

# Annual tractor show planned at Selden

The population of Selden will swell Sunday with the tenth annual Antique Tractor and Car Show being held on Main Street.

The event will feature family activities all day, from food to games, and will draw antique and classic tractors, cars and small engines.

The day starts at 9 a.m. with free registration at the north end of Main Street. Entries will be on display all day and then there will be a parade at 3:30 p.m. The entries will be judged and plaques will be given to the top 10 tractors, top 10 cars and top three small engines.

Horseshoes will start the games for the day at 10 a.m. in City Park. At 11:30 a.m. there will be a basketball free throw contest for kids in the third through fifth grades and then for the sixth through eighth grades. There will be trophies awarded in each age group.

After lunch at 1 p.m. there will be a kiddie tractor pull, with trophies in three age groups including fifth through sixth, seventh through eighth and ninth through 10th.

Then there will be an obstacle course for drivers 18 and up.

The Selden American Legion will serve grilled hamburgers, barbecued pork sandwiches, hot dogs, baked beans, drinks and sno-cones for lunch in the park.

Over the noon hour, Wayne and Millie Lauritsen and Rose Bainter and Vic Wagoner Jr. will provide entertainment. The Old-Time Band will perform in the parish hall in the afternoon.

# City asks for report on empty storefronts

The Oberlin City Council asked the city administrator to make a report about empty business buildings in the city, detailing which ones are empty, who owns them, how long they have been empty and what the owners have planned for them.

During a meeting Thursday night, Councilman Jay Anderson said some of the storefronts downtown are never cleaned out and aren't being taken care of. There are things in the windows of the empty businesses, he said, and he had heard that one has birds living inside.

Councilman Stan McEvoy asked what Mr. Anderson is hoping to get out of the report.

"More than we have now," Mr. Anderson replied.

What can the city do once the report is done? asked Mayor Ken Shobe.

If the building is in a state of disrepair, said City Attorney Steve Hirsch, the city can have it fixed or demolished. Other than that, there is nothing much it can do. He said he doesn't know of any empty business buildings that have delinquent taxes against them.

Councilman Patrick Pomeroy asked how many man hours the project will take and if City Administrator Gary Shike has the time.

If the council asks for the project, said Mr. Shike, then he said he will work on it until it is done.

How long will the survey have value? asked Mr. Pomeroy. Things are always changing.

The study would be a starting point, Mayor Shobe replied.

It would have value, said Mr. Pomeroy, but he said he doesn't want to see Mr. Shike overwhelmed.

Mr. Hirsch said as the city building inspector, Mr. Shike has the right to look inside the buildings.

The council unanimously approved the survey. Councilman Joe Stanley was not present.

# Commissioners close some Prairie Dog roads

Decatur County commissioners closed several roads in Prairie Dog Township and changed others to minimum maintenance.

Township officers Derry Bishop, Duane Carman and Chuck Neff and landowner Dan Wasson were present for the hearing.

Commissioner Pat Glenn read the notice which had been published and sent to residents in the township.

Adjustments were made to post some roads for minimum maintenance instead of closing them.

Road and Bridge representative Kirk Ulery brought up other section lines that weren't in the notice and asked if there would need to be another hearing to close those. Mr. Carman said he thought those had been closed a long time ago.

The commissioners signed the resolution, which will go into effect on Tuesday. That will give the road crew time to get the minimum maintenance signs up.

The closed roads became effective on Tuesday, the day the resolution was signed.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch prepared an agreement for Walt Meitl, who has land in Dresden Township in Section 18. Mr. Meitl said he made an oral agreement with former County Engineer Bill Kincaid about the road on section 18 to make a private drive through sections 7 and 18, which the landowner would maintain, but the landowner could call on the county or township to do some snow removal or grading without cost.

The agreement supposedly was put to paper, although nothing was found in the past minutes.

The commissioners signed it and it also needs to be signed by the township officers.



ON THE LAST DAY of regular classes, Kay Brown (above) worked with one of her flute students. Down the hall, Doyle

Brown (below) cut a piece of wood. The Jennings husband-and-wife teaching team retired this year.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Brandt

# Couple retires after years of working with kids

Pair decides to end teaching careers at school where both graduated

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

Between the two of them, teachers Doyle and Kay Brown have touched hundreds, maybe thousands of students' lives, too many for them to mention.

Doyle, who teaches industrial arts at Jennings High School, and Kay, who teaches music, are retiring together this year.

Both grew up in Jennings and graduated from the high school there, Doyle in 1955 and Kay in 1956.

Mrs. Brown said she always knew she wanted to do something with music, so teaching just seemed natural to her. In those days they didn't have music therapy classes or anything like that. Mrs. Brown said she started her musical career playing the piano and flute and then became familiar with other instruments.

She said she went to Fort Hays State Teachers College for two years and then married Doyle and transferred to Kansas State University, where he went all four years.

Mr. Brown said he never really thought about being a teacher, but took the agricultural education block while in college because of his allergies. He said he thought he could fall back on inside jobs if he wasn't able to work outside on the farm.

"Teaching was the furthest thing from my mind," he said.

The couple graduated in 1960 and moved back home, intending to farm.

Mr. Brown said the Clayton School Board approached them about teaching and by June of that year, they both had jobs working with kids. The couple spent two years teaching in Clayton and then returned to farming.

They had their kids — Kent, who works for a contractor in Estes Park, Colo.; Kara, who teaches at the college; Kurt who is an assistant administrator for the special education co-op in Oakley and lives in Quinter; and Keli, who owns a private business in Wichita. They said they tried a whirl in business and then decided to go back to teaching.

The family moved to Herndon for nine years and the Browns returned to the classroom.

They decided to move back to Jennings because the farm was there and the Jennings Schools had an opening for Doyle, said Mrs. Brown.

That was 1977-78, she said. Mr.

Brown was hired as a basketball coach and taught as well. Over the years, he has coached everything except golf and wrestling.

Mrs. Brown said her husband is in the Kansas Coaching Hall of Fame, having won over 300 basketball games.

A year later, Mrs. Brown returned to teach music when the job became open.

For 12 years, they worked at the school in Jennings. Then in 1989, Mr. Brown retired. He said he told himself if he wasn't having as much fun coaching anymore, he would quit.

It was back to the farm, and about that time Mr. Brown was elected as a Decatur County commissioner to represent District No. 3.

He didn't stay retired, though. A decade later, in 1999, the superintendent asked if he could teach shop, which he could, so he renewed his certificate and entered the classroom again. For the last four years, he has been teaching the shop class down the hall from his wife.

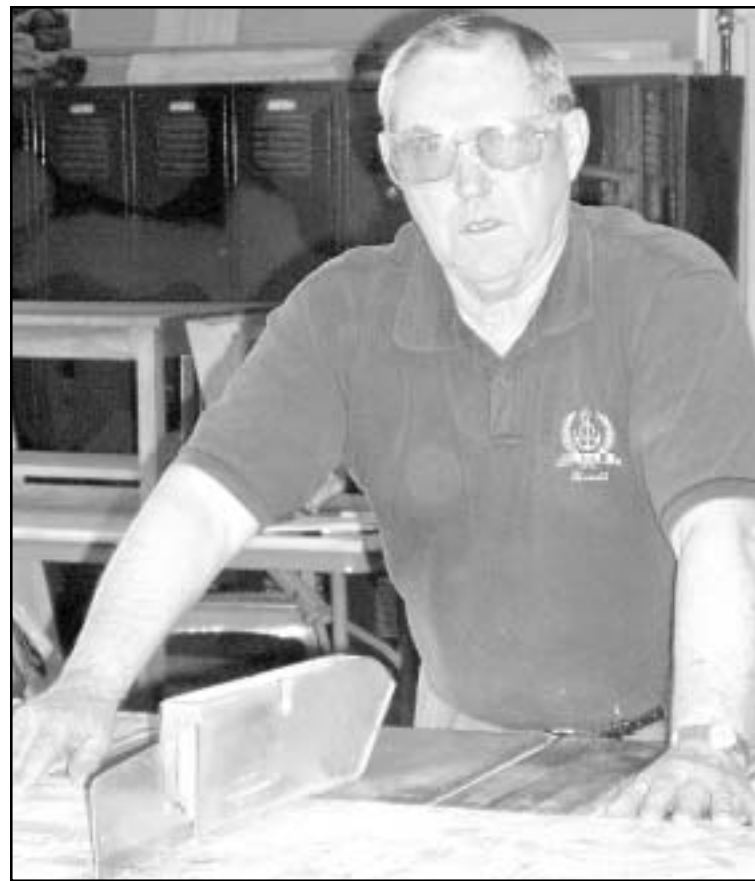
Mr. Brown said he even returned to coaching, although the school didn't have enough students this year to achieve and to find their niche in life. It's society that has changed, she said.

The pressure on kids today is tremendous. Parents have to be more vigilant. She said when she and her husband grew up, they didn't have television. Nowadays, kids' attention spans are shorter because of all the distractions they have.

Kids these days have been forced to grow up so much faster than we ever had to, said Mr. Brown. They see vulgarity, obscenities and other horrendous things on television, but they are still just kids, and they still can amaze you every day with the simplest things.

Students can be aggravating, said Mr. Brown. As a teacher, you think they don't care, said Mrs. Brown, and then all of the sudden, they come through.

Mr. Brown said he used to think that winning championships was the ultimate goal, but he realized that getting there was the thing. He said he doesn't forget now to enjoy the



stuff along the way. He said it took him two to three years to learn that.

The Browns said they plan to take some vacations after school is over and then get back to farming, which they have been doing all along. He said they are heavily into organic crops.

The Browns farm both the Brown and Tacha homesteads in Altony Township. Mr. Brown said the two farms actually touch corners and have been in the families for years.

Actually, he said, because of a house changing hands back in the 1900s, both his father and Mrs. Brown's father were born in the same house.

Mr. Brown said he is only downsizing by one job; he still has the county commission and farming. Mrs. Brown said she would like to try to get some of her music pub-

lished. The couple doesn't plan to move, but will stay on their farm home east of town and continue to support the county, community and the school.

They also plan to spend more time with their five grandkids, three step-grandkids and four great-grandkids.

Through coaching, teaching, school plays and private music lessons, the Browns said, they have no idea how many kids' lives they have come into contact with.

Once in a while, one of them will come back to visit and they will try to place them, said Mrs. Brown.

"It will be hard to leave the kids," she said. "There is never a good time to do it."

The couple agreed that they have wonderful memories to take with them when they walked out of the school for the last time.

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# Old-time planting set

Farmers and horse lovers will take a step back in time Sunday morning and use old machinery to plant feed.

Horses will be pulling old-time drills to plant feed a mile north and a mile east of the Oberlin Cemetery on Sunday for what has turned into a somewhat annual horse farming

day. Last year the group planted just west of the cemetery.

The planting will start around 10:30 a.m. and will go to the middle of the afternoon.

Mick Glaze, who helps organize the event, said anyone who is interested can come help or come watch.

## AUCTION

Saturday, June 7, 2003 • 10:00 a.m.

Location: Oberlin American Legion  
114 S. Rodehaver Ave., Oberlin, KS  
Lunch will be served by Leion Auxiliary Women

**SELLER: MELVIN & MAYNARD SMALBERGER**  
Guest Consignors: Darlene Stanley; Ronald R. Carlson  
Estate • Angela Hagemeyer, Administrator

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704 East Commercial, Oberlin, KS  
Home with furniture, pickup, deepfreeze, dresser will sell promptly at 10 a.m. • This 1940, 725 sq. ft. home with single, detached garage, includes 2 bedrooms, bath, kitchen and living room on the main level and 2 bedrooms, bath, laundry room and family room in the basement. The home comes completely furnished with nice refrigerator, stove, washer and dryer. Household items included with the house are 4 beds with mattress, couch, hide-a-bed, 2 chairs, table and chairs and lamp.

**SELLER: DARLENE STANLEY**

1995 Ford pickup with extended cab and camper shell, long wheel base, 110,000 miles.

**Complete Sale Bill in next week's paper**

## Johnson Realty, Inc.

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