

THE OBERLIN HERALD

Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

125 YEARS AGO — Feb. 1880
 "We have met the enemy and they are ours." The question that has been agitating the minds of the people for the past six months was settled by the people at the polls on Tuesday last and the county seat located at Oberlin won by a handsome majority and will remain here for all time to come. The boys used up a keg of powder celebrating the county seat victory.

Elected county officers are: commissioners, Henry Claar, F. Kimball and J. C. Johnson; representative, M. A. Conklin; county clerk, N. G. Addleman; treasurer, Geo. Metcalf; sheriff, W. A. Frasier; county attorney, Ed Bowman; probate judge, Luther Brown; register of deeds, Geo. W. Keys; clerk of the district court, W. A. Colvin; superintendent of public instruction, D. W. Burt; surveyor, S. L. Bishop; coroner, Dr. Street.

It is currently reported that the printing office at Center will be moved to Jackson.

100 YEARS AGO — Feb. 1905
 A program at the Opera House under the direction of Miss Esther Stowell included the following Oberlin school students: Helen Morrish, Frank Roach, Helen Parker, Mary Ann and Lena Thomm, Harry Smith, Gertie Haines, Myrtle Marlenee, Myrna Marietta, Willie Ireland, John Claar, Sidney Vierson, Roy Fortney, Henry Heitmann, Salome Langmade, Ivia Moser, Claud Allen, Harwood Benton, Mabel Wolfe.

Kanona Items: Wayne Landau was trying his new buggy last Sunday. He said he thought he could get ther all right now.

At the semi-annual meeting of the directors of the Co-operative Assoc. held last Saturday John Hayward and George Vernon were re-elected directors and S. J. O'Toole was elected to take the place of J. E. Kulp, who refused to serve longer. The company did over \$104,000 of business in 1904.

75 YEARS AGO — Feb. 1930
 Coach Lester Kirkendall took his wrestling team to Hoxie for a series of 10 matches which they won by a 26-8 score. Winning were

Ridgway, Wickham, Walton, Koehler, Bryan and E. Erickson. The basketball first string coached by Russell Anderson was not so lucky, if luck has anything to do with it, as they lost to Atwood by a 37-8 score

Jennings: The funeral for Mrs. Laura Kennedy, widow of Civil War veteran, D. C. Kennedy, was conducted Jan. 23 at the M. E. Church. She and her husband came to Jennings in 1919 and he died in 1925.

Seven carloads of hogs was shipped out of Oberlin after the sale Saturday as well as one car of cattle and two of mules.

Cedar Bluffs Items: An item last week which read school was dismissed on account of the "funeral" should have read "furnace."

School Notes: Electricians wired the Oberlin City School Saturday so that the radio may be used in assembly room, the auditorium and the music room.

Little Annie Laurie and Bobby Jorn are quarantined at home with scarlet fever.

50 YEARS AGO — Feb. 1955
 The Decatur County Co-operative Association which was organized in 1953 has purchased the Home Oil Co. located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Rodehaver Avenue and Commercial Street from W. W. Sauvage. The Home Oil Co. will continue its business from their service station located at the intersection of Highways 36 and 83. The new station is now open including the cafe in the new room added at the northwest corner of the station. Ward Sauvage will continue to handle the tank service.

The walls of the old Decatur County High School building came tumbling down a bit lower each day as the demolition crew continues to level the old brick structure where hundreds of residents received their high school education. A little excitement arose last week when passersby could view a large statue in the building and assuming it was marble and quite valuable someone called Miss Agnes Dowling. Agnes, not knowing why she was chosen to do the job, paid the contractor to rescue "Venus" and now

this life-size plaster statue is safely stored for posterity. While there, Miss Dowling also purchased the painted window and it may be used in the new library. It had been presented to the school by the Class of 1906. Gordon Rathbun bought the old water fountain which stood in front of the building and had been presented by his graduating class.

The Red Devil basketball team opened the second half of the season with a 70-57 win over Hoxie. Jeffus was high scorer with 20 points followed by Hoehner and Addleman with 18 and 15.

Rexford: The Rev. James Maxson brought a group of 38 Sunday School children to Oberlin Sunday to see the electric trains of Bill and Ernest Petracek. These trains are set up in the basement of the Petracek home and are the envy of many a child and man.

New Arrivals: Twins, Bonnie Kay and Donald Ray, were born to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Fowler at St. Catherine's Hospital in McCook on Jan. 26; Mr. and Mrs. Jack O'Toole, son, Kent Patrick, Jan. 26; Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Meckenstock, son, Bobb Arthur, Feb. 1.

25 YEARS AGO — Feb. 1980
 Gene Dawson, Hays, area director of the Kansas Social Rehabilitation Services, announced this week that the local county office will be moved to 138 S. Penn. Decatur County commissioners notified SRS officials last month that remodeling activity at the courthouse would necessitate that office being moved to another location. According to Charlie

Corcoran, who owns the building, Dennis Garrett and Mimi Fowler have closed the Downtown Restaurant which they operated there the past two months and Garrett has returned to Arizona.

New Arrivals: Mr. and Mrs. Larry Pettera, Ludell, son, Tanner Joseph, Jan. 10; Mr. and Mrs. Wally Wilson, Oberlin, daughter, Lacey Renee, Jan. 28.

The seventh grade boys' basketball team coached by Dick Ahlberg won the tournament held at Atwood and closed out an undefeated season. High point man was Tony Hager followed by Jim Berkheimer.

A fast-moving blizzard struck Northwest Kansas Friday evening delaying until Monday the Oberlin Invitational Basketball Tournament which was eventually won by Cheylin. Roger LaSalle of Oberlin was the tournament free-throw champion and both LaSalle and Kevin Unger were named to the all-tournament team.

Jennings: A mass at St. Joseph's Church in New Almelo on Sunday morning followed by a family dinner and an open house for the public in the afternoon at Jennings School will honor Decatur County's oldest resident, Louisa Nauer, on her 100th birthday. The former Louisa Zimmerman, she moved to Decatur County from Cawker City in 1904 following her marriage to Moritz Nauer. Their children are Agnes, Florence and Paul. Another boy, Terrence, who came to them from an orphan train, died in 1953.

Lyle News

By Deanna Sumner

Toots Magers and Kathy VanMeter attended a dance with music by the Vic Mowry band of Hoxie at the Cedar Living Center in Oberlin on Thursday evening.

On Friday, Kathy VanMeter picked up Joanie Williams of Hill City, then drove to Hays and met with her sister, Gladys Williams of Cimarron, and Leona Breeden, also of Hill City. They went to Kansas City where they were guests of

Grace and Jim Hartman. On Saturday evening they all attended the Billy Dean concert in Ottawa. Also joining them was Gladys Williams' daughter, Connie Faulkner of Shawnee. On Sunday they had breakfast all together at International House of Pancakes, then returned home.

Judy Easton came to visit Toots Magers on Wednesday and they both went to see Pat Schwab.

Rexford News

By Sondra Barnett

The Worthwhile Club met at the Barn last week. Those present were Grace Cheney, Edna Colson, Betty Carswell, and Glendora Bastin.

I discovered Grace was still in high school when her mother was a member. One of the first projects was to make a quilt for each member. Two of the original quilts are hanging at the Main Center of Shepherd Staff at this time. Each member made a block with her own name on it for each of the other members.

The club was started in 1932 and was called Hard Times Club. In the 50s and 60s there were 25-30 members and because they did many good deeds, they re-named the club to the Worthwhile Club. They used to make quilt blocks for the Indians and later made clothes for needy families in the area. Presently there are only four members.

Lane and Patty Purcell were happy to have their daughter, Liz, with them for about two weeks during the January break from her nursing studies. Liz spent the first part of the vacation on a mission trip to Mexico, where she and some fellow nursing students held clinics for the natives. She shared her experience with the youth group at church and also spoke on Sunday morning of her work in Mexico.

Zula Horinek underwent minor surgery at Hays last week, but is home and doing well. Vesta Roth, Jean Hawkins and Clela Moeder visited her in Hays.

The Barnswallows who played pinocle last week were Lawrence and Zula Horinek, Rex and Betty Carswell, Fran Leach, Gene Rogers, Grace Cheney, Dick Sanford, Deb Stepper, and Jean Hawkins.

Those present for Koffee Klatch were Jean Hawkins, Vesta Roth, Fran Leach, Clela Moeder, Hulda Wark, Eunice Sanford, Berneda Zoberst, Freda Ketchum, Delores Dible, Deb Stepper, Zula Horinek and Sondra Barnett. What was the original name of the red-roofed building on Range, south of interstate, in Colby? Does anyone know the answer? (Was it Nickerson Farms?)

Cleda Moeder had lunch with her sister-in-law, Delores Zoderow, in Oberlin.

Berneda Zoberst spent the weekend in Salina with Barb and Ray Farmer.

The City PRIDE meeting was held on Thursday evening with a carry-in supper. Those present were Delores, Darrell and Deann Dible, Evelyn Johnson, Nancy and Jay Dahl, Tim Dahl, Deb Stepper, Jessica Vaughn, Fran Leach, Hulda Wark, Ann and Jim Colling and Sondra Barnett. New officers elected were: president, Ann Colling; vice president, Nancy Dahl; treasurer, Evelyn Johnson; secretary, Delores Dible; and public relations, Sondra Barnett.

The business centered around the opening of the fitness center. Membership will be \$10 per month for a family and \$5 for a single person, with a discount for a year's membership, the totals being \$108 and \$54 respectively. Keys will be issued to members, giving them access to the building 24/7. Everyone is invited to the open house for the Rexford Fitness Center (on Main Street) from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

Edna Colson celebrated her 85th birthday on Jan. 23 at a soup supper at the home of her daughter, Grace and Stan Kauk of Colby. Others present were Arthur and Nancy Colson, Hoxie; Roberta Colson, Goodland; Charles and Cheryl Colson, Colby; Kathryn and Floyd Richard, Norton; and Ernest and Janine Colson, Selden. Afternoon callers were Eugenia Colson and Andrew, and friend Tim, Bristow, Okla.; Vonda Estes-Crane and Kiara Crane, Greenbay, Wis.; Ernestine Waterman, David and Courtlyn, Colby; and Brady and Marcus Colson, Colby. Four-generation pictures were taken.

The Shepherd Staff hosted an overnight Creative Memories group, with 24 in attendance from as far away as Colorado and eastern Kansas.

Bridge Club met last week at the home of Bobbi Joann in Oberlin. Prizes were given to Joann Vaughn for high, Marguerite Edmondson,

traveling, and Tillie Shirley, low. Berneda Zoberst will Host the Feb. 23 meeting.

Deb Stepper, who has been playing bridge since 1939, finally decided to retire! She said it was originally only a Rexford group which began years ago, but was not an "official" club until 1947. The women played twice a month, except in the summer, since there was no air conditioning. Deb was the last of the "old-timers," and Berneda Zoberst is now the only Rexford person still involved.

Overnight guests of Sondra Barnett were her son and grandson, Cory and Obadiah Barnett, Liberal, and an employee of Cory's. They were working on some area homes.

Loretta Travino is home after being hospitalized several days.

Bill Arasmith has returned home after being gone for about six weeks. His health is steadily improving.

SCOOP ON THE SCHOOL
 The middle school and high school participated in the academic

Midway News

By Mary Lou Olson

Word was received from Barbara Benson on Sunday of the death of her husband, Raymond Benson, of Auburn, Calif. He was the son of the late Anton and Ella (Olson) Benson and a cousin of Quentin Bergling, Hank Olson, Robert W. Olson and Keith Olson. Graveside services will be held at the Auburn Cemetery following cremation.

Wesley and Eulaine Benda, Gerald and Patti Benda, and Kurt and Mary Olson were weekend guests of Mitch and Bev Messerly, Paul and Anna at Sublette. Joining them Sunday for dinner to honor Wesley on his 85th birthday were Losson and Leanne Pike, Ashland, and Daryl and Shirley Maresch, Jenna and Tim, Kemora.

Correction: It was Mr. and Mrs. Caleb Howland and family who attended the first birthday party honoring Breanna Hurst, daughter of Nathan and Stacy Hurst, of North

Platte. Last week's news incorrectly listed him as Caleb Hurst.

Sarah Olson of Manhattan spent the weekend with her parents, Mark and Barbara Olson, and family, and was a judge at the speech contest in Oberlin on Saturday.

quiz bowl at Brewster last week. The seventh grade took first place, as well as the high school junior varsity. The high school varsity had some runners-up. The middle school also participated in a quiz bowl at Bird City, taking first place.

The high school had two basketball games last week, playing both Healy and Logan. The varsity girls won both of their games.

Kristin Wark accepted the Silver Award at a dessert reception sponsored by the Commerce Bank of Hays at Northwest Kansas Memorial Union in Goodland. The award is an \$800 renewable scholarship at Fort Hays State University.

The senior class is selling flowers for Valentine's Day. Roses are \$5 and carnations, \$2. To order, contact any senior or the school at (785) 687-3265. They will be delivered on Feb. 14.

MAKIN' IT HAPPEN: Hats off to the City of Rexford for purchasing a building from Bruce Flipse that we will be using for our Fitness Center. Thanks!

Cedar Living News

Sympathy is extended to the family of Maxine Chambers who died at Cedar Living Center on Jan. 27. Genola Claussen has returned to her home in Oberlin after a short stay with us.

The Assembly of God Church was in charge of the Sunday worship service on Jan. 23.

Harold Frickey was the big winner at penny cards on Monday afternoon. Mary Ann Amack assisted with the sing-along.

The Resident's Council hosted a pizza party at noon on Tuesday. Residents dined on pizza delivered by Pizza Hut and a salad bar provided by the dietary department. Staff members polished off the leftover pizza.

Hank Wolfram won the first bingo on Tuesday afternoon and Tressie Samson won the blackout game.

Stuart Euhus gave the Bible study lesson Wednesday afternoon. Father George gave communion service on the patio Thursday morning.

The ZCBJ Lodge hosted the January birthday party Thursday afternoon. Roberta Petracek served ice cream and cookies. Residents honored with January birthdays included Charley Vavroch, Irvan Courange, and Darlene Stanley.

They each received an angel decoration from the lodge and a balloon from Prairie Petals.

Barb Solko played Scrabble with Wynemah Cox on Thursday afternoon.

A dance was held Thursday evening with Vic Mowry and his band providing the music. Residents, staff and guests joined in the fun, dancing, and singing. Mary Jean Vavroch provided cookies. Jennifer Shaw and Mary Ann Amack assisted with serving.

The baking group made doughnuts on Friday afternoon.

Recent visitors: Don Ashley, Shirley Emigh, Carl Mumm, Selden; Patt Tuller, Rosa Boehner, George Wurm, McCook; Ann Martin, Frank Cox, Herndon; Jerry Temple, Norcatur; Bud and Vicki Mumm, Gem; Richard Samson, Ludell; Susan McKain, McDonald;

Bertha Schwisow, Wayne and Lois Larson, Dolores Koeperich, Fern Jording, Eileen Laird, Lyle Gamblin, Marion Wenger, Nadean Stoney, Stuart Euhus, Carrie Morford and Tubby, Butch Stanley, Barb Solko, Kelly Brown, Rocky Courange, Maralyn Courange, Catherine Neal, Earl Brown, Elvin Beneda, Orlin Beneda, Elaine Bryan, Lyle Gamblin, June Harold, Paul Sass, Oberlin.

Good Samaritan News

On Monday, Jan. 24, morning devotions was presented by Coleen Rippe. She used Max Lucado's book on grace. Later the children from Little Sam's Day Care brought wiggles and giggles as they helped the "grandmas and grandpas" do Stamp-Art, including Hazel Flaska, Agnes Chambers, Leo Mooty, Eryline Nichols and Mamie Unger.

Foldin' Fellowship found Garrah Gaumer, Fern Anderson and Jeanette Conway working away. Social Hour was served by Lisa Stacy. Mildred Holmdahl played canasta with Hildegard Euhus, Jeanette Conway and Genevieve Erickson.

Janice Shobe led devotions Tuesday morning. A winter poem was read by Lisa Stacy. Mrs. Steinmetz' first-grade class read to their First Hand Friends: Ivah Alexander, Fern Anderson, Garrah Gaumer, Edla Olson, Mamie Unger, John and Muriel Ready, Eva Bryan, Neva Campbell, Marguerite Fullerton, Kathryn Post, Hildegard Euhus, Jeanette Conway and Harold Demmer.

Leo Mooty and Kelley Black played pool for Men's Gathering on Tuesday afternoon. Social Hour was served by Kelley Black. Bible study was taught two 12 residents by Lisa Stacy from "You Are Not Alone" by Jeff Walling. T

Volunteer Anita Hirsch led Songs of Worship on Wednesday morning and Lisa Stacy brought the game, "Bible Outburst."

Nail care was done by Connie Miller and Dorothy Alstrom Wednesday afternoon. Card Sharks Hildegard Euhus, Edla Olson and Garrah Gaumer joined Mildred Holmdahl for a canasta match. Social Hour was served by Ellen Horn. Bingo ended the day's activities.

On Thursday, Dennis Brown brought morning devotions. Catholic services were led by Father George for Harvey Stoney and Lois Buchholz. Arian Arnold from Times Past Antiques loaned us some interesting items to talk about during Reminisce Corner, with Eva Bryan, Garrah Gaumer, Jeanette Conway, Fern Anderson, Genevieve Erickson, Edla Olson and Hildegard Euhus enjoying this time of fellowship.

During Thursday afternoon Social Hour, several beautiful angel food cakes were provided and served by Iris Wurm's family in honor of her 95th birthday. We also celebrated Florence Jones' 102nd birthday that day. Volunteer Matthew Wittman challenged Everette Fisher to a game of pool.

On Friday we said goodbye to a dear friend, Ruby McKenna. Her memorial service was led by Janice Shobe, with the message centered on friendship. The choir sang and fond memories of Ruby were shared.

Foldin' Fellowship met again Friday morning, with Garrah Gaumer, Fern Anderson and Jeanette Conway helping. Carol Duncan read *The Oberlin Herald* to Agnes Chambers, Dena Gillespie, Fern Anderson, Harvey Stoney, Ruth Laidig and Genevieve Erickson.

The Bible study group met Friday afternoon to continue their series on angels, God's secret agents. Social Hour was sweet thanks to volunteers Jeanette Diederich and Doyle Richardson, who worked with Kathryn Post to bake cherry pies. We celebrated the birthdays of Neva Campbell and Agnes Chambers.

Jennings News

By Louise Cressler

United Methodist Women will meet at 2 p.m. on Wednesday at the church.

Jennings City Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Senior Center.

Heritage Associates annual and regular meetings will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at the museum. Annual report and election of officers will be held. The public is invited.

Sunflower Senior Citizens potluck supper will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 8. Bingo will be played. Bring a prize valued \$3 or more. Everyone is welcome.

Darlene LaRue and Louise Cressler met with Steve Jones, Housing and Urban Development inspector, on Jan. 19 for their inspection of Friendship Village apartments.

Lawrence Jennings returned home from the Oberlin hospital Thursday. He is feeling much better. Several in our community have been ill with respiratory problems and/or stomach flu.

Wayne and Louise Cressler visited his father, Walt Cressler, on Friday at Hoxie. They attended a program presented by the Rev. Larry Booth.

Ivis Hanson has returned from Green Cove Springs, Fla., where he spent 10 days visiting his sister, Goldie Dorson, and his niece, Fern Borsheim, and family. Mrs. Dorson is recuperating satisfactorily from a recent stroke and is in a nursing home. Mail will reach her at 3376 Wall Road, Green Cove Springs, Fla., 32043.

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