

# Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

## 125 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1879

The returning buffalo hunters report more hunters than buffalo out west.

J.B. Hitchcock has the posts set to fence in 80 acres of his farm for a pasture.

Mail is now being carried once a week regularly from Oberlin to Wallace, via St. John and Bassettville. The contract has been let to F.N. of Rawlins County.

The petition to make Oberlin a money order office has been granted. To take effect July 1 next. The Herald office now has a new devil.

Nate Addleman and S.F. Colby went to Norton last weekend and proved up on their claims.

## 100 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1904

R.G. Banta, local editor of the Ottawa Journal, is visiting friends in this city.

The L.F. Gierhart family have moved to their new residence recently erected in east Oberlin.

Col. L.G. Parker had a quite severe heart attack Tuesday, but is able to be around at this writing.

A new rural route out of Clayton has been established.

The B. & M. Railroad company put a passenger train on the Oberlin branch last Monday which leaves Oberlin at 3 a.m. and returns at 1:45 p.m.

Mrs. Barnes, postmistress at Hooker, was rendered unconscious by being thrown down by the sudden starting of her horse while she was hitching it in front of the E.I. Randall residence. However, only a badly bruised shoulder resulted.

## 75 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1929

To the readers of The Herald: Vacations are few and far between with the ordinary newspaper man, but the editor of The Herald with his family is now taking one, the first in 28 years. Mr. Fred Bear, former editor of the Hoxie Sentinel, has consented to take charge in our absence.

The calling of Mrs. James Jolly from this earthly life at a time when her children need her most, has touched every heart in her home community. She had lived but 40

years and leaves her husband and nine children. The funeral was held at the family home east of Oberlin and burial was in Oberlin Cemetery.

County School News: District 13, taught by Fern Frickey, is putting out a school paper once a month which carries school and neighborhood news, an editorial page and a joke column.

Selden: Arthur Buckles, Selden rural mail carrier, died last week.

Dresden: Funeral services were held for Elizabeth (Hubbs) Sage who came to Kansas in 1879. In her passing Decatur County has lost a valued pioneer citizen and builder. Geneva Mae is the name of a pretty little lady who came to gladened the hearts of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Peters Nov. 29.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hayes have moved into their beautiful new home and are living in two rooms, waiting the completion of the rest of the house.

## 50 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1954

Funeral services were held for Mrs. W.J. (Isabelle) Gaumer, 80, who had made her home in Decatur County since 1911. Born in Norristown, Pennsylvania, she went to Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1905 where was united in marriage to Walter J. Gaumer. The couple had celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in August. She is survived by her husband, two sons, Wesley and James, a daughter, Mrs. Bessie Jennings. She was preceded in death by three sons, Marion, David Hughes and Walter, jr.

New Arrivals: Mr. and Mrs. Philip Woodward of Manhattan, daughter, Susan, Dec. 5; Mr. and Mrs. William Matchett, son, Marvin Joe, Nov. 27.

Dresden: John Fredrick is the name given the baby boy of Mr. and Mrs. V.J. Welter of Selden.

Mmes. Hal DeMay, Emmett O'Toole and Byron McCartney, mothers of the pupils at Beaver Valley school, had a surprise birthday party for the teacher, Mrs. Loyd Moore. Guests were the pupils, Mrs. Moore's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Diehl, Mrs. Dem Moore and

Carolyn DeMay.

Traer: A large crowd attended the Literary Thursday evening including persons from McCook, Oberlin, Herndon and Danbury as well as local.

Funeral services were held in Forest Grove, Ore., for Harold Adams, 31, who graduated from Decatur Community High School with the Class of 1942.

## 25 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1979

In a two-pronged effort to provide power for Oberlin, City Council members moved last week to enter into a contract with the Northwest Kansas Municipal Energy Agency and also to arrange to buy 700 kilowatts of power from the Norton-Decatur Co-op Electric Co.

Dennis Shirley, a Decatur County wheat producer, has returned from a three-week tour of 13 countries in Europe with several other members of Great Plains

## Let's go to the Museum

By Sharleen Wurm, director

"NEW STREET DECORATIONS. Downtown Oberlin will be a sea of bright Christmas colors Saturday night when the Christmas shopping season gets under way. Here Ken Rydquist, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Decorations Committee, shows off some of the new downtown decoration." This article was taken from *The Oberlin Herald*, Nov. 28, 1963, along with a picture.

These decorations are still being used and can be seen on the Museum grounds.

If you have not been down to take the Christmas Tree Tour, they will be on display until Dec. 23 during office hours. This would also be a great time to shop the Museum's gift shop, the Seeds of Creation.

We are now on our winter schedule. The Museum is closed and our new office hours until April 1 are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m.

From the *Oberlin World* newspaper, Dec. 10, 1885, with A. G. McBride as the editor:

Wheat, Inc. and milling experts from Kansas State University.

More than 100 persons attended the observance of the 100th year of Mountain Slope Lodge No. 170 on Sunday afternoon at the Masonic Temple. W. Nolan Artz, Topeka, Grand Master for Kansas, was the featured speaker. Three generations in the local Masonic organization were represented by Oscar Lohoefer, 92; his son, Harold; and his grandson, Jerry.

New Arrivals: Mr. and Mrs. James Keller, daughter, Krista Lynne, Dec. 8; Mr. and Mrs. Rod Steinmetz, Norton, son, Ryan Paul, Dec. 10, 1979.

Norcatur: Tony Sebaugh has retired from his Norcatur rural mail route after almost 21 years of service.

Currently the route is 108 miles with 98 mail boxes from the Reager corner north to the Nebraska line in Grant and Harlan townships.

"NOT QUITE: The two prisoners confined in the county jail, one on a charge of burglary, and the other on attempted rape, made a desperate effort to escape from the jail last Thursday night. On going into the jail Friday morning, Sheriff Bebb discovered that the prisoners had succeeded in breaking two of the hinges of the grate door and their escape would have been effected had they had a little more time."

"CHURCH FESTIVAL: The Presbyterian church of this city gave a festival and oyster supper at Masonic Hall last Wednesday evening.

The attendance was very large and the ladies did themselves proud, in the manner in which the affair was conducted.

The oysters were served in fine style and struck the hungry-stomach to the very best advantage. The notorious Circus lemonade, was conspicuous for its absence. The receipts amounted to one hundred and thirty-five dollars."

## Rexford News

By Sondra Barnett

The beautiful, clean snow is melting and making some muddy places around town, but we won't complain. Cars and such can be cleaned up.

The Red Barn Gang Band has been extremely busy. They played at nursing homes in Hoxie, Oakley (2), and Atwood, and also at Fairview Estates in Colby. Members are Zula Horinek, Grace Cheney, Jean Hawkins, Edna Colson, Betty Nickols, Fran Leach, Eunice Sanford, Marge Leh, Gene Rogers, Clede Moeder, Darlene Robben, Ruth Luna, Deb Stepper, and Jolene Hansen. Darrell Leh drives the van for the group.

Because the Rexford Church had the carpets cleaned, Missionary Group was held at the home of Deb Stepper. Others present were Fran Leach, Patty Purcell, Delores Dible, Grace Cheney and Betty Carswell. Delores was hostess and Patty spoke to the group about the experience she and Lane had as young missionaries in the Philippines.

Guests of Robert and Peggy Dible Thursday evening were Rex and Betty Carswell and Louis Dible. Zoie Lee, Robert and Peggy's granddaughter, was also there, as she is spending a few days

with them. Zoie's parents, Lance and Maisha Dible, are in Chicago with the Fort Hays State College girls basketball team at a tournament. Lance is the assistant coach and Maisha is a former player for the team.

Lula Thieler is currently in the hospital. We hope she will be back to her active self again soon.

The Bible study that meets at the barn will not meet during the month of December, but will resume at 10 a.m. the first Wednesday of January. Everyone is welcome to join the group. Fran Leach is the teacher.

Edna Colson enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner with Arthur and Nancy Colson and family of Hoxie. After dinner, they all visited Nancy's mother, Julia Winters, in the nursing home. Arthur took Edna to Colby to meet her daughter, Roberta Colson, then the women traveled to Goodland to the home of Marge Quast, where they enjoyed another Thanksgiving meal. Because of ice and snow, Edna had to spend some extra time in Goodland. Later, she was taken back to Colby to the home of Grace Kauk, another daughter, who later brought her back to Rexford.

Koffee Klatch attendees last week were Pat Williams, Eunice Sanford, Berneda Zoberst, Freda Ketchum, Margaret Arasmith, Liz Rall, Vesta Roth, Delores Dible, Deb Stepper, Hulda Wark, Darla Dible, and Sondra Barnett.

Rex and Betty Carswell accompanied Robert and Peggy Dible to Hugoton on Nov. 27 to attend the wedding of their grandsons, Michael Perry, and Elizabeth Garza.

Justin Spresser, son of Deb and Carl Spresser, just made new rank in the Navy, 1st Class Petty Officer, E-6. He had been in the Navy since 2002 and is now in transit from Saratoga Springs, N.Y., to San Diego, where he will be reporting on Dec. 29. Justin will be on a brand new ship, the USS Ronald Reagan, which has never been out before. Justin has been home since before Thanksgiving and is using his time off to visit friends in the area.

There is a display, "Books Are Fun," at the school offices in both Selden and Rexford. Anyone that would like to pick up a nice book or gift (at a very reasonable price) is welcome to stop in. Ordered items will be delivered on Dec. 8. There is a new selection about every six weeks. For every \$100 in orders, the

school will receive a new library book.

The High School academic team took part in an academic bowl in Atwood and took first place! The subjects that were covered included math, English, current events, history, geography and foreign languages. Those who took part included: Kristin Wark, Scott Johnston, Brett Spresser, Valerie Broeckelman, Andrew Broeckelman, Jessica Shaw, and Ryan Brantley. We are real proud of these young people.

The High School girls and boys basketball teams were to participate in the Sagebrush Shootout tournament at Brewster on Tuesday afternoon. The tournament will continue on Friday and Saturday.

Middle School girls and boys basketball teams will take on Healy at Rexford at 4 p.m. on Thursday.

MAKIN' IT HAPPEN: Hats off to all you people that have been sneaking around, doing nice things for people (like scooping walks) without being caught!

What a considerate gesture! Keep up the good work. It's this kind of thing that makes Rexford a great place to live!

## Herndon News

By Carrol Ginther

Adam Ketterl, son of Dave and Judy Ketterl of Herndon, will graduate on Dec. 2 from WyoTech in automotive, diesel and collision/refinishing training and a degree in automotive technology. He has accepted a job with Dave's Oil Service, Inc., in Atwood.

Herndon pre-schools and kindergarten will sing for residents of Good Samaritan Center in Atwood at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 15.

Helen Marintzer was a Thanksgiving Day dinner guest of Kent and Chris Wood. Weekend guests at their home were Marty Rohm, Alden and Tyler of Aurora, Colo.

Thanksgiving dinner guests of Doug Bobinmeyer and Carol Kompus were Laura Fox, Valley Center; Stephanie Hawkins, Dallas;

Wilma Bobinmyer, Jim and Sharon Vogel and Stacy and granddaughters, Kaylynn and Jordan Taylor.

Ann Martin and Dick and Betty Martin of Wilsonville, Neb., were Thanksgiving dinner guests of Julie and John Geisinger. Lucy Evans of McCook spent Friday with her mother, Ann Martin.

Patsy and John Pettera and Kathy Larkin and daughter of Aurora, Colo., were Friday visitors of Edie Pettera. Vonnie Sattler and Ann Martin were Saturday visitors of Edie Pettera.

Recent visitors of Helen Marintzer were Marty Rohm, Alden and Tyler, Aurora, Colo.; Pat Scheve, Brandy Ecker, Hays; and Sharon Ecker.

Mike and Mandy Solko and sons, and Judy Solko, Larned, Tom

Solko, Herndon; Carol Solko, Hays, and Monica Solko were Thanksgiving Day dinner guests of Doug and Pat of Hays. Monica, Tom and Judy Solko were last weekend guests of Carol Solko of Hays.

Mildred Kleidosty spent Thanksgiving with the John Kleidosty family at North Platte, Neb. Other guests were David and Krystal Hutfles, Herndon; Tony, Doug and Nicholas Kleidosty, Riverdale, Neb.; and Turk Swaley, North Platte.

Guests of Don and Joan Grafel for Thanksgiving dinner were Steve Nelson and Thelma Spiers, Oberlin; and Kent and Carolyn Grafel, Culbertson.

Family and friends who gathered for a Thanksgiving celebration at

the Herndon Senior Center were Edith and Don Pettera, John and Ardythe Cederberg, Gene and Marcella Leitner, Hattie Toth, Shirley Williams, Bob and Julie Hafner, Randy and Michelle Sattler and Adam, Brian and Mary Clark, Katelyn and Collin, Ron and Cindy Sattler and Dana, Joe and Shannon Hafner, Keleigh, Noah and Abraham, Denis Tongish, Jerry Sattler, Jayme Sattler and Jan Sattler.

Joe and Shannon Hafner and family of Scottsbluff, Neb., spent Thanksgiving with Bob and Julie Hafner.

Dan and Karen Sattler and family, and Randy and Michelle Sattler and Adam visited Brian and Mary Clark and family, and Jan Sattler, last weekend.

## Cedar Living News

The bowling group met on Monday afternoon. Hank Wolfram bowled a perfect game. Others joining in on the fun were Bea Wolfram, Zola Brown, Alice Fiala, Harold Frickey, Freda Gamblin, Helen Lindquist, Tressie Samson, and Charley Vavroch.

The sing-along time on Monday afternoon featured a selection of holiday songs.

Fern Moore gave the reading program on Tuesday morning.

Genevieve Erickson was a guest at bingo on Tuesday afternoon. She won the first game. Darlene Stanley won the blackout game.

There were lots of winners on Wednesday afternoon when residents met to play a game of dice. Later, Stuart Euhus led the Bible study group.

Helen Lindquist celebrated her birthday on Wednesday.

Father George was here for Mass on Thursday morning.

Barbara Solko played Scrabble with Wynemah Cox on Thursday afternoon.

The craft group met on Thursday morning to make final preparations for holiday decorating.

A Tree Trimming Party was held on Friday afternoon. Residents gathered around the tree in the dining room to take turns putting on ornaments. Roberta Petracek donated banana bread and cinnamon bread that were served following the decorating. Marie Jean Vavroch and Allan Vavroch assisted with serving refreshments.

Dr. Elizabeth Sliter hosted the

third annual Christmas cookie decorating party on Saturday afternoon. Those attending included Becky, Molly, Grace, and Dakota Tate, Linda, Joslyn, and Andrew Wade, Miranda Long, and Krista Fowler, all of Oberlin, and Brittney and Bryson Wesley of Wichita. The children all took home plates of cookies.

A tray of cookies was saved at Cedar Living Center for one of our many holiday parties.

Tressie Samson celebrated her birthday with family members on Sunday. Her guests included James and Shirley Cogburn, Hobbs, N.M., and Jamie Samson and Sara Bishop, Lindsborg.

Pastor Bobby Cornelius of the Oberlin Community Fellowship was in charge of the Sunday worship service. The youth group from the church also provided caroling in the dining room during supper. The group also delivered handmade reindeer ornaments for all of the residents.

Recent visitors: Jerry Temple, Norcatur; Rose and Sohn Domsch, Atwood; Don Ashley, Carl Mumm, Selden; Allan Vavroch, Manhattan; Ray and Pat Tuller, Gary Matheny, McCook; Eric Tuller, Omega; Frank Cox, Herndon; Dale and Avis Hazuka, McDonald; Richard Samson, Ludell;

Elvin Beneda, Orlin Beneda, Mary Ann Amack, Vernon and Jeanette Diederich, Paul Sass, Dana Winstead, Lyle Gamblin, Butch Stanley, Elaine Bryan, Earl Brown, Marie Jean Vavroch, Oberlin.

## Good Samaritan News

On Monday, Nov. 29, morning devotions had the message, "Who Am I to Judge?" led by Jan Badsy. Folding Fellowship was held with Ivah Alexander, Jan Conway, and Fern Anderson. Residents and staff enjoyed decorating for the holidays. Pumpkin bread was served at Social Hour. Volunteer Mildred Holmdahl joined Hildegard Euhus, Edla Olson and Ivah Alexander in a game of canasta.

Christmas carols were sung as part of devotions Tuesday morning. Additional holiday decorations were put up.

Marian Dempewolf led Wednesday's Songs of Worship with a Christmas-oriented devotional, about the light, love and life provided to us through God. Bible study was led by Bill Duncan and attended by Fern Anderson, Jan Conway, Dena Gillespie, Ruth Laidig, Leo Mooty, Eryline Nichols and Edla Olson. Don Farr led exercises.

Nail care was provided after lunch Wednesday by volunteers Pat Whetzel and Dorothy Alstrom. Volunteer Ellen Horn brought her own flavored hot tea to share at Social Hour. Volunteer Mildred Holmdahl played canasta with Ivah Alexander, Garrah Gaumer and Hildegard Euhus. Dena Gillespie, Fern Anderson, Ruth Laidig and Agnes Chambers joined Andrea Burmaster for holiday song lyric trivia.

They went to Oberlin to see Grandma Mae Guy, then headed home before the ice set in. Kathy Van Meter visited Marguerite Fullerton in Oberlin during Thanksgiving weekend.

The Lyle ladies had a meeting Tuesday at Lyle for Wednesday's conference there. Carol Woodmansee also attended. On Wednesday Pat Ault-Duell, district superintendent from Hays, came for the Charge Conference.

Toots Magers, June Jolly and Kathy Van Meter went to Norcatur and played cards on Friday evening. Saturday, Dec. 4, Toots Magers attended the funeral of her cousin, Lee Cargill in Norton. That afternoon Earnest and Donna Huff and Verl Cook stopped by to visit with Toots.

On Sunday Toots accompanied Coleen Rippe to McCook for the annual Powell soup luncheon at the home of Alan and Patti Powell. There were 18 guests Sunday for the Lyle Community potluck for December.

## Traer News

By Maralyn Courange

Word was received on Sunday of the death of Betty (Elson) Barnett of WaKeeney. She was the wife of Craig Barnett.

Among survivors are three sisters and one brother. She was the daughter of Richard and Hermelie Elson

of Great Bend, but formerly of Traer.

Lakin, Kaitlin and Taylor Brown spent Sunday with their grandparents, Irvan and Maralyn Courange, while their parents were in Kearney, Neb.