

Family

Death

Paul Sass

Paul S. Sass, 71, of Oberlin, died Friday, Feb. 1, 2008, at the Decatur County Hospital in Oberlin. Mr. Sass was born June 3, 1936, in Haigler, Neb. to Clarence Harry Sass and Ida Ella (Redden) Sass.

He was educated at Haigler, Neb., public schools and was a member of the United Church of Oberlin and Royal Neighbors of America. His work was with the Kansas Department of Transportation.

He married Axie (Still) McVay on July 19, 1964, in Oberlin.

Mr. Sass was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Axie; two brothers: Wesley Sass and Arthur Sass; and one sister: Margaret Kunkel.

Survivors include one son: Mike (and wife, Marie) McVay of Colby; one daughter: Leanna

(and husband, Bill) Roberts of Abilene; one brother: William (and wife, Julie) Sass of Yuma, Colo.; three sisters: Racheal Gallatin of Cambridge, Neb.; Frieda (and husband, Darryl) Hosick of Stockville, Neb., and Nancy (and husband, Dennis) Corrick of Corvallis, Ore.; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held today at the United Church of Oberlin with Rev. Judy Stricker officiating.

Burial was at the Oberlin Cemetery.

A memorial fund has been established to benefit the church or Cedar Living Center.

Donations may be made in care of Pauls Funeral Home, 121 N. Penn, Oberlin, Kan. 67749.

Student news

An area student was among 45 others in high school receiving the Garvey Competitive Scholarships from Washburn University.

Curtis Fulwider of Colby received \$750 award from about for

the 2008-09 academic year. Students were eligible for the scholarship if they currently have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above, will graduate from high school in spring 2008, and be accepted to Washburn University.

Intriguing insight

By Everett Robert

Colby Free Press

In the late 1950s, early 1960s director/producer William Castle promoted his low budget "B-movies" through various gimmicks; buzzers under the seats to give little jolts, flying skeletons, having moviegoers sign life insurance policies, etc.

In the late 60's American's were introduced to the most famous movie monster of them all, Japanese import Godzilla. In 1999 theaters were packed with people watching the supposedly "real" footage of three college students lost in the Maryland woods in "The Blair Witch Project". "Cloverfield" is the latest "gimmick" movie, this time in the "monster" movie genre and it may possibly be the best of the bunch. Do you remember the preview just before "Transformers" with the handheld footage of the party, then there is an explosion and we see the head of the Statue of Liberty fly by? This is that movie.

We start out with a little color timing, and a title card that informs us that this film was found in Central Park by the Department of Defense and has been codenamed "Cloverfield". What follows is an old fashioned monster movie about a creature attacking and destroying New York City.

We get about 20, 25 minutes of introduction to the characters, and they are all very stock. Rob, the reluctant hero, Hud, the geeky buddy (and our cameraman), Jason, the cool brother, Lily, Jason's girlfriend, Beth, Rob's friend and the girl he's in love with, and Marlena, the "new" friend who Hud is trying to woo. Things start out great with a going away party for Rob, Beth and Rob get into a fight, she leaves and right after that everything goes crazy. The building shakes, there is an explosion and much more happens, which we witness all through the lens of the camcorder. I'm not going to go into much more detail for fear of spoiling something for you, this is a movie you want to see knowing as little of the plot as possible.

"Cloverfield" was produced by JJ Abrams ("Lost", "Alias", "Felicity") and much of the production work is handled by people he's worked with. "Cloverfield" was written by Drew Goddard ("Lost") and directed by Matt Reeves ("Felicity" "Homicide:Life on the Street").

While the characters are very traditional, you learn about them and begin to care for them through conversations you hear them have, the use of "flashbacks", this is very effectively done by having Hud or Rob stop the camera to review something, the tape that they are recording on has previously been used on a date between Rob and Beth, so we get little glimpses into Rob and Beth's relationship.

The hand held camera style does get shaky and makes things difficult to follow at times, but reminded me of a similar style work done on the TV show "Homicide: Life on the Street", which made Reeves an ideal director for this project. I also thought that events and reactions were very true to life. I don't know if everyone would go into a danger zone to rescue someone they love, but I can see some people doing that. But beyond that, the struggle to keep your cell phone going, of talking to mom about what's going on, of the looting, all of that felt very real to me. And while I thought most of the scenes were very true, there were a couple of scenes that I felt were not true to life, and were only there to advance the plot. Using little known actors helped to give it an air of believability also.

"Cloverfield" is rated PG-13 for violence, terror and disturbing images. Also due to the "shaky cam" style, it has been known to cause vertigo and motion sickness in some people.

I enjoy a good monster movie, not a horror movie, but a monster movie, there is a difference, and "Cloverfield" is a good one. It captured a real life sense to the events going on, the horror, etc. However it doesn't present things in a clear linear order and doesn't always provide answers. That was some of the things I heard from friends that didn't like it.

My response to that though is, in real life we don't always get the answers handed to us, we don't always know what happened to the people who's videos we watch on YouTube, or what happens to the storm chasers who videotape tornados that we watch on the Weather Channel, we don't know what happens to the cops when the cameras move on on "Cops", and most of us don't care.

This is just a further example of how media soaked our culture has become. It works in this context and I enjoyed it.

Pioneer Memorial Library is baby friendly

By Pioneer Memorial Library staff

A child's brain develops at an incredible rate during the first three years of life. A child's early experiences with language contribute to healthy brain development and lay the foundation for learning to read. Parents are indeed a child's first and most important teachers.

Children are more likely to become good readers if they start school with

- 1) oral language skills and phonological awareness,
- 2) print awareness and letter knowledge and
- 3) motivation to learn and appreciate literary forms.

Oral language skills can be measured by how much children are able to comprehend and to express themselves with a wide range of words. Their phonological awareness consists of their ability to distinguish the sounds as well as the meaning of words.

Print awareness and letter knowledge refers to whether or not children have learned that the black and white letters on the page represent spoken words and if they are able to name the letters of the alphabet.

If a child has been exposed to a wide variety of literary experiences and has learned to love books and stories then he or she will be motivated to learn and has developed an appreciation for literary forms.

Story time
Story Time at the library offers an opportunity for children to further develop their language and literacy skills. Sessions offer a chance for parents to reinforce positive associations with literature through stories, rhymes,

songs and activities.

Toddle time
Toddle Time, geared for the child aged 18 months to 3 years, is a 20 minute program for the active toddler. This session meets at 10:15 a.m., Wednesdays.

Preschool sessions
Preschool sessions are 30 minutes in length and are for the 3-4-5 year-old child. At this age, most children welcome the sharing of an additional story. There are two sessions offered on Tuesdays: 10:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.

Family night
Family Night sessions follow the preschool format but are open to all members of the family. This is an opportunity for the school-aged child, working parent, and/or sibling to participate in Story Time. Family Night is held at 7 p.m., Tuesdays.

Lapsit program
Beginning Thursday, the library will offer a "lapsit" program for babies ages birth to 18 months. Babies will have fun exercising their minds with gentle stimulation through rhymes, songs, observation and movement.

The program is designed for one adult and one child and is limited to 8 pairs. Two six-week sessions are planned for the spring with

the second session a repeat of the first. The sessions will meet at 10:15 a.m. in the children's room of the library.

For parenting information and family literacy projects, the following websites are good ones to check out: www.pbs.org/parents and www.familit.org.

For questions about children's programming or to enroll in Story Time or Lapsit programs, stop by or call the library at 460-4470.

Wednesday is our next *Booked for Lunch* program. Ann Miner will review the book, *The Night Journal* by Elizabeth Crook. The cover of the book states that it is "a mesmerizing novel about four generations of women bound to a mythical legacy in the American southwest."

The Philadelphia Inquirer wrote in its review that the book is "full of plot twists and turns, mysteries, and unexpected developments . . . This book is about history, land and people. It's at least three love stories. It's also about how finding oneself is often a work in progress and better done late than never."

We'll look for you at noon. The library will finally be having another book sale. *The Book Lover's Sale* is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 9. The hours for the sale

are from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Mark your calendars.

Pioneer Memorial Library is located at 375 W. Fourth St. and open seven days a week. Winter hours are as follows: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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