

# Pi Alpha celebrates 50 years

## Socializing, community service keep club going

By MARY LOU OLSON

Members and guests of Oberlin's Pi Alpha Club will gather on Sunday at Golden Age Center to reminisce and recall 50 years of fun, friendship and community service.

It all began on May 4, 1951, when 10 young wives met at the home of Eris Young to form a club for socializing and community service.

Minnie Roshong and Mary Rasmussen, members of the sponsoring JCC Club, helped with the organization. Velma Jeffus, now a resident of Decatur County Good Samaritan, was a member of the sponsoring club at the time.

The name Pi Alpha was selected, membership limited to 18 and annual dues set at \$2. Membership was raised to 20 in 1959, then to 25 in 1963, where it remains today. Dues were raised three times and have stood at \$6.50 since 1987. The club meets the second and fourth Mondays from September through April, with just one meeting in December.

Charter members included Nadine Anderson, Jadenne Baker, Nora Bearley, Nila Brunk, Hazel Guinn, Loretta Lyons, Ellnette Rydquist, Donna Wenger, Fern Wenger and Mrs. Young.

The club later joined the Kansas and General Federation of Women's Clubs and was the eighth club to join the Oberlin City Federation, later changed to Oberlin United Club.

The most important project of city federation at that time was raising money for a new city library to replace a very small library in the southeast corner of the Chief Theater. A total of \$2,500 was presented to the library board in 1956 for half the purchase cost of the Art Wilbur lots, the location of the present library.

Through the city federation, clubs have supported the new Decatur County Hospital, the city swimming pool, the Good Samaritan Center, the high school addition, county museum, low-income housing; the Pioneer Family statue, the hospital's Hospitality House, and The Gateway.

Pi Alpha projects have included park benches made by the eighth grade shop boys, a baseball scoreboard, a clock for the swimming pool clock, decorating courthouse windows, city Christmas decorations, helping sponsor a foreign exchange student, wooden park benches and tables, a youth table for the library, cookies to shut-ins, donations for fire department equipment, Christmas boxes to servicemen in Vietnam, and donations for the Valley Hope center, the Oberlin Tree Board, CROP Walk, art students, and bibs and lap robes for the nursing homes.

When the Decatur County home-grown carnival began in 1973, members worked in the cotton candy booth, manned the Sinko booth and have sold homemade ice cream.

In 1989, the "Furry Friends" project provided stuffed animals for Good Samaritan Center residents to adopt, and small stuffed animals were also given to carry in ambulances and the police and sheriff departments for children in stressful situations.

Fund raisers have included rummage sales, birthday calendars, white elephant sales, Mini Sapa and Ah's



**CLUB MEMBERS** in a musical presentation, "North Atlantic," a parody of "South Pacific," in 1959 included (from left, front row) Nadine Anderson, Nora Bearley, Hazel Guinn and Doreen Kolsky, and (standing) Cecil Hess, Eula Waldo and Fern Wenger. They were singing "Any Gruesome Evening," parody of "Some Enchanted Evening."

Festival food booths, bake sales and game booths.

From 1949 through 1967, the City Federation sponsored an annual spring tea with clubs rotating as hosts. Pi Alpha had great fun when they entertained on April 20, 1959, and presented "North Atlantic," a parody of "South Pacific."

They entered the annual Lions Club talent contest in February 1952, with a family skit, "The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe," and won the first prize of \$15 in the adult category.

Members have also built floats for parades, enjoyed entertaining husbands with potlucks, picnics, barbecues, Hobo, tacky, Halloween and Valentine parties, and sponsored progressive dinners, hat parties and their traditional spring breakfasts and Christmas taste teas.

Annual donations today go to Hospice, the Tree of Lights, the Girl Scouts, Lions Club Christmas boxes, the Ministerial Association Food Bank, the American Cancer Society and Heart Association, the telethon, the high school's Snowball dance and after prom parties and the library.

Among the current members are four from 50 years ago, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Bearley, Mrs. Young, and Mrs. Wenger. Others are Elaine Bryan, Joan Evans, Kristy Evans, Helen Gee, Eileene Grose, Cecil Hess, Margaret Lund, Eunice Martin, Rosella Meitl, Marty Olson, Ila Ray, Shanna Richards, Joy Russell, Doris Sloan, Virginia Spratling, Janette Votapka, Estella Waldo and Pat Wright.

Former members include: Beverly Hisey, Verla Coughenour, Goldie Kathka, Mildred McMains, Maria Turner, Mart Stwalley, Nelda Minert, Odetta Marietta, Juanita Guinn, Phyllis Berry, Jean Rumble, Pat Pederson, Bonnie Olson, Joan Derr, Dorothy Brockhausen, Doreen Kolsky, Nancy Bosler, Eula Waldo, Mary Stanley, Beverly Kindler, Norma Alfrey, Marian Raburn, LoAnn Campbell, Martha Nemeth,

Pat Showalter, Phyllis Harris, Vio-



**PI ALPHA MEMBERS** shown at the Mad Hatters Breakfast on Feb. 14, 1953, were (from left) Mart Stwalley (behind), Donna Wenger, Nadine Anderson, Mildred McMains, Eris Young, Ellnette Rydquist, and Loretta Lyons, and (seated) Ila Ray, Fern Wenger and Nora Bearley.

let Shaw, Bonnie Petty, Margaret Erickson, Sharon Hutton, Sara Teel, Kay Wilson, Pat Austin, Betty Kahler, Janice Ganje, Bee Hanson, Cheryl Ahlberg, Mary Lou Anderson, Nanon Clare, Cindy Harlan, Jill Hecox, Cris Fall, Pat Hoffart, Suzanne Russ, Betty Duffy, Mary Uehlin, Nonnie Steinert, Joanne Lahman, Mara Crawford, Dawn Risewick and Darlene Veh. Those who died while active members were Mrs. Waldo, Mrs. Guinn, Mrs. Cushenbery, Mrs. Robison and Mrs. Brunk.

Through the years, all have endeavored to live their club motto, "Shun not the struggle — face it, it's God's gift."

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## Out Back

By Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts  
Out-Back@webtv.net

## Big boys spend months bargaining for big toys, like real tractors, loaders

The similarities between my husband and my father are numerous. Driving home behind my husband on his "new" toy reminded me of this fact, all over again.

Jim had been dickering with another Jim in Norton all winter over Model A and Model T parts. They both love old cars and the restoration process. But the conversation always came back to, "How much do you want for that old International Farmall Diesel you've got settin' out there?"

The reply, of course, would be, "Oh, I don't know. How much you willin' to give me for it?"

That's the way it went until, finally, they got it down to a solid number and then the deal was done. They shook hands and we are now the proud owners of an early 1950s wide-front end Model 450 Farmall tractor with a Farmhand loader.

Saturday morning was set as the pick-up date and we arrived, bright and early. Jim, the Seller, had it all ready. Maintenance manuals, cover, instructions on its temperament and peculiarities.

His daughter warned us that it might be kind of hard for her dad to let the tractor go. It had been in his family for many, many years. I assured her that it was going to a good home, that my Jim would certainly

appreciate it and take good care of it. It felt like we were adopting a child rather than buying a tractor.

Once everything was finalized, Jim was ready to drive home, the back way. He slipped it into road gear and away we went.

That's when, once again, he reminded me so much of my Dad. Driving along behind, I watched him in his overalls, as he, superbly happy, headed towards home. Man and machine. Somewhere along the way, he stood up to drive. Just like I had seen my father do a thousand times. I admit, my vision got a little blurry about then.

At one point in my life, I was glad that my Dad died before my divorce.

It would have been too hard on him. And now, I'm sad that he didn't live to know Jim. They would have had so much fun together. There wouldn't have been a sale safe from the two of them.

—ob—

I just looked out the front door at the yard and I'm convinced that the grass grew three inches overnight. No more procrastinating about the need to mow. The time is now!

As surely as the sun comes up in the East, one season follows another, day follows night, and grass grows faster the more you cut it.

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## RAWLINS COUNTY LAND AUCTION

**Thursday, May 17, 2001**  
**10:00 a.m. CST**

Auction Location: New 4-H Building, North Hwy. 25, Atwood, KS  
Land Location: From Atwood, KS, 8 miles east, 2 miles south, 1 mile east, 1/2 mile south.

**320 Acres Rawlins County Cropland Grassland Improvements**

**320 Acres Rawlins County Cropland Grassland Improvements**

**AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:** There is an excellent opportunity to buy good cropland and grassland with improvements at Auction price.

Tract	Total Acres	Cropland Acres	Growing Wheat	Wheat Base
Tract I	6	0	0	0
Tract II	234	82.4	82.4	40.8
Tract III	240	82.4	82.4	40.8
Tract IV	80	82.2	0	39.9
<b>Total</b>				<b>34</b>

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** This property has a nice set of improvements which includes a two story home with 1,519 sq. ft. of total living area. There are several outbuildings including a 24'x30' garage, 28'x32' steel building, insulated shop, and several other outbuildings with livestock corrals. Most all of the cropland is Koth soils, and the grassland is watered by windmill and electric well.

Sellers: Herbert Peterson Estate

Charles A. Peckham, Executor

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