

THE OBERLIN HERALD —

**Obituaries**

**Matilda L. Diederich**

Matilda L. Diederich, 97, a native of Dresden, died Dec. 12, 2006, at the Cedar Living Center in Oberlin.

She was born June 20, 1909, in Dresden, the daughter of Jess and Jennie (H o u s t m a ) Harold. She attended Dresden Grade School and graduated from Dresden High School, then taught school for one year.



M. Diederich

She married Charles Diederich on March 30, 1930, in Selden. They lived on farms near Selden and Oberlin, the last being north of Oberlin, where they moved in 1945. She was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Altar Society and Nimble Finger Unit, all of Oberlin.

Survivors include four sons, Merlin and Lola Diederich, Cape Coral, Fla.; Vernon and Jeanette Diederich, and Allen and Sandra Diederich, Oberlin; and Leo Diederich, Dacona, Colo.; and a daughter, Lois and J.J. Jordan, Boulder, Colo.; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband, a son, Ged Diederich; brothers, Bobby, Charley, Jess, Royce and Raymond Harold; and sisters, Agnes and Lucille Schad; a grandson, Mike Diederich; and a great-grandson, Jessie Diederich.

Mass of the Resurrection was held Saturday morning at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Oberlin. The Rev. Henry Saw Lone officiated and burial was at the Oberlin Cemetery.

A memorial was established in her name. Contributions may be sent to Pauls Funeral Home, 121 N. Penn, Oberlin, Kan., 67749.

**Ralph H. Baird**

Ralph H. Baird, 88, father of Jean Martin of Oberlin, died Dec. 13, 2006, at his home in Larned.

He was born Dec. 13, 1918, at Larned, the son of John and Clara (Spangler) Baird. He was a longtime resident of Edwards and Pawnee counties and was owner of Ralph Baird Motors at Larned.

He graduated from Larned High School in 1937. He served in the Army Air Corps in 1943 and was a B24 Liberator pilot for the "Shady Lady" stationed at Hethel Air Base in England from June 1944 to May 1945. He flew 23 bombing missions and was awarded several service medals, including the Distinguished Flying Cross.

He married Marian Reed on June 22, 1945, at Larned and she died on Sept. 20, 1985. He married Marlene Lyman on Dec. 21, 1999, in Arkansas.

He returned to Lewis after the war and purchased Posey-Baird Ford in 1945. He moved to Kinsley and purchased the Kinsley Ford agency, renaming it Ralph Baird Motors in 1955. In 1974, he purchased Robbins Ford in Larned, where he was a Ford dealer, renaming the dealership Ralph Baird Motors Inc., and was also active in farming.

He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, Rotary Club, where he was a Paul Harris Fellow; past director of the Larned Area Chamber of Commerce, Lewis Masonic Lodge, Wichita Median Shrine, and Experimental Aircraft Association. He served on the city council and as mayor in Kinsley; was a member and trustee of the Kinsley Congregational Church and life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion.

Survivors include his wife, Marlene; a son, Joe Baird, Metemora, Ill.; a daughter, Jean Martin, Oberlin; a sister, Ona Cross, Lewis; a step-son, Jim Lyman, Ellinwood; a step-daughter, Gina Janes, Hanmibal, Mo.; five grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Friday afternoon at the Presbyterian Church in Larned with Pastor Dennis Scheibmeier officiating. Burial was at the Larned Cemetery.

Memorials may be sent to the Ralph Baird Scholarship Fund at Larned High School or the Rotary Foundation in care of Beckwith Mortuary Inc., Box 477, Larned, Kan., 67550.

**Mathilda Bollig**

Mathilda Bollig, 77, a resident of Cedar Living Center in Oberlin, died there on Thursday, Dec. 14, 2006.

She was born Aug. 24, 1929, in Victoria, the daughter of Edward

and Effie Weber. She grew up in Victoria and attended the schools there. She married Gilbert Bollig in Ellis and they made their home in Hill City before moving to the farm southwest of New Almelo. Her husband died on Oct. 23, 2006. She was a member of the St. Joseph Catholic Church in New Almelo.

Survivors include a son, Glenn and Beth Bollig, Norton; a sister, Alma Weber, Victoria; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; a son, Harold; a daughter, Rose; a brother, Herman; and a son-in-law.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Tuesday morning at St. Joseph Catholic Church in New Almelo. Burial was at the church cemetery.

A memorial was established in her name. Contributions may be sent to Enfield Funeral Home, 215 W. Main, Norton, Kan., 67654.

**Bruce G. Carlson**

Bruce Gerald Carlson, 55, a nephew of Richard and Clara Russ of Oberlin, died Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2006, at his home in McCook.

He was born June 25, 1951, in Clarinda, Iowa, the son of Donald and Betty (Eggers) Stone.

On Sept. 22, 1957, his mother married Kenneth Verner Carlson in Atwood and he and his sisters were adopted by Mr. Carlson on June 21, 1958.

Survivors include his father, Kenneth Carlson, McCook; and two sisters, Carol Koerperich, Wilsonville, Neb., and Norma and Ralph Crowe, Richland, Wash.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents; and his mother, Betty, in 1996.

His body was cremated and a private family inurnment will be held in the Wilsonville Cemetery at a later date.

Memorials may be given in his name. Contributions may be sent to Carpenter Breland Funeral Home, 305 W. C Street, McCook, Neb., 69001.

**Everett G. Fisher**

Everett George Fisher, 84, father of Colleen Geihlsler of Oberlin, died Friday, Dec. 15, 2006, at Decatur County Hospital in Oberlin.

He was born Dec. 26, 1921, in Lebanon, Neb., the son of Andrew George and Bessie Elizabeth (Hiatt) Fisher. He grew up in the Cambridge, Neb., community.

On August 27, 1942, he entered the U.S. Army and served during World War II. He was honorably discharged on Jan. 7, 1946.

He married Florence McDowell in Oberlin on Oct. 31, 1944. They made their home in McCook, where they were owners and operators of Fisher Produce. When their health failed, they moved to Decatur Good Samaritan Center in Oberlin. His wife preceded him in death on April 13, 2005.

Survivors include a son, Harold and Diane Fisher, Culbertson, Neb.; two daughters, Colleen Geihlsler, Oberlin, and Cheryl and Dale Stewart, Indianola; a brother, Andrew Fisher, Jr. and Dorothy Fisher, Gretna, Neb.; two sisters, Mary and Marty Maranville, Sedona, Ariz., and Erma Hisel, Seattle, Wash.; seven grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Eldwin Fisher; and a sister, Ella DeMark.

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon at Carpenter Breland Chapel in McCook with Jerry Beckenhauer officiating. Burial was in Memorial Park Cemetery at McCook.

Memorials may be given in his name. Contributions may be sent to the funeral home, 305 W. C Street, McCook, Neb., 69001.

**Erik Phillip Erickson**

Erik Phillip Erickson, 95, a former Oberlin resident, died Friday, Dec. 15, 2006, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby.

He was born Nov. 8, 1911, on a farm south of Herndon, the seventh of 10 children born to Olaf and Christina (Westman) Erickson. He attended grade school in Laing Township and graduated from Decatur Community High School in 1930. He was the first state champion wrestler for the school and attended college on a wrestling scholarship in Fort Collins, Colo.

He moved to California in the 1930s and worked at the General Motors plant. He served in the United States Army from 1942 to 1945 during World War II and was stationed in Egypt, Algeria, and Palestine. After his discharge, he returned to California to work in the Chevrolet plant as a welder.

He married Wilberta Jean Boardman of Clear Lake, Calif., on June 29, 1947. They lived in San Leandro until 1958 when they moved to Oberlin. He worked for Anderson Implement until 1978 and farmed until retiring in 1995. He and his wife moved to Fairview Estates in Colby in 2002, then moved to the Prairie Senior Living Center later.

Survivors include his wife, Jean; two children, Alan and Pat Erickson, Colby, and Sharon and Bill Lohoefer, North Platte, Neb.; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; a sister, Mildred Lang, San Leandro, Calif.; and a sister-in-law, Elma Lee Erickson, Herndon.

He was preceded in death by his parents; five brothers and three sisters-in-law, Albert and Euella Erickson, Oscar Erickson, Paul and Alma Erickson, Elof and Genevieve Erickson and Algoth Erickson; and three sisters and three brothers-in-law, Emma Erickson, Agnes and Arthur Thoren, Oscar Lang, and Genevieve and Carl Henningsen.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. today at Pauls Funeral Home in Oberlin. Pastor Keith Reuther will officiate and burial will be in the Oberlin Cemetery.

An Erik Erickson Memorial Wrestling Scholarship was established. Contributions may be sent to the funeral home, 215 N. Penn, Oberlin, Kan., 67749.

**Mabel Kennedy**

Mabel Kennedy, 91, of Goodland, a former Oberlin resident, died Sunday, Dec. 19, 2006, at the Goodland Regional Medical Center in Goodland.

She was born May 13, 1915, in Woodruff, the son of Walter and Naomi (Fee) Bickett. She was reared in Woodruff and Traer and completed her early schooling in both towns. She graduated from Decatur Community High School in 1933, then taught school for several years.

She married Walter Kennedy on Aug. 24, 1939, and they lived at Cedar Bluffs for five years before moving to Oberlin. She worked at the Decatur County Hospital many years before retiring in 1983. She was a member of the Assembly of God Church.

Survivors include two daughters, Twila and Dwayne Scott, Wathena, and Linda and Paul Chaffin, Goodland; a brother, Virgil and Marie Bickett, Tucson, Ariz.; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Walter; and a brother, Boyce Bickett.

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p.m. today at Pauls Funeral Home in Oberlin. The Rev. Royce Leitner will officiate and burial will be in the Oberlin Cemetery.

A memorial was established to the Oberlin Assembly of God Church. Contributions may be sent to the funeral home, 121 N. Penn, Oberlin, Kan., 67749.

**Karolyn D. Muirhead**

Karolyn Dorothea Muirhead, 82, a lifetime resident of Decatur County, died Saturday, Dec. 16, 2006, at the Decatur County Hospital in Oberlin.

She was born May 5, 1924, on a farm northwest of Oberlin, the daughter of Herman and Helena (Roetter) May. She was reared on the family farm and attended St. John's Parochial School. She graduated from Decatur Community High School in 1942.

She married Atley Muirhead on Oct. 21, 1951, at St. John's Lutheran Church west of Oberlin. They made their home on a farm near Dresden until moving to Oberlin in 1972. She worked as a nurse aide at the Decatur County Hospital and retired in 1987. She was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church and Lutheran Women's Missionary League. She taught Sunday School, religious education and Tiny Tots at the church for over 60 years and was also a babysitter for many children in Oberlin.

Survivors include her children, Ruth and John Peters, Walton; Joan and Jerry Loughmiller, Wellington; and Robert and Diane Muirhead, Hays; three sisters-in-law, Jean May, Oxford, Mich.; Peg May, Decatur, Ga.; and Eva Muirhead Naatus, Oakdale, Calif.; and eight

grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Atley; and three brothers, Hubert, Elmer and Reinhard.

Funeral services were held Tuesday morning at St. John's Lutheran Church with the Rev. Rick Langness officiating. Burial was in the Oberlin Cemetery.

A memorial was established to St. John's Lutheran Church Education Fund. Contributions may be sent to Pauls Funeral Home, 121 N. Penn, Oberlin, Kan., 67749.

**Harold N. Olson**

Harold Nathaniel Olson, 77, a retired postal employee in Oberlin, died Dec. 11, 2006, at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, Neb.

He was born Nov. 25, 1929, in McPherson, the son of Nathan and Effie (Sallman) Olson. He was reared in Oberlin and attended Oberlin Elementary School. He graduated from Decatur Community High School in 1947. He served in the United States Air Force with the 4907th Supply Squad from 1950 to 1954.



H. Olson

He married Marjorie Vernon on July 1, 1955, in Oberlin. He worked as a postal clerk for the Oberlin Post Office for over 30 years before retiring on Dec. 31, 1987. He was a member of the United Church of Oberlin.

Survivors include his wife, Marjorie, of the home; two sons, Brace and Carmelita Olson, Fountain, Colo., and Ward and Jan Olson, Colorado Springs; a daughter, Connie and Jimmie Modlin, Durham, N.C.; two sisters, Esther Carlson and Dorothy Jackson, Oberlin; and nine grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral services were held Thursday morning at Pauls Funeral Home in Oberlin. Pastor Judi Stricker officiated and burial was at the Oberlin Cemetery.

A memorial was established to the church or Decatur County Museum. Contributions may be sent to Pauls Funeral Home, 121 N. Penn, Oberlin, Kan., 67749.

**CARD OF THANKS**

The family of Harold Olson wishes to express heartfelt appreciation to the community for their prayers, flowers, cards and phone calls while Harold was in the Kearney Hospital and since his passing. Thank you for the gifts of food and for the memorials given to the United Church and the Decatur County Museum.

Thank you to the women of the Covenant Church and the United Church for the dinner provided for the family. Thank you to Dr. May, Dr. Bascom and the caring staff at both the Oberlin hospital and the Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney.

A special thank you goes to Joyce and Bob Hartzog for the many trips back and forth to Kearney, the numerous errands, assistance and all that they took care of over the last 2 1/2 years of Harold's illness. The show of support our family has received is overwhelming and greatly appreciated.

Marjorie M. Olson  
Connie and Jimmie Modlin,  
Emily and Alyssa  
Bruce and Carmelita Olson,  
Drew, Nick, Lindsay and Sam  
Ward and Jan Olson, Chloe,  
Mariah and Cianna.

**Courthouse**

These transactions were taken from the records in the offices of the Decatur County court clerk, sheriff and register of deeds:

**REGISTER OF DEEDS**

Lazy S Inc. by quit claim to Alice Shirley, Lot 2, Block 1, Wenger Addition, City of Oberlin.

Revocable Inter Vivos Trust of Sylva Rose Tolle to Trust of Rodney R. Tolle, the NW 1/4 of Sec. 15 and the SW 1/4 of Sec. 10, all in T2S, R26W; and the S 1/2 of Sec. 34, T1S, R26W.

Dwight and Mary Wentz by quit claim to Dwight and Mary Wentz, trustees of Dwight and Mary Wentz Trust, various tracts in the NW 1/4 of Sec. 36, T2S, R26W; the SW 1/4 of Sec. 6, T3S, R26W; Lots 35 and 36 in Block 6, Original City of Jennings; Lots 1 through 9, Block 2, Kenney Addition, City of Norcatar; Lots 1 through 8, Block 4, Kenney Addition, City of Norcatar; Lots 8 through 12, Block 9, Original City of Norcatar; Lots 2 and 3, Block 10, Original City of Norcatar.

A. J. and Estella Juenemann to Larry and Margaret Miller, the W 1/2 and the SE 1/4 of Sec. 31, T5S, R30W (dated June 29, 1967).

Leonard and Doris Fleckenstein by quit claim to Geraldine Lampe and Dolores Rohr, as tenants in common, the NE 1/4 of Sec. 5, T5S, R27W; the NE 1/4 of Sec. 7, T5S, R27W; the NW 1/4 of Sec. 8, T5S, R27W; and the SE 1/4, the S 1/2 of the NE 1/4, and the E 1/2 of the SW 1/4, less tract, all in Sec. 32, T4S, R27W.

**Town Crier**

**Today:** Senior menu: meat loaf, Italian blend vegetables, baked potato, bread, mixed fruit w/banana.

**Alcoholics Anonymous,** 8 p.m., ambulance barn.

**Thursday:** "Let's Celebrate Christmas" turkey dinner, 11:30 a.m., Oberlin Meal Site.

**Senior menu:** turkey, mashed potatoes/gravy, cranberry apple salad, dressing, cake.

**Open bridge,** 1 p.m., Golden Age Center.

**Friday:** Senior menu: sausage gravy, corn, Mandarin oranges, biscuits, pudding.

**Monday:** Christmas Day. No school all week (classes resume Jan. 3).

**Meal Site closed.**

**Tuesday:** Meal site closed.

**Next Wednesday:** Senior menu: baked fish, broccoli casserole w/ rice, seasoned carrots, bread, apple-sauce.

**Corrections**

The Oberlin Herald will correct or clarify any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at 475-2206 to report errors. We believe that news stories should be fair and factual, and appreciate your calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

**Markets**

**December 18, 2006 closing markets**  
Wheat, \$4.43 bushel  
Milo, \$5.80 hnd weight  
Corn, \$3.46 bushel  
Soybeans, \$5.64 bushel  
Sunflowers, \$12.50 hnd weight

**AMBULANCE CALLS**

These calls were reported recently by the Decatur County ambulance crew:

Dec. 11: 8:43 a.m., transport, Decatur County Hospital to Wesley Medical Center, Wichita.

Dec. 12: 1:23 a.m., medical, S. Beaver, to Decatur County Hospital; 10:34 a.m., transport, Decatur County Hospital to Great Plains Regional Medical Center, North Platte, and return; 11:08 a.m., medical, N. Elk, to Decatur County Hospital; 3:30 p.m., transport, Wesley Medical Center, Wichita, to Decatur County Hospital.

Last Wednesday: 6:35 p.m. medical, E. Hall, to Decatur County Hospital; 9:32 p.m., trauma, E. Ash, to Decatur County Hospital.

Thursday: 1:12 a.m., trauma, N. East, to Decatur County Hospital.

Friday: 10:39 a.m., medical, E. Ash, to Decatur County Hospital.

**City Hall**

**MUNICIPAL COURT**

Thursday: LaFay Schipke, Aberdeen, S.D., speeding 43 in a 30 mph zone, \$103; Terrel Stover, Atwood, speeding 40 in a 30 mph zone, \$85; Johanna Mason, Oberlin, unlicensed dog, dog at large, \$95; Michael Harriage, River Falls, Wis., speeding 44 in a 30 mph zone, \$109; Genevieve Meza, Clovis, N.M., disobeyed traffic signal (fine doubled, construction zone), \$175; Scott Kutnink, Cambridge, Neb., disobeyed traffic signal, \$115, transporting of an alcoholic container, \$255, minor in possession, \$255.

**Sunflower Cinema**  
220 N. Penn • Oberlin  
785-475-3374  
**Sat., Dec. 30**  
**7 p.m.**

**No Movie Closed**  
**Sun., Dec. 31**  
**2 p.m.**  
Ticket Price: \$3<sup>00</sup>  
The subscription agent is:  
**THE OBERLIN HERALD**

*Season's Greetings*  
We have a lot to be thankful for during the holidays because of you, our friends and neighbors. It is a pleasure to serve this community.  
**Enjoy the season.**

**RON FRIEHE**  
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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

**WEATHER**

**Decatur County Weather – December 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
34/23	30/18	28/15	35/18	40/20
Normal High: 40 Normal Low: 15			Sunrise: 7:58 to 8:00am Sunset: 5:20 to 5:22pm	

Looks like we will see a white Christmas after all! A major winter storm develops this afternoon and continues through early Thursday morning. Total snow accumulations of 5" to 10" and some icing east of HWY 83 are possible with this storm. Skies clear Thursday night and temperatures climb above freezing Friday and Saturday. This storm will lack strong winds and allow for the wet snow to lie nicely. This moisture is a perfect gift from above for Christmas!

[www.DecisionWeather.com](http://www.DecisionWeather.com)  
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**(National Weather Service)**  
(Information below for period ending 8 a.m. Mon.; maximum temperature for previous day.)

Date	Hi	Low	Precip.
Dec. 11	42	24	
Dec. 12	56	26	
Dec. 13	62	17	
Dec. 14	61	19	
Dec. 15	62	20	
Dec. 16	51	21	
Dec. 17	38	18	

Precipitation: for the week, 0.00; for the month, 0.0; for the year, 19.36.  
Weather History: Dec. 13, 1993-A cold front brought strong north winds to the area, with gusts recorded up to 60 mph.  
By Jim Merriott – NOAA Cooperative Weather Observer