Latter Day Saints. Seventy youth (freshmen to seniors) plus 40 adults participated in the TREK from Imogene to Malvern (21 miles). They dressed like pioneers and traveled the Wabash Trail mostly and some county roads. The youth came from communities from Shenandoah to north Omaha.

The early Mormons settled in Utah, migrating in 1846 with wagons and oxen. Immigrants came from Europe and Scandinavia, eventually landing in Iowa City and set out on the journey to Salt Lake City. It was found to be less expensive to have people pull a handcart which allowed more people to make the journey starting in 1856. Iowa had the Pioneer Trail which was followed and that made this experience special as well in this area.

The purpose of TREK is an important part of the church's history, so it helps the youth to know what their ancestors had gone through in making the journey. A 16-minute video of the adventure showed the kids working together to get the cart up a steep creek bank after managing to get through the creek, having a talent show at night, singing, dancing, making great fun. It was harder on some who had not done a lot of physical activity before. One girl, after 20 minutes the first day, wondered if they were almost done.

The Johnsons said it was rough but a great time. On the last night, the kids shared how meaningful this was, having to sacrifice, and going through hard things. They felt closer to their heritage, worked together and still had fun.

The kids were divided into family groups of 8-10 with an adult ma and pa. Each person had a 5-gallon bucket for their personal belongings that were put in the carts. In addition, big garbage bags held their tents and sleeping needs. Baby wipes were encouraged since there were no showers. Parents and kids signed contracts for no phones. Adults had phones for emergency needs. An RV followed the group for medical support and there were plenty of blisters and a few cases of poison oak.

At each big intersection crossing there would be the opportunity to use four porta potties on a trailer and to refill the family supply of a 5-gallon jug of water. One difference: The kids did not prepare food; it was delivered to them. The church paid for everything.

On the second morning the girls pulled the carts and the guys trekked ahead. It was hard as there were three big massive hills. At the end the guys were cheering them on.

The carts weighed 200 lbs. alone and when loaded were probably about 500 lbs. The kids had to work together to figure out how to cross the creeks, etc. without adult help.

The experience was June 25-28.The week before was extremely hot, but these days were less hot.

The Johnsons spent months preparing and making all of the arrangements.

Next Week's Program

To Be Announced

Famous Quote:

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

Eleanor Roosevelt

Meeting Minutes

Dale Willenborg, President, called the meeting to order.15 members were present. Guests were Sherrie and Jay Johnson from Tabor, Tammy & Jay Johnson from Arkansas, and Claire Cook.

Prayer: Judy Guttau

Jokes: Keith Denton, Steve Chambers, Dale Willenborg

50/50: Kevin Underwood

Attendance: Marsha Underwood

Birthdays/Anniversaries: Chad Guttau this Mon., Aug. 11. Thanks to his mother, Dee, for preparing cinnamon rolls for his birthday.

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

- Keith Denton reported he is taking Relief Factor as of a couple days ago and he believes it's helping his hip.
- Bill Vorthmann paid $2 for his grandsons, Eli and James, who are both active in 4-H and James in FFA. James had a steer in FFA go to the State Fair and he was third in his class and got a purple. They both took chickens to the State Fair and both got purple and Eli was in the top 5 for championship. He explained that unlike cattle, etc., there is no pre-selection of chickens for exhibits as they are just sent to you, and you don't take the same ones to county as you take to state.
- Keith Denton had a Holstein steer butchered. He said most AI is for heifers so there are not as many steers being born. Keith, Kirk, and Bill shared some breeding information.
- Dale Willenborg stated that our speaker's son, Ethan, will be leaving on a mission. Jay Johnson explained that he will leave Thursday to Mexico City for two years.
- Gary Guttau shared that he dug up 6 ¾ buckets of onions and some are very big.

BUSINESS:

- The Boy Scouts have the next Can Kennel. Sorting will be done on Sun., Aug. 17 at 6 PM.
- Judy Guttau recognized Kevin Underwood and Marsha Underwood for preparing cookies for the District Optimist Convention in Council Bluffs in July.
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  Claire Cook received her $500 Optimist scholarship today. Claire plans to go to Iowa State but is undecided as to her major. Claire came to Treynor her senior year from Underwood. She's been active in many sports, her favorite being softball.
- It was expressed that Glenrose Meier is missed from being at our meetings. Her husband has some health issues.

Community News:

- Sympathy was expressed for the Omen family.

Events this week in Treynor:

- It's a week of athletic practices, camps, and back to school visits.

COMING:

- **Sat. Aug. 16, 5:30 PM**
  Silo's- Comedian Cameron Logsdon
- **Sat., Aug. 23, 4-7 PM**
  Treynor's Tomorrow Community Engagement Committee invites you to an end of summer party: Treynor Community Center Green Space.
  Free root beer floats. Food, yard games, DJ music, face painting, fire truck and lawn train rides, story time, stick horse rodeo race
- **Treynor Fall Market** – Sun. Sept. 7, 10AM-2PM
  Treynor Community Center Green Space
- **Treynor Fall Farmers Market** – Tuesdays, Sept.16, 23, 30, Oct. 7, 14- 5:30-7:00 PM
- **Sat., Oct. 4 –** Treynor City Wide Garage Sale

AUCTION:

- Judy Guttau donated finch bird food which was purchased by Jim Clausen for $1.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

HUMOR



CALENDAR

Events:

Aug 16	Meeting 8:00-9:00 AM Treynor Community Building
Aug 17	Can Kennel Sorting – Boy Scouts 6 PM

Birthdays:

Aug 11	Chad Guttau
Aug 23	Judy Guttau

Anniversaries:

Aug 5	Josh and Shelly Guttau
Aug 13	Jerry and Barb Hempel

Programs:

August	Dale Willenborg
September	Jim Clausen (1st/2nd Sat.)
	Bill Vorthmann (3rd/4th Sat.)

Speakers

Aug 16	TBA
Aug 23	Owner of Jarvis Quality Meats
Aug 30	TBA

Editor: Judy Guttau, judy.guttau@tsbg.com , 402-670-4330. Contributors: Dee Guttau, Mick Guttau
Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 51575