

Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

125 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1879

Capt. Street and Will Ireland are now rustivating at the Buckeye ranch.

The Christmas tree at The Oberlin House on Christmas Eve was a success in every particular. The rooms were packed with old and young and the tree, a native cedar, was well filled with presents for everybody.

George Wilson went down to Kirwin on Tuesday to make a proof on his claim. Bill Hawes and Ed Snyder went along as witnesses. Byron Churchill took them down and says he will make the round trip in four days.

We have been authorized to state that a Baptist Church will be organized in this place on Saturday, Jan. 31, 1880, in the schoolhouse at two o'clock. All persons of that faith are cordially invited to be present and unite. Send for your letters if you have not got them.

From the Kelso mail carrier we learn that a German named Phillips was frozen to death in his dug-out, four miles northeast of Kelso during the cold weather of last week. As he was not seen for three or four days, some of his neighbors became anxious and on Sunday last went to his dug-out and found him in bed dead. There was no stove in the house and a blanket hung up served for a door. He had no relatives in this country, and his remains were buried by the neighbors.

100 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1904

Monday was a snowy day and at midnight the wind piled the snow in drifts leaving the roads and fields mostly bare.

Married Dec. 21, 1904, at the residence of the Rev. D.O. Banta, Mr. Clifton Waldo and Miss Ida Barr. The groom is well known as a gentlemanly, upright man and is an energetic, industrious and prosperous farmer and stockman. The bride is a daughter of Mr. Allen Barr living near Traer and is well known and highly esteemed in her neighborhood.

A large tree loaded with presents was the attraction at the new church

near D.J. Coulter's in Harlan Township. The tree was said to be one of the most expensively laden ever seen in that part of the county. Four gold watches were among the valuables seen hanging thereon.

Norcatour News: Doctor Kenny and wife sent two bushel baskets of Xmas toys to the Lutheran Church Christmas Eve to be given to the children who received no presents. This was very kind and thoughtful of these good people and much appreciated.

Sappa Creek: There have been 9 new dwelling houses and one new church built in Harlan Township in 1904. How is that for a crop failure? Then talk about hard times, hard times, indeed.

75 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1929

Oberlin has been selected as the distribution point for a carload of McCormick-Deering cream separators. Murphy Bros. is the local dealer.

A letter has been received from Helen Banta Morgan telling of their visit in Vienna, Austria, where they celebrated Thanksgiving at a banquet sponsored by the American Medical Assoc. at the finest hotel in Vienna. They will visit Venice, Florence, Rome, Naples and Genoa before returning to Vienna in early January.

On Christmas morning a very pretty wedding ceremony was solemnized at the home of Mr. W.E. Wilson, at which time his daughter Mertie became the bride of Mr. Harold Parkyn of Elwood, Nebr.

Funeral services were held for Eliza Jane Jackson, 91, who has been making her home with her granddaughter, Mrs. Bertha Cevely.

The sheriff, undersheriff, county attorney and a federal enforcement officer have been making the lives of violators of the liquor laws of this county unpleasant this past week.

Mr. Charles Votapka died this week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Votapka on the old Votapka homestead near Jennings.

George McMullen, who is at-

tending school at Fort Collins, Colo., is home for the holidays.

On Christmas morning 15 little girls were made happy with dolls from the contest at Rexall Drug Store: Theresa Owens, Virginia Francis, Betty Dyer, Nadine Padlock, Nancy Bancher, Leola Thomas, Eula Gene Gill, Corrine Johnston, Beatrice Bosler, Maxine Anderson, Gladys Lunkenheimer, Mary Wingfield, Dixie Patton, Janice Jacobs and Marguerite Roach.

Jones & Bendon, auctioneers, are about the busiest people in this part of the state.

50 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1954

Monday's snow storm is welcome in Decatur County as the year ends with only 13.11 inches of precipitation. The 67-year average is 20.85.

Lee Kump, local Ford dealer, delivered the keys to a 1955 Ford Tudor auto to John Ward, the winner in a 10-state Rexall Super Plenum vitamin contest. In discussing his good fortune John said, "I take Super Plenum vitamins myself and find it very easy to recommend and sell them to my customers."

Jennings: Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Foster are the parents of a boy born Dec. 27.

Winners of the Christmas home decoration contest sponsored by the

Oberlin Lions Club are: 1st, E.E. McGee; 2nd, Fred Ater; 4-way tie for 3rd, Henry Orten, Joe Pollara, Rex Lohofener, W.E. Meckenstock.

Mr. and Mrs. Ward Claar entertained the store force to a Christmas dinner last Monday evening.

Duane Purcell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charley Purcell of Oberlin, who is in the U. S. Navy, is now serving in Japan, Korea and other parts of the Far East.

25 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1979

Top News Stories of 1979:

1. Power plant outage follows fire.
2. Oberlin Herald observes centennial year.
3. Unusual July rainfall delays harvest.
4. Medical Arts building opens.
5. Voters approve courthouse remodeling.
6. 60 percent of county's registered voters turn out in April election.
7. Schrammels donate train to carnival.
8. Oberlin Library expansion completed.
9. Shipping problems and spiraling fuel costs.
10. Professional careers end for Wallace Wolfe, Dr. Andy Thomsen, Ralph Brown and John Bearley.

Let's Go to the Museum

By Sharleen Wurm, director

With 2004 coming to an end I would like to thank each and every one of you for the support you have given me and the museum. It has been a good year and we are looking forward to an even better one with the addition of the fourteenth building to the museum grounds.

I appreciate hearing from those who have been reading this article each week and I am glad that it is being enjoyed. A Happy New Year to my readers.

The upcoming year, 2005, will be very different without my partner.

The board and I want to express our appreciation to Myrna Jones for her years of service at the museum. She has been a real asset and will be missed by all of us.

A Retirement Open House will be held at the museum office in honor of Myrna from 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursday.

We invite all of you to come help us show how much we have enjoyed having Myrna as a staff member and to thank her for all the time and effort she has put towards the museum.

Rexford News

By Sondra Barnett

How lovely the snow was, adding to the "Christmas" feeling in the air. The weather couldn't have been more perfect on Saturday, allowing many people all over town to take walks. Children were out on the streets and sidewalks playing with new toys they received as gifts.

In spite of many people being very busy with preparations for Christmas and the 5-degree temperature on Friday morning, there were some "die hard" Koffee Klatch people. Those in attendance were Eunice Sanford, Marge Leh, Delores Dible, Darla Dible, Hulda Wark, Bernada Zoberst, and Sondra Barnett. Lawrence Horinek was there, busy working on the jigsaw puzzle, and later Darrell Dible joined him. They didn't get involved in the conversation of the women.

The Red Barn Gang band went to two nursing homes in Oberlin and one in Hill City last week. Grace Cheney celebrated Christmas a week early at the home of Duane and Jo Cheney in Colby. Others present were Lindsay, Nicol and Keden Frahm, Colby; Jenney Cheney and friend Jimmy, Hays; and Shanna Cheney and fiancé Geoff Carls, Hays.

Bill Arasmith was released from the hospital in Hays and went to Lantern Park Manor for some rehabilitation. Those with Bill and Margaret for Christmas were Everett Arasmith, James and Autumn Arasmith and Amerissa, Rexford; Linda and Rocky Parker and P.J., Indiana; Secaley Palmer, Crystal and Mia, Shana Schwarz, Jaden and Jayda, Amanda and Shawn Buettner, and Josh and Marki, all of Indiana.; and Pat and Kim Arasmith, Goodland.

The family of Hulda Wark gathered at the Barn on Christmas Day for their dinner and gift exchange. Those present were Dave and Gloria Dible and Shawn Dible, Rogers, Ark.; Bradley Dible, Columbia, Mo.; Roger Wark and Sherri Bach, Topeka; Kelly Wark, Lawrence; Ken and Tamera Searls, Brandon and Angela, Quinter; Justin and Amber Barrett and Justice, Colby; Sondra Barnett; Cory and Tessa Barnett, Tabitha, Corban and Obadiah, Liberal; and Scott and Linda Barnett, Michael, Tiffany, Lacey and Megan, Holcomb. After-

noon callers were Vicki Allison, Chad Wark, Dez and Morgan, Kristin and Jami Wark, all of Rexford; and Rebecca Wark, Hays.

On Christmas Eve, guests of Dick and Eunice Sanford were Ken and Julie Sanford and Sara of Colby. On Dec. 25, they all went to the home of Paul and Jean Wagoner.

On Dec. 23, Lawrence and Zula Horinek were dinner guests at the home of Tina Walters, Aisha and Ethan. Others present were Tina's daughter, Audry Walters, Manhattan; and Gary Delzeit, Colby.

Christmas Day guests of Lawrence and Zula Horinek were Larry and Summer Horinek, Alyssa, Andrew, and Clyde, and Gary Horinek, Tina Walters, Aisha and Ethan, all of Colby.

Cleda Moeder and Buck Harper went to Hays to the home of his son, Keith and Kathy Harper and family. Also present were Buck's daughter Karen and Kelly Halling, Dodge City. On Friday evening, the group attended a Christmas Eve candlelight service at the Methodist Church in Hays.

Weekend guests of Jean Hawkins were her daughter, Sandra and Larry Dean, Garfield, Ark.; Dean and Mary Adams, Scott City; and Carl and Betty Barnett.

Vesta Roth celebrated Christmas with family at her home. Those present were Rick Roth, Stockton; Eric and Jason Roth, Smith Center; Dan and Janice Roth, Abilene; and Rebecca and Kristen Roth, Topeka.

For Christmas Day, Paula McDaniel and Jennifer Scott entertained Jennifer's sister, Jannell Garten of Spivey, and hertwin sons, Cory Garten, Pontiac, Mich., and Cody Garten and his fiancée, Belinda Benick, Manhattan. Cody and Belinda are about to graduate from the veterinarian program and Cory will soon begin his residency in internal medicine.

The family of Liz Rall met at her home for Christmas Day. Those present included Connie and David Moos, and Russel Moos, Byers, Colo.; Darren Moos, Bradley and Conner, Fort Collins, Colo.; Donald and Colleen Rall and Amanda, Rexford; Alisha Rall, France; Bryan Rall, Manhattan; Jerry and Chrys Rall and Nick, Selden; Jason Rall, Manhattan; Lad and Lori Truetkin, Selden; Amy Truetkin,

Manhattan; and Landon Truetkin, Salina.

Although there were some mix-ups and delays traveling from France, Alisha Rall was able to get home and spend almost two weeks in the States for Christmas vacation.

Guests of Ray and Berneda Zoberst last Sunday for an early Christmas were Amy Patterson, Truman and Hadley, San Antonio; Ray and Barb Farmer, Salina; Don and Sherrell Barnett, Fourd and Bailey, Sharon Springs; Howard and Judy Harger and Harley Barnett, Colby; Shelby Barnett, Grinnell; and Sue Hayes, Oakley. Afternoon callers were Murlin and Luella Krizek, and Peggy and Kayla Krizek, McCook; Chet and Nina Hayes, Grinnell; Dick and Becky Dempewolf, and Jaylyn Andrews and baby, Colby; and Bonnie and Jammie Stramel, Oakley.

The family of MaDonna Anderson, Gem, met for a Christmas dinner at the Community Building. Those attending in addition to MaDonna Anderson were Lucas Morton, Topeka; Aaron Morton, Texas; David and Lori Anderson and Sage, Owasso, Okla.; Shawn Anderson and fiancée Nikki Feldt, Independence, Mo.; Marty Anderson, Tim Anderson, Tina Ohlrogge and Mark Ohlrogge, Mitchell and Shane, Colby; Dustin and Francis Anderson, Maranda, Paige, Dustin Jr., and Brooke, Brewster; Rebecca Wark, Hays, and friend Chance Rains, Sharon Springs; Vicki and Dennis Allison, Chad Wark, Dez and Morgan, and Kristin and Jami Wark, all of Rexford.

Vicki Allison and family noted that there was a secret Santa in town the other day. They found a box of fudge, nicely wrapped, with a typed Christmas message. They say, "Thank you!"

Gary and Mary Withers went to the home of their daughter, Kristi and David Gray and Derik, Hays, for Christmas. Betty Nickols was in Colby with her son, Tom and Vicki Nichols and Aubry, for Christmas. Those who gathered at the Ray Zoberst home for a soup supper on Christmas Eve were Teena and Ken Johnston, Brent and Scott, and Larry Zoberst, Hays. On Saturday,

they all went to Teena and Ken's home in Hays for the big dinner.

Edna Colson enjoyed visiting at the Floyd Richard home in Norton on Dec. 19. She also attended the Christmas program on Sunday evening in which her grandchildren, Amie and Chris Richard, participated.

MAKIN' IT HAPPEN: Hats off to Mary Withers, at the post office in Rexford! She makes a hospitable effort at each holiday to have something nice for us. There were cookies, candy and coffee last week, and a special drawing. The soft and cuddly Santa went to Tylor Todd for the children's drawing. Winners of the adult's drawing were first place, Christin Singh; second, Sondra Barnett; and third, Vesta Roth. Thank you, Mary, for being such a pleasant person in our downtown.

And with that, I want to end the year with HAPPY NEW YEAR to every one of you!

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Cedar Living News

The residents and staff of Cedar Living Center would like to thank the caroling groups who dropped in for a visit during the holidays. We enjoyed each and every one.

The Chanté singing group from Decatur Community High School, directed by Susan Nelson, entertained residents, staff and guests on Monday afternoon.

Myrna Jones led the sing-along on Monday.

Fern Moore hosted the reading group on Tuesday morning.

The Red Barn Band from Rexford gave their annual holiday program on Tuesday afternoon. Cookies were served following the show.

Walt Mosier was a guest at bingo on Tuesday afternoon and he won the first bingo. Tressie Samson was the first resident to win bingo, and Charley Vavroch won the blackout game.

A candlelight Christmas service was held Wednesday evening. Dennis Brown assisted Teresa Shaughnessy with the service. The youth group from the Assembly of God Church came caroling at the conclusion. Following the program residents stayed to enjoy the Christmas lights and a cup of hot chocolate.

The children from Little Sam's Day Care sent cookies to the residents at Cedar Living Center on Thursday afternoon. The children were unable to visit due to illness.

Barb Solko played Scrabble with Wynemah Cox on Thursday afternoon.

Residents joined in a Christmas sing-along before dinner on Friday afternoon.

Each resident received a beautifully wrapped Christmas Eve gift on Friday from the members of Faith Lutheran Church. The gifts

included many practical items such as toiletries, stationary, and socks.

Staff members of Decatur Health Systems played Santa again this year to the residents. Each resident received two packages from the secret Santas. The gifts were delivered to the rooms by staff members during Christmas Eve night.


The Vavroch family had their Christmas Eve supper on the patio Friday evening with Charley Vavroch. Janice, Kevin, and Allan Vavroch all made it home for Christmas.

Residents who went out for Christmas Day included Tressie Samson, Nettie Britton, Myrtle Hazuka, and Darlene Stanley.

Fern Jording ate Christmas dinner with Mildred Cochran. Lyle Gamblin was a dinner guest of Freda Gamblin. Paul Sass ate dinner with Axie Sass. Dean Geihlsler took his parents to church Christmas morning and then stayed to dinner. Earl Brown ate supper with Zola on Christmas Day.

Recent visitors: Merl and Ruth Chance, Jennings; Victoria Rebarchek, Bernard Ritter, Kayla Wagner, Alisha Blacketter, Carl Mumm, Barb and Steve Brown, Selden; Tom and Glenva Burrell, Max, Neb.; Nik Martin, Ann Martin, Frank Cox, Herndon; Jerry Temple, Norcatour; Richard and Bernadine Samson, Sara Bishop and Jamie Samson, Ludell; Larry and Sandy Wolfram, Liberal; Kevin, Allyson and Gage Bennett, Merville, Iowa; Larry and Linda Ashley, Loveland, Colo.; Dean Geihlsler, McCook; Juanita Williby, Lyle Gamblin, Norma Richards, Jerald and Elaine Leitner, Barb Solko, Elvin Beneda, Orlin Beneda, Karen Bennett, Paul Sass, Dana Winstead, Dolores Koerperich, Fern Jording, Oberlin.

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Enrollment: Monday, January 3, and Wednesday, January 5, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Decatur Community High School Room 112. Candy Dejmal, 785-475-2179 (home) or 785-475-2231 (school). Classes not listed may be offered if sufficient interest exists.

No.	Course	CR.	Instructor	Place	Time/Day
CO126	Presentation Software PowerPoint	1	C. Dejmal	Hi Sc	7:00p/Mon 3
CO176	Computer Concepts & Applications	3	M. Larue	Hi Sc	7:00p/Wed 2
AC101	Accounting Fundamentals	3	C. Dejmal	Hi Sc	7:00p/Wed 2
EN177	English Composition II	3	B. Breth	Hi Sc	7:00p/Mon 2
EN110	Medical Terminology	1	L. Doeden	Hi Sc	7:00p/TBA 1
HE101	Basic Nutrition	3	M. Moxter	Hi Sc	7:00p/Wed 2
PS176	General Psychology	3	T. Woolsey	Hi Sc	7:00p/TBA 2
PS276	Developmental Psychology	3	T. Woolsey	Hi Sc	7:00p/TBA 1
AR117	Art Appreciation	3	T. Woolsey	Hi Sc	7:00p/TBA 1
ED277	Children's Literature	3	Staff	Hi Sc	7:00p/TBA 1
SO176	Introduction to Sociology	3	J. Wenger	Hi Sc	7:00p/Thr 2
MU176	Introduction to Music	3	Staff	Hi Sc	7:00p/TBA 1
ML101	German I	5	Staff	Hi Sc	TBA/TBA 1
ED177	Foundations of Modern Education	3	Staff	TBA	7:00p/TBA 1
CH176	Fundamentals of Chemistry	5	G. Sanden	Hi Sc	TBA/TBA 1
CH176L	Fundamentals of Chemistry	0	G. Sanden	Hi Sc	TBA/TBA 1
SO123	Criminology	3	J. Wenger	Hi Sc	7:00p/Tue 2
-----	Adult Basic Education/G.E.D.	NC	T. Woolsey	Hi Sc	TBA/TBA 4

1 Night and starting date will be determined by the enrollment.
2 Class will meet from 7:00-10:00 p.m. Starting date determined by enrollment.
3 Class will use IBM computers and PowerPoint Software. Class will meet 5 times at 7:00-10:00 p.m..
4 Adult Basic Education and G.E.D. classes meet at the Decatur Community High School Art Room. Classes are provided free of charge. The G.E.D. test fee is \$65. Call 785-460-4663 for information.

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