

Auxiliary group to hold first meeting at new location

On April 13, the American Legion Auxiliary met at the new meeting place at Century II board room. There were 11 present.

For the program, Joy Anderegg read an e-mail that was written by 85-year-old Kitty Werthmann, who had come to America from Austria titled "America truly is the Greatest Country in the World."

"I believe that I am an eyewitness to history. I cannot tell you that Hitler took Austria by tanks and guns; it would distort history. We elected him by a landslide - 98 percent of the vote.

"In 1938, Austria was in deep depression. Nearly one-third of our workforce was unemployed. We had 25percent inflation and 25 percent bank loan interest rates. Farmers and business people were declaring bankruptcy daily. Young people were going from house to house begging for food. Not that they didn't want to work; there simply weren't any jobs.

"My mother was a Christian woman and believed in helping people in need. Every day we cooked a big kettle of soup and baked bread to feed those poor, hungry people - about 30 daily.

"The Communist Party and the National Socialist Party were fighting each other. Blocks and blocks of cities like Vienna, Linz, and Graz were destroyed. The people became desperate and petitioned the government to let them decide what kind of government they wanted. We looked to our neighbor on the north, Germany, where Hitler had been in power since 1933. We had been told that they didn't have unemployment or crime, and they had a high standard of living.

"Nothing was ever said about persecution of any group - Jewish or otherwise. We were led to believe that everyone was happy. We went the same way of life in Austria... We were promised that a vote for Hitler would mean the end of unemployment and help for the family.

"Hitler also said businesses would be assisted, and farmers would get their farms back. Ninety-eight percent of the population voted to annex Austria to Germany and Hitler for our ruler. We were overjoyed, and for three days we danced in the streets and had candlelight parades. The new government opened up big field kitchens and everyone was fed. After the election, German officials were appointed, and like a miracle, we suddenly had law and order. Three or four weeks later, everyone was employed. The government made sure that a lot of work was created through the Public Work Service.

"Our education was nationalized. I walked into my schoolroom to find the crucifix replaced by Hitler's picture hanging next to a Nazi flag. The teacher told us we wouldn't pray or have religion anymore. The school system and society changed suddenly.

"There was a new kind of humanistic philosophy. In 1939, the

war started and a food bank was established. All food was rationed and could only be purchased using food stamps. At the same time, a full-employment law was passed which meant that if you didn't work, you didn't get a ration card - so you would starve to death.

"Soon after this, the draft was implemented. It was compulsory for young people, male and female, to give one year to the labor corps. During the day, the girls worked on the farms, and at night they returned to their barracks for military training just like the boys.

"They were trained to be anti-aircraft gunners and participated in the signal corps. Three months before I turned 18, I was severely injured in an air raid attack. I nearly had a leg amputated, so I was spared having to go into the labor corps and into military service.

Hitler took over these services: Daycare - restructuring the family; healthcare - socialized; tax rates - went to 80 percent of our income; took over all business and farms; free enterprise was abolished; anyone talking against the government was taken away; euthanasia was used for mentally retarded people; totalitarianism took 5 years to realize full dictatorship in Austria; and guns were turned in to the government.

When the Soviets left in 1955, they took everything that they could, dismantling whole factories, and burning what they could not destroy.

Ms. Werthmann finished the article with "America truly is the greatest country in the world. Don't let freedom slip away. After America, there is no place to go."

After the meeting, the members enjoyed refreshments prepared by Carol Peters and Avis Hazuka. Those eligible to join us are welcome on May 4 at 2 p.m.



THERE WAS a good turn out for the fishing contest held at Keller's Pond a couple weeks ago.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

Fishing tournaments held at pond

A couple of months ago, the Cheyenne County Wildlife organization had around 400 pounds of rainbow trout dumped in Keller's Pond. Over the weekend, two fishing contests were held and anglers caught around one-third of the trout.

The weather was beautiful for the kids' fishing tournament held on Saturday. No coats were needed and there were even a few with their shoes off, wading in the chilly water.

In all, there were 44 kids with their fishing poles lining the edge of the pond. Some were young enough that parents were accompanying them.

Catching the largest fish was

Justin Pacheo. The fish measured 23-inches long. Catching the most fish was Kyler Zwegardt with eight fish.

Following the contest, the Wildlife members served hamburgers, beans and chips. Helping with the food were Williams Grocery of Atwood, Saintry Liquor and Laura Lamb.

The contest held on Sunday took some dedicated fishermen to withstand the 55 mile-per-hour wind and cold temperatures accompanied by occasional rain. Most were hunkered down in coats and raincoats. By 10:30, only a handful remained.

However, Dr. Melvin Dunn, who had his grandson fishing with

him, said "it is fun!"

On Sunday, there were 18 teams of two fishermen. Winning the contest were the Sturgeon brothers, Isaac and Trevor, who reeled in 24.75 pounds of trout.

Second place went to the team of B.J. and Ben Killinsworth with 11.75 pounds of trout. Dr. Dunn and Jude Faulkender brought in 11.5 pounds of trout, taking home third place.

There is still about 230 pounds

of rainbow trout left to be fished out, said Francis O'Leary, Wildlife member. On Sunday, one fish, alone, weighed 5 pounds. Some of the fish when put into the pond, he said, were 24-inches long.

The pond is now open to the public but those fishing will need a license (no trout stamp is required). The Wildlife organization stocks the pond with trout every year as part of its' commitment to the community.



BAITING THEIR HOOKS are Alex Draper and Mark Brown.



B.J. KILLINSWORTH holds up the fish caught at the fishing tournament.

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