

THE OBERLIN HERALD

# Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

## 100 YEARS GO — June 1900

Mrs. Gilmore (Mrs. S. J. Harvie) is again with us after a sojourn of several months in Wisconsin. Mrs. Gilmore belongs to Oberlin; always has belonged to Oberlin; in fact, was here before the town of Oberlin was.

The students away at college are having a hard time getting home.

Mrs. Ada Small Nitcher died suddenly at her home in Oberlin on Friday, May 29, 1903.

Norcatour News: Little Johny Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Johnson, fell from a low wheeled wagon Monday evening of last week and broke his left arm above the elbow.

Married, May 28, 1903, at the residence of the bride's parents near Dresden, Mr. A. W. Wickersham and Miss Katie Bremer.

The editor, wife and two younger children left Tuesday morning for Indiana, to attend the Coldren reunion that will be held at Topeka, Ind., on June 25th. They expect to return about the first of July.

Ray Coldren was one of the 15 Washburn College boys who took at 2-inch cable from the north end of the Melon arch bridge to a building in north Topeka, whereby communications were established with the flooded district.

## 75 YEARS AGO — June 1928

In cooperation with Dyer Studio, the Herald is planning to run a series of historical sketches of early day settlers of Decatur County; those now living who have been here for over 40 years, or who came to the county prior to 1888.

Since Thursday of last week 1.58 of rain has fallen over much of the area. A lot of wheat will be harvested in Decatur County.

Harwood Benton and his mother, Mrs. Otis L. Benton, left Sunday night for Topeka to be at Washburn College during commencement week. They will also spend a few days in Kansas City before returning to Oberlin.

Misses Lila and Lola Banta are home from Manhattan to spend the summer vacation. They will teach next winter instead of attending school.

Mr. Clyde Shaw and Miss Vada Armstrong were married Sunday morning, June 3, by Rev. J. W. Hervey, pastor of the Oberlin M.E. Church, at his residence. After they return from their honeymoon they will make their home on the former A. M. Lytle farm southwest of Oberlin.

Funeral services were held in Jennings for Mrs. J. A. Rogers who died at the age of 55. Her pall bearers were her six sons, Clifford, Glenn, Bryon, Leo, Arthur and Claude.

Jennings: Only three Civil War veterans live in Jennings now: Mr. O. E. Munson, Elias Duncan and Mr. J. E. Smith. There was a large attendance at the Decoration Day services in Jennings. The Jennings band with Mr. Moritz Nauer as leader furnished some fine music and made a nice appearance in their new uniforms.

Along Big Timber: The Memorial Day was well attending and Mr. Clark of Hoxie made an excellent address and the Jennings band gave an enjoyable performance.

George Gardner tell us that we failed to report the birth of Joyce Maurine Gardner of May 24th, and the little lady's father said he wished that the event be mentioned.

## 50 YEARS AGO — June 1953

Rain, wind and hail which accompanied the storm in this area last week caused heavy damage to crops, buildings, railroads and highways in the south part of the county and along Prairie Dog Creek. In Rawlins County a torrential downpour measured 4 inches at the midway station and in the Lund area Evald Rydquist and Fred Peterson reported 100 percent loss of their wheat due to hail. A flash flood resulted from the torrential rains in the upper watershed of the Prairie Dog Creek as the water rolled downstream. At the Elwood Walker farm in the Dresden area 11 inches of rain and heavy hail fell; 40 head of sheep were drowned at the Tandy Nelson and Harold Derby farm and some families in the area were forced to move out as the water came up higher than ever before.

From Jennings came reports of record high water over the highways and about two miles of railroad track washed out between there and Clayton as well as two highway bridges near Clayton. The rain gauge at the Herald measured 3.52.

Mr. and Mrs. George Nellans attended commencement at Washburn College in Topeka where their son, George Parker Nellans, received a law degree.

Dresden: Funeral services were held of D. C. V. Hollis, 68, who had practiced veterinary medicine in Dresden since 1937.

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Coldren, Mrs. Thersia Nemeth and Mr. and Mrs.

Ernest Nemeth and family drove to Salina to attend commencement at Kansas Wesleyan. Phil Nemeth was one of the graduates.

The Art Ver-Mar Drapery and Slipcover Shop located north of U. S. Highway 36 will hold its grand opening on June 12 according to Miss Marilou Berndt, operator. Miss Berndt is a graduate of the Decatur Community High School class of 1950 and has been employed as manager of the drapery department of Thaemert's Interior Shop of Wheat Ridge, Colo.

Rev. Alvin Daetwiler, who just received his divinity degree from Phillips University in Enid, Okla., will arrive today to assume the pastorate of the Federated Church.

Vincent May, owner of the Oberlin Music Company, has accepted the position of band instructor at the Leoville School on a part time basis. He will teach three mornings a week and Miss Carolyn Soderlund will be in charge of the music store in Oberlin during that time.

## 25 YEARS AGO — June 1978

Nearly 30,000 "unmarked" stamps went on sale at Oberlin Post Office in the wake of the first class mail rate hike. Postmaster Don Zimmerman said the new stamps bear the letter "A" and will be used until deliveries of the new 15-cent stamps arrive.

More than 180 American flags waved in the breeze at the Memorial Day observance at Oberlin Cemetery. Elmo Lund, local attorney and veteran, told those gathered

that these flags symbolize the sacrifices which enable us the freedom we enjoy here today. Laurie O'Toole, this year's Junior American Legion Auxiliary Miss Poppy, placed a floral decoration at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

A coffee at the Downtowner Restaurant by members of Monday Evening Club honored Ruth Meyer who will leave next week to make her home in Topeka. Mrs. Meyer has been a club member for the past 24 years.

This year's Miss Frontier Day has been moved from Oberlin City Park to the Decatur County fairgrounds and will include a three-day operation of the home-owned carnival. Janet Carmon, this year's Miss Frontier, will present a musical program at the grandstand Friday evening, accompanied by Jean Ann Hess on the piano and Ronnie Juenemann on the bass guitar.

Dr. and Mrs. Steve Bodeman were guests of honor at a cookout Monday evening. They will leave Saturday to make their home in Kansas City after spending the past year in Oberlin.

Juanita Neff, a superb Red Devil trackster during her high school years, came home from the National Junior College Track and Field meet held at the University of Illinois in Champaign with gold medals in the open 800-run and the 1600-meter relay and a bronze medal in the sprint relay. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Neff of Prairie Dog Township, she attends Dodge City Community College.

## Let's Go to the Museum

By Sharleen Wurm, co-director

The Second Annual Museum Summerfest and Car Show is now history. It will go down as a great success. Over 100 cars were exhibited, the crowd was larger than last year, the food was great, and a person could not have asked for nicer weather.

The board and staff would like to thank everyone who participated in any way to make it a wonderful day. We had over 30 people tour the museum as they spent the day in downtown Oberlin.

Myrna and I even had time this week to do some research. Someone wanted information on Lydia Barnes. We found that she was the postmaster of Hawkeye and sister to Wild Bill Hickock.

Sol Rees was also asked about and we found this interesting article about him taken from the *Oberlin Opinion*, May 21, 1887:

"The principal gardeners in the county are M.J. Chapman, Sol Rees and James Smith. It is a good paying business and if they would prepare to raise more early garden it would pay much better. Sol Rees has in 20 acres of potatoes, 5 1/2 acres of onions and will plant 5 acres to cabbage and other vegetables. Sol has 320 acres in his farm and devotes himself to raising garden and hogs. Mr. Rees has quite a number of fine-blooded Poland China pigs that are beauties. He is one of the first settlers of Decatur County."

## Lyle News

By Helen Helm

It was a beautiful day on Sunday for the annual Memorial Day celebration at Lyle. The Jack Helt American Legion Post, of Lebanon, Neb., gathered at the cemetery. They provided the services at the grave of their past commander, Leon Wood. The program was led by the chaplain, Raymond Haag, who also read observations which had been written by Father John Prachar, a former priest at Indianola, Neb., who had survived the Nazi prison camps and escaped the Russian tyranny by escaping before his immigration to the United States. Jacob Helm read "That Ragged Old Flag," written by Johnny Cash. The graves of the deceased veterans were decorated by the children present. The gun salute was given and "Taps" was played by Richard Macy.

A potluck dinner followed at the Community Building with the Lyle United Methodist Women as hosts. Forty-three signed the guest book. Several of the Legionnaires stayed to eat which pleased the ladies, as thanking them for coming to Lyle is a big reason for having the dinner.

Among those present were Rex and Merle Cozad, Hutchinson, as well as his brother, Van Cozad, Beaver City, Neb.; and daughters, Ruth Vise and Karla Clason. Kennie Cozad, wife and son, were present. Judy and Charlie Easton, Quinter, and Jane Englehardt, Norton; her daughter, Pam and children, Tyler and Brittany Hawk, Aurora, Colo. attended services and spent the day with Margaret Magers. Carol and John Moye and Dwight Wood were with their mother, Veda Wood.

Martin and Ceanne Rinehart, Colby, came for the Lyle services and dinner, helped Helen and John decorate family graves at Danbury and Indianola. Rebecca and Aaron Helm were overnight guests and accompanied the Rineharts to

Lebanon Monday morning to help put out the flags at the Lebanon Cemetery early Monday morning. All attended the Veterans of Foreign Wars dinner at noon at Lebanon. Kathy Brashears met them there and came out for the afternoon. That evening, Deb, Matthew and Timothy Helm joined them for supper and all went to Lebanon to help fold flags and put them away.

Mrs. Julia Van Meter, Gibbon, Neb., was in Norcatour Saturday to decorate family graves and had lunch with Kathryn Van Meter. On Sunday, Mrs. Van Meter decorated graves in Norcatour, had lunch there and attended the services. Mrs. Van Meter drove to Quinter Monday and her son, Tim Nejdil, accompanied her to WaKeeney for memorial services. She had lunch with Tim, Jolene and Clinton Nejdil at Quinter.

John and Helen Helm attended the Bartley-Twin Valley Alumni Banquet at Bartley, Neb., Saturday evening. John received a lovely corsage for being the oldest male graduate present. He graduated

from Bartley High School 70 years ago. Another of his classmates, Dorothy Ventling Unger, was able to be there.

Linda and Dennis McFarland, McCook, had Sunday dinner with June Jolly and accompanied her to Norcatour for Memorial Day services. Dean Jolly called on them that afternoon. Dennis became ill and went to the emergency room Tuesday, was taken to Hastings hospital later; is now home, but still under the doctor's care.

The Lyle United Methodist Women met for quilting on Thursday and finished the quilt they had been working on. Present were Veda Wood, Margaret Magers, Joyce Sumner, Kathy Van Meter and June Jolly.

Kathy Van Meter took Marguerite Fullerton to a dental appointment at Norton Thursday. Amy Archer, McPherson, visited Mrs. Fullerton that morning.

Mrs. Margaret Magers drove to Quinter Thursday and accompanied her daughter, Mrs. Judy

Easton, to Abilene, where they were overnight guests of the J.T. Guy family and enplaned in Kansas City Friday for a trip to Florida to visit Joani and Ken Killeen and family.

When Pat Schwab went into Oberlin Thursday, her grandchildren, Samantha and Matthew Schwab, came home with her and talked her into making them some "puppy chow," for an up-coming fishing trip.

Deb, Jacob, Matthew, and Timothy spent Tuesday at the John Helm home, and made a trip to Wilsonville, Neb. for flower plants. Deb spent the afternoon planting flowers and trimming yard bushes.

Veda Wood attended the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary meeting Wednesday evening in Lebanon, Neb.

## Midway News

By Mary Lou Olson

The Herndon Covenant Church congregation will hold their Sunday School picnic at Lake Atwood on Sunday. Worship service will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the gazebo, followed by the Sunday School picnic.

The work day, originally scheduled for the congregation at the church on Saturday, has been rescheduled for 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 21.

Jessica Jarvis and Audre Hansen of Hays accompanied their grandmother, Sherri Bergling, home on Sunday and are spending this week with Dave and Sherri Bergling. Rennie Olson and Scott Olson of Dallas, Texas, have visited during

the past week with Bob and Sally Olson.

Sheri Steinemann, Sheila Waters and Karin, and Karen Peebles of Denver visited over the weekend with their grandmother, Hattie Olson, and other relatives. Mrs. Waters and Karin live at Palau Island, but are spending the summer with her parents, Bill and Maxine Peebles, in Denver.

Mark and Barbara Olson, Sarah, Kurt and Mary returned home Sunday from a vacation trip to New York City.

## Jennings News

By Sonya Gillespie

The Jennings Sunflower Senior Center will have their monthly potluck dinner at 6 p.m. on June 10. Guest speaker Wayne Lofton will talk about Alzheimer's and caregiving at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

The Jennings City Library Summer Reading Program will begin on Saturday. This year each reader is asked to come in and sign up at the library and will choose a goal they would like to meet for the program, which runs through July 31. Each week, as the reader returns to check out their books, they will be eligible for a prize of their choice. Readers who meet their goal will be eligible for a drawing to be held on Fireman's Fun Day in August. All children are encouraged to come on in and sign up for the 2003 Summer Reading Program and start earning those goodies.

The Heritage Associates of Jennings, Inc. met on May 1 with eight members present. President Neoma Tacha conducted the meeting. Dean Gawith gave the treasurer's report. Construction has begun on the walkway and the

foundation has been poured. The next meeting is scheduled for June 5.

Guests over Memorial Day weekend of Mary and Tom Votapka were Myron and Elaine McKinley, Tulsa, Okla.; Ethel Taylor, Hays; Ann Row, Cimarron; Jodie Inguanza and children, Kalvesta, and Rollie and Jean Hallagin and Ashley, Goodland. Sunday afternoon visitors were Brad Taylor and family of Hays.

Alumni Directories are available by contacting Mary Votapka. The directories can also be mailed for \$4 each. Requests can be sent to Mary Votapka, Jennings, Kan., 67643.

Sarah McKenna graduated from Fort Hays State University on Saturday, May 17, with Bachelor of Science degrees in General Science and Health and Human Performance, with an emphasis in Athletic Training. Among those attending were Pat, Shelley and Marcus McKenna of Jennings; Max, Norma, and Dave Ward of Clayton; D'Anna (Otter) Basart and Jalen of Mankato, and Chris McKenna, Hays.

## Cedar Living News

Pastor Charlotte Strecker-Baseler of the Faith Lutheran Church gave the worship service on Sunday afternoon.

Gertrude Fleckenstein celebrated her birthday Monday, and Dean Gallatin celebrated his birthday on Tuesday.

Residents assisted with planting tomatoes, cucumbers, an eggplant, and a pepper plant in the planting box garden on Monday afternoon.

The blackout bingo game on Tuesday afternoon ended in a three-way tie among Louise Nauer, Freida Matheny, and Charley Vavroch.

Maxine Chambers, Dean Gallatin, and Eva Marie Vacura played pinocle on Wednesday afternoon with Barbara Solko.

Dennis Brown of the Forget-Me-Nots hosted a party on Wednesday afternoon. He served assorted crackers, cheese, meat and vegetables with dip.

Stuart Euhus gave the Bible study lesson on Wednesday after-

noon. Stan Chapin gave the Catholic Communion service on Thursday morning.

Recent visitors: Cindy Kamel Barer, McCook; Chris Stanley, Mitchell, S.D.; Ann Martin, Herndon; Dolores Smith, Harrison, Ark.; Jerry Temple, Larry Lyon, Norcatour; Joseph Schmaderer, Ludell; Don Ashley, Carl Mumm, Don Shaw, Selden; Dona Wilcox Hughes, Hays; Keith Mines, McPherson; Margaret Richards, Norton; Jerry and Arlee Stegeman, Colo.; Lenny and Doris Fleckenstein, Jennings; Edna Smith, Lawrence;

Butch Stanley, Eleanor Kircher, Deanna McDougal, Grace Cook, Ila Ray, Alice Shirley, Ann Mines, Carol Allen, Lyle Gamblin, Irene Fringer, Elvin Beneda, Orlin Beneda, Preston Pratt, Fern Jording, Vayle Rohan, Eula Juenemann, Bernie and Othelia Vacura, Don Stapp, Dewaine Stapp, Elaine Bryan, Marie Jean Vavroch, Bernard Corcoran, Bill Goscha, Oberlin

## Mount Pleasant News

By Dianne Bremer

Don and Ann Mines were Thursday overnight guests at the home of the Joe Mineses in McPherson May 22. Friday, Don, Ann and Joe drove to Georgetown, Texas, where they stayed at the home of Patrick and Sheri (Mines) Coon, Nathan and Todd. Other weekend visitors at the Coon home were Pat and Lynette (Mines) Salvo, Tucson, Ariz., also arriving Friday. They attended the high school graduation of Nathan Coon on Saturday, and on Sunday attended church services during which Todd Coon was confirmed into the Catholic faith. The Mines drove back to McPherson on Monday, and returned home on Tuesday.

Gaylord and Shirley Shields left May 24 for Omaha, where they visited Mike and Nancy Shields, Corinne and Brett and attended Corinne's high school graduation. They returned home Memorial Day.

The North Central Kansas Music Teachers League sponsored a Masters Piano Class and luncheon Tuesday at the home of Mary Smith in Phillipsburg. The class was led by Professor Junghwa Lee of Fort Hays State University. Jessica Bremer and her piano instructor, Cheryl Metcalf, were among the teachers

and students attending.

Becky Tate, Dakota, and Mollie Marie left Thursday for Tescott to visit her mother and grandmother, Linda Ryan and Lois Kettle, and other relatives, returning home on Saturday.

Gaylord and Shirley Shields left Thursday for Salisbury, Md., to spend a few days visiting Phil and Karen Shields, Justin and Anna. They were also able to attend the ballet recital of their six-year-old granddaughter, Anna, before they returned home.

John and Dianne Bremer and Jessica spent the weekend in Seward, Neb., visiting Kristen and helping her celebrate her birthday. They returned home Sunday evening.

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