



The Optimist Club of Treynor, Treynor, IA
Iowa District, Zone 2 Club Number 40-109
Iowa District Governor: Jane Schmidt
Lt Governor: George Volz

NEWSLETTER

Treynor Optimist Club President:
Dale Willenborg



Jan. 17, 2026

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Dale Jensen, Amazon River Cruise



Dale Jensen, a farm boy and 1972 Tri-Center grad, studied at Iowa State and became a mixed animal veterinarian and continues to practice. He and his wife Carol live at Neola and have two sons and two grandchildren

Dale and his wife went on a one-month cruise a year ago on a Holland American large cruise ship which departed from Miami. They traveled to four Caribbean islands first, then cruised on the Amazon River and ended by going to four more Caribbean islands. Of the 4000 miles of Amazon on the east side of Brazil, they traveled 1000 miles. Most of the River is 150-200 ft. deep. At the delta it is 400 miles across. Only a couple cruise lines do this trip.

Dale stated the water looks like chocolate milk. The color is from dissolved minerals which are from the Andes Mts. which are 1000 miles away. Though the cruise ship would desalinate the sea water, ship occupants were asked to take shorter showers. The ship also stored a fair amount of water.

The Amazon is the second longest river in the world. The Nile is the longest. It is the biggest as far as volume. There are several tributaries feeding it which are different colors, and they don't mix quickly.

At the mouth of the Amazon, there are tons of little islands. The biggest is the size of Switzerland. The Amazon actually used to flow east to west, but after continental drift separation which formed the Andes, it raised it up high enough.

It's 80 degrees on the equator most of the time. There are huge amounts of vegetation that create

the rain forest. Trees are big, but not gigantic and have been harvested along the river for centuries.

Up the river, at the big town of Manaus, a suspension bridge was built. Barges could still go under, but not the ship. Dale said it's navigable for another two thousand miles. The rubber industry is a big deal at Manaus.

Dale stated that the Amazon River cruise was more educational than for tourism. He and Carol prefer to find their own guides at ports. They rented a small boat with a fisherman and went into the swampy area. Rivers are their interstate. Small boats with motors go everywhere.

He felt the Amazon is 50 years behind the U.S. They want what we have and are getting there. Readily available were cell phones, small cars, cold beer, the internet, electricity, and gas.

Dale stated there are lots of natural resources. The stores are well stocked and most items probably from China. The young people are happy and well dressed.

They saw monkeys, sloths, horses, cows, water buffalo, dolphins, piranha, etc. They even had one sandy beach.

They didn't get far enough inland, but there are lots of large acreages of corn and soybean fields. They saw fertilizer being unloaded.

Dale stated this area is a developing country. Chinese trading brings in containers of goods, and they take out agricultural products. The water is dirty, but the fishing market is good. The passengers weren't told to abstain from eating anything. Portuguese is mostly spoken in this area, but with cell phone technology, language won't be a problem.

Dale didn't think safety was an issue at least during the day. There were many homeless people on the streets in areas.

Dale concluded: "Once back to civilization, our way of life is pretty special. We over-indulge and we want it that way."

Next Week's Program:
Garry Clark, Projects kid in DC and how his life changed due to sports.

Inspirational Quote:
"If there is no struggle, there is no progress."
Frederick Douglass

Meeting Minutes

President Dale Willenborg called the meeting to order. 14 members were present. Guests: Dale & Carol Jensen, Georgia Denton, Craig Sudmann, Lynell Vorthmann

Thanks to Lynell Vorthmann, Georgia Denton, and Carol Jensen for breakfast!

Prayer: Ken Graham

Jokes: Keith Denton, Steve Chambers, Dale Willenborg, Judy Guttau

50/50: Georgia Denton

Attendance: Marsha Underwood

Birthdays/Anniversaries: None

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

- Dale Willenborg: He paid \$2.07 for gas at Sam's Club.
- Chad Guttau: Open House at Chris Ranney's home to meet Eddie Andrews, candidate for Iowa's governor at 7 PM on Jan. 30.
- Judy Guttau: Grandson Brock Fox had a good weekend in Ft. Worth and is now at a football training camp in Pennsylvania for 2 months.
- Kirk Vorthmann stated there will be "To Go Boxes" for the St. Paul Spaghetti Dinner.

Business

- Can Kennel sorting for Silver Keg Feeders 4-H Club will be right after the meeting on Sat. Jan. 31.

Community:

- **Sun. Jan. 25: Spaghetti Dinner** at Lutheran Church, 11 AM – 1 PM
- **Sat. Jan. 31: Elementary School Dance** at Community Center. Adult required for each family.
- **Sun. Feb. 22: Treynor Winter Market** 10-2

Events this week in Treynor and some away if indicated:

- Mon. Jan. 19: SWIBA HS Honor Band @ Atlantic
- Mon. Jan. 19: V B BB Classic @ ALHS
- Mon. Jan. 19: 7/8 G BB vs AHSTW @ Treynor
- Tues. Jan. 20: B/G BB vs Underwood
- Tues. Jan. 20: 5:15-6 Treynor Teammates
- Tues. Jan. 20: V B/G Wrest Tri @ ASHTW
- Tues. Jan. 20: SWICDA Treble Clef Singers @ IWCC
- Wed. Jan. 21: WIC Jazz Band/Choir Fest @ IKM-Manning
- Th. Jan. 22: JH B Wrest @ AHSTW
- Th. Jan. 22: 7/8 G BB vs Tri-Center
- Th. Jan. 22: JV G BB vs Clarinda
- Fri. Jan. 23: 7/8 G BB vs Fre-Mills
- Fri. Jan. 23: G/B BB @ AHSTW
- Sat. Jan. 24: V B Wrestling @ I-35 HS
- Sat. Jan. 24: V G Wrestling @ I-35 HS

Auction:

Ken Graham donated a 1955 Wallace Farmers magazine, which was purchased by Keith Denton for \$5.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



HUMOR



10-20
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“Okay, whose turn is it to get the blame?”

Birthdays:

Jan. 19 Dennis White
Jan. 23 Doug Dillivan
Jan. 23 Jordan Campbell

Anniversaries:

Programs:

January Keith Denton (2,3,4,5th)
February Linda Danker (1st,2nd Sat)
Kirk Vorthmann (3rd, 4th Sat.)
March John Klein
April Chad Gutttau
May Ken Graham (1st,2nd Sat)
Jeff Jorgensen (3rd,4th Sat)
June Steve Irvin (1st,2nd Sat)
Dee Gutttau (3rd,4th Sat)

Speakers:

Jan. 24 Garry Clark, Author about his life growing up in the Projects and how sports changed his life.
Jan. 31 David Stalling, Special Olympics Coach

CALENDAR

Events:

Jan. 24 Optimist Meeting 8:00-9:00 AM,
Treynor Community Center

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