

# Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

## 125 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1885

We are having beautiful weather again.

John B. Colt is the best skater in the burg.

Capt. W.D. Street left Tuesday for the east and will rusticate in Jewell and Washington counties for a couple of months.

Bill O'Toole and Jimmy Henderson of the south Sappa are each enclosing part of their places with wire fences for pastures. They have got tired of using a picket rope.

Fitch Colby is getting ready to fence his quarter section of land one mile and a half northwest of Oberlin.

Two young ladies of Oberlin and vicinity had a pleasant party at the residence of Mr. Hitchcock on the 4th inst. Among those present were Misses Blanche and Bertha Rodehaver, Serena Griggs, Anna Persinger and May and Carrie Bridle.

There are now at Logan two carloads of corn, 80 half sacks of flour and one barrel of pork, assigned to R.G. Doom for the destitute of Decatur County. These goods were shipped from Brown and Doniphan counties.

## 100 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1905

Ira Kellogg and wife moved into their fine new residence on Commercial Street this week.

Norcaturnews: Loyd M. Brooks and Miss Lydia C. Eckhart were joined in holy wedlock on the 29th of November at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Eckhart.

The court house at Atwood was burned Monday night. We heard the county records are a total loss.

John Bivans got back from the mountains Saturday and looked as if the western trip had done him a world of good.

A class of 30 received confirmation at the Catholic Church Dec. 5. Bishop Cunningham of Concordia administered the rite and was assisted by Revs. Maher, Withopf, Daly and Conway.

New officers for the B.Y.P.U. are: president, A.G. Leist; vice president, E.L. Drullinger; recording secretary, Emma Simonsen; corresponding secretary, Norma McCuan and treasurer, Ray Yamell.

## 75 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1925

Playing before a crowd of some 2,000 spectators, the Decatur Red Devils triumphed 13-0 in the annual turkey day encounter with the Norton Blue Jays and closed the season as the undefeated champions of the Northwest Kansas

League. The game was played on the Norton gridiron with enough chill in the air to make it one of those perfect football days. The victory gave the Red Devils another undefeated season, the second in the past three years, and made it eight successive victories over Norton High. Playing for Oberlin were Olson, le; Rathbun, lt; Moore, lg; Zimmerman, c; Geiger, rg; Buffington, captain, rt; Wiggins, re; Langmade, q; Anderson, rh; Martin, lg and Francis, fl.

Mrs. Sarah Lechler celebrated her 94th birthday in a quiet way at dinner with her niece, Mrs. Lucy Rebman. A pioneer settler, she came from Kentucky in 1885 and with the exception of her eyesight, which is slightly impaired, is in good health and never had the call of a doctor. She has been a widow 70 years and is the only surviving member of a family of 8 children. Her father, Peter Creager, served in the war of 1812 and died at the age of 94; her eldest brother, John, served in the Mexican war and lived to the age of 94; and two sisters lived to the age of 94. She attributes her long and useful life to a peaceful mind, plain living and daily walks.

Bill Larreau is carrying his arm in a sling as the result of being kicked by a Ford car.

The new Banta elevator and feed mill is completed and in operation. Paul Resch delivered the first wheat to be dumped into the new elevator on Tuesday for which he received 50 cents a bushel. It was the first wheat Mr. Banta had bought since July 9 when the Oberlin Roller Mill was destroyed by fire.

Leoville: A baby girl was born at Mrs. P.D. Pauls on Sunday, Nov. 23 and has been named Lavina Louise.

## 50 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1955

The board of county commissioners of Decatur County have made arrangements for the new home for the aged to be operated by the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society for a period of 10 years at a cost of \$1 per year. This arrangement is similar to the contract with the Lutheran Homes & Hospital Society, which operates the Decatur County Hospital. Under terms of the lease, the lessee will furnish all bedrooms, thus relieving the county of that expense. However, the lessee will ask for public subscriptions for such purpose.

The first storm of the season brought four inches of snow and a wave of cold air that dropped the temperature below zero. From Jan. 1 to Nov. 30 of the year 1955 the moisture total is 13.82, while the 68-year average is 20.20 inches.

Rusty Addleman, fullback on the DCHS undefeated '55 football team, was named to the second team of the Topeka Daily Capital's all state team. Jack Carver received honorable mention at end.

New Arrivals: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Chandler, Danbury, son, Gary Evan, Dec. 3; Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Jaderborg, Lawrence, daughter, Sonja Arlene, Nov. 23; Mr. and Mrs. Gary Metcalf, Atlanta, Georgia, daughter, Nov. 30, Joyceane.

Miss Velma McClure, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H.W. McClure of Denver, and Rex Morton, son of Mr. and Mrs. A.M. Morton, were united in marriage on Sunday, Nov. 22 at the Federated Church in Oberlin with the Rev. Alvin Daetwiler officiating.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Kiefer and Charles have moved into their new residence on Commercial Street. Mr. and Mrs. Duane Berry and son moved to the Kiefer home at 307 N. Rodehaver.

Duane received his discharge from the U.S. Air Force last week and is again employed at Foster Lumber Company.

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Long and G.B. drove to Okmulgee, Okla., last week where G.B. enrolled in the Okmulgee branch of Oklahoma A.&M. beginning Jan. 4. He will be in rehab for a half-day for 30 days after which he will have a half day of therapy and a half day of schooling in a chosen profession.

## 25 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1980

Selden: The new Farmers State Bank building has been completed

and a grand opening will be held Saturday afternoon celebrating the 60th anniversary of the bank, which was chartered in January 1920, as well as the opening of the new facility. Present officers and employees are Edith Carman, president; F. McKee, executive vice president and S.C. Carman, executive vice president and cashier; Janice Kruse, bookkeeper, teller and assistant cashier and Betty Hickert, assistant cashier. Contractor for the new \$150,000 physical plant was Bainter-Reichert Construction Co. Oberlin City Council members authorized the purchase of 10 additional acres of land in order to extend the runway at Oberlin Airport an additional 1,500 feet.

Joan Banowetz, who was assigned to the USDA Soil Conservation Service at Oberlin for a training period, has been assigned to the St. Francis field office. She is the first female district conservationist to be assigned in Kansas.

New Arrivals: Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Stoney, Oberlin, son, Jerred Andrew, Dec. 5.

Funeral services were held for two longtime Oberlin residents, Everett McGee, 89, and Jessie Barnes, 97.

Modern Woodmen Camp #611 honored Mavis Urban with this year's community service award.

Funeral services were held for Mrs. Charlie (Katie) Harmon, 98, who was born in Lebanon, Ind., and came to Decatur County as a young girl with her parents, Dr. Enoch and Hannah (Sutton) Pauley where they homesteaded in Center Township.

## Herndon News

By Carroll Ginther

Bob and Julie Hafner and Jan Sattler hosted a Thanksgiving Day dinner for family and friends at the Prairie Developmental Center in Atwood.

Those able to attend were Tom and Marlene Cook, Deanna Cook, Bob and Lisa Cook, Lawson and Matthew, Tom and Susie Cook, Chandler and Cassey, Edith Pettera, Hattie Toth, Shirley Williams, Jayme Sattler, George R. and Michelle Sattler and Adam, Ron and Cindy Sattler and Dana, Dan and Karen Sattler, Bennett, Winston and Margo, Rob Sattler, Isaiah, Cody and friend, Will Reinholdt, Bufard Clark, Brian and Mary Clark, Brian and Mary Clark, Collin, Katelyn and friend, Rodney Rippe and John and Ardyth Cederberg.

The birthdays of Marlene, Adam, Margo, Cassey and Rodney were also celebrated.

Marty and Tyler Rohm, Aurora, Colo., spent Thanksgiving at the home of Kent and Chris Wood. Ann Martin accompanied Butch and Lucy Evans of McCook to the home of John and Julie Geisinger, Selden, for Thanksgiving dinner.

Ann Martin, Bob and Liane Martin, and Dick and Betty Martin of Wilsonville attended the open house for Someplace Special at Colby on Sunday.

Due to the blowing and drifting snow, J.R. and Carrol Ginther spent some time digging out and she was unable to call everyone.

Please call Carrol with your news, (785) 322-5343.)

## Rexford News

By Vicki Allison

Santa Claus made it to town Saturday afternoon to deliver sacks of candy and have personal visits with the thirty-two children waiting to see him at the Community Hall. The Rexford Lions Club assisted the children in making a Christmas ornament, a mouse and kitty, for them to hang on their tree at home. The club members wish to express their appreciation to the mothers and fathers who helped make this a special day.

There was not much outside activity on Sunday and Monday due to the winter storm, but Tuesday many residents were out helping neighbors scoop snow from their walkways and driveways.

The snowfall that came with the storm has been great for the pheasant hunters. They are reporting getting their limit easily and my family has enjoyed the meals of pheasant I have prepared.

Wednesday was open rifle season for deer and David Dible of Rogers, Ark., and sons, Shawn, Rogers, Ark.; and Brad, Columbia, Mo., had come to hunt the area. Before leaving town they stopped to show Chad Wark, nephew of David, the nice rack from the buck they had tracked.

Robby McCurdy's mother, Sidel (Sid) McCurdy, has moved to Rexford and is making her home on Spruce Street. Welcome, Sid, we are glad to have you in our community and hope you enjoy living in Rexford.

Jean Hawkins' 80th birthday was Nov. 29 and there was an open house in her honor at the Red Barn on Saturday. Her children, Linda Stewart, Plantation, Fla.; Steve Hawkins, Apopka, Fla.; and Sandra and Larry Dean, Garfield, Ark.; her sister, Vesta Roth, Rexford; nephew, Rick Roth, and his children, Chris, Jason and Eric, Stockton; and nephew, Dan and Janice Roth, Abilene, were here to celebrate this special occasion. Sunday, Carl Barnett drove Jean to take Linda and Steve to the McCook airport.

Darrel and Marjorie Leh wish to say thank you to those who brought food to the house, and for the sympathy cards and visits they have received since her son's death and during Darrel's recovery.

Those at Koffee Klatch on Friday were Vesta Roth, Jean Hawkins, Berneda Zoberst, Steve Hawkins, Linda Stewart, Delores Dible, Eunice Sanford, Freda Ketchum, Ruth Luna, Deb Stepper, Grace Cheney, and Pat Williams.

Golden Plains School happens: Friday was the first basketball game of the season, with Greeley County at Rexford. The girl's junior varsity and varsity teams defeated the Jackrabbits but the boys lost both games. The Bulldogs traveled to Almena on Saturday and defeated Northern Valley all four games.

Janell Antholz took four of her vocal students, Valerie and Andrew Broeckelman, Brittany Ritter and Jordan Rogers, to Hays to sing in the Kansas Music Educators Association Honor Choir on Saturday.

## Jennings News

By Louise Cressler

Jennings' emergency preparedness plan was implemented Monday, Nov. 28, when a blizzard hit northwestern Kansas. The Senior Center, basement of the Community Hall, had been designated as our emergency center several years ago. We had not needed to use it until now. The generator from the firehouse was hooked up, and gas was located at various places. Then the phone calls began to our residents.

The city council and the mayor thank all who helped by providing food, gas, kerosene, transportation, beds and bedding. It would be impossible to thank each one. We are fortunate to have a wonderful fire department, and we were thankful for Mom's Li'l Market where we could get supplies. Our electricity was off for four days. We would like surrounding communities to know they are welcome to come to our emergency center anytime.

Mary Votapka was delighted to hear of the birth of a new great-granddaughter, Brooklan ReLee Ivans. Parents are Josh and Michele Ivans, Shawnee.

Dave Haurly came Wednesday morning to the home of Tom and Mary Votapka, bringing a new generator with him. He was coming to deer hunt but also helped with farm work while here.

Stan and Ramona Shaw and Katie Wahlmeier, Colby, spent Thanksgiving week at the home of Danny and Cindy Black, Logan and Bowen in Carlsbad, N.M. Thanksgiving evening they enjoyed "Christmas on the Pecos", a riverboat cruise down the Pecos River to view the lights along the river and in Carlsbad.

Other highlights of their trip included Carlsbad Caverns, Sitting Bull Falls in the Guadalupe Mountains, and visiting the U.S. Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. On Saturday evening they enjoyed the Christmas Parade in downtown Carlsbad and a fireworks display following.

Visitors at the home of Stan and Ramona Shaw last week were Kyle Austin, Pratt; Tony Anderson, Tonganoxie; and Mark Shaw, rural Logan. The men all had a successful first day of deer hunting, each getting a nice buck. They also did some pheasant hunting.

## Cedar Living News

Residents have enjoyed watching the snowfall during the past week. Several volunteers assisted with getting staff members to and from work last Monday and Tuesday. We did miss some of our favorite visitors due to the icy conditions.

The bowling group met on Monday afternoon. Those enjoying the game were Nettie Britton, Freda Gamblin, Betty Harden, Paul Sass, Don Shaw, and Hank and Bea Wolfgram.

Paul Sass won the first bingo on Tuesday afternoon and Merlin Babineaux won the blackout game. Opal Huntley was the only one of our regular crew of bingo volunteers able to make it on Tuesday. We were grateful for extra help from Roma and Sydney Grafel and Rory Wendelin.

Barb Solko played pinochle on Wednesday afternoon with Nettie Britton, Zola Brown and Don Shaw. The craft group also met on Wednesday afternoon to make holiday gift bags. Stuart Euhus gave the Bible study lesson on Wednesday.

Father George of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church was here for Mass on Thursday morning. Helen Lindquist celebrated her birthday on Thursday, Dec. 1.

The baking group met on Friday afternoon to make mincemeat cookies.

Dr. Sliter hosted the annual cookie decorating party in the Cedar Living Center dining room on Saturday afternoon. She provided sugar cookies and gingerbread men

along with lots of sprinkles and candies to decorate with. The children and the residents worked together to frost and decorate each cookie. There were about 20 children present, including two babies dressed in Santa suits. Each child got to take home the cookies they decorated. Everyone had a great time.

New resident Don Sulzman celebrated his birthday on Sunday with family members.

The Lund Covenant Church was in charge of the Sunday service at Cedar Living Center.

We have many special holiday programs planned during the next three weeks. For more information on any of these events please call Theresa Shaughnessy at (785) 475-2208. Visitors are welcome to attend.

Recent visitors: Julie Harold, Hays; Frank Cox, Laverne Niemeth, Herndon; Carol Gethins, Haysville; Richard Samson, Ludell; Terry Kruse, Russellville, Mo.; Larry Kruse, Lawton, Okla.; James and Shirley Cogburn, Hobbs, N.M.; Frances and Virgil Carpenter, Del City, Okla.; Ann Ellis and McKayla, Oklahoma City; Jamie Samson and Sara Bishop, Lindsborg; Rick and Tammy Shaw, Selden;

Laurene Van Otterloo, Elvin Beneda, Orlin Beneda, Lyle Gamblin, Marie Jean Vavroch, Rosella Meitl, Eula Juenemann, Carolyn Muirhead, Lois Lamb.

## Good Samaritan News

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! The majority of the week was spent in preparation for the Decatur Professional Women Christmas Home Tour. Staff and residents alike spent time making the facility sparkle with Christmas charm.

Anita Hirsch turned the Quiet Room into a winter wonderland. Edla Olson, Lucy Schissler, Fern Anderson, Irene Wagonner, Ruth Laidig and Jeanette Conway enjoyed the scenery at a tea party with nurses Tina Perrin and Penny Smith.

While it was warmer inside, winter was a wonder outdoors, too. Serena Stacy, and Jenny and Joey Hirsch built a real snowman in the courtyard. Residents enjoyed hot cocoa while watching the kids frolic in the snow.

"Sounds of the Season" was our decorating theme. Each area represented a different Christmas carol. As you walk through the door, you will be greeted by a warm fireplace with a lovely Nativity scene on the mantle. During the tour, carolers here sang "Away in the Manger."

The Town Square is filled with sights and sounds from the "Nutcracker Suite." The pond is surrounded by "ice" with several nutcrackers two or three feet tall standing guard. Lights, nut trees, peppermint candy and gumdrop topiaries create a whimsical sight.

As you approach the Christmas tree filled with soldiers and ballerinas, a band of soldiers plays bells.

Hand-made ornaments of the "Twelve Days of Christmas," made over 30 years ago by Marte Ganzel and her daughter, Lisa Stacy, adorn a swag and two trees. A fun, lively (sometimes confused) rendition of the carol was presented during the tour.

As we move on, the front porch looks just like home. Old-fashioned house lights are strung with garland. The railings are swagged with greens and bright red bows, and a sled leans in the corner. The tree is decorated in red and green with raffia, cardinals and musical instruments. "I'll Be Home for Christmas" was the carol that inspired this.

The residents from County Reflections whose homes were included on the tour were marked by ribbons. Dena Gillespie, John and Muriel Ready, Eva Bryan, Marie McChesney and Ruth Laidig loved opening their homes for guests to enjoy.

The Quiet Room was decorated in blue and white. Snowflakes made by Hildegard Euhus hung above the friendly snow family. Lighted deer nibbled in the snow. The tables were set with blue china, a peace-

ful, inviting place to be. The snowy backdrop outside completed this room beautifully. "Frosty the Snowman" was the carol sung.

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing" was heard as guests entered Angel Lane. Pink and gold are repeated in the wreath, garland and tree with Battenberg lace angel ornaments all around. The mantle hosts a beautiful angel, candles and pink poinsettias. A willow tree Nativity belonging to Casey May sits above the roll-top desk.

"Joy to the World" is the carol theme for the Angel Lane dining room. A large lighted wreath is the focal point. It has a world globe in the center, with dolls from around the world dressed in native costume and corresponding flags from their country. The windows are swagged in the same manner.

The residents from Angel Lane whose homes were included on the tour were Irel Lohoefer, Virginia Ike, Fern Maps, Marilyn St. Clair, Mary Lemman, Dorothy Pryor, Doris Miller and Bonnie Weskamp.

Carolers included Janice Shobe, Laurene Dempewolf, Linda Hollowell, Phyllis Metcalf, Jan Badsky, Loretta McFee, Anita and Joseph Hirsch, Serena Stacy, Tika Hall, Mert McEvoy, Fern Anderson, Lucy Schissler, Nadine Anderson, Irel Lohoefer and Ruby Shuler.

A project like this can't be done alone, so a special thank you to all who helped. Joan and Christie Evans decorated the purple and gold tree in the foyer. Sue Black helped in Angel Lane, and Terry Black helped with a variety of "odd" projects. Kelley Black decorated for Bernice Brown. Sue Stoney helped residents on Country Reflections. Becky Alstrom vacuumed up the "bits and pieces," and Pat Berry reset the tables. Charlotte Burrows took pictures. Jeanette Diederich did the artwork on the caroling posters, and Jan Badsky presented this idea to the ladies of the Decatur Professional Women club.

The residents love visitors and now is the perfect time to stop by if you haven't been here for a while. We wish you the love that came down at Christmas.

Our volunteers this week included Bethany Smith, Tika Hall, Fern Moore, Dorothy Alstrom and Mert McEvoy.

Recent guests: Dena Gillespie - June Vavroch; Eva Cuthbertson - Serena Stacy; Irel Lohoefer - Nila Hafner, Joey Hirsch; Lucy Schissler - Ralph and Bonnie Crim, Atwood; Ruby Shuler - Serena Stacy; John and Muriel Ready - John Wright.

## Lyle News

By Deanna Sumner

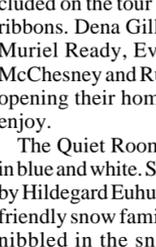
Thanksgiving Day 23 members of the Magers family attended the annual Thanksgiving lunch at Lyle. Kathy VanMeter also attended as guest.

Sunday guests of Kathy VanMeter for Thanksgiving dinner were Tim, Jolene, Clinton and Carrie Nejdil from Hoxie.

Saturday evening Toots Magers and Kathy VanMeter attended a Mexican appreciation supper at the Norton Christian Church for the

House Builders for Mexico.

There was good news at the Todd Sumner home on Saturday. Deanna's little brother, Dan Underwood, received a call to go in for a liver transplant. News so far is he is doing well and out of intensive care. Deanna's other brother, Jim Underwood, is in Barnes Jewish Hospital at St. Louis, Mo., fighting for his life and needing a new liver also. Prayers would be appreciated for Dan and Jim.



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