



Florence Jones, age 18 (left), and today (right).

The world has changed in woman's 100 years here

By MARY LOU OLSON
Times have changed considerably during the century of life for Florence Jones, a resident of Decatur County Good Samaritan Center, who will celebrate her 100th birthday on Monday.

Born on a farm near Arapahoe, Neb., on Jan. 27, 1903, Mrs. Jones was the daughter of Anza and Ada Pruden, who had 10 children. She attended grade and high school in Arapahoe, graduating as valedictorian of her class in 1922.

While growing up on the farm, Mrs. Jones said, she had regular chores, which included housework, gardening, milking, and canning. "We always butchered our own cattle and hogs and canned most of the meat," she said.

After graduating, she began teaching all eight grades that fall at a rural school near her home.

"I drove my Dad's Model A," she said, "and when it was cold, I had to drain the radiator when I got to school, then fill it up before heading for home to keep it from freezing. Roads were more like trails, so the five-mile trek was a challenge."

After teaching in the Arapahoe area for two years, she went to the Sand Hills, north of Haigler, Neb., where she taught for two terms. She then took a teaching job north of Herndon and it was during this time that she met her future husband, Raymond Jones, when she was working one summer at the Frontenac Cafe in Oberlin.

"He walked me home after work and that began our courtship in 1925," she said.

"The following year, while visiting my brother and sister, Homer and Hattie Pruden, in Oberlin, we just decided we wanted to get married. It was nearly 10 p.m. when we went to the home of Judge Kulp, who lived in the house now owned by Franklin Kolsky, just east of Ampride station, and he married us with my sister, Hattie, and his brother, Lyle Jones, as witnesses on July 19, 1926.

"At the time, Raymond was custom combining, so we went to Rexford the second night of our marriage, then followed the harvest to Montana for the rest of our honeymoon."

Since she was still teaching north of Herndon, she boarded there during the week then her husband picked her up on weekends. They lived with his parents and didn't really set up housekeeping until after she quit her job.

Their first home was a small three-room house in Oberlin, which

was to be the first of 18 in which they lived before purchasing a house on South Cass Avenue.

Dr. Tilden delivered their first child, Dwayne, in 1928, and their daughter, Shirley, was the first baby born after Benton Memorial Hospital opened in September 1930. Dr. Frank Brewster was her doctor.

After the crash of 1929, she said, times were hard for everyone. She remembers how men lost their jobs and many found employment at the Civilian Conservation Corps camp. Her husband found a job delivering bread for the Fleming Bakery of Oberlin to Selden. He later worked in construction, then later became a salesman and parts man for John Nitsch.

"Entertainment during World War II included dances in the old high school building. We didn't even have a radio for many years, but could listen to one when we went to visit Grandpa Jones."

Mrs. Jones said that she made clothes for her family. After remarking a man's suit into a coat for their daughter in 1942, she said she took it to Bobbitt Cleaners to have it pressed.

"Mr. Bobbitt was so impressed with my sewing that he asked me if I would come to work for him as a seamstress and alterer, a job which I held for many years," she said. "I also learned to do the pressing. However, I just worked afternoons since we were still rearing our children."

Later Mrs. Jones worked for J.C. Penney, Oberlin Bakery, and the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center. At the age of 80, she worked part-time for Dr. Donald Harrier.

"When we finally bought our own home for \$4,500 in 1945, we really thought we were going into debt 'big,'" she said.

"Our family often enjoyed riding around Oberlin just to view all the houses we had lived in for entertainment," she laughed. After her husband's death in 1957, she continued to live in the same house until moving to Good Samaritan Center.

Her extended family now includes her son and his wife, Dwayne and Betty Jones, her daughter and her husband, Shirley and Don Carlisle, seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren, and a great-great-grandchild.

As her son said in a tribute, "She no longer has her own teeth; she has undergone surgery on her eyes and she does not hear very well, but she still has a wonderful mind and keeps up on all the news and current events."

Club News

Calico Gals enjoy pizza

Thirteen Calico Gals members, one guest and a child met at the Pizza Hut on Jan. 15 for lunch. Mary Waldo was hostess.

A business meeting followed at the LandMark Inn. Roll call was answered by telling how members celebrated Christmas. Barbara Young gave a reading about the one dollar bill. The treasurer

reported that donations are being accepted for a new livestock barn at the fairgrounds. Club books were filled out for the coming year. Lois Carlson won the hostess gift.

The next meeting will be on Feb. 19 at the home of Lois Carlson. There will be a Valentine make-or-bake exchange

Club visits school library

Ten members of Pi Alpha Club met on Jan. 13 at the Oberlin Elementary School library to hear Shanna Richards, librarian and hostess, review many new books of all sizes and subject and share excerpts from several. For devotions, she read "Home Work."

The nominating committee, Estella Waldo and Fern Wenger, presented the slate of officers for the ensuing two years as follows: Marty Olson, president; Joan Evans, vice president; Mrs. Richards, secretary; Mrs. Waldo,

treasurer, and Rosella Meitl, parliamentarian. The club accepted the nominations unanimously and also voted a \$50 donation to the library.

Nadine Anderson brought her Hallmark "Maxine" doll to show, which was a Christmas gift from her granddaughter. Mrs. Waldo was co-hostess and Joy Russell won the hostess prize.

The Jan. 27 meeting will be a 6 p.m. Dutch treat dinner at the Pizza Hut with Nora Bearley as hostess.

Hospital Guild meets

Nine members of the Hospital Guild met at the home of Doris Sloan on Jan. 14. Roll call was answered by each relating highlights of the holiday season.

President Virginia Spratling conducted the meeting and mem-

bers said the pledge of allegiance. Plans were discussed for the coming year. Officers re-elected include: Mrs. Spratling, president; Henrietta Van Vleet, vice president; Maurine Skoda, secretary, and Beth Sebaugh, treasurer.

New member joins Brownies

By HALEY SCHIESSLER
The Brownie Girl Scouts met Jan. 7 with 10 members present. Kiah Blau, who recently moved here, is a new member. Roll call was to give your birthday.

Miranda brought snacks and Kaitlin brought drinks. We took turns reading from our book about the next badge we will earn. The girls each had to draw two pictures about problem solving.

Counties form meth task force

The Northwest Kansas Meth Task Force has developed programs to address the growing problem of methamphetamine in nine counties: Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Sheridan, Thomas, Sherman, Wallace, Logan, and Gove.

Project director is Jerry Chambers of Oberlin. The task force includes law enforcement, emergency medical services, K-State county extension agents, Regional Prevention Centers and others.

Members attended a two-day workshop in Colby to learn about existing efforts in the prevention of meth possession and production, and to help promote education and awareness of the side effects of meth.

One of their main goals is to

implement a "Drug Endangered Child" program into Northwest Kansas to help with medical screening and protocols for those children who may have been exposed to meth or other dangerous drugs.

Other initiatives include bolstering the Kansas Retailer Meth Watch Program, providing an initial stock of "tamper tags" for firms which provide anhydrous ammonia to farmers, and mini-workshops for schools.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the task force, or who has information that could be helpful in battling the war on meth, should contact Mr. Chambers at (785) 475-2967, jchambers@nwkansas.com, or the office in Colby, at (785) 462-8152.

STARS members enjoy party

The Good Samaritan STARS Committee held their first Christmas Carol potluck on Dec. 18 at the home of Jim and Linda Hollowell.

Those present were Mrs. Hollowell, chairperson; Andrea Scott, secretary; Barbara Beisner, Joyce Ploussard, B. Ann Szevester, Violet Krizek, Frannie Nothdurft, Joan Evans, Johnna Klein, Paula Corcoran, Rose Hargitt, Andrea (Hannah) Burmaster, and Coleen Rippe. Guests included: Jan Carman, Connie Miller, Alvina Gam-

blin, Phyllis Metcalf, Judy Jordan, Angela Copeland, Loretta McFee, LoRee Albers and Laurene Dempewolf.

The group strives to promote and encourage interaction between staff and residents by enhancing staff awareness and involvement through STARS-sponsored activities. On Christmas morning, Mrs. Hollowell and Mrs. Rippe gave devotions at the Good Samaritan Center. Afterward, donut holes and beverages were served by Frannie Nothdurft.

Decatur Farm Bureau to hold safety program

Decatur County Farm Bureau sponsored many activities for the community and youth during the past year and many new projects are planned for this year.

A program on personal safety and crime prevention for senior citizens is planned at 11:30 a.m. today, at The Gateway. Scott Teeselink, who has retired after being with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation for 30 years, will speak.

They will sponsor a spokeswoman from the Kansas Wheat Commission, who will present information on wheat and nutrition to grades 1-6 at the Oberlin Elementary on Kansas Day, Jan. 29. At noon, she will present a program, "Quick and easy breads for giving," including recipes, for women of the area. This one hour brown bag program will be held at The Gateway upstairs meeting rooms.

Applicants are being sought for the Century Farm Program. Applicants must be Farm Bureau members, ownership must be in the same family for 100 or more years with at least 80 acres of the original Kansas farmland, and the present owner must be related to the original owner. Deadline for submitting applications is May 16 and applications may be picked up at the office.

Kansas Farm Bureau is offering four \$1,000 scholarships at Kansas State University and two \$1,000

scholarships at Fort Hays State University for the 2003-2004 school year. To be eligible, applicants must be a Farm Bureau member in Kansas, must be enrolled in agriculture or a closely related area of study, and must be classified as a junior or senior at the university in the fall of 2002. The scholarship applications must be returned to Kansas State University by Feb. 1, and to Fort Hays University by Feb. 15. For phone numbers to request an application, contact Dianne at the Farm Bureau office.

The United States Department of Agriculture has launched a website <http://usda.gov/farmbill> to help farmers learn more about farm bill program details and questions and answers. It also provides program applications, sign-up forms, and other important materials from government agencies on farm bill implementation and contains advanced electronic applications to help program applicants receive program benefits faster and more efficiently.

Kansas Farm Bureau also has a web site www.kfb.org. This web site includes pictures of the local Farm Bureau county activities, information on Kansas Ag News, national news, local weather and maps, equipment appraisal searches, marketing tools and much more.

New Arrivals

Patrick Thomas Olson

Nathan Olson welcomes his new brother, Patrick Thomas Olson, who was born at 10:16 p.m. on Dec. 30, 2002. He weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces and was 20 inches long. Parents are Jon and Cindy Olson of Woodridge, Ill. Grandparents are Dave and Marty Olson, Oberlin, and Brad and Rhonda Dooley, Long Grove, Ill. Great-grandparents are Jim and Grace Schroer, Manhattan; Alden and Macalene Olson, McDonald; Laverne and Leona Dooley, and Nola Hiland, Ottawa, Ill., and the late Thomas Hiland.

Millicent Brown

Kurt and Valerie Brown are the parents of a daughter, Millicent Christine, born Jan. 7, 2003, in Quinter. She weighed 7 pounds, 14

ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. Grandparents are Galen and Eleanor Augustine, Lenora, and Doyle and Kay Brown, Jennings. Great-grandparents are Christina Augustine, Ellis; Dale and Agnes Swank, Garden City, and Mildred Tacha, Jennings.

Brooklyn Diederich

Gene and Angela Diederich of McPherson are the parents of a daughter, Brooklyn Danae. She was born Jan. 4, 2003, at 11:52 a.m., weighed 5 pounds, 11 1/2 ounces, and was 18 1/2 inches long. She has a sister, Madalyn Renea. Grandparents are Gerald Diederich, Oberlin; Joni Brietling, Hillsboro, and Neil Heim, Canton. Great-grandmothers are Nola Heim, Canton, and Matilda Diederich, Oberlin.

Girl Scout cookies on sale

The Girl Scouts of Sunflower Council will begin taking orders for Girl Scout cookies on Friday and continue through Feb. 7. Cookies will be delivered the week of Feb. 25 through March 14.

They will be offering Thin Mints, Caramel deLites, Peanut Butter Patties, Peanut Butter Sandwiches, Shortbread and Animal Treasures. They also have Reduced Fat Lemon

Pastry Cremes and the newest variety, Friendship Circles. They are \$3 per box.

Proceeds are used to help girls learn all kinds of life skills including goal setting, communication, teamwork and economic independence. Less than one-third of the \$3 goes to pay for the cookies. The remainder stays in the community. For details, call 475-2394.

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MICHAEL JOHNS Comedy Hypnotist Hypnotist to perform at Gateway

Michael Johns, Hypnotist will perform at the Oberlin Gateway Theater on Saturday, January 25, 2003 at 7:30 p.m.

This is the show everyone is talking about. Michael's high energy and unique blend of comedy and showmanship make this the show you will be laughing about for weeks. He has performed on Fox Television, hundred of high schools, NASCAR, colleges and universities, service clubs and many more places.

Sponsored by the Oberlin Arts & Humanities Commission, admission is by season ticket or by paying at the door. \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students living at home.

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