



BEFORE PEOPLE SHOWED up for Thanksgiving dinner, Joanne Wendelin (above) filled empty coffee cans with hot water and soap for silverware. Ralph Unger stirred the

pots (below) on top of the stove. The group served turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, rolls and salad for the meal.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Brandt

Turkey dinner a success

The kitchen was full, the pots on the stove starting to bubble and the turkey in the oven, getting warmed up.

It was about 11:30 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day, and volunteers were ready to start serving a hot turkey and ham dinner at St. John's Lutheran Church.

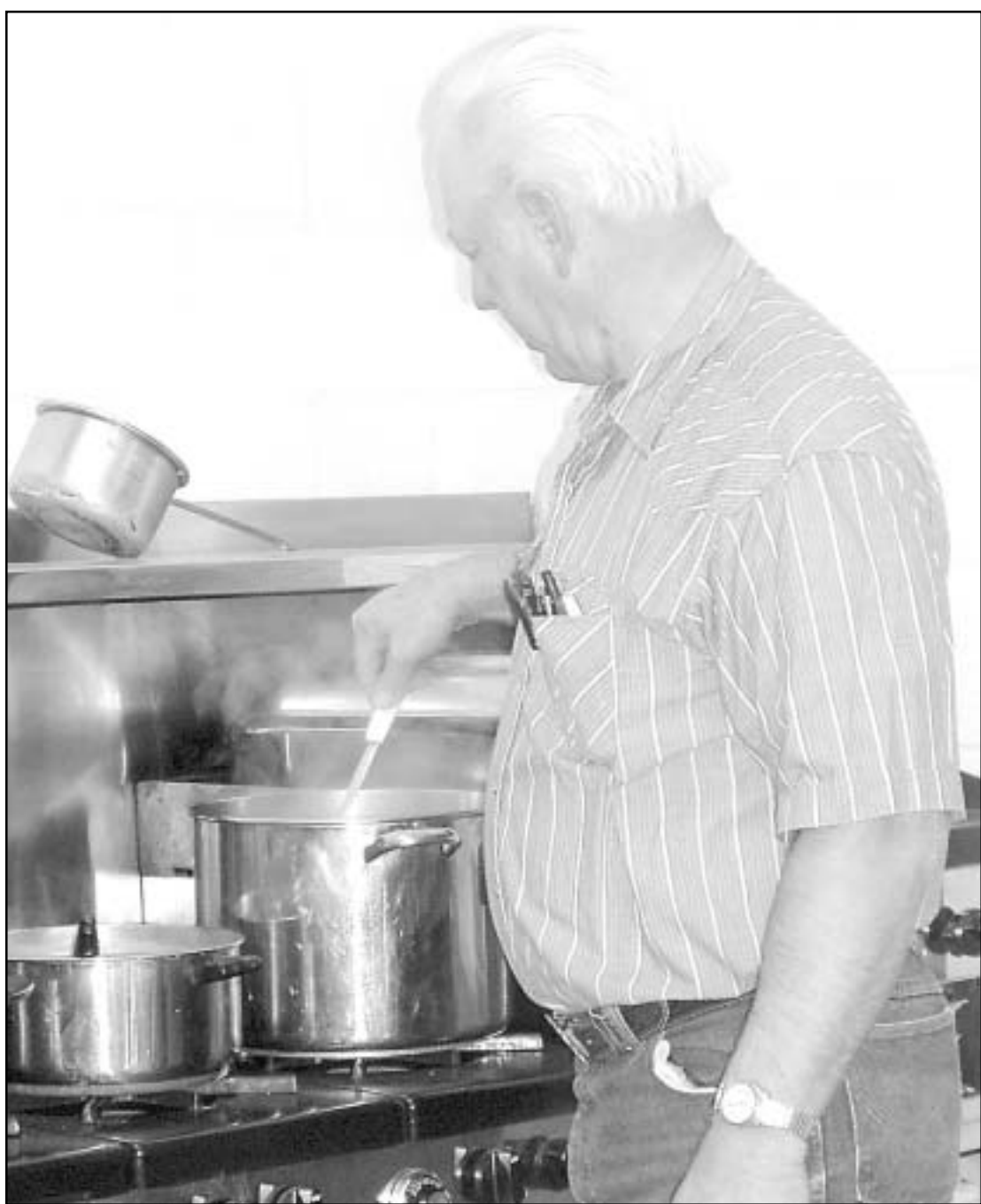
This was the 25th year for the community Thanksgiving dinner, which not only gives people who may not have family, out-of-towners or those who don't want to cook a place to eat, but also raises money for the Decatur County Food Pantry.

Norman Wendelin headed up the project this year, but said it wouldn't have been possible without the help of the many volunteers. He said Dorothy Moore and Joanne Wendelin were a big help and pushed to have everything done on time.

A few minutes before noon, people started to arrive. Mr. Wendelin said they served about 110, including carry-out trays. This year, the diners were mostly local people with the exception of a few pheasant hunters and relatives from out of town.

The dinner went really well, he said. The food was just about all gone, but everyone had plenty to eat.

He said he appreciated everyone who brought in pies and salads and also the clean-up crew who got ev-



everything taken care of after the meal.

Mr. Wendelin said he hasn't seen a final count on the money, but he

assumed there would be several hundred dollars left after the expenses to be given to the food pantry.

Although he isn't going to head up the dinner next time, he said the church plans on going for its 26th year.

Two shoppers win instant \$50

Two Oberlin shoppers are \$50 richer this week after finding their numbers in an ad from Fine Spirits Video/Unicel and R&M Service Center for the Christmas on Us promotion.

Jackie Winder said she found her ticket number 45467 in the ad in last week's edition of *The Oberlin Herald*.

Mrs. Winder claimed her money early in the week and said she was going to spend it on Christmas.

Gary Baldwin found his ticket number 1285343 in the ad from R&M Service Center. He said he would use the \$50 on Christmas.

There were four numbers in the



G. Baldwin



J. Winder

paper last week, but only two people claimed the \$50 prize money.

There are seven numbers in this week's paper. All prize money has to be claimed before 5 p.m. Friday. Winners must present their ticket in the newspaper office.

Thieves steal cars here and in Norton

A couple of car thieves apparently couldn't figure out whether they were coming or going Monday, as they stole a car in Norton and ditched it in Oberlin, then stole a van in Oberlin, ditching it in Norton.

Police Chief Wade Lockhart said he received a call around 8:05 a.m. that a Mercury Villager Van had been taken from Lori Miller's home at 606 N. Wilson sometime between 7:50 and 8:05 a.m. She told him she had started the car to warm it up and take her kids to school.

About the same time, Decatur County Dispatch told Chief Lockhart a 1998 Mercury Cougar had been taken from the 800 block of Norton Ave. in Norton sometime the night before.

The Cougar was found at 9:03 a.m. at the corner of Elm and Marks, just a few blocks from where the van disappeared. The Cougar had some damage, but Chief Lockhart didn't

know if that happened before or after it was taken.

Shortly thereafter, the Norton County Sheriff's Department received a call about an abandoned van three miles east and a mile north of Norton. When they checked it out, they found that it was indeed the van that had been stolen from Oberlin.

Chief Lynn Menagh said the Kansas Highway Patrol, Norton Police and Norton County Sheriff's Department searched Norton County for two men last seen in the vicinity of the van.

There was some damage to the van also.

Chief Lockhart said it sounded like someone took the car to get here and then the van to get back to Norton.

As of Monday evening, the thieves had not been found.

Council to discuss a smaller sewer plant

The Oberlin City Council should get cost numbers for a smaller, 300,000-gallon-per-day sewer plant at 6:30 p.m. Thursday night at The Gateway.

At the last meeting, Thaniel Monaco, with Miller and Associates, said he could come back with the numbers for a 300,000-gallon plant since he had figured everything on a 450,000-gallon plant.

The council decided they wanted to look at the difference because the smaller plant might work for the city.

City Administrator Gary Shike said he thinks there will be a representative from the Sunflower Cinema board at the meeting to ask for an extension on the city's donation for monthly utilities. The city gives the theater \$100 a month in utilities. Mr. Shike said this has been going on for several years.

The council will be holding a closed session for personnel matters to hear reports on the employee evaluations, which are done yearly.

The rest of the meeting is open to the public.

Store wins light contest

Prairie Petals won the Oberlin Business Alliance window decoration contest held during activities downtown Friday night.

Shoppers voted at the Oberlin Lions Club soup supper in the building to the north of Stanley Hard-

ware.

Second place was a tie between the Dresser and Rocking R and third place went to the Carrousel.

Only the first place recipient will receive a prize, which is \$25 off alliance dues for the new year.

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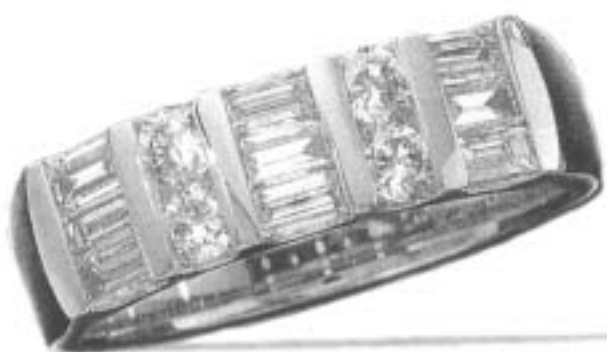
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"The guy in the red hat is the epitome of what it means to give. He gives, and gives, and gives. He takes nothing. Unless you count the milk and cookies. Which I don't"

Santa strikes again



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