

# THE OBERLIN HERALD Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

**125 YEARS AGO — Sept. 1881**  
During August, the entries of land at the Oberlin Land Office amounted to 9,817 acres. Cash receipts \$1,979.80.

The fall and winter term of the Oberlin public school will begin Oct. 3 and continue six months with W.C. McGonigal as teacher. Inability of Tim Crowe to collect for merchandise sold on credit is causing him to close up his store. George W. Shoemaker of Prairie Dog brought us some peanuts of his own raising. Married at the residence of and by Rev. J.L. Vannoy on Sunday, Sept. 18, 1881, Mr. Peter Peterson and Miss Susan A. Hainline, both of Oberlin Township. May they live long enough to enjoy the blessings of wedded life is the wish of their many friends. The long suffering of President Garfield finally ended Monday night.

**100 YEARS AGO — Sept. 1906**  
George McFee has bought the Jake Griffith property on Griffith Avenue. We hear Jake has bought a \$145,000 ranch at Palisade, Colo. B. & M. workmen are preparing to put in a gasoline engine just east of their windmill. W.K. Hayes, our popular ex-station agent, has purchased a portable bowling alley and taken to the road. Ray Bobbitt, oldest son of the widow Bobbitt of west Oberlin, was badly burned Saturday by an explosion of powder he was handling carelessly.

Wedding at Traer: At the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. D.S. Yost the evening of Sept. 5, Mr. Rov V. Adams and Miss Leona Yost were joined in holy wedlock, Rev. W.M. Fisher of Cedar Bluffs officiating.

**75 YEARS AGO — Sept. 1931**  
The voters of Decatur County emphatically turned down a proposition to sell the municipal power plant by a vote of 762 to 159. Practically the entire eligible vote of the city was out to the polls — 927 out of an eligible list of less than 1,000. Dr. Eber Reeves reports the birth of twin girls to Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Pollnow. The babies were born Tuesday evening and weighed six and a half and eight pounds.

DCHS football coach Anderson has 36 boys checked out and is building a team around last year's regulars, "Tiny" Rathbun, Bob Geiger and Capt. Joe Martin as well as other lettermen, Francis Hackney, Nels Anderson, Fred Peters, Harrison Francis and Gordon Rathbun. A new office building for Foster Lumber Company is in the plans, according to Mr. Steinshouer, local manager. Monday Evening Club honored Mrs. Herbert Brantley at the Morrison home with a farewell party and a gift. She leaves tomorrow to join her husband in Courtland.

Jennings: Maurice Muirhead's little boy broke his collarbone last week. Dresden: Bill Montgomery left Monday to return to his home in California after visiting his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bremer, other relatives and friends. Sappa: Clifford Blickenstaff began his second term of school at Vallonia with an enrollment of 20. Helen Johnson of Kanona is teaching the Decatur school this year. Norcatur: The grade school has an enrollment of 107 and the high school is hoping to have a 100 in the near future.

**50 YEARS AGO — Sept. 1956**  
The Oberlin Red Devil football team coached by Don Leuszler will host the traditional opening-game foe, the Phillipsburg Panthers Friday evening. Phillipsburg coach Tom Cross has only seven lettermen back while Leuszler has only two seniors, Jack Kelley and Jerry Baker. Although the November elections are six weeks away, several state candidates have visited Oberlin the past week, Democratic candidate for governor, George Docking and wife; Republican sixth district congressman Wint Smith and his opponent, Elmo Mahoney of Dorrance.

The Decatur County Hospital board has voted to use the \$5,000 Ford Foundation check to equip and furnish the new addition to the hospital for which the board has invited bids. Funeral services were conducted at St. John's Lutheran Church for

Lorenz Wendelin, 81, Herndon's oldest citizen. Jennings: Coach Bill Nelson's Jennings Coyotes will start their 1956 six-man football schedule against Selden. Nelson has 11 lettermen on his 19-man squad, which includes every boy at Jennings High School. Dr. and Mrs. J.H. Coffman were honored with a surprise housewarming the evening of Sept. 3 at their new home. Mrs. Merlin Anderson, nee Bonnie Jeanne Taylor, received her registered nurse degree from Children's Hospital School of Nursing in Denver on Sept. 14.

Max Carman will leave Monday for North Platte, Neb., where he will be employed by the Debus Baking Company. He has been employed by Kump Motor Co., the past four years. New Arrivals: Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Ufford, son, Richard Jay, Sept. 13; Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Rahe, daughter, Donna Louise, Sept. 17;

**25 YEARS AGO — Sept. 1981**  
Low lying areas across the county reported frost last Thursday morning with an official reading of 29 degrees recorded by Oberlin weather observer Janet Farr. Tom Wonsettler, area supervisor for Servi-Tech Inc., reported that in addition to low-lying areas in the county, the frost hurt most of the milo north of Oberlin and some damage was noted as far south as

Colby. New Arrivals: Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Reichert, rural Dresden, son, Garrick Alan, Sept. 15; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fringer, daughter, Ellen JoAnn, Sept. 5; Mr. and Mrs. Dick Vahling, rural Dresden, son, Eric Christopher, Sept. 4; Mr. and Mrs. Rick Walker, Atwood, son, Rick Clark, Sept. 13. Tammy Griest became the bride of Rick Shaw on Aug. 8, 1981, at Selden Catholic Church. Father Bill Surmeier officiated. Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Reed Griest, Glasco, and Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Shaw, Selden.

The Cliff Bailey ranch inRETURNAS, Calif. was the scene of the reunion of 38 members of the family of the late Earl and Ida (Young) Bailey from Aug. 23-25. Those attending are descendants of early Decatur county residents, Melvin Young, who homesteaded on Prairie Dog Creek, and Sherman Bailey of Kanona. Results from the Kansas State Fair brought several purple ribbons to Decatur County 4-H'ers with the horsemanship entry of Merlou and Amy Lohoefer and Penny Fisher taking first place. A second purple went to Rohm Whitaker on pole bending and a third purple to Kyle Elwood and Barb Phillips for team roping. The gridders of DCHS took on a tough Yuma, Colo., team but came back to Kansas with that very important first-game win, 23-16.

## Let's Go to the Museum

By Sharleen Wurm, director

Everyone has an anniversary, birthday, wedding or some other important incident in their life and Sept. 30 will be one of those important and should-always-be-remembered anniversaries in Decatur County. It will be 128 years since the Cheyenne Indians attacked and killed 17 settlers in our county. How this event changed the lives of these victims' families. It is sad to read and learn about the "rest of the story" and their struggles to make ends meet just to survive. With the 48th Mini Sapa Celebra-

tion less than two weeks away, we are geared up for the event. Plans have been finalized and a great day planned. You can find the day's events in the article in this week's paper and there are flyers in about all the stores. We still have room for more crafters and vendors! If you would like to participate and display your items call us at the Museum, (785) 475-2712 or email us at lirm@sbcglobal.net for a space.

## Good Samaritan News

This past weekend several ladies from the community headed west to attend the Women of Faith conference in Denver. I was fortunate to be one of those women. The theme this year was "Contagious Joy!" On the drive home I was pondering the messages brought by various speakers. As I drove along, my mind took me back to Good Sam. I started wondering how people were, the residents, the staff. Did everything go well in my department while I was away? How is the painting coming along in Town Square? As all these questions mingled with the thought expressed during the conference, it hit me ... my work isn't work, it is "contagious joy!" The mural painting in the Town Square has begun. Jeanette Diederich is the artist. This has become an activity in itself. The residents love to sit and watch the progress. Jeanette always has on some jazzy music, so we watch, tap our toes and even dance a little bit when Bonnie Weskamp is around. Joy!

Wednesday was Bible study, Canasta and bingo. Oh, boy! Oh, joy! Our only watermelon from the garden was served up during Social Hour, a long-awaited treat. Doris Marintzer and Anita checked it every day, trying to determine if it was perfectly ripe enough to harvest. Joy! On Thursday Art class met, creating fall raffia wreaths to be hung in some "blank spaces" around the building. Faye Miller, Elaine Thomas and Lucy Schissler took part. Look for the wreaths when you are visiting. More joy! On Friday, Pastor Heidi Wiebe held a communion service, then went room to room offering communion to anyone unable to attend the service. This is a precious time for the residents and we thank Pastor Heidi for providing this for us. Joy! Wes Benda surprised everyone Friday afternoon, when he sat down to the organ. His fingers made that instrument sing as never before, lulling residents from their slumber and other activities. One by one they came to listen. Spontaneous joy!

Monday after Social Hour, residents played a game of Concentration. A whole new group gathered to try to match the pictures, including Elaine Thomas, Faye Miller, Fern Anderson, and Swede Unger. Joy!

Tuesday was a highlight day. Devotions were brought by Phil Erickson and then several ladies stayed to help churn butter, to be served spread on freshly baked bread during Social Hour. Nadine Anderson, Ruby Shuler, Faye Miller, Thelma Spiers, Irel Lohoefer and Pauline Zander all took turns cranking the old glass jar until finally, we had butter.

I read some stories out of a wonderful cookbook to keep things moving, but more interesting was the conversation about how much butter the ladies used to churn, the different techniques, the laughter and the fellowship. Joy! That afternoon, 27 residents came out to sample (and critique) the smooth white treat. After some discussion whether there was too much or too little salt, it was unanimously declared delicious. Joy!

On Sunday, Merlou Robinson came to share her Brazil vacation with the residents.

She showed them a PowerPoint presentation, which was very interesting and informative. Merlou is the granddaughter of Irel Lohoefer.

Did you notice something for everyone? Art, music, gardening, education, fellowship and food. Paul tells us in Philipians 4:4 to "Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I say rejoice!" The Lord is the ultimate joy giver, don't forget to thank Him today.

Recent guests: Lucy Schissler - Margaret Fikan, Ralph Crim of Atwood, Nola Carlson of Fort Morgan, Colo.; Thelma Spiers - Joan Grafel of Herndon, Steve Nelson; Doris Marintzer - Vicky Mumm of Gem; Eva Bryan - Detta Anderson; Dorothy Hunt - Ron Snyder of Colby, Mildred Black, Reva Marshall, Tami and Bri Cook of Norcatur; Ruth Laidig - Janice Mehl of North Platte; Faye Miller - Rhonda Wildeman of Jennings.

## Rexford News

By Vicki Allison

A local physician has expressed an interest in bringing his practice to Rexford one day per week. The doctor speaks fluent Spanish, with a servant's heart for our entire community. The Shepherd's Staff has agreed to survey the community to confirm our support for such a medical practice. Please contact Joan Dingwerth by Oct. 2 at (785) 687-2565 to convey your support and inquire about other information. The new hours for the post office lobby are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and on Saturday, 7 a.m. to noon. A watch was found at the City Park and has been taken to the post office. Be ready to describe the watch to the postmaster, Mary Withers, to claim. Pastor Lane Purcell invites everyone to the video presentations by Avi Lipkin (pen name Victor Mordecai) from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 1, at the Rexford Community Church. He asks that we plan to take advantage of this presentation, as it is relevant information concerning these days of

unrest and the ongoing threat of terrorism. There will be a break time for refreshments.

On Friday, Sept. 15, Ernest and Janine Colson took Edna Colson to visit her sister, Helen Oppedal, in Ruthven, Iowa. On Sunday, Sept. 17, Helen took them to Fort Dodge, Iowa, for the Roberts cousins' reunion at another cousin's cafe, the Sandstone Inn. They all enjoyed a fantastic meal, great conversation and news of each one's family. The Colsons returned home Monday. On Saturday, Sept. 6, six members of the Rexford Royal Neighbors, Deb Stepper, Darlene Robben, Grace Cheney, Betty Carswell, Marjorie Leh and Jean Hawkins attended the Decatur County Royal Neighbors of America Convention at The Gateway.

Social Hour Club was held at the Red Barn on Wednesday with Cleda Moeder as hostess. Bingo winners were Ruth Luna, Eileen Dible, Vesta Roth and Sondra Barnett. Marjorie Leh was the hostess prize winner. Other members present were Grace Cheney, Deb

Stepper and Jean Hawkins. The Red Barn Gang traveled to Colby on Friday, entertaining staff and residents of Prairie Senior Living Complex and Lantern Park. Scott and Julia Nelson and their son, Story, spent the weekend in Castle Rock, Colo., with Julia's sister, Naomi and Brett Latimer, and their baby daughter. They attended the concert of Story Hill while there. Those attending Barnswallows on Monday were Darlene Robben, Dick Sanford, Lawrence Horinek, Grace Cheney, Deb Stepper, Pat Williams, Rex Carswell and Jean Hawkins. Koffee Klatchers on Friday were Sondra Barnett, Liz Rall, Margaret

Arasmith, Evelyn Proffitt, Darla Dible, Marla Rogers, Eunice Sanford, Delores Dible, Deb Stepper, Vesta Roth, Jean Hawkins, and Berneda Zoberst.

Golden Plains events: The Fellowship of Christian Athletes will hold a community "See You at the Pole" event at 7 a.m. Thursday. There will be juice and rolls served. The high school cheerleaders and their sponsor, Sheri Jacobs, will be holding a Cheer Camp for ages preschool through the fifth grade on Monday, Oct. 9. The Booster Club is selling long-sleeved T-shirts with the Bulldog logo for \$15. If interested, call (785) 386-4560 or 687-3265.

## Jennings News

By Louise Cressler

Bob and Neoma Tacha celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 17, in the Sunflower Senior Center in Jennings. A large crowd attended the event hosted by their children, Roger and Peggy Tacha, Oakley; Royal and Gail Tacha, Hoxie; grandchildren: Dustin Tacha, Hays; Garrett Tacha, Hoxie; Ashley and Jeff Brown, Park; and great-grandchildren: Hanna and Eathan Brown. The three-tier cake was topped with the original bride and groom decoration from their wedding cake of Sept. 14, 1946. The tables were beautifully decorated with candles and pink and white flowers. A memory book of the family was compiled by the children from the year 1944 to 2006. Neoma wore her wedding dress.

Merle Snyder hosted a baby shower Sunday at the United Methodist Church for Madilyn and Maddix Green, twins of Chris and Eric Green. Malilah helped her mother unwrap the gifts. Jennings United Methodist Women will meet at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 4, with Rachel Carter as lesson leader. The weather tower was installed by Bill Heilman and Bob Jones on

the roof of the City Community Hall. It was originally at the Jennings School. Gail Brandberry of Lenora, Jennings postmaster, will continue to work at the Dresden Post Office through the first week of October. Louise Cressler works at Jennings during the hours Gail is at Dresden. Lawrence and Lila Jennings received birth announcements of two new great-grandsons. Jackson Robert was born Sept. 3 in Loveland, Colo., to Jeremy and Maranda Hounshell. His grandmother is Marlene Hounshell of Denver. Tate Nelson was born Sept. 6 to Tracy and Megan Snyder of Medford, Ore. His grandparents are Robert and Shelley Whitefield of Trout Lake, Wash..

Mr. and Mrs. Jennings were supper guests of the Houshells on Wednesday to make the acquaintance of Jackson Robert. Other guests were Marcia Casey and Milt Sherwin of Denver. Weekend guests of Lawrence, Lila and Brett Jennings were Brian and Westley Jennings, Solomon; and Brent and Brendan Jennings, of Junction City. Bruce Carlton, Bakersfield, Calif., visited on Sunday, Sept. 17.

## Decatur County Health Department

Mini Health Fair...Doing Blood draws on October 4 and October 5, 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. both days. Please call for an appointment or more information.  
**785-475-8118**



## Selden News

By Jacque Boultinghouse

On Saturday, Selden was overrun with motorcycles. Almost 50 motorcycles were in town during a poker run planned by a Hoxie group. Even though the weather was cold and windy, lots of people turned out for the event and made a stop in Selden.

Helen Karls has returned home after spending the weekend with her sewing group. They meet twice a year at the home of one of the group members. Members attending the 'Sew 'N' Sew included Barbara Wenger, Nicole Moore, Tamra Wenger, Robyn Mendiola, Sharon Unruh, Nicole Unruh, Mary Braden, Stephanie Anderson and Keshia Wenger. On Thursday at Senior Citizens Anna Karls won high, Paulie Neff took second and had the most kings,

and Leone Porsch got low. Other members present included Jeanie Spresser, Alfred Albers, Betty James, Lola Cook, Helen Karls, Edna Schiltz, Carol Shaw, Stanley Shaw and Cecelia Ottley. The next day of cards will be on Thursday, Oct. 5, and will be potluck. Birthdays and anniversaries: Sept. 28 - Steve Juemann; Sept. 29 - Kevin Stevenson, Stan Shaw, Morgan Ritter, Koï Wessel, Kade Wessel; Oct. 2 - Sherrie Rogers, Joni Shaw; Oct. 3 - Ashley Albers; Oct. 4 - Casey Boultinghouse.

In football play on Friday, the Golden Plains Bulldogs met defeat against Grinnell/Wheatland. This Friday, Golden Plains will meet the Brewster/Triplains Titans. Kickoff will be at 7:30 p.m. in Rexford.