

THE OBERLIN HERALD

# Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

**125 YEARS AGO — May 1881**

On Saturday last the saloons in Oberlin wound up. It has been generally supposed that the event would be the occasion of a grand "round up" but everyone was agreeably disappointed.

Lawyer Cochran, who has for several months past been looking after a very interesting case, got his judgment on Friday last in the sum of 10 pounds of as fine a girl baby as ever came to Kansas.

Lawrence Riley, who lives down the Sappa, had his house burned Sunday and all of its contents destroyed. It is not known how the fire originated, as the family was absent at the time.

George W. Keys, register of deeds, went over to Norton on Monday last, and is now engaged in copying the records affecting the title to lands in Rawlins County made while attached to Norton County.

Bariteau Bros. have sold their stock of drugs, books and notions to Messrs. Coard & Douglass. The "Pioneer Drug Store" is one of the oldest establishments in northwest Kansas.

**100 YEARS AGO — May 1906**

The excavation for the new high school has been begun.

Another trainload of cattle was shipped out of Oberlin the first of the week.

This part of Kansas is now about as wet as water can make it.

Paul Brooks was the successful candidate for carrier on the new rural route out of Jennings.

A cyclone damaged property for Will Macy, Mr. Lewis and G. Weyeneth near Cedar Bluffs Monday evening.

Married, A.W. Cordes and Miss Maria Nitsch of Logan Township, Thursday, April 29, 1906.

**75 YEARS AGO — May 1931**

Oberlin was one of the 10 centers around the state designated to hold the State of Kansas Scholarship contest on Tuesday. In addition to Oberlin students, Norton, Bird City and Hill City had between 30 and 40 each and others came from Norcat, Clayton and Brewster.

In an interview with Albert Weaver of Bird City on Tuesday, we learned he has 40 quarter sections planted to wheat, 160 acres of potatoes and another in pinto beans.

He has been in the potato business for 19 years and expects to harvest 30,000 bushels from this year's acreage. His harvest requires the service of 25 men and his equipment includes 11 tractors, all of one make. Mr. Weaver is on the Bird City school board and brought students here for the scholarship tests.

Mrs. Anna B. Morrish was elected president at the Grand Chapter meeting of the Eastern Star held at the Hotel Lassen in Wichita last week.

F.D. Farrell, president of Kansas State Agricultural College, Manhattan, has accepted an invitation from Supt. C.W. Smick to deliver the address at commencement exercises the evening of May 13.

Mrs. Rosa Mount marked the 50th anniversary of her arrival in Decatur County on April 29. Except for a 3-month visit with relatives on the western coast, she has not been out of the county since that time.

Lillian Claar of Oberlin has been elected president of the YWCA at Hays State College.

**50 YEARS AGO — May 1956**

Kansas Governor Fred Hall will speak at the US-36 meeting to be held in Mankato. Those planning to attend from Oberlin are Wally Wolfe, J.C. Nitsch, Ben Miller, Ernest Petracek, Gustave Lippelmann Jr., and Dale Brockhausen.

The high bid on the former livestock sale pavilion on S. Griffith was by John C. Nitsch, whose sealed bid for the building and six lots was \$6,650. This was \$150 more than the highest bid made when the property was advertised several months ago.

School News: Forty-one youngsters, four teachers and Mrs. McMains went on the Burlington educational tour to Denver Saturday. Along with the sight-seeing tour, they took in the Ice Follies in the afternoon.

This is a tour sponsored by the Burlington Railroad and is becoming an annual affair.

Traer: Funeral services were held for Mrs. Harry Rathbun, 72, pioneer Decatur County mother.

Don Zimmerman, treasurer of American Legion Post No. 70, presented the Oberlin Public Library a check for \$1,000 for the building fund.

The annual spring tea of the City

Federation Clubs of Oberlin was held Saturday afternoon in the Masonic Temple with Monday Evening Club as hostess. More than 90 women were in attendance and it was voted to transfer the money in the City Federation library fund to the library board for immediate use in construction of the library. During the afternoon, a style show was held with music on the organ by Rudolph Weidner and special music by Mrs. S.F. Morrish. Presiding at the tea table were Mrs. G.B. Morrish and Mrs. R.A. Lohoefer.

**25 YEARS AGO — May 1981**

The long awaited lifting of the grain embargo came Friday, but when the markets opened Monday it was evident the move by President Reagan would not immediately help the price of farm commodities. At the local level, wheat closed down eight cents on Tuesday.

Funeral services were held from the United Church of Oberlin for a longtime Decatur County banker, J.R. Betts, 84.

After graduating from DCHS in 1915 and serving with the U.S. Marines during World War I, Betts entered the banking field in Norcat and transferred to Oberlin in 1934 where he served as cashier, vice president and later president of the Decatur County National Bank until his retirement in 1977.

He served 30 years on the hospital board and was instrumental in the addition of the home-owned carnival to the Decatur County Fair.

Ron Bryan, Oberlin Township

farmer and pork producer, was elected commander of Oberlin American Legion Post No. 70 at the annual meeting. He replaces Robert Groneweg. Bryan graduated from DCHS in 1966, served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam and graduated from Northwest Kansas Vo-Tech, Goodland.

With projected enrollment of Oberlin Elementary School holding at upwards of 340 next fall, the USD 294 board of education moved to hire an additional teacher for both fifth and sixth grades and to continue with three sections of grade three.

Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Young are in Oklahoma City visiting their daughter, Mrs. Kim Eccles, and making the acquaintance of their new grandson, Ryan Allen, who was born April 22.

Mr. and Mrs. Reed Griest, Glasco, announce the engagement of their daughter, Tammy, to Rick Shaw, son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Shaw, Selden. The couple plan an Aug. 8 wedding.

Sandy Nichols jumped 5 feet, 5 inches to shatter the DCHS school record of 5 feet, 2 inches in the high jump at the track meet held at Plainville.

The family of the late Dr. R.G. Young has donated his collection of western art to the Last Indian Raid Museum. Included are a number of Bill Hampton prints, western prints by Charles M. Russell, A. Rodriguez and Frederic Remington, and two originals by the well-known Arizona artist, DeGrazia.

## Let's Go to the Museum

By Sharleen Wurm, director

Already a month of the 2006 season has passed and we have had 45 guests coming from 15 different states and Canada. The states with visitors were from Nebraska, Florida, Pennsylvania, Iowa, New Mexico, Washington, Kansas, Colorado, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Missouri, Arizona, Indiana, and South Dakota.

Community work day at the Decatur County Last Indian Raid Museum is Sunday, May 7, from 1 to 5 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help with maintenance at YOUR museum! It is a great asset to the

community and county, and to keep up the 14 buildings, we need your assistance. There is yard work, painting, and general repair that need to be done to keep the grounds looking good for our visitors and guests.

Come be a part of and take pride in the facility. Bring your rakes, paintbrushes, and hammers. Enjoy a productive afternoon with family and friends.

The Museum board will provide supper at 5 p.m. Sunday evening for those that donate their time to help with our projects.

## Good Samaritan Center

Can you remember the Depression and the "Dirty Thirties?" The residents sure do! When I announced that would be the topic of our program for Tuesday morning, I heard comments like, "Why would we want to remember that," or "Don't remind me, that was horrible!" When 10 a.m. rolled around I thought I'd be greeted by an empty room. Instead, much to my delight, we had a full house! Even curious staff members had come to see for themselves what we youngsters can only imagine.

Talking Books supplies various interesting programs called "Bi-Folkals." This one was a slide and music presentation with short discussion breaks between sections. The program was very well done, but more interesting were the real life stories told by the residents themselves. Before we started, they were hesitant to re-live that time in their lives, but that quickly changed and everyone was eager to share their experiences. The stamina, perseverance and ingenuity they spoke of was nothing short of incredible.

That was the highlight of the week's activities. The rest of our time was spent in the normal routine, with the exception of Pat Wright substituting for Mert McEvoy in Wednesday's Bible study and Phyllis Metcalf reading Current Events in Carol Duncan's absence on Thursday.

Eight of the men, Everett Fisher, John Ready, John Rule, Pooch Portschy, David McGee, Walt Mosier, Harold Demmer and Alan Adleman, enjoyed coffee, donuts and some pretty lively conversation

during Men's Coffee. David brought a toy he had whittled for everyone to see... quite impressive!

On Friday we participated in the Health Fair at The Gateway. Our theme was Galatians 5:22, "The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." Hopefully you were able to stop by our booth and noticed the beautiful banner. Our appreciation to Jeanette Diederich who did the artwork and Sarah Fredrickson for providing the fancy lettering. Congratulations to John Tate, who was the winner of our fruit basket give-away!

A special thank you to our clergy who faithfully lead worship services for our residents each week. This Sunday Pastor Royce Leitner from the Assembly of God Church officiated.

Also, thank you to Ron Temple and the gospel singers who practice here every Sunday. We want you to know you are a blessing!

Visitors included: **Lucy Schissler** - Erin Jones, Arlene Glad, Atwood; Nola Carlson, Fort Morgan, Colo.; Mert McEvoy, Ruth Chance, Carol Hafner, Bremerton, Wash.; **Hazel Flaska** - Chuck and Cleta Morgan, Brighton, Colo.; Gerald and Charlene Karnes, Salina; **Dena Gillespie** - June Vavroch, Jennings; Earl and Pat Hartzog, Harold and Yvette Hartzog, Hoxie; Daniel and Dena Way, Julie and Hannah Way, Brent and Jill Way, Sofie Marie and Aiden Way, Springfield, Mo.; **Eva Bryan** - Detta Anderson; **Dorothy Pryor and Doris Miller** - Dorothy Moore.

## Herndon News

By Carrol Ginther

Pat and Elsie Haller of Hemmingford, Neb., were last Thursday visitors of Ann Martin. Mr. and Mrs. Kirche Martin and family of Indianola, Neb., were last Sunday visitors.

Ron and Rodney Solko of Oberlin were last Saturday dinner guests of Monica Solko. Tom Solko

was a Saturday visitor.

Senior Citizens met at the Senior Center on April 19 for a potluck dinner. Debbie Rummel, of the Rawlins County health department, took blood pressures. Esther Pennington won the blackout bingo and John Eby won the door prize.

## Midway News

By Mary Lou Olson

Jill Bergling, daughter of Mark and Gail Bergling, and Mary Rachel Olson, daughter of Mark and Barbara Olson, will be confirmed during 11 a.m. morning worship services on Sunday at the Herndon Covenant Church. A potluck dinner honoring the confirmands will follow, held by the congregation.

Mrs. Emery (Ruth) Chance and daughter, Carol Hafner, of Bremerton, Wash., visited Lucy Schissler at Oberlin, and Ron and Marlene Erickson at rural Rexford

on Friday. They were en route home from an extended trip to Texas and other points. Emery Chance is in a nursing home in Bremerton.

Norma Anderson returned home last Monday from Wamego, where she spent the weekend with her daughter and family, Carol and Robert Fink.

Detta Anderson and Mary Lou Olson took Joy Votapka out for lunch on Friday at the LandMark Inn to help her celebrate her birthday.

## Rexford News

By Vicki Allison

Carl and Deb Spresser, Kyle and Jordan spent April 19-20 with their son, Petty Officer 1st Class E6 Justin Spresser, in Colorado Springs. He was attending a conference at Peterson Air Force Base. The family spent time touring the town and driving through the mountains. Kyle and Jordan were able to visit the base with Justin. Justin is stationed out of San Diego on the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan.

The church yard has a newly cultivated flower bed. Brandy Todd, a leader for Kid's Club, initiated the project. The boys painted the garden timbers and did the dirt work and the young girls planted flowers. It will be a continuing project for Kid's Club.

Deb Stepper is in the hospital at Colby having some medical tests taken.

Sondra Barnett went to Wichita for the State Aglow conference last

week. The speaker was the regional representative, Carol Torrence of Sugarland, Texas.

Margie Leh recently went to Topeka with two friends, Joyce Gatlin and Martha Ann Hull. The ladies are members of the Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star and attended the yearly Grand Chapter gathering which is held in Topeka. Some traveled from Tennessee, Oklahoma, and as far away as Canada.

Liz Shumard, a long-time friend of Hulda Wark, and her son, Andy Horner of Paris, Mo., visited her and Sondra Barnett on Wednesday. Their family lived here many years ago.

Sondra Barnett is puzzled and excited by finding a really cute "bee" at her back door, which has been added to her collection. She doesn't know who the person was that left it, though she has ques-

tioned several people. She says, "Thank you, thoughtful person."

There were four birthdays recognized during church Sunday, including Dennis Spresser, April 30; Jordan Christensen and Felicia Camarillo, May 2; and Scott Johnston, May 5.

Pastor Lane continues leading the congregation with sermons based on the book of Mark. A verse to ponder this week is from the book of Hebrews, chapter four: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Red Barn events: There were 12 in for cards at Barnswallows on Monday: Mary Anne and Lawrence Juememann, Jean Hawkins, Grace Cheney, Rex and Betty Carswell, Lawrence Horinek, Dick Sanford, Chuck Williams, and Deb Stepper. Ladies Bible Study will meet

Wednesday at 9 a.m.

Eleven ladies were in for Koffee Klatch on Friday: Eunice Sanford, Jean Hawkins, Vesta Roth, Grace Cheney, Cleda Moeder, Doris Jean Oliver, Berneda Zoberst, Delores Dible, Pat Williams, Evelyn Proffitt, and Darla Kaye Dible.

Sunday, May 7, Koleen Barrett's dance students will be giving a recital at the Community Building at 4 p.m.

Happenings at Golden Plains: Thursday evening members of the high school music department participated in 20 performances, which included vocal solos, instrumental solos, and ensembles.

On May 11 at 7 p.m., there will be a talent show given by the students.

Baccalaureate services will be held for the eighth grade graduating class and the seniors on Wednesday, May 3, at 7 p.m.

## Jennings News

By Louise Cressler

For April the Tuesday Study Club toured the Barton Concrete Works Plant at Colby and heard about designing and molding concrete yard ornaments. The group enjoyed the display of water fountains, bird baths, planters, tables, benches, walkway stones. Lunch was at the China Buffet. Roll call was answered by Rachel Carter, Lynn Tacha, Joan McKenna, Vendla Tacha, Helen Muirhead, Kathy Nauer and Neoma Tacha.

The ladies will be making poppies Tuesday, May 9, at the Legion Hall about 10 a.m. to decorate the graves on Memorial Day. All help is welcome and appreciated.

Ruth Chance is doing well and has returned home after having heart by-pass surgery on April 21 at Kearney.

Betty Carlton of Keno, Ore., Nadean Stoney and Brett Jennings were Sunday dinner guests at the Lawrence Jennings home. Evening

visitors were Arlo and Bonnie Wurm.

The Jennings City Council meeting will be 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Sunflower Senior Center. Jennings Clean-up Day will be at 10 a.m. Saturday.

United Methodist Women will be going to Cedar Living Center in Oberlin to provide the monthly birthday party at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 10.

Winning card players at the Senior Center in April were Alice Mizer and Vendla Tacha. All enjoyed playing "call for a card" 5-handed pinocle Saturday evening.

Sunflower Senior potluck supper will be next Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the senior center. Bring a Bingo prize with you. Everyone is welcome.

The Jennings school children will present the program "Whacky Spring Fever" in the school lunchroom at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 11.

## Selden News

By Jacque Boultinghouse

Birthdays and anniversaries: May 4 - Tim and Monica Svoboda, Shane Boultinghouse; May 5 - Joe Lobato; May 6 - Miriam Shaw; May 7 - Debi Shuler, Gwen Schultz; May 8 - Doc Baskerville, Darcie Spresser; May 9 - Travis Rogers.

Mother's Day is coming up on May 14 - don't forget Mom!

Golden Plains High School graduation is also on May 14, so remember the graduates, also.

On April 27 at Senior Citizens, Anna Albers won high, Jeanie Spresser took second and Betty James got low. Other members present included Alfred Albers, Lola Cook and Carol Shaw.

The Selden Community Center is moving right along.

The ceiling is in and putting down the flooring is next. The linoleum has been put down in the restrooms and Bob Hazlitt is getting the lights and outlets wired in.

If you would like to help contact

Darrel Bruggeman.

Anyone who wants to make a donation toward purchase of tables, chairs and kitchen utensils or participate in the fund-raiser should contact Jacque Boultinghouse or Jackie Schulte.

Proceeds from the fund-raiser, to be held at the grand opening of the Center, will go toward purchase of needed items.

Items donated for this include a queen-size quilt made and donated by Helen and John Karls, a La-Z-Boy recliner from Pauls Furniture, two \$25 gift certificates from Southwest Steakhouse, a \$25 gift certificate from Midway Cafe, a weed eater from Selden Lumber Company, a savings bond from The Bank, and a gift certificate from Hi-Plains Co-op.



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