

# Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

**125 YEARS AGO — March 1881**

There are strangers in town every day looking for locations.

Oberlin will soon have inhabitants enough to be incorporated a city of the third class.

The first term of district court to be held in Decatur County will commence on Monday next. There are but few cases on the docket, the principle one being that of Able for horse stealing.

James Witham is erecting a building on the east side of Penn Avenue for a flour, feed and provision store.

The six-months term of school closed today.

Mr. Kindig, the teacher, has given good satisfaction.

The business at the Oberlin House has so increased that the proprietor, Mr. Rodehaver, is compelled to erect an addition 32x32 feet on the north end of his already commodious building.

**100 YEARS AGO — March 1906**

At the Methodist conference held at Jewell City the following appointments of interest to Herald readers were made: Cedar Bluffs, B. Fleisher; Dresden, A.E. Newman; Jennings, W.E. Caldwell; Norcat, N.S. Slagle;

Oberlin, G.J. Rarick. The next conference will be held at Norton.

A trainload of stock left Oberlin Sunday, 23 cars in all; 20 of cattle and three of hogs.

H.D. Colvin has charge of the clerk of the court's office during the absence of Mr. Brewer.

The new rural route has started from Selden and a number of our Lund patrons have changed to it.

It is reported that H.A. Griffith will build a \$3,000 house and a \$1,000 stable on the lots he recently purchased of Perry Ashcraft.

**75 YEARS AGO — March 1931**

Oberlin received a severe shock last Friday when word of the sudden and unexpected death of one of its prominent citizens passed quickly over the town. Fred Patton, 52, the office manager of Foster Lumber Yard since 1917 as well as being a partner in the Brooks & Patton hatchery, apparently died of heart trouble early that morning.

The vacancy created by his death will be felt in the business and civic life of Oberlin as he was a member of the Oberlin Municipal Band for many years, was a charter member of the Oberlin Rotary Club, a 32nd degree Mason, an Odd Fellow and a Woodman. He is survived by his

wife, a daughter, his mother; and two sisters.

Lisle Bacon, a 1911 graduate of DCHS, writes that he recently met a man living within 20 miles of Lisle's home in Polo, Ill., who in 1879 was in Oberlin and Atwood and could tell of the Indian Raid of 1878 from first-hand knowledge.

March 20 was the 50th anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert White and a surprise was planned for them after the worship hour Sunday at the Olive Chapel Church. The ladies aid had prepared one of their bounteous dinners and an immense crowd from far and near partook. A fine silver set was presented to them from the congregation. The Whites came to Decatur County in 1890 and have had their share of hardships incident to pioneer life but mingled with joy and many pleasures as well.

The Decatur Dictator has been awarded first place in the contest sponsored by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association for schools with an enrollment of between 250 and 400 students. Only one other Kansas paper, the Holtonian, received an award, a fourth. The Dictator is edited by a class of 13 students with Dale Johnson as editor.

**50 YEARS AGO — March 1956**

Nichols Construction Co. was the low bidder on the construction of the new public library in Oberlin.

Norton Frickey, Decatur County attorney, has submitted his resignation to the county commissioners. He and his wife Emma and their two children, Janet and Douglas, plan to move to Denver, where he will have an independent claim service.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Rathbun of Traer will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary of Sunday, April 1, at their home in Traer.

A surprise dinner party Friday at the Green Lantern Cafe honored Mrs. Lucille Anderson, who has completed 25 years of service at Southwestern Bell Telephone Co.

New Arrivals: Mr. and Mrs. Joe Shaw, Durango, Colo., a daughter, Shirley Louise, March 26; Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Lee Lotker, a daughter, March 26; Mr. and Mrs. Francis St. Clair, a son, Larry Francis, March 27.

Allison: Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Williams, who are moving to Norton, were honored with a cooperative dinner and program at the Christian Church at Allison on Sunday.

**25 YEARS AGO — March 1981**  
Heavy, wet snow Saturday

brought more moisture to the area, with the total for March now 2.10 inches in Oberlin.

Guest speaker for the annual meeting of the Decatur County Historical Society will be Don Rowilson, Topeka, an archaeologist with the Kansas State Historical Society.

An open house will be held March 29 to honor Elsie Robinson, who will retire April 1 after serving 12 years as Decatur County Home Economist.

Dennis Macfee, representing Decatur Community Junior High School, won the county spelling contest held at Jennings March 19. Runner-up was Darren Barnett, a fourth grader from Norcat, Grade School. Other contestants and their

schools were: Michelle Stallman and Danny Grafel, OES; Sherril Unrein and Mary Krizek, Jennings; Kristi Newton, DCJHS; and Thomas West, Norcat, Grade School.

DCHS student council members who served as pages in the state Capitol recently were Dan Hess, Lizann Davidson, Tamie Vaughn, Peggy Dark, Kris Ploussard and Clifton Hartzog. Sponsor was Dick Ahlberg.

Jennings inductees into National Honor Society are Jan Gallentine, Steve Hartzog, Will Kirk, Craig Wahlmeier, Theresa Campbell, Marsha Cressler, Jeanette Gawith, Kevin Hickert and Lee Juenemann. Speaker at the induction ceremony was Benny Rosell, speech teacher at Hoxie High School.

## Herndon News

By Carrol Ginther

Dinner guests last Sunday of Don and Joan Grafel were their granddaughter, Karolyn Grafel of Lincoln, Neb., and friend, Steve.

Recent visitors of Monica Solko were Tom and Tim Solko.

Herndon Senior Citizens met at

the Senior Center on March 15 for a potluck dinner. Shari Horinek took blood pressures. Bingo was played and Edie Pettera, Frank Hraha and John Eby had blackouts. The door prize was won by Esther Pennington.

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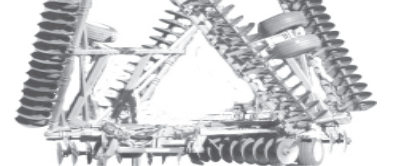
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