

# Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

## 125 YEARS AGO — Jan. 1883

Quite a blizzard Saturday. J.C. Wilson and wife, Arthur W. Allen and Miss Edith Allen attended a party at Achilles last Thursday. They report a splendid good time. Samuel Sawyer of Jewell County and an old town friend of J.C. Tracy's arrived here last week, with the intention of locating in Decatur County.

A pleasant party at Mr. Mark's one evening last week.

Ed Rathbun is stopping in town. He will hang out around the court house until the last of February.

John E. Love returned last week from Nebraska where he has been working for some time.

## 100 YEARS AGO — Jan. 1908

The county commissioners on Wednesday appointed Capt. J.W. Allen as county assessor.

Governor Hoch has called an extra session of the legislature to pass a guarantee deposit law and a primary election law.

Kanona Items: Sperm Bailey dedicated their new house on New Year's Day by inviting 170 of their friends and neighbors to have dinner with them.

Vanity Camp 611, Modern Woodmen of America, celebrated Monday evening the initiation of the largest class ever initiated in any secret order in Northwest Kansas. There had been 217 applications received and accepted but a few failed to pass the physical examination and a few others were not on hand Monday evening, the number being 191. Venerable Consul I.K. Huber announced that the addition of this class brings the lodge membership to 463.

Traer Items: R.S. Thomas has traded his hardware stock to Ira Elliot for the latter's farm.

## 75 YEARS AGO — Jan. 1933

Prospects for a "slow recovery" in 1933 seem brighter as the country completes its third depression year.

County News: Only a few license tags have been sold. Hazel Votapka has the money on hand to obtain her same old No. 1 tag in a different color and Adolf Lohofener raked up the price of No. 13.

The reins of the sheriff's office will be turned over to Frank Garver on the 10th. Gilbert Stephens is closing a splendid record during his four years in office. In the county clerk's office George Jorm of Norcatur suc-

ceeds George Nellans and will have as his assistant Pearle Stowell. In the county attorney's office J.F. Peters is succeeded by John Bremer, an ambitious young lawyer with an excellent record as a law student. In the office of the clerk of the district court Miss Iva Millen will be succeeded by Miss Dorothy McGee. Miss Millen has the longest record of service of any county official in the history of Decatur County as she was first elected in 1916 and has served continuously since.

Clif Waldo, after eight years serve as county commissioner from the second district, will let Oscar Walinder of Sappa Township try his hand at the job. It's a thankless job at best, but Waldo has so conducted himself in his official actions as to escape any great amount of criticism, and that's saying a lot for a commissioner.

Our representative at Topeka will be W.P. Noone of Jennings who will take over the duties of V.R. Caster of Olive Township who to our way of thinking has been an exceptionally good representative; one whose ability and faithfulness to the interest of his constituents has not always been appreciated.

Dresden: Funeral services were held for Mrs. M.J. (Dora) Chapman, 46, who taught school in the county for 10 years before her marriage. She is survived by her husband; one daughter, Sarah Ann; one son, Martin; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bremer of Dresden; six sisters; and five brothers.

A bouncing baby boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Brantley, Courtland, and the baby has the distinction of adding the fifth living generation to Mrs. Morrison's family, the Beers. Mrs. Morrison's father, Mr. C.H. Beers, 75, lives in Hoxie; his mother, who is 104 years old, lives in Chicago. All in all it's really no wonder that Dr. H.J. Morrison was walking on air all day yesterday.

## 50 YEARS AGO — Jan. 1958

- Top 10 stories of 1957:
1. Return to normal rainfall after three years of deficient moisture.
  2. A wheat crop averaging 27 bushels per acre.
  3. Oberlin Municipal Swimming Pool opens.
  4. The Decatur County Home opens.
  5. Cattle prices reach \$29.50 and county cattle population increases.
  6. The snow storm of March

22-24, worst in nine years, breaks dry spell.

7. Local retail business makes a comeback, could hit \$4.5 million for year.

8. For the second year in a row, local tax rates decrease.

9. Flu bug hits half of county's population.

10. Oberlin wins first state wrestling championship in 14 years.

December and January are peak months for subscriptions to the Oberlin Herald with one-third of all subscriptions renewed during those months. Most prolific subscriber is Mrs. Lizzie Armstrong, who lives southwest of Oberlin, with 13 subscriptions given to children and grandchildren.

Hospital News: Dr. and Mrs. James Coffman, son, Daniel Mark, Dec. 23; Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Richards, Norcatur, son, Ricky Lynn, Dec. 25; Mr. and Mrs. Leo Koerperich, Jennings, daughter, Eileen Lois, Dec. 27; Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Cathcart, son, William James, Dec. 29.

A 1957 income tax deduction has been gained on the last day of the year by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Herzog. Carol Jo, 7 pounds, 13 ounces, was born Tuesday, Dec. 31.

## 25 YEARS AGO — Jan. 1983

The first baby born in Decatur County in 1983, Megan Rae Boyd, made her appearance at 1:55 a.m. on

Jan. 4 at Decatur County Hospital.

Snow shovels, snowblowers, and chain tighteners along with bread and milk were the main items local residents were requesting the past week. Only a few snow shovels and chains could be found in town. The city crews continued working all of last week to open up streets after Monday's blizzard piled snow on top of their earlier removal efforts.

A New Year's blaze destroyed the 40x80 metal quonset-style building and its entire contents at Decatur Co-op Association. According to manager John Juenemann the estimate of damage to the general merchandise warehouse is over \$100,000.

New Arrivals: Bill and Sharon Lohofener, son, Brett Wayne, Jan. 1, 1983, at the North Platte Hospital; Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Roberts, son, Daniel Jeffrey, Dec. 31, 1982, at Norton Hospital; Mr. and Mrs. Dick Vahlring, rural Dresden, daughter, Lori Deann, Dec. 28, 1982, at Citizens Medical Center, Colby.

Mr. and Mrs. Elof Erickson were honored on their golden wedding anniversary Jan. 1 at Golden Age Center.

Marquis Sauvage was the only Red Devil named to the all-tournament team at the Hoxie freshman basketball tournament played at Hill City over the Christmas break. Winner was Plainville, who downed Norton 43-42 in the finals.

## Let's Go to the Museum

By Sharleen Wurm, director

The 2007 Museum Christmas Tree Tour got off to a snowy start but we still had a good turnout. After the "Parade of Lights" folks came down to view 19 decorated trees and enjoy music and refreshments.

Teens for Christ set up the trees in early November and will be taking them down on Jan. 20. We appreciate all of their help!

Thank you to all of those who decorated trees including: Teens for Christ, Day Care Providers Organization, the Berls family and Daycare, Oberlin Rotary, Star Valley 4-H, American Legion Auxiliary, Monday Evening Club, DPW, PEO, Pi Alpha, Needles and Pins Quilt Guild, Aquarius Club, Prairie Chapel UMW, Tom and Barbara Mullen, the Isbell family, the Hollars family, the museum cleaning

ladies, and museum staff.

The annual "People's Choice" award is determined by the monetary votes cast for each tree. The award was won this year by Teens for Christ, decorated by Pastor Doug and Johanna Mason.

A brass plate engraved with their name will be added to the "People's Choice" plaque in the museum office. Second place went to the Aquarius club and the Oberlin Rotary took third. Congratulations to everyone!

The museum office is open for research throughout the winter on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m. The museum staff wants to wish everyone a very Happy New Year and we'll see you in 2008!

interested in playing cards. We are hoping to find a pitch and/or poker player who could come every third or fourth Monday at 2 p.m.

Last, our plants are in desperate need of someone with a green thumb. This could be an "anytime" job. If you or someone you know would like to help out, give us a call.

I want to remind you all to check out our website, www.good-sam.com. Click on "Find a Location" and select "Kansas." Next click on "Good Samaritan Society-Decatur County." There is a link there to view the monthly calendar of events.

We are very excited to ring in the New Year, and wish you and yours God's abundant blessings.

## Good Samaritan Center

Saturday was the first day of winter, and didn't God provide a beautiful welcome to the season? There was just enough snow to answer our prayers for moisture but not so much that it hindered family from coming to celebrate.

Our celebration began Sunday night with a visit from Michael Melbauer, who came to sing for our December birthday party. We had seven birthday honorees, Marie McChesney, John Ready, Dorothy Pryor, Kathryn Post, Earl Brown, Opal Bryan and Helen Marintzer. Everyone enjoyed the audience participation program. Helen Marintzer, Faye Miller, Doris Marintzer and Eva Bryan played bells, as Leo Mooty stepped to the beat of the music. Everyone swayed to the tune of "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" while the lights of a disco ball danced on the walls.

Monday, we settled into the still quietness of preparing our hearts for the arrival of the newborn King. Dennis Brown and Lisa Paulson read the Christmas Story recorded in Luke. Rita and Morris Schaller provided special music for the service. Rita is Faye Miller's daughter. The afternoon ended with carols. After supper Santa arrived, bringing gifts for everyone.

Christmas morning residents gathered around the fireplace to listen to the radio drama "A Christmas Carol," produced by Focus on the Family. Kim and Sarah Langness played the piano and saxophone

during dinner. For Social Hour, the Hirsch family came to play games. Many residents entertained family or went out for the day, and everyone reported having a very nice Christmas.

Planning for the New Year is the works, and while we are still in the early stages it promises to be filled with many fun and meaningful things to do. We always ask the residents for ideas and some of the most successful programs have been their doing. We tell them to shoot for the moon, no idea is too crazy.

We will have more weekend activities for the residents to enjoy, including the introduction of Old Time Radio to encourage fellowship and meet the needs of our visually

impaired community. Plans are to include art, music and light therapy in the programming to enhance the Garden of Hope experience for your loved ones. As always, we are open to suggestions and welcome your insights.

We are looking for some new volunteers; would you join with us in prayer on this matter? Specifically, we need help on Wednesday afternoons at 1 o'clock doing nails. This is such a popular pampering ... our two very faithful volunteers, Dorothy Alstrom and Rosella Meitl, can hardly keep up. They do such a wonderful job, nobody wants to miss. Their job would be much easier with two more helpers.

We also have several residents

## Good year is ending with a flourish

Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. I can't believe it's been and gone already and we are getting ready to start a new year. Just goes by too fast; wish I could slow it down.

I'm sure y'all have noticed it's just a little hard to get around some days, with the ice, then snow on top of that, then more snow, then it melts and refreezes, and did I mention it snows some more?

What a mess. It's not impossible to get around in, just be careful. Guess it's hard to keep up

with, but don't let it stop you from getting out. You don't have to just stay home, there's people to see, places to go, and things to do. So go, see, and do!

And Santa Bucks to spend, with almost \$19,000 worth sold this year I think there's still shopping to do. What a great way to keep the

money in the community. So enjoy the last weekend of 2007. The sun's even out, and looks like it might be around for awhile. Maybe it will even melt some of the ice and snow off the roads - hope so.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year!!

## View from the Chamber

By Jo Henderson, manager

## New Year's Resolution!

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## Cedar Living News

Sympathy is extended to the family of Claudine Bennett who passed away on Christmas Day.

Frank Ward was the guest of honor at a birthday party hosted by his family on Saturday, Dec. 22. Wava Reames, and Leslie and Lynn Ward and families served cookies and homemade ice cream to residents, guests, and staff members.

Mildred Tacha spent the day on Saturday with her family in Jennings.

Residents enjoyed some beautiful Christmas music at noon on Sunday provided by a brass quartet, which included our social worker, Joanne Wendelin. Other members were Lonnie Weyeneth of Danbury and Donnie McCorkle and Paul Wood of McCook.

Helena Bruggeman and her family had a Christmas meal together at noon on Sunday. Those attending included Gary, Alvera, Tyler and Stephanie Bruggeman, Regina and Joe Stanley, Jesse Stanley, and Jo Ann and Bob Shuler.

Pastor Charlotte Strecker-Baseler gave the Christmas message and Mirla Coleman assisted with the music at the candlelight service held on Sunday evening. Hot chocolate was served following the service.

Cheyenne Soderlund and her friend gave a short piano recital for the residents at noon on Monday.

Every resident had a special gift from Santa on Christmas morning. Santa had a little help from staff members of Decatur Health Systems who generously provided the gifts. Staff members have been donating to this annual project for many years.

Frank and Velda Ward spent Christmas day with their family in Norcatur.

Helena Bruggeman had the first bingo on Thursday afternoon and

Kayo Sattler won the blackout game.

Margaret Stanley and Lawrence Carter were guests of Naomi Carter for lunch on Friday. They came to help Naomi celebrate her birthday.

The baking group made peanut butter cookies on Friday afternoon.

The McCook Elks Club remembered the veterans who live at Cedar Living Center with a gift of cookies and a deck of cards.

Recent visitors: Kevin, Allyson and Gage Bennett, Movable, Iowa; John Tacha, Lawrence; Kurt, Michelle, and Skyler Bennett, Indianola, Neb.; Dorothy Ward, Fran and Laverne Milner, Bee Nelson, Norcatur; Van and Kelly Quiett, Castle Rock, Colo.; Lonnie and Linda Ashley, Loveland, Colo.; Chad and Lori Ashley, Nash and Nat, Littleton, Colo.; Frank Cox, Julie and Bob Hafner, Jerry Wolfram, Herndon; Caitlin McCorkle, George Wurm, Whitney Pierson, McCook; Richard and Bernadine Samson, Ludell; Bill Cramer, Indiana.; Marilyn Harden, Hays; Gene and Meredith Hrnchir, Atwood; Marie Elena Lopez, Guadalajara, Jal., Mexico; Pat and Lynette Mines Salvo, Tucson, Ariz.; Terry and Nancy Kruse, Russellville, Mo.; Doyle and Kay Brown, Jennings; Paula Tadlock, Fort Morgan, Colo.; Shawna and Johnny Crum, Oklahoma.

Rosella Meitl, Elvin Beneda, Orin Beneda, Dennis, Kaylene, Jennifer, and Jason Thomas, Tom Fisher, Miriam Fisher, Jon Fisher, Samme Steinmetz, Jeanette Miller, Jon, Ana, and Spencer Wishon, Phyll Cramer, Frank and Karen Bennett, Lyle Gamblin, Earl Brown, Sandra Young, Ira Kolsky, Eunice Martin. Oberlin.

## Mount Pleasant News

By Dianne Bremer

Kris and Farah (Wendelin) Erickson, Lindsborg, were guests of the Norman Wendelin family Saturday evening, Dec. 22.

Mike and Nancy Shields and Corine, and Brett and Ali Shields, Omaha, were Friday and Saturday overnight guests of Gaylord and Shirley Shields, returning home Sunday morning, Dec. 23. Additional guests on Saturday to celebrate their family Christmas were Paul and Kelly Shields, Tyler, Cassidy, and Caitlin.

Guests of Wilma May on Saturday, Dec. 22, for a family Christmas dinner were David May, McCook; Stean Olson, Hays; Kelly Olson, Manhattan; Jerry and Connie Olson, Justin and Wendy Scott, Garrett and Gage, and Evelyn Olson. The Elwood May family was unable to attend due to earlier family commitments.

Roland and Pam May, Zach and Hannah, were Saturday and Sunday overnight guests of her father, Ben Jorns, Preston. Additional guests at the Jorns home to celebrate their family Christmas were Pam's brother and family, Phil and Lisa Jorns, Julia and Logan, Norman, Okla. The Tim Jorns family of Kansas City was unable to attend due to weather conditions. The Mays returned home Monday morning, Dec. 24.

The brass quartet of Joanne Wendelin, Lonnie Weyeneth, Danbury, Donnie McCorkle and Paul Wood, McCook, performed special Advent music during worship services Sunday morning, Dec. 23, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Oberlin. After church services, they and Donnie's daughter, Caitlin, McCook, were

dinner guests at the Norman Wendelin home.

Norman and Julie Gallentine, Laurene Bryan, Richard and Anna Shaw and Jennifer, Joel and Tami Shaw and Dante, and Steve and Susan Nelson and Makenzie were guests of Ralph and Violet Shaw for a Christmas Eve soup supper following candlelight worship services that evening.

Christmas Day dinner guests of Lois Carlson were Jaron and Tara Tate and Abigail, Hot Springs, Ark.; Edith and John Tate, and Jay and Becky Date, Dakota, Mollie, and Grace. After an afternoon of visiting, Jaron, Tara, and Abigail were overnight guests at the Jay Tate home.

Ralph and Violet Shaw enjoyed Christmas Day dinner with her mother, Thelma Spiers, at the Good Samaritan Center in Oberlin.

Christmas Day dinner guests of Norman and Joanne Wendelin and Rory were Wayne and Lois Larson, Greta Wendelin, Lawrence, and Ladd Wendelin, Lincoln, Neb., who has been here visiting his family for a few days over the Christmas holiday.

Christmas Day supper guests of Ralph and Violet Shaw were Richard and Anna Shaw, Jennifer Shaw, and Joel and Tami Shaw and Dante.

Arthur and Alice May, Helen Derby, Kristen Bremer, Colby, and John and Dianne Bremer and Jessica enjoyed Christmas Day dinner at the home of Jody and Herschel Betts.

John and Edith Tate were guests of the Jaron Tate family at a local restaurant Wednesday noon before his family returned home.

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