

THE OBERLIN HERALD

Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

125 YEARS AGO — Jan. 1882
Oberlin is booming. The *Herald* is booming. Business of all kinds is booming.

Over 225 teams in town last Saturday.

Lamb's Draw Doings: School commenced Monday in Mr. Millen's house on North Sappa under the supervision of Mr. J.C. Frewen.

The changes in county officers since last Monday are as follows:

H.D. Colvin handed the keys of the County Clerk's office to Ed. W. Rathbun and was appointed deputy by the latter. Capt. J.W. Short takes the place of Chas. E. Ayer as sheriff. Frank A. Hunt becomes Register of Deeds in place of Geo. W. Keys. Wm. W. McKay as Surveyor is succeeded by Geo. W. Borin. The former county commissioners — F.H. Cornish, John Hayward and W.A. Burnett are succeeded by Van B. Wiggins, A.W. Bariteau and R.W. Finley.

100 YEARS AGO — Jan. 1907

A free band concert was given in the new opera house Dec. 28, 1906, and the regular show was the opera "The Mikado" on the evening of Dec. 31. Seats in the four beautiful boxes were auctioned off to the highest bidder at the band concert and reservations for the "Mikado" were made at that time.

The new residence of J.C. Lathrop near the mill is about completed.

S.J. Morris is getting his store fixed up in good shape. He has a general stock of hardware, harness, tin and granite ware, pumps and windmills.

The high-toned game now is "Chess." If you want to be in the swim, get a set of men and practice up.

R.A. Park has sold the *Atwood Patriot* to S.A. Pearsons.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bolin celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary Jan. 1st.

75 YEARS AGO — Jan. 1932

The year 1931 will go down in the records as being 4.26 inches of precipitation under the 45-year average at Oberlin at 21.77 inches.

Courthouse News: On Dec. 31, Judge Kulp issued his 136th marriage license for the year 1931. Harry Hockett, 23, of Jennings and Miss Velma Jones, 18, Dresden, comprised the wedding party. Judge Kulp also performed the ceremony.

Lee Reeves left Saturday for Norman, Okla., where he is attending school. Joe Goodrich and Alec Francis accompanied him as far as Hays and Howard McClure went as far as Salina with him.

More than 80 friends attended the reception at the Methodist Episcopal Church Monday evening honoring the golden wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. S.D. Berry. Mr. and Mrs. Berry received many beautiful gifts. Their children presented them with \$32 in gold and Mrs. J.E. Kulp, acting as representative of the Royal Neighbors Lodge, presented a beautiful bouquet and a \$5 gold piece. The evening reception was preceded by a family dinner at the Berry home and Mr. Dyer took a family group picture which will serve as a reminder of a happy anniversary and reunion.

Mrs. Henry Benton and son, Howard, of Norcat and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Benton and daughters, Norma Louise and Gloria, were dinner guests of Mrs. H.O. Douglas Sunday.

The entire Nelson clan met for dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Nelson on Sunday. This was the first family reunion for 8 years.

Prairie View: Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Carter entertained Sunday on honor of their daughter Ruth's 14th birthday.

Fairview and Summit: A New Year's Eve party was held at Clyde Shaw's home and the evening was spent in playing music and different games. A midnight supper was served and everyone departed and was wished a happy and prosperous New Year.

50 YEARS AGO — Jan. 1957

Top Ten News Stories of 1956 as reported by *The Oberlin Herald*:

1. Smallest wheat crop since 1940.
2. Construction of Home for the Aged.

3. Discovery of Warner Oil Pool.
4. Approval of Swimming Pool Bonds.
5. Deficient rainfall for third year.
6. Construction of City Library.
7. Coming of reliable television reception.
8. Completion of \$100,000 waterworks improvements.
9. Strong general election showing of Democrats.
10. Dedication of four churches in Oberlin.

25 YEARS AGO — Jan. 1982

Area residents didn't have long to wait to find out who would be the first baby born in 1982. Eric Eugene Runge made his appearance at 4:49 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 3, at Decatur County Hospital, the second son of Robin and Carol Runge of Herndon.

The Honorable Charles E. Worden, Norton, has been re-appointed by the Kansas Supreme Court as the administrative judge of the 17th Judicial District. The appointment is for two years.

Margaret Erickson, co-owner of The Flower Shop, has been elected as the new president of the Oberlin Commercial Club. New vice president is Larry Smith of the Farmers National Bank.

New Arrival: Mr. and Mrs. Wm. T. DeKnight III, daughter, Daisy Elizabeth, Dec. 31.

Dresden: A fire early Sunday morning totally destroyed a 14x70 mobile home owned by Greg and Annette Overlease.

Local persons receiving state PRIDE awards were: Ray Adams, Workhorse Award; John Juenemann and Dr. Tom Pillow, the Did Something Award; and Kieth Alstrom and Bob Fraker, the Helping Hand Award.



HELPING CUSTOMERS on Friday, Kenneth Zerr of Tribune has taken over as officer in charge of the Oberlin Post Office until a new postmaster can be named.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

New chief takes over at post office

This isn't the first time Kenneth Zerr has been to Oberlin, just the first time he's been in charge of the post office here.

Mr. Zerr, 46, said he came to work for his wife's uncle, George Wolf, at the Oberlin Locker Plant in the summer of 1978.

Now, with the departure of long-time Postmaster Linda Smith, Mr. Zerr, postmaster at Tribune, is handling Oberlin for a few months as officer in charge.

Mr. Zerr said he started with the Postal Service in 1982 as a clerk in Colby. In 1985, he became postmaster at Winona and in 1987 he moved to Tribune as postmaster, a job he's held ever since.

This is his first time as an interim postmaster, he said, and while in Oberlin he is still holding down his Tribune job — staying here during the week and traveling home on weekends.

Last Thursday as Oberlin was preparing for another snowstorm,

Mr. Zerr was preparing to drive home, hopefully before it hit.

The Oberlin office has plenty of good help, he said, but Tribune is shorthanded and since he's still postmaster there, he has to try to do double duty.

While he's in Oberlin, he said, he is staying at the LandMark Inn. He started out at the Frontier, he said, but moved to the LandMark because it was closer to the post office. This way he can walk to work. While he is here, he said, the Postal Service pays for his mileage, room and meals, so he has no extra expenses.

Most of the time when a postmaster leaves, he said, an interim postmaster comes in to take over for a few months while a new person is chosen for the job.

The postmaster's job is open for bids from postal workers in the surrounding area, which includes parts of Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska, he said.

The bidding process is going on now for Oberlin and is expected to close in January. However, if the service isn't satisfied that it has enough candidates, it can open the process up again for a larger area.

Mr. Zerr said he expects to be working in Oberlin for about two months, but that could vary depending on how long it takes to find a replacement. As officer in charge, he is not eligible to apply for the job, which is fine, he said. He's happy in Tribune, where he and wife Lori, who is the director of the Greeley County Public Library in Tribune, have three children.

Katie, 24, a University of Kansas graduate with a master's degree in early childhood development, lives in Lawrence.

Beth, 19, attends Avila University, a small college in Kansas City, Mo., and is on the cheerleading squad.

Drew, 16, is a junior at Tribune High School.

Good Samaritan News

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And days of auld lang syne,
And days of auld lang syne, my dear,
And days of auld lang syne.*

These words were written by Robert Burns, a Scottish poet, in 1788 and are traditionally sung on New Year's Eve. The literal meaning of the title is "old long since," or colloquially, "the good ol' days."

Thirty-one residents gathered to sing this old song after first hearing the words of Paul, in his second letter to the Corinthian church. Here the writer also speaks of "things long since:" "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (II Corinthians 5:17)

Residents took turns giving testimony to the blessings God had poured out to them in 2006. Among the most cited was living at the Good Sam. Other blessings were health, grandchildren, the First Hand Friend reading pals, Daisy, good preaching, friendship, that the memory of a faithful husband was still fresh, praise for the moisture, and of course, family.

After counting the blessings already given, then we looked forward to answered prayers in 2007.

Some of these included continued health, prayers for our children, to be guided by the Spirit, and that the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts would be acceptable to God. Between each prayer given, we lifted our glasses and sipped sparkling cider together.

What a wonderful way to celebrate God's love, His presence and His provision in our lives.

When you look back over the pages of last year's calendar, notice the record of places and people on them. We would expect to find appointments to the doctor, the dentist, a funeral or two, committee meetings, church and school functions. People may include birthday reminders, lunch dates with friends, weddings and new babies.

It is an interesting exercise to see exactly how you have spent your

time and to reflect on God's hand in it all. Some of the appointments may bring sadness or even sorrow, others joy and celebrations.

I'd like to challenge you to count how many squares you found that have "Good Sam" penciled in. If you would like to increase your joy in this new year, including us on your calendar is one sure way to do it; 2007 is going to be a very good year!

Already we are planning our 50th anniversary, to be celebrated in March. The re-decorating will be complete and our Alzheimer's Activity Room will open. Mark your calendars for Jan. 20 and Feb. 10.

Dr. Michael Breiner will be here to give an in-depth presentation on Alzheimer's. This program is designed to give families a clearer understanding of what is happening to their loved one, and encouragement in caring for or interacting with someone who lives with this disease. There is no cost to attend and the public is invited.

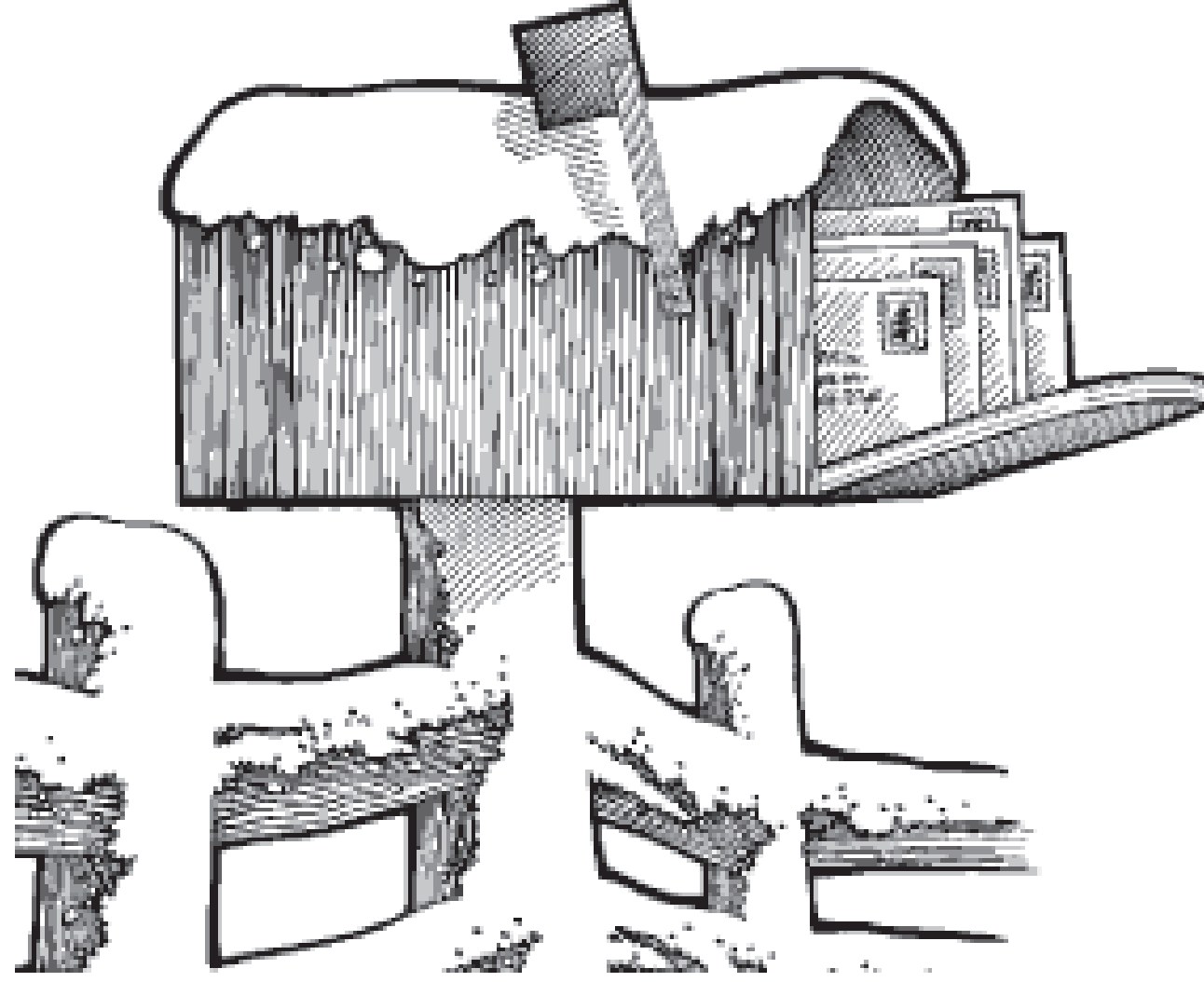
A sampling of some of the activities to watch for this year include an old-fashioned literary event, a tent revival, a beautiful baby contest, a mock auction, the creation of an "Over 90" Club, an ice cream social and more mission projects.

Many of these ideas come directly from your loved ones. Their creativity is endless and so is their love!

Wishing you a Happy New Year filled with boundless blessings given from the One we love and serve ... and don't forget your daily appointment with Him!

Residents who enjoyed visitors despite the weather included: **Dorothy Hunt** — Ron and Dixie Snyder of Colby; **Marie McChesney** — Don and Julia Ray, Adric and Jessup; **Dorothy Pryor** — Linda, Bethany and Samuel Smith from Atwood, Benjamin Smith of Powell, Tenn., and friend Emily Lipton of Rockford, Ill.; **Ruby Wennihan** — Nikki and Wyatt Amlong of Pfeifer; **Lucy Schissler** — Mert McEvoy, and Ralph Crim of Atwood; **Ruth Laidig** — Kim Mehl of Warrensburg, Mo., and Janice and Ernie Mehl of North Platte, Neb.; **Loren Escher** — Kara, Kelsey and Kristyn, all from Reno, Nev.

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