

OPTIMIST RAG

January 12, 2018

Members,

In 1958 the Lapeer Optimist Club was chartered by Optimist International. 35 men from the Lapeer area were the original charter members. That was the minimum number of members that were required in order to charter a club.

The only remaining charter member (Ralph June) spoke to our club yesterday. He said that he was 28 when the club was formed. He was joined by two sons, and two daughters as luncheon guests.

20 members plus our guests, which also included, Jeff Hogan from the County Press, dined on cold cuts, salad, bean soup, and the ever present cookies. President Troy was missing in action, so Joe Morey ran the meeting.

Ralph started his talk by stating how proud he was to have been a member of Lapeer's best service club. Upon some insightful prodding by members, Ralph was able to tell some tales.

The Boys Club (corner of Cedar and Law) was purchased for \$2,500.00. The club put in a basketball court, and eventually put a pool in the basement. (My daughters learned how to swim there). The pool was hand dug and cost \$25,000.00. Our chicken BBQ was started as a way to fund the pool cost.

The BBQ was originally held at Cramton Park. It then moved to the State Home for a few years. Ralph said that it was quite a sight to see the residents march to dinner from their buildings. Ralph told about removing a cement block from behind the front tire of a milk truck, and then watching the truck roll down a hill into Farmers Creek. They had been attempting to burn the chicken grease off of the grates, and needed another cement block as a brace. Ralph said that there may have been some beer involved.

Ralph told a couple of tales about Gene (Hoss) DePuy. Ralph, Dick Prather, and Hoss went up North deer hunting. They each took one bullet, but no guns. They stopped at the North End Market (corner of Monroe and St. Clair) and bought a fair amount of beer. When they got up North, Ralph mentioned to Hoss that since he and Dick had three beers each Hoss must have drank the rest. Hoss's response lives in Optimist lore. "I want a sleeping partner and a drinking partner, but not a damn scorekeeper."

Shawn Morey won and lost the dollar drawing. Remember you must attend at least two weeks in a row to have a chance to win.

Three skunk hunters have paid their \$160.00 to attend the entire Skunk Hunt (February 15 – February 18). Please tell John L., or Art, if your plan on attending. Supplies need to be ordered.

Thanks to John L. for having the idea to get Ralph June to attend.

Computer Geek