

THE OBERLIN HERALD

# Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

**100 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1903**  
Little Grace Banta has been suffering from an abscess in one of her ears.

W. T. Stevenson is having a new frame barn built on his farm north of town.

D. P. Gilbert and W. S. Fleming, manager of the Decatur County Cooperative Association, have purchased the Goodrich Bros.' creamery station at Oberlin.

R. C. Elrod and wife left Friday for Norton where they expect to make their home. Mr. Elrod has bought an interest in a store at Norton and The Herald wishes him an abundance of success.

About 45 people enjoyed a very pleasant Christmas Day at Center schoolhouse. A short program before the basket dinner and games afterward were enjoyed by young and old.

The neighbors in the vicinity of Victory schoolhouse assembled at that place on Christmas Day and had an old time jollification.

Grandpa and Grandma Claar and others of the Claar clan met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Cullison on Christmas Day and enjoyed an old-fashioned Christmas tree.

**75 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1928**

Christmas in Oberlin was rather quiet as the prevailing epidemic of flu interfered materially with the Sunday School programs and no doubt many Christmas dinners.

Melba Anderson, who has been attending school at Albuquerque, N. M., is at home for the holidays.

A baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Jennings of near Dresden on Dec. 21.

Custer: Maurice Muirhead and Clarice Thiesen were married Dec. 22 by Judge Kulp of Oberlin. The Muirheads were charivariated on Sunday evening at the home of his parents.

A very pretty wedding took place at the country home of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Moore on Dec. 19 when their daughter, Eunice, became the bride of Mr. Harry J. Petracek. The Rev. Chas. H. Simpson of the Dresden Methodist Church read the ceremony with only the family and close relatives present. The bride is

a graduate of the Class of 1928 at Decatur Community High School and the bridegroom is a prominent young farmer of Custer Township.

Marvin Odell, expert aviator, was in and over Oberlin Sunday in one of his monoplanes. Frances Eiler accompanied him to St. Francis where she will visit for a few days.

Dr. H. J. Morrison moved his dental office to his fine new office rooms located over the Griffith Furniture Co. store. Included is a reception room, a retiring room for his patients, two operating rooms, a laboratory and a private office, all planned to give the utmost in convenience.

**50 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1953**

Despite what seemed like the commencement of one of those dreaded droughts here late this summer and early fall, the year 1953 brought moisture slightly in excess of the 68-year average for the county which is 20.84 inches. Due to unusually heavy moisture in November the winter wheat crop is in better condition than many years.

Rexford: Funeral services were held for Charlene Latimer, 20, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herley Latimer, who died as a result of an automobile accident in Indiana. She was a 1951 graduate of Rexford High School and attended Stephens College in Columbia, Mo., and was serving in the Air Force based at Rantoul, Ill. A military escort accompanied the body to Rexford.

Funeral services were held at Orleans, Neb., and later at the Methodist Church in Oberlin for a former resident, Rea Simpson, 53. He is survived by his wife, Lena, and five children, Melvin, Dale, Lowell, Nita and Ivan.

Decatur County now has 38 producing oil wells since the first strike was made in 1951 on the outskirts of Jennings.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Chandler, Ronnie, 14, and Connie, 8, of Mankato have moved to Oberlin where he will open a television sales and service shop in Shields Hardware and Implement store.

Kanona: Mr. and Mrs. Allen Brown will hold an open house Jan. 3 in honor of their golden anniversary.

Norcat: The Norcat "A"

town team slipped by Jennings 36 to 34 to bring their record to 4-0. Playing for Norcat were Carl Rohnke, Gary Miller, Charles Collins, Norm Gallentine and Pete Dawson.

The Norcat Cardinals squad of 28 coached by Pete Dawson has won three straight games and has high hopes to repeat as CNWKA league champions. The Cardinals won the league championship in football finishing with a 5-1 record.

New Arrivals: Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Simpson, girl, Shauna Sue, Dec. 28; Mr. and Mrs. Atley Muirhead, girl, Dec. 28; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Castor, girl, Ronda Jean, Dec. 28.

**25 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1978**

The top ten news stories of the year 1978 as reported by The Oberlin Herald:

1. Plane crash claims four lives.
2. Medical Arts project gets under way.
3. Medical picture brightens.
4. Weather calls the shots.

## Chamber News

By Glenva Nichols

I hope everyone had a very happy holiday season.

Christmas is over and the New Year is upon us. Where has this year gone? I must be getting old, as time has a way of flying and there are still many things to do. They say that when we are young time stands still. I believe it.

The time has come to make our plans for the annual Chamber meeting and banquet to be held at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 15 at The Gateway. The steak supper will be \$15, with all the trimmings. Awards will be presented to deserving people in the community. We will be electing six new board members. If you would like to be a member, or know of someone who would, please submit names to the Chamber office so we can put them on the ballot.

The speaker, Randy Thies from the Topeka area, will be talking on "Gravestones to Die For." This promises to be entertaining and in-

formative. He has done a lot of research on the subject.

Oberlin Business Alliance will meet on Jan. 7 at the LandMark Inn at noon. If you would like to attend call and make a reservation for lunch with Gary Anderson at 475-2340.

Chamber will meet Jan. 8 at Decatur Co-op board room for a brown bag lunch at noon. It will be an open meeting and all are welcome to attend.

Congratulations to the winners of the lighting contest: Jennifer Auxier, first place; Ron Jansonius, second place; and Dennis Richards, third place.

Thanks to the City of Oberlin for giving \$75, \$50 and \$25 off of the winners' light bills. It takes a lot of hard work to string the lights, then one hopes the weather stays nice to take them down.

The coffee pot is always on, so stop by and have a cup.

## Jennings News

By Sonya Gillespie

The Tuesday Study Club met on Dec. 16, at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall for a dessert and salad luncheon. Those members attending were Naomi Carter, Neoma Tacha, Mildred Tacha, Helen Rhodes, Wilma Mader, Vendla Tacha, Joan McKenna, Helen Muirhead and Twila Stieben.

Christmas cards were signed and sent to former members. Following the luncheon, Julie Carter's speech class entertained with Christmas songs, poems, and readings. Members of the class are: Elise Kinser, Courtney Gillespie, Nakita Graf, Josh Vahling and Jake Kramer. The presentations were very enjoyable.

## Cedar Living News

Sympathy is extended to the family of Bertha Matchett who died on Dec. 23.

Carol Witt and Myrna Jones assisted with a Christmas carol singing on Monday afternoon.

A candlelight service was held on Monday evening, with Dennis Brown assisting Teresa Shaughnessy. Hot chocolate was served.

Fern Moore gave the reading program on Tuesday morning. Freida Matheny won both the first bingo and the blackout game in the afternoon.

Residents enjoyed a morning program of Christmas stories and music on Wednesday.

Several community members donated small gifts, which were handed out to each resident at supper on Christmas Eve. Special thanks for these gifts go out to the members of Faith Lutheran Church, Myrna Jones, and the Terry Ream family. Santa visited during the night and left each resident a package to open on Christmas morning. These gifts were donated by staff members of Decatur Health Systems.

Tressie Samson spent Christmas at home with her family, near Ludell. Darlene Stanley spent Christmas with her family at the home of Dan and Carrie Morford. Mary Uehlin spent Christmas at the home of Ron and Patti Uehlin.

Jan Matheny and Sabrina Cooper ate Christmas dinner with Freida Matheny. Marie Jean Vavroch had dinner with Charley Vavroch. Fern and Duane Jording dined with Alvin Jording. Lyle Gamblin was a guest of Freda Gamblin for Christmas dinner. Paula Nauer and Julie Kidder had Christmas dinner with Louise Nauer, then Louise went to her home on Friday for a family celebration.

Recent visitors: Paul Nauer, Merl and Ruth Chance, Jennings; Ann Martin, Don Grafel, Herndon; Marie Miller, Dresden; Paula Nauer, Lenexa; Richard and Bernadine Samson, Ludell; Jamie Samson, Lindsborg; Clay Burrell, Benkelman, Neb.; Don Ashley, Carl Mumm, Selden; Amanda Chambers, Shane Johnson, Dodge City; Roy and Julie Kidder, Mead, Colo.; Mickey Vacura and family, Denver; Marie Vacura, Pueblo, Colo.; Bob Matheny, Marion; Monte, Julie, Cade and Carson Burrell, Wauneta, Neb.;

Fern Wenger, Mary Lemman, Dolores and Jacob Koerperich, Carol Allen, Erin Wolters, Danyel Wolters, Gary, Sarah, Kaiane, and Karli Fredrickson, Andy Chambers, Eula Juenemann and family, Bernie and Othelia Vacura, Bob and Lila Keenan, Dennis Thomas and family, Elvin and Orlin Beneda, Earl Brown, Elaine Bryan, Oberlin.

## Good Samaritan News

On Monday, Dec. 22, volunteer Kristin Bremer assisted Ruth Laidig and Hazel Flaska with holiday cookie baking. The second annual Christmas recital was held in the afternoon, including resident Garrah Gaumer, who shared a piano piece.

Guests who provided other music were Anita, Jennifer, and Joey Hirsch; Violet Krizek; the Steve Smith family; Britta Noren; Lois Carlson; Myrna Jones; Cheryl Miller; Ellen Horn, and Jan Badsky. The recital was coordinated by Benjamin Smith. Cookies, baked by Ruth Laidig and Hazel Flaska, were served.

The Card Sharks gathered at the Elva Shaughnessy residence. Oyster soup and sandwiches, provided by the Forget-Me-Nots, were served to Hildegard Euhus, Fern Anderson, Fern Mapes, Elva Shaughnessy and Marilyn St. Clair.

Country Reflections hosted a birthday gathering on Tuesday honoring Garrah Gaumer, Florence Fisher, Lois Buchholz, and Mamie Unger. Family members brought assorted breakfast items and juice.

A Christmas celebration was held by the Angel Lane neighborhood on Tuesday. After Christmas caroling, snacks and refreshments were served. A drawing was held for a child-size oak rocking chair, created by Gene Holsman for the STARS committee. The winning ticket was presented by Sharon

Black. Money raised will be used to plan special events for residents and staff.

Enjoying the afternoon feature, "The Grinch Stole Christmas", were LuVerne May, Elfie Brown, Eryline Nichols, Helen Styles, Bonnie Weskamp and Lorna Bishop.

On Wednesday, Bible study was attended by Garrah Gaumer, Fern Anderson, Ruth Laidig, Ella Peterson, Dena Gillespie, Marilyn St. Clair, and Hildegard Euhus. Dennis Brown shared the Christmas story with residents. Social Hour was served by Ellen Horn.

On Christmas Day, residents celebrated with friends and family.

On Friday, morning devotions were led by Joyce Ploussard. Our new administrator, Janice Shobe, was in attendance. Ball playing was enjoyed by Elfie Brown, Dena Gillespie, Fred Helmkamp, Erma Holt, David McGee, Leo Mooty, Mamie Unger and Bonnie Weskamp. Current Events were read by Lisa Stacy and attended by Fern Anderson, Garrah Gaumer, Ruth Laidig, Hattie Olson and Ella Peterson. The ladies especially enjoy hearing news from 25, 50 and 100 years ago. Social Hour was served by Bethany Smith and Katie Glading.

Dennis Brown led devotions on Saturday.

Sunday's church services were led by the Church of Christ.

## Lyle News

By Helen Helm

Folks from Lyle attending the Christmas celebration in Norcat on Saturday, Dec. 20, were Margaret Magers, Kathy Van Meter, June Jolly, Veda Woods and John and Helen Helm. All came home with a couple of nice gifts and a sack of candy from Santa Claus. The Lyle ladies had a busy day, helping with the Share program in the morning, attending an appreciation open house given by Dwight and Mary Wentz, and the soup supper provided by the Pre-School parents and teachers.

Mrs. Gena Price, Weston and Cody, Dighton, and Mrs. Van Meter were Tuesday luncheon guests of Margaret Magers.

Deb Helm was at the John Helm home Sunday and again with the children on Tuesday, making sure everything was ready for Christmas. Laurie Helm, St. Joseph, Mo., arrived home Wednesday evening in time to take her parents, John and Helen Helm, to Indianola, Neb., where they attended the Christmas Eve Mass at St. Catherine's Catholic Church. The choir had a program of music before Mass and special numbers during Mass which was outstanding. Laurie returned to St. Joseph Saturday.

On Wednesday evening, Margaret Magers went to Norton for a soup supper with Jane and Richard Engelhardt and daughter, Pam, and her children Tyler and Brittany, Aurora, Colo.

Christmas dinner guests at the Magers home were Jane and Richard Engelhardt, Norton; Charlie and Judy Easton, Quinter; Little Charlie Easton and children, Rylee and Makala, Hoxie; and Pam Engelhardt and children, Tyler and Brittany.

Mrs. Veda Wood and Dennis were guests on Christmas Day at the home of Carol and John Moye in Oberlin. Other guests were Tielia Slater and children, Wade, Emily, Mariah, and Garrett Bader, and Grant Slater, Indianola, Neb.; Teresa Reves and Dwight Wood.

Callers this past week at the Wood home were Sandra and Larry McNames, Grinnell, and John and Carol Moye, Oberlin.

LaVerne and Coleen Rippe spent Christmas at the Allan and Pat Powell home in McCook.

Carroll and Kathy Jolly and Becky, Papillion, Neb., arrived at the June Jolly's on Wednesday evening and all were guests at the home of Linda and Dennis McFarland in McCook for Christmas. Others there were Dean and Rhonda Jolly, Kim, Sarah, Jennifer, and Darin Jolly, Louis and Laveda McFarland, and a special friend of Laveda's. The Carroll Jolly family went home Friday.

Mrs. June Jolly and Mrs. Margaret Magers played cards in the pinocle tournament in Norton Sunday evening. Mrs. Jolly visited Marguerite Fullerton at the Good

Samaritan Center in Oberlin on Tuesday.

Christmas Day dinner guests at the John Helm home were Jim and Yanis Helm, Danbury; Jaime Helm, McCook; Derek and Maria Downer, Hastings, Neb.; Robert and Kathy Brashears, Curtis, Neb.; Zachary Brashears, Ord, Neb.; Seth Brashears, Lincoln, Neb.; Ceanne, Martin and John Rinehart, Colby; Mike and Deb Helm, Aaron,

Rebecca, Jacob, Matthew, and Timothy, Norcat; and Laurie Helm, St. Joseph, Mo. Helena Helm and Brian Perks, Chadron, Neb., arrived later after visiting his great-grandmother at Hillcrest in McCook. A Christmas grab-bag was held, games were played, and the Mike Helm children provided a Christmas program. Some stayed later to watch the movie, "Sea Biscuit."

## McGraw News

By Karl Launchbaugh

Dustin and Jay Lewis, both on leave, flew into Kansas City Saturday morning, where Kyle Lewis picked them up. Katie Keeler and Jeremy Samson accompanied them on their trip home from Kansas City.

Jeffery and Jay went to Wallace on Christmas Day to be with Gayle's family. Jeremy Samson and Bethany Evans joined them there later that day.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Lewis, Kyle, Dustin, and Jay, Katie Keeler, and Jeremy went to Selden to celebrate Gayle Lewis' birthday on Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. Dan Lewis, Kyle, Dustin, and Jay enjoyed an afternoon and evening with friends on Sunday.

LeRoy Reitcheck Jr. was visited by all of his siblings during the holi-

days.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dee Lewis during Christmas week were Kyle Lewis and Katie Keeler, Lawrence; Dustin Lewis, Charleston, S.C.; Jay Lewis, Great Lakes, Ill.; Jeremy and Jeffery Samson, Atwood; Mr. and Mrs. Dan Lewis, and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Kness, Northglenn, Colo.

Sunday dinner and afternoon guests of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Launchbaugh, G.G. and Karl included Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Sines, McCook; Mr. and Mrs. Mike Metro and Nick, Salina; Mr. and Mrs. George Launchbaugh, and Edith Wasserman. Other afternoon and supper guests were Mr. and Mrs. Chad Cramer, Lindsborg; Susan Ruda, Pratt, and Maria Ruda, Hays.

## Herndon News

By Carol Ginther

Congratulations to Karl Wendelin, who observed his 90th birthday on Tuesday.

Julie Geisinger, Selden, and Ann Martin met Lucy Evans at McCook for lunch last week.

Congratulations to Tyson and Andrea Powell on the arrival of a daughter, Rylee Gayle Powell, who was born Oct. 19, 2003. Her grandparents are Dale and Judy Powell, Council Grove, and Tom and Kay Franke, Herndon.

urday for lunch and to spend the day were Ron and Diana Solko, Oberlin. Tom Solko visited during the week.

Herndon Senior Citizens held a potluck at the Senior Center on Dec. 17. Shari Horinek, county health nurse, took blood pressures. Maxine Reuber won blackout in bingo and Beth Hraha won the door prize. Theresa Rippe and Ann Solko were guests. Mrs. Rippe played the piano while the group sang Christmas carols.



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