

THE OBERLIN HERALD

# Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

**125 YEARS AGO — Aug. 1881**  
\$750.00 was paid into the hands of the county treasurer on Saturday last from the sale of school land, and consequently there are 480 acres more of taxable lands in the county.

North Sappa: The railroad surveyors are camped three miles south of us trying to get the best grade from the divide down to the south Sappa.

The Herald's Night-Hawk observes among other things: that it still continues dry; that watermelons are no longer a luxury; that the dance Friday night knocked the spots off of anything of the kind heretofore given; that the school meeting made a levy of six mills for teacher's wages and one mill for incidental expenses.

Land office and contest notices were carried in the Herald by the following would-be landowners: John Tharp, Joseph Comer, John R. Fisher, Hiram M. Prindle, Archibald Crichton, George W. Wilder, Fredrick Worlin, Wm. F. Crouse, W.C. McGonigal, Calaway Alderson, Geo. W. Shultz, William Redman, M.F. Boyles, Noah Bradley, Julian C. Ufford, William H. Myers, Mike Wansorie and Wm. H. Bradley.

**100 YEARS AGO — Aug. 1906**  
One more rain will make lots of corn.

The boiler for the electric light plant has been put in position and when the smokestack is put up, it will soon be ready to run.

C.S. Maddox has sold the City Drug Store, which he has owned and operated for 27 years, to D.G. Addleman. This is without doubt the oldest established drug store in northwest Kansas. They are invoicing this week and Mr. Addleman expects to open for business Saturday, the 18th.

J.F. Peters is erecting a fine dwelling on the site where Reverend Wilson lived for many years.

Norcatour News: While Frank Loper was driving to town Sunday afternoon, his horse was killed by lightning and the buggy shafts were splintered but Frank did not even feel the shock.

**75 YEARS AGO — Aug. 1931**  
An airplane tragedy that struck home to the people of this community occurred in Cincinnati Sunday

when Marvin Odell, a graduate of Oberlin High School, was killed in a plane crash that took the lives of five other persons. He was the pilot of an American Airways plane which had just taken off and was only 500 feet in the air when the propeller on the right-hand motor of the Ford tri-motored plane fell to the ground and the motor was torn loose and also fell. Odell, who learned to fly while attending high school, was credited as being one of the most experienced pilots in the country. Funeral rites were held at Emporia with burial at Neosha Rapids.

Elmer Metcalf, Harold Koehler, Dick Leake, Harold Metcalf, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Odell and Virgil, Miss Marian Cathcart and Miss Edith Herzog were among those who attended funeral services for Marvin Odell.

In spite of muddy roads and threatening weather, hundreds turned out to attend the dedication of the new Lutheran Church located nine and one-half miles northwest of Oberlin on Sunday, Aug. 9. Seating capacity of the new church is 315.

A crowd of 400 to 500 people attended the annual 4-County Old Settlers Picnic held at Brookwood Park last Sunday. E.W. Coldren was re-elected president; Mrs. Ira Reed of Selden, secretary and John Huber, also of Selden, treasurer. Mrs. Kate Heilman Tacha of Jennings was the oldest old settler present, coming to the Big Timber community in August of 1873, followed by John E. Love and Mrs. W.E. Ufford, who came to Oberlin in September of the same year. Rev. Bowles of the Oberlin Federated Church had been induced to bring his portable organ to accompany congregational singing led by J.E. Plotts of Olive Chapel and one of the songs was "The Little Old Sod Shanty on the Claim"

Dresden: Flora Karls was married last week in Idaho; we are looking for him home now soon and everyone is expecting treats.

Darrell Landau, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rell Landau, had his tonsils removed at the local hospital Monday.

**50 YEARS AGO — Aug. 1956**  
DCHS secretary Maxine Walker has mailed out pamphlets of information concerning scheduling of

classes to all students and eighth grade graduates. Enrollment will be Aug. 20-21 with school beginning on Monday, Sept. 4. One of the five teaching vacancies in the county was filled this week when Dorothy Huff signed at Lund, district 212. Principal Forrest Stern still has two vacancies at Norcatour, as does principal Ira Laidig at OCS. Deputy county superintendent Lois Eckhart expects most county schools will begin after Labor Day.

John Schmahl and Doyle Morton have opened the S. & M. Body Shop in a new concrete block building north of the U.S. 36-83 intersection immediately north of the new animal hospital of Dr. R.M. Phillips. Both have been prepared for their venture by working in local garages, Schmahl at Kump Motor and Morton for Nitsch & Nitsch. They will emphasize automobile body repair, radiator service and wrecker service in their business.

Dott G. Addleman is selling school books today. And that's no advertisement. It's just that Dott today marks the beginning of a second half century in the drug business in Oberlin. On Aug. 16, 1906, he bought the C.E. Maddox Drug Store. The store has moved about a bit since then but it's always been an Oberlin business under the same name with Dott nearly always punctually present. In fact, the only concession he makes to his 82 years is that he doesn't work Saturday nights anymore.

Norcatour: Funeral services were held for Alva F. Railsback, 65, father of Mrs. O.R. Kelley, who had spent most of his life in the Lone Hand community north of Norcatour.

Court House News: Probate Judge George Nellans issued a marriage license to Edward Vavroch and Florence Hawkins and they were married Aug. 12 at the First Presbyterian Church by the Rev. Luther Kurtz.

Roy Gridley, an outstanding student, leader and athlete at DCHS, Class of '53, was recently named as one of 13 Summerfield Scholars for the next term at the University of Kansas, where he is a senior.

**25 YEARS AGO — Aug. 1981**  
Ann Ooton, Decatur County amusement authority treasurer, reported that the \$24,309 taken in by

carnival rides and concessions over the five-night run beat last year's record of some \$20,000. The KFNF grandstand show Tuesday night brought a full house that emptied into the midway following the performance and "Tuesday night was the biggest crowd ever on the ground," said Mrs. Ooton, though lightning forced carnival officials to shut down rides and concessions at 10:30.

"Buster," the Simmental-Herford-Angus-Charolais Crossbred steer owned by Theron Krizek, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Krizek, rural Dresden, was the grand champion steer over-all in the 1981 Decatur County Fair.

An open house Aug. 2 at St. John's Lutheran Church honored Alvina and Tony Unger on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Loyd Moore, rural Oberlin, announce the engagement of their daughter, Mirla, to Micheal Coleman, son of Mrs. Sam Coleman, Grandview, Mo. The bride-to-be graduated from Kansas State with a degree in accounting and attended the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, as a Rotary student. She is employed in the accounting department of Farmland Industries. Her fiance graduated from Grandview High School and Central Missouri State and is employed as a merchandiser with Farmland Industries. A Sept. 5 wedding is planned at Oberlin United Methodist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. George Ruzicka, Oberlin, announce the engagement of their daughter, Georganne, to Greg Johnson, Norton, son of Cliff Johnson, North Platte. The wedding is planned for Oct. 24, 1981, at Oberlin United Methodist Church.

New Arrivals: Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Bailey, daughter, Danielle Kay, Aug. 10; Mr. and Mrs. Allen Dinkel, daughter, Emily Rae, Aug. 6.

The Oberlin American Legion team closed out its season in regional action, losing to Colby and leaving them with a season record of 13-7. Coach Dwight Stateham commented that he was happy with everyone's performance and that next year's team should be virtually the same except for Jeff Martin and Todd Richards. The highlight of the season was beating McCook on their own field, Stateham added.

## Midway News

By Mary Lou Olson

Congratulations to Jason and Katie Anderson, who were married on Friday in Kansas City, Mo. Pastor Keith Reuther officiated. The bridegroom is the son of Gayle Anderson and the late Dennis Anderson. His grandparents are Merlin and Bonnie Anderson, and Norma Anderson, Oberlin, and the late Gordon Anderson.

Members of the John Holle family who attended the biennial gathering of the descendants of Henry and Margaret (Winkleman) Holle family at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Atwood on Sunday, Aug. 6, were Fran and Violet Holle, Delos Holle, Atwood; Larry Holle, Conifer, Colo.; Kevin and Mary Holle, Herndon; Cheryl Holle, Olathe; Orrin and Beth Holle and Henry, Achilles; and Lavern and Carolyn Holle, Agra.

Peter Cisneros and Tricia DeKok of Chicago were married on Saturday in Mount Vernon, Wash. The bridegroom is the son of Pastor Noel and Debbie Cisneros, who formerly served the Herndon Covenant Church. They will live in Chicago, where both are employed at the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Wayne McCarty, who died Aug. 8, at Hays Medical Center. His wife is the former Maribeth Horinek, daughter of Frances Horinek of Atwood, and the late

Stephen Horinek, former residents of this community. Funeral services were held Saturday in Hays.

Shirley Maresch, Tim and Jenna of Nekoma visited from Sunday to Tuesday with her parents, Wesley and Eulaine Benda. Visiting from Friday to Sunday with the Bendas, Gerald and Patti Benda, and Mark and Barbara Olson, Kurt and Mary, were Losson and Leanne Pike and Wes, Ashland; Mitch and Marshall Pike, Altus, Okla.; Megan Prothe, Paola; Rich and Donna Frost and Donna, Arvada, Colo.; and Sarah Olson, Manhattan.

Abbie Olson of Boulder, Colo., visited from Tuesday to Sunday with her grandparents, Keith and Mary Lou Olson, and enjoyed the Decatur County Fair. Additional overnight guests on Wednesday were Ashley and Whitney Witt. On Thursday, Mrs. Olson took the three girls to McCook to help Ashley celebrate her 11th birthday, then Abbie spent the night at the James and Kimberly Witt home with the girls. Friday overnight guests at the Witt home were Chris and Keely Wilson and Julie Beth of Kearney, Neb.

Rex Olson, Seth and Sam of Boulder, and Amy Bonham of Kansas City, came Friday and visited over the weekend with the Keith Olsons and other relatives. Abbie accompanied them home on Sunday.

## Good Samaritan Center

Another fair has come and gone, leaving behind more fond memories. What a wonderful time for the community to come together. Both young and old came almost every night to see friends, eat, ride the rides and just be part of the excitement. Even at the Good Sam, the days were filled with questions, memories and conversation about the fair, past and present.

Monday we gathered all the art, needlework, woodworking and a cantaloupe from our garden that would be judged. I started to tell Ruth Laidig all the art pieces I would be entering on her behalf, when she interrupted me, waved her hand and with a big grin said, "Oh, just bring me the blue ribbons."

On Tuesday, we began fair week with another Bi-Folk slide presentation about a Wisconsin county fair. It explained how the concept of county fairs began and stimulated a lot of discussion and heightened the anticipation of our trip to the fair.

Thursday evening we loaded up the van with seven happy residents: David McGee, Everett Fisher, Dorothy Pryor, Lucy Schissler, Irel Lohofener, Elsie Macy and Ruth Laidig. Upon arrival the train was the main attraction. Coleen Rippe escorted Ruth, Dorothy and Everett for their first ride, while David sat and watched the Octopus.

Sarah Fringer, Irel, Elsie and Lucy headed for the midway. After helping the train-goers, I joined David who announced he wanted to ride "that thing." I thought he was joking. He wasn't! So Celianna and Evan Shobe agreed to ride with him.

While we on the ground held our breath, the ride started. Squeals, laughter and smiles spun around and around above our heads, and though the ride finally stopped, the smile on David's face never did. He celebrated his 79th birthday on Friday, and said that was the best birthday present ever. He takes the honor of being the first Good Sam resident to ever ride "that thing!"

Friday morning came early when we again loaded up the van. This time, we were off to the train. Walt and Lillian Mosier, Ruth Laidig, Doris Miller, Kathryn Post, Hazel Flaska, Lucy Schissler, Dorothy Pryor, June Saum and Ethel Nemeth enjoyed the cool morning and three rounds on the track.

Residents who brought home ribbons were Lucy Schissler, 3 blue; Jeanette Conway, 3 blue, 1 white; Ruth Laidig, 2 blue, 2 red; Eva Bryan, 1 blue, 1 red; David McGee, 1 blue; Fern Anderson, 2 red; Walt Mosier, 2 red; Nadine Anderson, 1 red; Kathryn Post, 1 red; and Everett Fisher took Reserve Grand Champion on his watercolor sunset. Not too shabby for a bunch of old folks!

Recent guests: **Lucy Schissler** - Frank and Mert McEvoy, Bud and Janet Nitschke of Cambridge, Kan.; **Terry McGuire** - of Atwood; **Thelma Spiers** - Don and Joan Grafel, Todd Nelson of Herndon, Violet Shaw, Susan Nelson; **Mae Guy** - Norma Richards, John and Patty Guy of Sidney, Neb.; **Ethel Nemeth** - Helen Brooks, Betty Heisel; **Doris Marintzer** - Bud and Vicky Mumm of Gem; **Muriel Ready** - Esther Ready and Nick Chomowicz of New York City, Mitzi Dotson of Phoenix; **Elsie Macy** - Marian Fraker; **Eva Bryan** - Donna Kelley, Kendra and Jessica Kelley of Frederick, Colo.; **Irel Lohofener** - Libby Fossom of WaKeeney; **Harold and Eleanor Demmer** - Cindy Traphagan of Yuma, Colo., Carole and J.R. Unger; **Hazel Flaska** - Gerald and Charlene Karnes of Salina, Charles and Clela Moyer of Brighton, Colo.

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## Rexford News

By Sondra Barnett

The first half of August has been a busy month for me and most likely for you as well. There have been weddings to attend, vacationers, family and friends to entertain, new babies to hold, school enrollment, and lawns to be kept mowed.

There was an article in the Red Barn News recognizing some odd celebrations for the month of August and I was pleasantly humored to read that Aug. 15 is National Relaxation Day. (Thank you, Jolene, for the tidbit.)

Congratulations to Rebecca Wark and Chance Rains who were married on Saturday, Aug. 5, at the Rexford Community Church with Pastor Lane Purcell officiating. Rebecca is the daughter of Vicki and Dennis Allison and the late Dennis Wark. Chance Rains is the son of Gerald and Shirley Rains of Sharon Springs and Deborah Green of Kansas City. Rebecca, Chance and their eight-month-old son, Jaren, have made their home in Victoria. Chance is employed with Total Lease, Inc., and Rebecca with Fort Hays State University.

Guests of Vicki and Dennis Allison during the first week of August were Vicki's sister, Cindy and Chris Neff of Comins, Mich.;

niece, Jessyca Neff of Chicago, Ill.; sister, Debbie and Dan Thompson and son, Aaron Morton of Round Rock, Texas; brother, David and Lori Anderson, Sage, 2, and Sophie, 8 months, of Owasso, Okla.;

nephew, Lucas Morton of Topeka; daughter, Rebecca, and son, Jaren; and Amanda Paxton of Manhattan.

They were all here to attend Rebecca and Chance's wedding.

Those from Rexford attending Dorothy Renner's birthday party at Oakley were Dick and Eunice Sanford, Gary and Karen Hibbs, Jean Hawkins, Vesta Roth, and Deb Stepper. Dorothy's sister, Irma Hibbs, formerly of Rexford, and daughters, Jan Holmes of Salina and Mart of Hays were also there.

Thank you, Wes Bencken, for adding an extension to the flag holder on the handrail in front of the Red Barn.

Sonia Elling took Grace Kauk and Edna Colson to St. John on Aug. 6 to see Savanna Berens' new baby, Audrey Nichole, born Aug. 3. They ate dinner with Savanna and Nancy and David Berens and family. They were also able to get more acquainted with one-year-old Conner, who made their first five-generation picture. Sonia's children, Heather, Sierra, Annestacia and Andrew, went along. En route home, they drove through several rain showers.

Jay and Nancy Dahl's granddaughter, Jessica Dunn of Concordia, spent the past two weeks with them and her uncle, Tim Dahl, who took her fishing at Villa High in Colby. Their weekend guests were grandchildren Ashley and Jake Anderson, of Goodland.

Pastor Lane and Patty Purcell are

proud to announce the birth of their granddaughter, Zadie Lane Latimer, born to Brett and Naomi Latimer of Castle Rock, Colo., on Aug. 11.

Guests of Deb Stepper on Thursday were Debbie and Nick Wallin of Las Vegas, and their grandson, Caleb Wallin, of Brighton, Colo. Debbie is her great-niece.

Golden Plains School enrollment was Aug. 9 and 10. Volleyball and football practice will start Monday and school starts Thursday, Aug. 24.

A happy birthday to those who celebrate an August birthday: Story Nelson, Aug. 6; Ethan Walter, Aug. 10; Chad Wark, Aug. 11; Lee Luna, Aug. 12; Dave Purcell, LeAnn Fringer, and Ashley Anderson, Aug. 13; Frank Dingwerth, Aug. 14; and Jessica Luna, Aug. 18.

## Cedar Living Center

to the fair Wednesday evening with staff members Fern Mosier, Sandy Diederich, and Teresa Shaughnessy.

Father Henry gave Catholic mass on Thursday morning.

Residents Wynemah Cox, Alice Fiala, Freda Gamblin, Elsie Goodnight, Mildred Grafel, Betty Harden, Tressie Samson, Paul Sass, Kayo Sattler, Lowell Sebaugh, Don Shaw, Frank and Velda Ward, and Hank and Bea Wolfram enjoyed an afternoon of carnival games at Cedar Living Center on Thursday. A variety of games including a soda can toss were played. Prizes were awarded and ice cream bars were served.

Tillie Diederich went to the fair on Thursday and Friday evening with family members.

Elsie Goodnight, Bea Wolfram, Don Shaw, Paul Sass, and Lowell Sebaugh traveled to the fair ground on Friday morning to ride the train. We extend a special thanks to Dan Votapka for driving the train and to volunteers Jennifer Wolters,

Margee Wilson, and Kaityn and Cassidy Gillespie for assisting.

The baking group met on Friday afternoon for an ice cream social. The ice cream topping was made with rhubarb donated by Jeanette Miller, using her recipe.

Mildred Tacha left on Thursday afternoon to attend the wedding of her granddaughter in Lawrence on Saturday. She traveled with Doyle and Kay Brown.

Mildred Cochran attended the Jording family reunion on Saturday.

Ron Temple and the gospel group, Faith, Hope, and Charity, performed on Sunday afternoon.

Recent visitors: Frank Cox, Ann Martin, Herndon; Rosa Boehm, George Wurm, Vivian Kompus, Gary Matheny, McCook; Lillian Sulzman, Dresden; Jerry Temple, Gary Anthony, Dorothy Ward, Norcatour; Ashley Beall, Todd, Julie, Leslie, and Morgan Burrell, Benkelman, Neb.; Merlin and Lola Diederich, Cape Coral, Fla.; Pat and Carol Berns, Janesville, Wis.;

Jeannie Harold, Junction City; Ron Harold, Manhattan; Clois Fiala, Colorado Springs; Richard and Bernadine Samson, Theresa Rippe, Ludell; Kara, Katie, and Zach Kuntz, Ray, Julie, Kailey, and Alexas Harold, Hays; Doyle and Kay Brown, Jennings; Amanda Winstead and Jon Hays, Salina; Terry McGuire, Meredith Hrnchir, Atwood; C.L. Diederich and family, McPherson; Monte, Julie, Cade, and Carson Burrell, Wauneta, Neb.; Terry and Nancy Kruse, Kelly Kruse, Clay, Kayla, Mason, Josie, and Hallee Stewart, Elizabeth Wyss, Russellville, Mo.; Dr. Larry and Cecelia Kruse, Lawton, Okla.; Earl Brown, Al Schuhart, Selden; Lloyd Harden, Goodland; Mike and Marie McVay, Colby;

Dolores Koeperich and Jacob, Laurene VanOtterloo, Edie Tate, Orlin Beneda, Elvin Beneda, Karen Bennett, Catherine Neal, Alice Shirley, Ila Ray, Opal Huntley, Lyle Gamblin, Sandra Young, Roxie Pomeroy, Oberlin.