

* Church built 50 years ago

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The first rectory was built adjacent to the church in 1910 at 306 E. Adams. The house is now owned by Martha (O'Toole) Munson, granddaughter of Stephen O'Toole. Cost of the bungalow was \$1,678, and with furniture, total cost was \$2,189.

A cyclone demolished the first church on July 22, 1911. According to the July 27, 1911, issue of *The Oberlin Herald*, "The rain and windstorm Saturday evening at 5 p.m. was not needed in Oberlin. It wrecked the Catholic Church, blowing it from the foundation and standing it on one corner, making it impossible to ever place it back on the foundation again. One of the greatest losses was the breaking of the fine statue of the Virgin Mary that was presented to the church by Mrs. Mary Heitmann in memory of her husband, J.F. Heitmann. We understand that there will be almost enough insurance to rebuild the structure. The church will be rebuilt at once."

Cost of the new structure was \$994.52, and it was completed on the same site in November or December of 1911 with the Rev. John McNamara as resident priest. A total of \$1,200 was paid by the insurance company.

In 1936, the church started the first parish carnival picnic at Peters Park, the location now of Brookwood Apartments, to raise funds for

the church. The Rev. Emil Sinner was appointed pastor in 1950 and the frame church building was enlarged and completely modernized. A 28x70 foot addition was added on the north end of the church and the basement was made into a modern dining and recreation room.

As the fire blazed in 1954, the late Delbert Shields rescued the tabernacle housing the Blessed Sacrament from the altar and carried it to the Bert Berls home nearby. However, the Hammond pipe organ, in the choir loft under the blaze, could not be saved. The new flooring in the church, the pews and the newly modernized basement were damaged only slightly.

The present church and rectory were built of variegated buff brick trimmed with Silverdale limestone. The church, of modified Gothic design, is 98 feet long and 34 feet wide, with an additional 15 feet of width at the covered front entrance and at the sacristy. The top of the cross on the spire at the north end of the church is 52 feet above ground level. Schulmerich carillon bells were installed in 1963.

The first Sunday Mass in the new church was on Palm Sunday, March 25, 1956. The church and the rectory were dedicated on Oct. 24, 1956. The old church was sold to Campbell's Drapery Shop. It is now owned by Trevor and Beth Harmon of Oberlin, who use it for storage.

'Round and around she goes



IN THE AFTERNOON Thursday, lineman Ron Beneda worked to plant a new power pole south of the football field at the high school. Members of the city crew and Foreman Dan Castle assisted. The old pole was damaged during the November blizzard.
— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

* Power prices to go up

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charge from \$5 to \$7.50 and then increase the rate from 10.5 cents per kilowatt hour to 11.3 cents, which would a 9.2 percent overall increase.

The increase on the meter charge would help the city get the figure needed for sure, but it wouldn't make people want to conserve power, said Councilman Ray Ward. He said he was leaning more towards a rate increase, instead of a meter charge increase. That way people have a little more control over what they are using.

Maybe just a \$1 meter charge increase, said Councilman Joe Stanley.

It looks like the city is heading for a 9 percent increase, said Councilman Rob McFee, no matter what the council does.

This wouldn't be as hard on the public, said Mr. Castle, if the council said they were going to raise the rate half a cent each year for the next five years. People can absorb that, but when the city says a large increase is needed, people can't absorb that.

Mr. Ward said he would like to see a small step each year, but thought the city still needs to do the large step now.

The council needs a plan for the future, said Mr. McFee. Maybe the city can conserve some energy, too, said Mr. Pomeroy. He suggested putting smaller bulbs in the street lights as they burn out.

Mr. Pomeroy said at the next budget planning meeting, he would like to discuss the future of the city and projects to come. A plan might keep the city from increases like these in the future, he said.

* Storm hurts wreaths

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wreaths on the highway? asked Steve Haynes, publisher of *The Oberlin Herald*. Do they need to be replaced? Probably, said Mr. Wolfgram.

Someone asked about buying new decorations, but Rusty Addleman of Addleman Drug said they cost around \$400 apiece.

Mr. Stanley said he thought it would be cheaper to buy new brackets. The decorations can be welded and straightened out, he said.

If the high school students fix the decorations, said Mr. Addleman, it is still going to cost something.

The group will probably have to do a fund raiser, said Karen Metcalf with The Dresser.

Donations can be sent to the Oberlin-Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce at 104 S. Penn.

Talented people needed for telethon

If you can play an instrument, sing, act or otherwise entertain, the Seeds of Hope Telethon on Saturday, Feb. 11 needs you.

Each year, the telethon raises money through donations and items sold during an all-day auction. Last year, the drive — sort of a United Way for the county — raised over \$11,000.

Besides auction items and interviews of representatives from groups that get money, the show features a constant stream of talent.

In the past, there have been singers, pianists, bands, comedians, gymnasts, actors and actresses and people playing all kinds of instruments.

For years, Anita Hirsch took care of lining up the talent, but this year she stepped down and handed the

job over to Kristi Smith and Kimberly Davis. With only a month left until the telethon, the women are looking for talent.

Anyone or any group interested in performing during the event at The Gateway should call them either at 475-3510 or 475-2206.

This year's recipients include the Decatur County Fair Foundation, Kansans for Life, the Norcat Museum, Teens for Christ, the Oberlin Area Concert Band, Cardinal Kids Connection, Stand Against Violence, Relay For Life, Oberlin Lions Club, Creative Movement Gymnastics, the Jennings Czech Museum, Oberlin Pool Project, Decatur County Museum, Special Olympics, Decatur County Ministerial Association, the Tripple Creek Riders and the Salvation Army.

Commissioners change leader

Decatur County commissioners did the yearly changing of the drawers last Tuesday, naming Patricia Glenn as the chairwoman.

Each year, the commissioners change the drawers in the desk and move their chairs around as a different person takes over as chairman.

The commissioners talked with Bert Cool, emergency preparedness director, who said Deputy Patti Skubal had received an e-mail from Jacque Boultinghouse of Sheridan County. She received an e-mail from Karen Domer in Topeka who is the administrative assistant with

County Roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Gave the OK for the ambulance director to apply to win a free Polaris four-wheeler to use in emergencies and other things. Story on Page 12.
- Held the yearly changing of the

drawers and chairs and named Patricia Glenn chairwoman for the year. Story above.

• Heard that the road and bridge crew is about out of chain bars for the equipment used for storm conditions. Story on Page 3.

the Kansas Animal Health Department stating that the Foreign Animal Disease grant deadline had been extended to April 30, and then it was

changed to Feb. 28.

Commissioners decided since there are five Tuesdays in January, they would cancel their meeting on Jan. 24.

The group discussed reappointing Greg Lohofener to the Economic Development Corp. board, but decided to wait so that anyone else who might be interested could fill out an application for the position.

Oberlin still waits for first 2006 baby

Almost a week and half into the new year, and there is still no new baby for 2006 at Decatur County Hospital.

Each year, Oberlin businesses offer gifts to the family of the first baby born at the hospital. In some recent years, it has taken several weeks before a New Year's baby is born.

In the past few years, people from outside the county have won the gifts for the New Year's baby because hospitals in their counties don't deliver babies.

Gifts for the first born will include a case of baby food from Raye's

Grocery, a pizza for two from Pizza Hut, a \$20 gift certificate from Mary Kay, a gift from Fredrickson Insurance Agency, a \$10 gift certificate from Ben Franklin in McCook, a gift from Ray Jewelry, a \$10 gift certificate from Ward Drug Store, a \$25 gift certificate from Rocking R, a \$25 savings bond from First National Bank, a \$10 gift certificate from Stanley Hardware, a \$25 gift certificate from Shear Creations West and Day Spa, a \$25 gift certificate from Addleman Drug Store, a \$10 gift certificate from the Dresser and a year's subscription to *The Herald*.

Knights donate candy money

The Oberlin Knights of Columbus have donated \$504 raised from their 2005 Tootsie Roll drive to the Oberlin School District.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said the money will be used for special education.

Each year, the Knights of Sacred Heart Parish sell boxes of candy door to door to raise money.

Preston Pratt, a member of the group, said they are happy to support special education programs and

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NOTICE OF 57TH

Annual Meeting

Monday, January 16, 2006

11:30 A.M

to be held at the St. Francis Parish Hall
104 S. Wabash Ave., Norton, KS

Please R.S.V.P. by Wednesday, January 11

\$1.00 PER MEMBER

United Northwest Federal Credit Union

912 N. Archer Avenue, Norton, Kansas — Phone: 785-877-5191

January 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Dr. Rubinowitz Hematology/ Oncology	3	4 Dr. Frankum General Surgeon	5 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	6 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Dr. Miller Cardiology Clinic	25	26	27	28
29	30 Dr. Rubinowitz Hematology/ Oncology	31				

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT, PLEASE CALL (785)626-3211
Cheryl Banister, RN - Specialty Clinic Director
Thank you for allowing us to assist in your healthcare.