

WAVERLY EXCHANGE CLUB

Waverly, Iowa

DATE: Thursday, July 16, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Arns, Cory Berkenes, Irv Bettenga, Jim Brandau, Dennis Button, Bill Cashman, Clarence Diekman, Dewey Hildebrandt, Jim Hurley, Len Jentz, Brad Knudson, Brian Larson, Jim Lee, Ron Leibold, Jason Leonard, Dan McKenzie, Jeff Meyers, Mike Siberski, Bill Westendorf, Roger Wilcox, Clark Wilharm, Gary Williams, Rick Willis, Ken Winter

GUESTS PRESENT: Ed Droste and Matt Hoodjer

MEETING RECAP:

- President Button called the meeting to order with prayer by Gary Williams and the Pledge of Allegiance.
- There was some concern about the availability of enough members to carry the flag for the parade. Dave Arns assured us that he would help round out the numbers needed to carry the flag. Softball girls will help distribute the flags.

Gary Williams introduced Matt Hoodjer and Ed Droste to the group.

Matt is currently working at the Waverly Public Library. He graduated from Clarksville HS in 2002, from Wartburg College in 2006 with a degree in history and fitness management, and Matt is currently working towards his teaching degree at UNI. Matt talked to the group about the early history of the city of Waverly. Matt reminded us that Wm. P Harmon is considered the founder of Waverly. Harmon made sure that a dam was built, a saw mill constructed, and he had the town of Waverly platted. Some other interesting facts that were shared by Matt included:

- Waverly had the first free bridge over the Cedar River
- 1854 was when Waverly was established as the county seat
- 1857 was the completion date of the original court house...which was rebuilt by the WPA in the 1930s
- 1864 was the date of the first railroad in Waverly
- Bremer Ave was made so wide because the horse and buggies needed to navigate around the stumps of trees that were removed for building the street.
- harvesting ice from the Cedar River was big business in Waverly...as was processing sugar beets.

Ed Droste was born in 1925 and is married to Phyllis Holley. They have three children: Linda, Eddie, and Sally. Ed was a paratrooper in Europe in 1943-1945. He attended Wartburg College from 1945-1947 and finished his engineering degree at Iowa State in 1949. Ed was the owner and CEO of Waverly Publishing Company from 1954-1986. Ed has been very active in the community serving on the Wartburg Alumni Association, City of Waverly Planning and Zoning, St. Paul's Church, and several other committees and fundraisers. Ed is an avid golfer and has won many tournaments alone and with his wife. Ed talked about the history of Waverly from personal experience or stories heard from his father. Some of Ed's comments included:

- There were 5 bridges across the Cedar River in Waverly which included train and pedestrian bridges
- Lots of activities on the river which included skating, ice sailing, swimming and diving from the top of parked railroad cars...if you were daring enough...
- _There were 2 hatcheries in Waverly and at one time it was heralded that 7 million poultry magazines were published in Waverly... (I thought the old arched sign on the bridge said something about Waverly being the Dairy Capitol...)
- the original golf course in Waverly was a 4-hole course inside a race track. The course was expanded by having golfers shoot over pig barns, restrooms, dance halls, and various other buildings for holes 5-9.

Gary Williams refused to give the gavel back to Denny Button, and Gary rang the bell to conclude the meeting.

“Building a Better America and Eliminating Child Abuse”

The logo for the National Exchange Club is a large, circular emblem in the background. It features a stylized 'X' in the center, with the words 'NATIONAL EXCHANGE CLUB' around the perimeter. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located to the right of the logo.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Saturday, July 18 -- Heritage Days parade (10:15 arrival time by Bartels)
- Thursday, July 23 -- Rick Willis program
- Thursday, July 30 -- Ken Winter program

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Wilcox

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