



THE ORIGINAL HARDWARE store, which now houses Goltl's Home Planning Center, is shown (above) in 1906 when 6,000 people came to Oberlin for the Fourth of July celebration. Three bands, the Oberlin, Norcatut and Colored Minstrel, furnished music and Oberlin defeated Norcatut in the ball

game 13-1 with Barnes pitching a no-hit game for Oberlin. Wayne Goltl (below) stopped for a break while working on a construction job. He has operated Goltl Construction since 1961.

Family celebrates 45 years of service in businesses

By MARY LOU OLSON

Contractor Wayne Goltl says he is trying to retire, but with so many good customers over the years, it is hard to just quit.

Everyone wants "just one more job" done for them.

When Goltl Construction observes 45 years in business at an open house Friday, the celebration also will mark 42 years since the first Goltl Apartments were completed and 38 on Main Street for Goltl's Home Planning Center.

Mr. Goltl, 71, said that his interest in building began as a young man when he started helping his grandfather, J.P. Buk, around 1949. His grandfather was getting old, he said, but supervised others when they built several chicken houses on the family farm.

Mr. Buk came to this country from Denmark and lived at Beaver City, Neb., before purchasing a farm southwest of Herndon. He and his wife Edith had four sons, George, Frank, Ross and Albert, and two daughters, Juanita, who married Paul Goltl, and Ellen Palmer, who still lives in Atwood.

"I always liked industrial arts, geometry and math in high school," Mr. Goltl recalled. "I took drafting and engineering in college at McCook. My mother wanted me and my brother Ralph to build a house for them on the farm north of Herndon around 1951. She always believed you could do anything you set your mind to, so we built the house."

It was the first of many projects for Mr. Goltl over the years. He said he worked for a contractor in McCook while attending college and built and installed all of the cabinets in two school building projects in 1953 and 1954.

He married Dixie Rathbun in 1954 and left to serve the U.S. Army later that year. After the first six months, he said he was sent to Chicago, where he was stationed with a radar unit. During that time, he built two 24-foot wood radar towers on the lake shore.

After his discharge, Mr. Goltl returned to Oberlin and worked on his own for almost a year, then went to work as foreman for Edgar Simonsson, a local contractor.



Wayne Goltl



D. Marintzer

"By 1961, I wanted to go on my own," he said. "This is when Dixie and I started the construction company. She did the office work and I did the construction. In 1967, we bought the old Hayes Hardware building for an office and a place to stock supplies."

"We divided the front part of the building and rented the north half to Pester Shoe Store. Later, we took out the petition and Dixie started a ceramic business and we also started stocking our store for a retail business."

The store sells paint, wallpaper, heating and air conditioning products, and a full line of hardware.

The building at 180 S. Penn was constructed 120 years ago, in 1886. A story in the newspaper at the time stated, "The bank and B.S. Foster, the furniture dealer, have commenced work on the erection of a handsome two-story brick business block, opposite the U.S. Land Office on Penn Avenue. The original building is 50 feet deep with a front of 25 feet, and an addition to the rear 40 feet in length. The second floor is to be arranged for offices, all of which will be admirably adapted to this use, being well lighted, and planned for convenience."

"Frank Broderick, the contractor on the First National Bank and B.S. Foster block, says that his force did the biggest week's work in the week just past ever done this side of the Missouri River — 120,000 brick was the amount laid. This block is rising rapidly and will be completed nearly as soon as the Bank of Oberlin building."

The building later housed Dilworth Hardware and Moser Brothers Hardware before being purchased by J.D. Hayes in 1905. His son Roy operated Hayes Hardware there for many years before he and his sister, Flossie Hayes, sold

the building to the Goltls. Mr. Goltl said that the original pull rope elevator in the building still works.

"My wife ran the store for 30 years," he said, "and our daughter Dana grew up in the store. She has helped there ever since we opened, and now that Dixie has retired, Dana has taken over. Her husband, Marlin Marintzer, also a native of Herndon, has worked with me in the construction company since 1975."

The first Goltl Apartment building was put up on North Wilson in 1964 and couple has since built several other apartment complexes throughout Oberlin.

"Our first business project was building Sauvage Gas Service on U.S. Highway 36 in 1961," Mr. Goltl said. "We have remodeled all of the banks in Oberlin, and a more recent project was transforming a portion of the former Oberlin Motor Company into Farmers Bank and Trust."

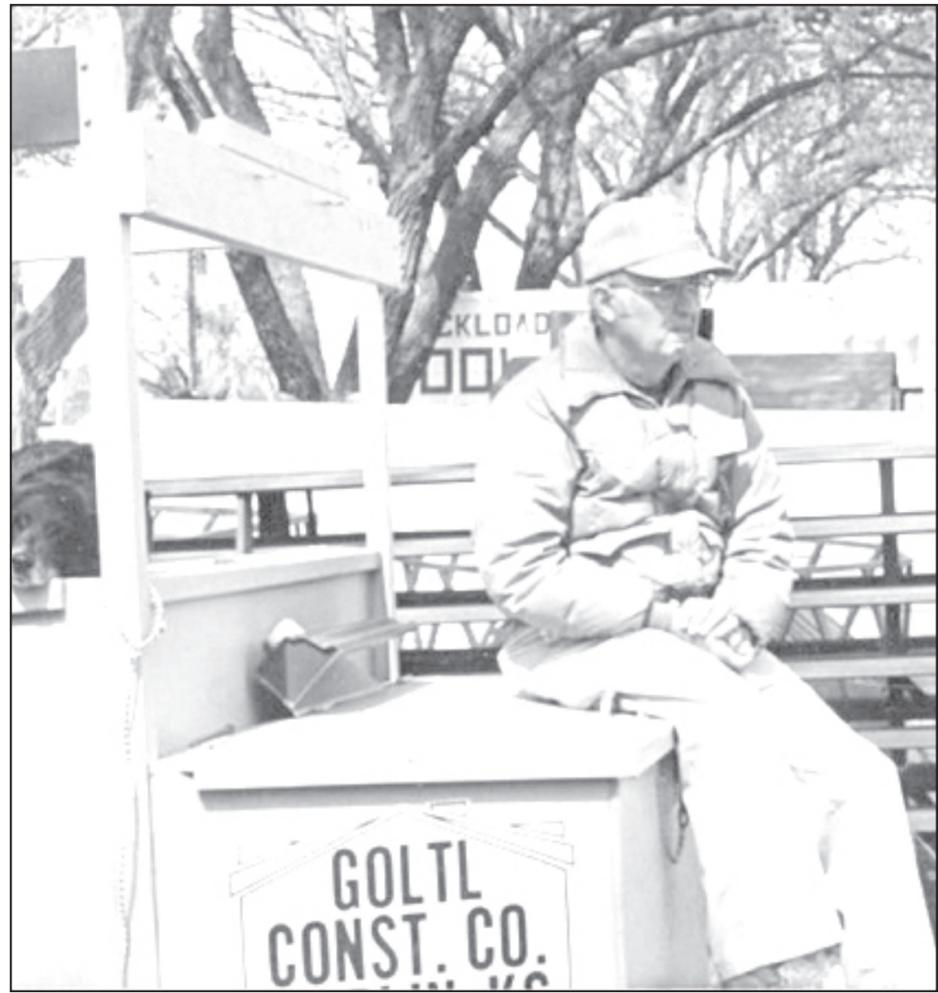
"Our construction company also built three churches, the Church of Christ in Oberlin, United Methodist Church in Jennings and Church of Christ in Smith Center."

"I have done all of my own designing and drawings on all of my construction projects and have made it a practice to be good at all jobs in the building business. In 1968, I went to California to a Carrier air conditioning school, so we could do our own heating and air. Now Marlin builds all the sheet metal. I have had many faithful employees over the years, but Dale Allacher of Herndon worked with us the longest — for over 40 years."

"I think that anyone living in Oberlin has had a good chance of living in one of our projects. I have built or remodeled over half of the houses and businesses in town. I'm sure after 55 years, they know of some building project in my career."

"I want to thank all of my customers over the years who placed their trust in me. I have always tried to do every job like it was my own — the best I can. I have put off so many of my own jobs, that I think it's getting time to do those while I still can."

"I have collected cars for the past 35 years and now I want to spend more time restoring and driving them."



RELAXING AT THEIR HOME in 1961 were (from left) Wayne and Dixie Goltl with their daughter Dana.