

THE OBERLIN HERALD

Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

125 YEARS AGO — March 1883

Just now Kansas is having a regular boom.

The Oberlin House on Tuesday night could not accommodate the guests who applied for lodging. This seldom happens with the facilities at hand at the above house, and is a forerunner of good times in the spring.

J. W. Bennett and J. A. Barnard of the Prairie Dog have contracted with Mr. Sibbett to carry the mail between Grainfield and Oberlin and will commence running the route the first of April. Mr. Barnard will move to Oberlin.

It is very evident that some of the people of this school district do not need a school house. They are probably graduates. At the bond election last Friday one ballot was cast, "Aganste the bonds," and another "A Gainst the bonds."

Two feed mills in Oberlin: one horse power and one water power.

John Fair has just returned from Friendville, Neb., where he passed the winter.

100 YEARS AGO — March 1908

S. A. Fish is moving into his new house this week. It is one of the best in the city.

Ed. Woolley, the ball player, says he has been at bat 20 times this season, and has made 18 hits. That's starting out right.

Jennings Items:

W. P. Noone lives out in the country now and says he gets too much exercise walking to town three times a day.

Clarence Foley goes to Norton about every Sunday. It is supposed that he will soon be through going so regularly.

The Oberlin and Cedar Bluff mail will be discontinued April 1st.

This office turned out four sets of horse bills Saturday.

Norton County High School turned the tables on Decatur in the annual contest Friday evening at Norton. Their declaimer, Miss Nellie Danley, getting the judge's decision over Miss Mary Vawter, our contestant. The Norton debaters also won the unanimous decision of the judges in the debate on

the football question, "Resolved that football is in the best interests of the high school." Norton had the negative side of the question; possibly the better side to debate. The Oberlin debaters were: Glenn Logan, Augusta Geisenhener and Charles Battin.

75 YEARS AGO — March 1933

Needed moisture came to Decatur County Saturday and Sunday in the form of a real old-time blizzard. Although some areas around received less amounts, 8 inches of wet snow were recorded in Oberlin and many cars were stalled in the drifts.

Oberlin took second in the regional basketball tournament held at Hays last week losing only to the Hays Catholic High School in the finals. They were invited to the state tournament where they will play Emporia High.

Those who went to Hays to attend the tournament had difficulty returning home both after the game on Saturday night and on Sunday morning with many being stranded in Kanona where they were given shelter by the Oscar Johnson family and at the elevator by Wayne Landau. Mrs. Landau prepared breakfast for the 19 boys who stayed in the office of the elevator overnight. Despite the difficulty in returning home due to the blizzard, all who attended thought it was worthwhile.

The wrestlers placed third in the state tournament held at Manhattan.

J. W. Burchett, engineer at the City Power House, is taking a real vacation, the first in 16 years. In company with his sons, Charles and Claude, he will visit points in Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio.

50 YEARS AGO — March 1983

Sticky, deep, gooey, dirty, rutted, dripping mud. That is the story of the week in Decatur County. Most farmers are committed to a tractor ride to the nearest hard-surface road or taking an early trip to town while the roads are still frozen.

The continued period of snow and cold weather that started here Feb. 27 and persists past the Ides of March has lasted longer and produced more snow than any previous

winter storm in the history of this county's weather records according to weather observer E. W. Coldren.

Due to bad roads which would have kept many farmers from attending the athletic banquet, it has been postponed. Bill Easton, track coach at the University of Kansas, who was to have been the speaker will not be able to make a future date so another speaker will have to be obtained.

District Judge Robert W. Hemphill of Norton, has announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for that position. He has served the five-county judicial district since 1947.

Funeral services were held at the DCHS auditorium for James LaRae Powell, 17, a senior, whose death at Decatur County Hospital was attributed to a blood clot. Services were later held at the Lebanon Presbyterian Church with interment in the Lebanon Cemetery. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Powell and is also survived by a sister, Coleen, and a brother, Allan.

New Arrivals: Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Manning, son, Tommy Floyd, March 11; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dempewolf, son, Charles Eugene; Mr. and Mrs. Jack Benjamin, Dresden, son, George Wayne, March 13; Mr. and Mrs. Merle Chance, Jennings, daughter, Katherine Roseana, March 14; Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Meyer, son, Mark Eric, March 13; Mr. and Mrs. Merlin Anderson, daughter, Merlinda Gayle, March 13; Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Brown, son, March 17.

Dale Votapka placed first at the Missouri Valley wrestling tournament held at Hays Saturday winning over John Dooley, K-State, by a score of 10-4. Dale wrestled in the 123 weight, heavier than his usual. In the Navy he wrestled 114.

25 YEARS AGO — March 1983

According to Decatur County ASCS director Mike Gawith local participation in the Payment-in-Kind program was minimal with only 6 percent of wheat land signed up and about 24 percent of the total feed grain base.

The Herndon High School team

of Future Problem Solvers were winners in the state competition in Hays and qualified for national competition to be held in May in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The team consisting of Renae Slatt, Angela Green, Dawn Tongish and Karen Unger is coached by Diane Jones.

New Arrivals: March 15: Larena and Robert Brunswick, McCook, daughter, Nichole Danyelle; Sherrie and Gary Rogers, Selden, son, Levi Cole; March 19: Susan and Michael Neff, McCook, son Aaron Michael.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Ritter, Oberlin, announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Ramona, to Greg Cook, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Cook, Russell. The bride is a graduate of DCHS and will graduate in May from FHSU with a degree in elementary education. The wedding is planned for May 28, 1983, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Oberlin.

New rural mail carrier Asa Alexander had a rough start on Route Three on Saturday in an attempt to deliver the mail in the Traer area. In addition to the muddy roads from the snow and rain and being unfamiliar with the route, his four-wheel drive vehicle broke down and he waited two hours for a replacement and it was nearly eight o'clock that evening when he completed the route and his fellow postal employees had organized a search party. Alexander replaces Charlie Adams who retired.

Norcat: Construction has begun on an expansion and remodeling of Citizens State Bank according to Lyman Leichter, vice president. The project will add a 60 percent expansion in space. The main entrance will be on the north side, with a ramp leading up to the electronic double doors on one side and shallow steps on the other and a heated walkway.

Jo Beaty, D.V.M. has announced plans to establish a veterinary clinic in Oberlin north of Oberlin Livestock Auction along U. S. Highway 83. Beaty was formerly associated with Dr. Jay Anderson and Dr. Will Smith.



DIRT FLOORS and outdoor kitchens don't mean things aren't clean. Elsa Borge does the dishes in her family's open-air kitchen, with clean clothes hanging behind her.

* Hope stays alive on hard dirt lane

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always wanted to be in the Peace Corps."

Instead, she followed her parents' advice and got into engineering. A car wreck a couple of years ago gave her pause to examine her priorities. She started her first program in neighboring Costa Rica. Costa Rica is rich by comparison, though, and she eventually decided that Nicaragua has more need and maybe appreciated the effort more. She's been phasing down the Costa Rican program and ramping up in Nicaragua.

Empowerment now helps 200 kids out here along the rail line and another 60 in a nearby barrio, she said. The need, though, is endless, spreading across the wide volcanic valley from Lake Nicaragua past Managua to the coast.

MarLuz Hernandez comes walking down the street, balancing a tray of plantain snacks on her head. In Third World tradition, she's off to help feed her family by selling on the street.

But Mar Luz (Her name means "sea of light," and her smile proves it.) is an Empowerment superstar. At 15, she's in the sixth grade after five years in the program, "since day one." Because her brother is a glue sniffer and she's a girl and works on the streets, she's still a high risk,

Ms. Adams said, but so far, so good. She's one of the program's photographers, who carry digital cameras everywhere.

As younger girls come up to hug Kathy's legs, MarLuz tells us she'd like to be a doctor or a teacher or a secretary some day.

Ms. Adams says her priorities have changed since she started her work.

"At first I gave them everything," she said. "I felt so guilty."

Now she's learned that people have to want to help themselves. While Empowerment gives families some school supplies and uniforms, and tickets to get kids into a clinic, they get no money. All the workers and 15 to 20 community volunteers and committee members are natives.

"I don't want them to see a North American face," Ms. Adams says. "I want them to see a Nicaraguan face."

"I used to project my values on Costa Rica, but here, it's a big deal if they finish sixth grade."

In fact, only half of the barrio kids make it to sixth grade and few go on. The average education is third grade, and illiteracy is on the rise.

Ms. Adams does everything for about \$100 a child, she says, offering hope for a better life on the Street of Hope.

Jennings News

By Louise Cressler

Karen Stueve, Katie and Amanda of Gardner visited her parents, Helen and Bud Rhodes, over the weekend.

Stan and Ramona Shaw visited several days at the home of their daughter, Cindy and Danny Black, Logan and Bowen of Carlsbad, N.M. While there, they celebrated Logan's 12th birthday and the wedding anniversary of Danny and Cindy.

Stan and Ramona Shaw are happy to announce the birth of their great-granddaughter, Emma Shaw Gillespie was born March 10, 2008, at Menora Hospital, Overland Park. She weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. The proud parents are Tamara Bratt and Elliott Gillespie, Belton, Mo.

The Jennings Tuesday Study Club met at the Southwind Steakhouse in Selden for lunch on Feb. 26. Jackie Boultinghouse and Jackie Neff gave them a tour of the new Community Center and allowed us to have our meeting there. Vice President Joan

Metz opened the meeting with the reading of the January minutes. These were amended to include the stop for ice cream and pie to celebrate the birthdays of Wilma Mader, Vendla Tacha and Neoma Tacha. Josephine Kinser's Tuesday Study Club memory book will be donated to the museum.

For roll call, Rachel Carter, Joan Metz, Ruth Chance, Violet Foster, Jean Skubal, Lynn Tacha, Vendla Tacha, Wilma Mader, Joan McKenna, Neoma Tacha and guest Sue Long told briefly of their favorite books.

The meeting adjourned and the club members took a tour of Koerperich Bookbinders. Chris, Dalla and Don Koerperich explained the process from start to finish. Neoma Tacha gave the brothers copies of a news article published when their father first opened the company. The March meeting will be in Oakley with visits to the Buffalo Bill sculpture and the ethanol plant.

The Sunflower Seniors met Tues-

day, March 11, for potluck supper. Following the meal, John Juenemann played the guitar and sang several songs. Those enjoying the evening were: Wilma and Jim Mader, Rachel and William Carter, Agnes Wahlmeier, Stan and Ramona Shaw, Kenny Krizek, Larry and Alice Mizer, Mary Votapka, Bob Jones, Carla Latimer and Louise Cressler.

Maundy Thursday communion and prayer service will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Dresden United Methodist Church. A Good Friday tenebrae service will begin at 5 p.m. at the Jennings church.

Easter morning services will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Dresden church. An Easter potluck brunch is planned from 9:30 a.m. to morning worship service at 11 a.m. on Sunday at the Jennings church.

Weekend guests of Lawrence and Lila Jennings were Dale and Tammy Musgrave, Erin, Ryan and Eric, Ong, Neb.; Brian and Westley Jennings, Solomon; Crystal Jennings,

Russell; Brett Jennings, Oberlin; Tim Kinnaman, Fort Arthur, Ark.; Pat Kinnaman, Tulsa, Okla.; and Luke Norman, Chadron, Neb. They all attended the wedding of Brent Jennings and Rhonda Workman on Saturday, as well as a barbecue for relatives and friends Saturday evening at the farm home of Brett Jennings.

Among others present were the newlyweds, Brent and Rhonda Jennings; Andrea and Morgan Workman, Brendan Jennings, Jon and Karina Fisher, and Lee and Judy Ploussard.

City water meters will be read March 22. Please post your reading on the door if your meter is inside your house. Controlled burning within the city limits of Jennings will be permitted from today through next Wednesday.

Norton Correctional men will be working on the Community Hall floor sanding starting today. This will take several weeks and then a finish will be put on.

Lyle News

By Veda Wood

Coleen Rippe, Margaret Magers and Joyce Sumner played pinocle with residents of Decatur County Good Samaritan Center on March 3.

After seeing the story in the Norton paper about Tom Brannon's project to send school supplies to Iraq, Joyce Sumner talked to him and made plans to send baby quilts from the Lyle quilters. The ladies met on March 4 and sent 22 quilts to Norton with her.

June Jolly played cards last Tuesday at the home of Sandra Nicholson.

June Jolly, Toots Magers, Kathy Van Meter, Veda Wood and Joyce Sumner attended the Senior Citizens potluck dinner on Feb. 29.

Visitors from Oberlin, Norton, Clayton, Norcat and Lyle and McCook, Indianola and Cambridge, Neb., came for the Royal Neighbors annual soup and pie dinner for senior citizens in Norcat.

Margaret Magers ate breakfast with Laverne and Coleen Rippe, and

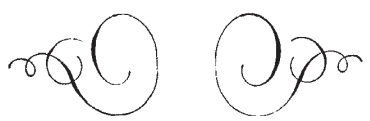
Lynn and Terry Rippe, then Coleen showed her the lambs.

On Saturday, June Jolly and Toots Magers attended the pancake supper in Norcat, then played cards with Virgil and Joyce Price and watched the video from their son, Bob, and his "Empty Pockets" band.

Kathy Van Meter and Margaret Magers attended the open house for Crystal Johnson Moore, then attended the fried chicken supper at the Lebanon American Legion.

Gary and Cathy Anthony attended a birthday party last Sunday for two-year-old Tony. They also attended the American Legion supper.

Veda Wood accompanied the Red Hat ladies to the Colby Museum and returned home in time to go to Lebanon.



Rexford News

By Vicki Allison

An Easter Egg Hunt for preschool through third grade children is planned at 1:30 p.m. for Saturday at the Rexford City Park. The annual hunt is sponsored by the Rexford Lions Club. The weather for this event has never interfered with the children's excitement for finding eggs.

Those celebrating a birthday on St. Patrick's Day include: Betty Barnett, Annie Staats, Vicki Allison, Marissa Mosier and Larry Zoberst.

The Golden Plains High School

National Honor Society sponsored a Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday. Fifteen pints of blood were given, which should help save 45 lives.

I wish everyone a Happy Easter.

Red Barn on-going activities: Monday, Barnswallows, 2 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m., Ladies Bible study and at 8 p.m., Men's Bible study, led by Pastor Lane Purcell; Come on Down, Thursdays, 2 p.m.; and Friday's Koffee Klatch at 9:30 a.m.. Bingo is at 7 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month.

Until next time.

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Cedar Living News

We have decided to break with tradition and not host our annual Easter Egg Hunt before Easter due to all of the illness in the community.

Viruses, colds, flu, aches and pains have been extra plentiful in the past month. We have been very fortunate that we have not had to close off the facility to all visitors, but we have had signs on the doors asking that anyone not feeling well to stay away.

We have decided that inviting in a large group of children and their families could lead to our passing bugs on to them or they to us. We will plan a similar event, perhaps under another name, in the very near future. We hope to see lots of children then.

Dennis Brown of the Forget-Me-Nots hosted a pizza party at noon on Monday in the Cedar Living Center dining room. The dietary department assisted by providing a salad bar. Residents and staff enjoyed all the pizza and salads they could eat. It was a delicious break from our normal routine.

Residents enjoyed a game of dice on Monday afternoon followed by sing-along time with Mary Ann Amack and Nadeane Haag.

John Schuhart won the first Bingo on Tuesday afternoon and Elsie Goodnight won the blackout

game.

Juanita Williby hosted the pinocle players on Wednesday afternoon. The group included Frank and Velda Ward, Helena Bruggeman, and Elsie Goodnight.

The craft group met on Wednesday afternoon to make St. Patrick's Day decorations.

Stuart Euhus gave the Bible study lesson on Wednesday afternoon.

We enjoyed some fun and exercise on Thursday afternoon when the bowling group met for a game.

The Girl Scouts provided boxes of their special cookies for our social hour on Thursday afternoon. Scout Cori Isbell and her family came to eat the cookies with us.

The baking group made potato chip cookies on Friday in honor of National Potato Chip Day.

Recent visitors: Doyle and Kay Brown, Jennings; Margaret Stanley, Colby; Rose Domsch and Jan Sattler, Atwood; Frank Cox, Herndon; and Judy Jackson and Leslie Ward, Norcat.

Dolores Koerperich, Lyle Gambelin, Ana and Spencer Wishon, Regina Stanley, Elvin Beneda, Orlin Beneda, Ira Kolsky, Ron and Patti Uehlin, Sam Mack, Opal Huntley, Ila Ray, Jeanne Isbell, Cori, Calista and Christopher, Oberlin.

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