

Commissioners discuss options to name the roads

Decatur County commissioners haven't decided if they should use words or just letters to name the roads in the county, but they do know that they will be doing something.

Months ago, the commissioners started meetings on a plan to name the roads so each home can have an address instead of a rural route box number.

The idea is to number the roads going north and south and name or letter the roads going east and west, with the exception of U.S. 83 and U.S. 36.

The commissioners discussed using family names from the 1900 census, names of wheat and other grains, names having to do with the area like quail or pheasant or just using letters of the alphabet.

People have called the commissioners with ideas. Some said not to use family names because kids will steal the signs. Others said not to use long words because the signs will be too long for Kansas winds.

The group has discussed each idea, but still hasn't decided what to do.

At the meeting Tuesday, Bert Cool, county emergency preparedness director, said he thought the commissioners should use U.S. 36 and U.S. 83 as the middle and then break the county into four quadrants.

Then they could number the road 1N (one north), 2N and so on. Mr. Cool said the signs would be shorter and it wouldn't take as much money to make them.

Mr. Cool said he also knew of another sign machine the county could purchase. Although in the past Tim Stallman, road and bridge supervisor, said he wasn't interested in becoming a sign maker, the commissioners asked Mr. Cool to get more information on the machine.

Chief Dispatcher Jeannie Pachner said it shouldn't matter where the naming starts, in the corner of the county or the middle. She said they just need to make a decision and

County Roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Approved purchases for the road and bridge department for fuel and noxious weed department for chemicals. Story on Page 5A.
- Spent 35 minutes behind closed doors discussing the ambulance director's evaluation. Story to come.
- Discussed naming the roads, but didn't decide whether to use numbers for the north-south roads. Story at left.
- Heard that the sheriff's office is back to normal with two officers and the sheriff all working shifts. Story on Page 6A.

stick with it.

The commissioners have talked about starting in the southwest corner and working across the county with names and numbers.

Sheriff Ken Badsky said he thought the commissioners should use names instead of letters.

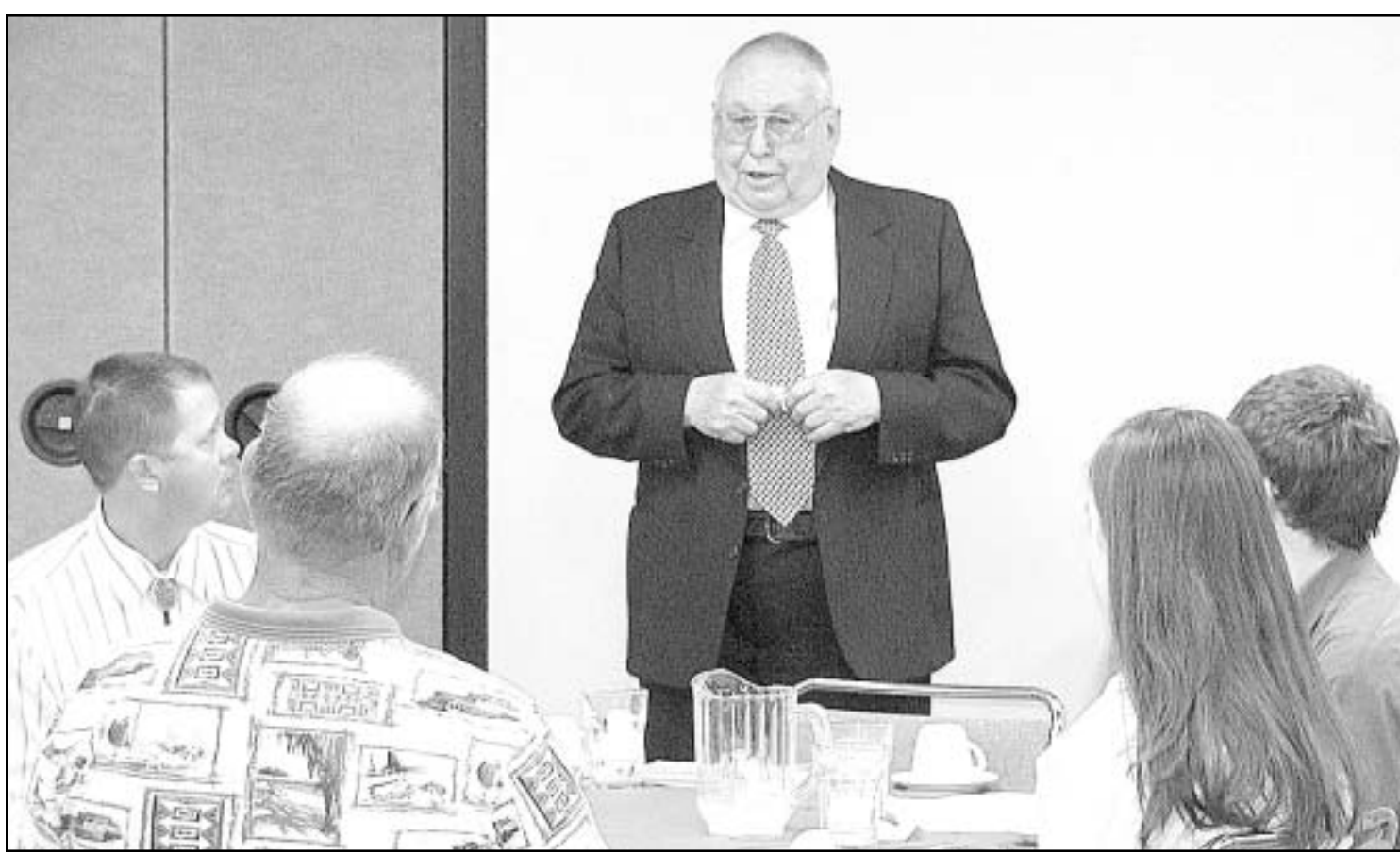
Commissioner Ralph Unger said he didn't think using the names from the census was smart. He said he didn't think it would make anyone happy.

"We have all the ideas we need," said Commissioner Doyle Brown. "Now we just need to make a decision."

Mr. Unger said he has been in contact with the state prison in Lansing about making signs. He said the shortest sign the prisoners can make is with nine letters.

The signs in the country now have two-inch letters. Commissioners Ralph Unger said. The letters on the sign can be bigger than that.

The commissioners agreed to talk about naming the roads again at 11 a.m. on Tuesday.



AT DINNER LAST WEDNESDAY, Col. Delbert Townsend (above) spoke to the families of the two 2005 scholars and guests. That afternoon, Col. Townsend pre-

sented a display (below) to the high school with a flag and his military awards and ribbons.

—Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Eight graduates to attend K-State

Eight graduates from Decatur Community High School will attend Kansas State University next year with Col. Delbert Townsend footing the bill.

Last Wednesday, Col. Townsend announced the next two students to take part in his scholarship program, which sends two students from the high school to the university each year. The program pays for four years of college and a computer.

Col. Townsend said the pipeline is full now, with two each seniors, juniors, sophomore and the two newest, members Kelly Olson and Anthony Marshall, who will be freshmen starting in August.

The scholarship fund is now fully funded for the future, he added.

A 1938 graduate of the high

school, Col. Townsend said, he has given back to the community.

He said his first experience helping a young person attend college was when he tried to send a family member to school. He said that it was a flop.

In 1995, Col. Townsend started a scholarship program for the University of Nebraska.

A year later, he contacted people in Oberlin and the Kansas State University foundation to start a similar program here.

In addition to the scholarship program, Col. Townsend surprised students at the high school with a flag that had been flown over the nation's capital, surrounded by the medals and ribbons he received during military service. The piece, put together by Rick Doeden and his staff at Custom Trophy and En-



graving, was presented to the school last Wednesday during the awards assembly.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said they were going to try to hang the display above the plaque for Townsend scholars in the hallway outside the cafeteria.

At the scholarship dinner that night, Col. Townsend named three honorary scholars for their work on

the program. Those included Colleen Rittmann, who was the secretary for the school at the time the scholarship was started and is a member of the selection committee, Principal Charles Haag and Kim Zerfas, who helped develop the format and content of the scholarship book that is published yearly.

Former Oberlin resident dies in accident

Lenus "Lennie" Hatch, 64, of Denver, a former Oberlin resident, was killed when his eastbound car and a tractor-trailer rig collided head-on Tuesday, May 17, on U.S. 36 a mile east of the Colorado border.



The Kansas Highway Patrol reported that Mr. Hatch was eastbound on U.S. 36 and Raymond White, 37, McCook, was westbound in the semi at 5:25 p.m. The vehicles collided head-on in the center of the road. Mr. White was treated and released from the Chey-

enne County Hospital in St. Francis. Mr. Hatch was en route to Oberlin, where he was to meet his sisters, Pat Yost of Wilsonville, Neb.; Jeanie Miller of Longmont, Colo.; and Barbara Boxberger, Jefferson City, Mo., for a reunion.

Mr. Hatch was born June 3, 1940, in Atwood, the son of Evald "Pete" and Merle (Coley) Peterson. After his father's death in the Philippines in 1945, his mother later married William Jackson, who died in 1951 at Rexford.

He grew up in Colby, Rexford and Oberlin and attended Oberlin schools from sixth grade through his freshman year. Following the death of his mother in 1952, he and his sisters, Patty and Jeanie, were adopted by Carl and Evalynn (Cullison)

Hatch. After Mr. Hatch's death on March 30, 1956, the family moved to Citrus Heights, Calif., where he graduated from high school in 1958.

He started working for Safeway Stores in McCook as assistant manager in 1961 and later transferred to Lexington, Neb., where he was manager until transferring to Denver in 1971. He retired in 2002. He had purchased a home in Wilsonville, Neb., in 1999 and his plans were to move there to be near a sister, Patty and her husband, Harold Yost.

Survivors also include two daughters, Rhonda Cook and Renee Ohde, Highlands Ranch, Colo.; a son, Ronald, Berrysburg, Pa.; four other sisters, Terry Ann Ahlman, Greenwood, Neb.; Ina Harris and

Anita Lytle, McCook; and Lori Khamouna, Curtis, Neb.; his stepfather, Dale McNutt, McCook; two brothers, William Jackson, Fayetteville, Ark., and Ronald McCoy, Bismarck, N.D.; and six grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Memorial services and inurnment are scheduled at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 11, at the Oberlin Cemetery. Friends may visit with the family following the services at the Oberlin City Park Lions Club shelterhouse.

A memorial was established to Breast Cancer Research, American Cancer Society. Contributions may be sent to American Cancer Society, in care of Patty Yost, Box 7, Wilsonville, Neb., 69046.

School roofs may need replacement

Hail damage that took place possibly three years ago might cause the Oberlin School Board to have to replace the roofs on the three district buildings.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said after it rained last month, water leaked into the high school band

room. At that time, an insurance adjuster looked at the roofs at the high school, grade school and the district office building.

The adjuster, said Mr. Glodt, said all of the roofs are totaled from hail damage that could have happened three years ago. With the hot and

cold weather, the roofs are just starting to leak now, he said.

Mr. Glodt said the board is looking at a very large insurance claim.

The board, he said, will have to decide what to do about the roofs. That may mean new roofs, possibly adding some slope and changing the

material the district has used in the past.

Even with the insurance money, this could be an expensive project, he said. For that reason, the board decided to wait on some other projects presented at the meeting, he said.



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Schools purchase 16 new computers

The Oberlin School Board approved the purchase of almost \$20,000 worth of computer equipment for the sixth-grade classroom at its meeting last Monday, but turned down a similar request for the elementary computer lab.

Students who will be in sixth grade next year have learned in a technology-rich classroom for two years, Principal Duane Dorshorst wrote in his proposal. He said the purchase of 16 Apple wireless laptops computers will help the students and the teacher become more flexible.

The board approved the purchase, including a charging cart, the computers, extended protection plan and an academic "open" software license for each computer.

Mr. Dorshorst requested the same package for the computer lab, used by all the kids at the grade school, but the board said no. The lab already has computers in it, but Mr. Dorshorst wanted to update the equipment.

The board agreed to match the \$3,500 which students at the junior and senior high have raised for new wall pads in both gyms.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said the new pad on the north side of the junior high gym will cover the north door. For safety reasons, he said, the mat will be arranged so that the door can't be used during games. That way, if a player flies into the pad, the doors don't open.

He commended the students for raising the money and also voting on what kind of pads they want.

In other business, the board:


- Approved the "reduction in force" of Band Teacher Deanne Spanier to a part-time position.
- Adopted new family and consumer science and reading curricula. Both are based on state standards.

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