

Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

125 YEARS AGO — May 1883

Take care of the lambs.
Capt. Allen has set about 25 nice trees on his residence lots in the north part of town.

Plato post office has been discontinued.

Almost every stage brings new arrivals; people looking for locations.

A new post-office will soon be established about 8 miles south of here on the Grainfield route, called Custer. N.W. Strong will be postmaster.

Finnis Penn was buried last Thursday. While working on a sod house on Johnson Draw (being engaged on the roof at that time) the ridge pole gave way and he was buried up to the ears. Fortunately, he sustained no injury.

J.J. Jackson has a well of good water at his residence. The Hayes boys dug it in a day and night. It is good for a town to be so fortunately located that water, good pure water, in abundance can be obtained at a depth of 24 feet.

100 YEARS AGO — May 1908

Art Steele has ordered three Haynes automobiles and will have this garage in the implement building on Hall Street.

Mr. Bruce Borin and Mrs. Frances Davis were married at Norton Monday.

Lem Gillette was kicked by a horse last week and knocked out for a time but will probably be all right again by the time a ball game is scheduled.

John Huff of Grant has just added another quarter section to his real estate holdings, making him the owner of over 1100 acres.

Norcatut Items:
Den Andrews has sold his store building now occupied by T. D. Meek to Aden Wickham.

Mrs. Hoskins has decided to discontinue the News. We are sorry; she is a good editor and we will miss the News.

A letter from Edward B. Shaw, dated at Fort Bayard, New Mexico, states he is getting along well; has about recovered his health, and wants to return to Oberlin soon.

75 YEARS AGO — May 1933

With the opening of the Oberlin schools next fall, the students and faculty members for the first time in many years will find a new man at the helm. That man will be Mr. Charles E. Hawkes of Abilene who the Board of Trustees has officially announced as superintendent of the consolidated grade school and Decatur Community High School succeeding the late Caleb W. Smick.

Mr. Hawkes, 31, has served as principal at Abilene High School the past four years and is considered a leader in state and local education. His salary will be \$2,500 a year to be paid one-third by the grade school and two-thirds by the high school.

Mr. Hawkes and his wife, who is a talented musician and singer, and their 8-year-old daughter Marion accompanied him to Oberlin last week and he appeared before the student body last week at an assembly.

The intermittent rains of past week were a great boon to wheat and crops. So far this month the official rain gauge records a total of 3.87 inches, almost double the amount of rain received during the entire month of May last year.

Court House News: Sam Steinmetz, 27, and Miss Audra Dimmitt, 20, of Oberlin were granted a license on April 22 and were married by Rev. J. D. Bowles. Earl Rorabaugh and Flora Sloan, both of Norcatut applied for a license on the 4th and were married by the Rev. Torrence of Norcatut. Leonard Fleckenstein, 24, and Miss Margaret Smith, 22, of Decatur, Ind., were granted a license on the 9th and were married by Rev. Weber.

George Parker Nellans was the honor guest at a birthday party last Wednesday attended by Jeanne Steinshouer, Genevieve Towery, Naomi Nielsen, Martha Woodward, Marjorie Lou Noel, Naomi Cramer, Gordon Lippelmann, Phyll Cramer, Hubert and Charles Terrell, Donnie Rubendall, Orland and Keith Birdsell, Warren Kump, Wayne Vernon, Harry Stephens, John Woolley, Chester Vernon, Keith Sauvage and Lester St. Clair.

Members of the Rotary Club were pleasantly entertained last Tuesday by a 17-piece orchestra under the direction of Mrs. George McMullen as well as by a piano solo by Mary Wingfield. Scout calls on the cornet by John Laidig and a vocal quartet of Marguerite Roach, Marjorie McGee, Elvera Cox and Jeanette Vernon with Mary Banta at the piano.

50 YEARS AGO — May 1958

School days are numbered in Decatur County for the 1958 term.

At Norcatut commencement will be May 16 with Dr. E.C. Beuhler of the University of Kansas as speaker. Seniors are: Bruce Bishop, Norman Britigan, Gary Drawbrige, Linda Hix, Carole Ann Jackson, Gerald Jackson, Judith Leichter, Gaylen Menges and Loyal Temple.

Nine seniors will graduate at Jennings at the May 22 commencement at which Harlan George of Fort Hays will be the speaker: Lewis Wahlmeier, Dennis Wahlmeier, Ted Carper, Elton Jones, Mary Catherine Jones, Dorothy Shimmick, Marilyn Vacura, Elinor Hickert and Janiece Brown. Valedictorian is Marilyn Vacura and salutatorian is Dorothy Shimmick.

At Leoville graduation exercises will be held at Immaculate Conception Church on May 22 with Rev. E.J. Saner of New Almelo as speaker. Leoville seniors are Rose Boor, Dale Dellere, Donald Juenemann, Betty Kreutzer, Max Kruse, Janet Long, Janice Miller, Gilbert Otter, Lawrence Otter, Fred Reichert, Dennis Ritter, James Schieferecker, Frank Spalman and Norbert Wagener.

Selden High School commencement exercises will be held May 16 with Dr. Kenneth O'Fallon of Kansas State College as speaker. Graduates are Gary Emigh, Pat Rice, Ethel Barnett, Richard Dorenkamp, Carlyne Simonsson, Richard Koepferich, Tom Thummel, Ramona

Porsch and Gerald Childs.

The Kansas Crop reporting service lists conditions for winter wheat as best in the northwest part of the state. O.G. Bell, veteran Norcatut farmer and insurance man said, "I've lived in Decatur County 77 years and I've never seen it look so good."

Oberlin City School was first in their class for middle-size junior high school in the Emporia State scholarship tests. Charles Frickey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Frickey, led the state in two tests — history and Kansas history — and finished second in citizenship. DCHS finished fifth in its division with Norbert Zander, Bill Machart and Charles Kelley placing 1-2-3 in agriculture.

Mr. and Mrs. Nick Bosler announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Joy to Von Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Emery Johnson of Norcatut. A June 17 wedding is planned.

Hospital News: Mr. and Mrs. Harold Brown, son, Kent Allen, May 9; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Montgomery, Jennings, son, Ronald Lee, May 10; Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Shuler, Selden, son, Daniel Gene, May 12; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lehn, daughter, May 12.

25 YEARS AGO — May 1983

Tornadic winds ripped through the northwest corner of Oberlin the evening of May 5 but no one was reported injured. At Oberlin Airport the pontoon boat owned by Randall Braden was flipped onto the roof of an airplane hanger, complete with its trailer. Heaviest damage occurred to a semi and livestock trailer owned by Leon Miller which was parked at the sale barn and was tipped over onto a pickup owned by John Simonsson. An estimated \$30,000 of insurance claims have been filed.

Dick Harlan, biology instructor, football and track coach at DCHS since the fall of 1974, has accepted the position of football coach and assistant high school principal at Southeast of Saline.

Let's Go to the Museum

By Sharleen Wurm, director

Taken from *The Oberlin Herald* May 22, 1958.

"Museum will auction buildings and contributions Tuesday."

"A public auction of surplus buildings from the site recently purchased by the Decatur County Historical Society will be held next Tuesday, May 27, at the Decatur County Museum on South Penn Avenue in Oberlin.

Jones and Sons will auctioneer the sale.

Three buildings will be included in the auction a 20 x 43 foot lumber shed with metal corrugated roof, and asphalt siding; a 34 x 32 frame granary with wood floor and 10-foot driveway and a 12 x 200 metal clad building.

Bolt and pail bins will also be sold, as well as chain link fencing

Oberlin sprint car owners Lee and Ronnie Martin and Bob Ream brought home some of the winnings in the first race of the season last weekend at Denver Race Land.

Mr. and Mrs. James Screen, Oberlin, announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Vivian LeAnn, to Edward Leon Russ, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Russ, also of Oberlin.

Selden: Funeral services were held for Ollie (Jenkins) Wenger, 90, who was a primary school teacher in Decatur County for many years.

Joe Schoen attended the 60th reunion of his graduating class at Purdue University in Lafayette, Ind. Schoen made his home in Oxford, Ind., before moving to Oberlin to be near his daughter and husband, Dr. and Mrs. Ren (Bev) Whitaker.

Roland May will receive his degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at commencement exercises to be held May 13 at Kansas State University. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter May of Logan Township and has accepted a position with the Animal Clinic of McCook.

The DCHS golf team won the regional tournament with a score of 338 followed by Minneapolis with 361 and Smith Center 362. Individual scores were Bob Lund, 83; Robbie Henningson, 83; Brian Moore, 86; Brent Simonsson, 86; Perrell Stanley, 93 and Ron Juenemann, 93. They will accompany their coach Dick Ahlberg to Hesston for the state 3-A golf tournament.

Dedication services were held at Faith Lutheran Church Sunday for two new stained glass windows which were given in memory of Oscar and Vivian Anderson by their daughters, Lila Thorson, Eunice Olson and Violet Holle. The windows were designed and made by Terri Alstrom.

DCHS speech students Kristin Richards and Michelle Addleman brought home a I rating from the state tournament for their improvised duet act.

Hospital News: Willard and Tina Perrin, Oberlin, son, David Andrew, May 7.

and gates, which have enclosed the former Redman-Paddock Lumber property.

The policy committee continues to search for articles for exhibits, which must first be classified and described. Questionnaires for contributors of relics may be had from chairman Virgil McMains or members of his committee."

Back to May of 2008 and 50 later. The 7th Annual Summerfest Car Show is just three weeks away. For more information you can contact the Museum from Tuesday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

We are also looking forward to seeing many Decatur Community High School Alumni as they return for the big Alumni weekend and Memorial Day activities.

Cedar Living News

This is a time of celebration at Decatur Health Systems as May 11-17 is both National Nursing Home Week and National Hospital Week. National Nurses' Week was May 6-12. Several parties and a potluck dinner are planned for this week.

Nora Bell Manning and Patty Brown planted the flower box by the front door during the past week. Mrs. Manning and Mrs. Brown plant the box each year in honor of their mother and mother-in-law, the late Babe Manning, who was a former resident of Cedar Living Center.

Cedar Living Center received a donation of a poker set from the Oberlin Mavericks. The poker players continue to meet on Tuesday and Friday evening with Sam Mack. The residents are interested in having a poker tournament with staff members and visitors. Anyone interested in participating should call Teresa Shaughnessy at 475-2208, Ext. 277.

Geneva Morford is a new resident of Cedar Living Center.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Helena Bruggeman who passed away on Wednesday. There were several winners at the penny card game played on Monday afternoon. Visitors Lyle Gamblin and Ira Kolsky played along with residents Mildred Cochran, Elsie Goodnight, Mary Kolsky, Edie Pettera, John Schuhart, Frank Ward, and Delores Wheeler.

Myrna Jones and Mary Ann Amack led the sing-along time on Monday afternoon.

Elwood Mines won the first bingo on Tuesday afternoon and Velda Ward won the blackout game.

The DCHS Singers, Chante, and the 4 J's, under the direction of Susan Nelson, entertained residents before lunch on Wednesday. They gave a wonderful performance that was enjoyed by residents and staff.

The Jennings United Methodist Women hosted the May birthday party on Wednesday afternoon. Kay Brown played a medley of old tunes on the piano. The group served cupcakes and ice cream. Zola Brown and Ruth Leopold, who both celebrate birthdays in May, received a gift from the ladies.

Stuart Euhus gave the Bible study lesson on Wednesday afternoon.

The baking group made sugar cookies on Friday afternoon. We enjoyed eating the cookies fresh from the oven, but we also saved some to serve at the Mother's Day Tea on Sunday.

Several high school students visited in their formal wear before the prom on Saturday evening. We always appreciate the students taking time to include us in their special day.

The dietary department served up a special Mother's Day dinner at noon on Sunday. The activity department hosted a Mother's Day Tea in the afternoon followed by the worship service given by Pastor Judi Stricker of the United Church. Melanie Anderson and Myrna Jones assisted with the church service.

Recent visitors: Ruth Chance, Helen Rhodes, Louise Cressler, Glenda Johnson, Rachel Carter, and Lila Jennings, Jennings; Glenda Harris, Grand Junction, Colo.; Richard and Dee Longuist, Mission, Texas; Linda Bosler, Herndon; Lemilla Counter and Liliana, McCook; Jan Sattler, Atwood; John and Deanell Tacha, Lawrence; Phyllis Coolidge and Flora Lundberg, McCook.

Ana and Spencer Wishon, Donald and Goldie Stapp, Marguerite Bailey, Dorothy Moore, Ron and Patti Uehlin, Earl Brown, Ella Betts, Elvin and Orlin Beneda, Herb Shirley, Sandy Counter, Gene Morford, Wilma May, Jody Betts, Mariam Fisher. Jon Fisher, Oberlin.

Jennings News

By Louise Cressler

Mother's Day dinner, sponsored by the Jennings Lions Club, was attended by many from the community.

Several in our community have been ill, some in the hospital. We wish all a speedy recovery.

City water meters will be read Saturday, May 17. If your meter is inside, please post reading on front door.

United Methodist Women went to Cedar Living Center in Oberlin on Wednesday to give the birthday party. Those going from Jennings were: Ruth Chance, Kay Brown, Louise Cressler, Glenda Johnson, Rachel Carter and Helen Rhodes. Kay Brown played several numbers on the piano. Helen and Louise took birthday cupcakes and Kay took ice cream to serve.

Lawrence and Lila Jennings attended the high school graduation of their grandson, Ryan James Musgrave, Sunday at Sandy Creek High School near Clay City, Neb. Other family members attending were his parents, Dale and Tammy Musgrave, Eric and Erin Musgrave, Brett Jennings, Lee and Judy Plovsard, Oberlin; Brian and Westley Jennings, Solomon; and Brent Jennings, Wichita. Ryan has enlisted in the United States Navy and will be going for training at Great Lakes in July.

County crews are working on the ground north of the Community Hall in preparation for a 30 by 40

Wick city shop building to be built soon.

The Alumni Banquet and dance will be held Saturday, May 24 in the Sunflower Senior Center and the Community Hall. Registration begins at 5 p.m. with the banquet starting at 5:30 p.m. Several locations are available for class reunions to be held, including the American Legion, Masonic Hall and United Methodist Church. Contact Linda Wahlmeier, HC1 Box 20, Jennings, Kan., 67643.

Glenda Harris, Grand Junction, Colo., was a houseguest of Lawrence and Lila Jennings from last Tuesday through Thursday. She had been to Glen Elder for the burial of her mother, Daisy Johnston Stratton the previous week.

Heritage Associates of Jennings met on May 1 at the Royal Neighbor Hall. President Neoma Tacha presided with directors Larry Mizer, Roger Shimek, Bob Tacha and Dean Gawith present. The Oberlin Arts and Humanities Tour on April 27 was well attended with over 50 visitors to the Museum. The windmill tower has been lowered and is now ready for repairing and painting.

The museum will be open Memorial weekend from 2-5 p.m. on Saturday, May 24 and Sunday, May 25. The class of 1951 will meet there the afternoon of May 24.

Our next regular meeting will be at 2 p.m. on June 5 and the public is invited to attend.

Good Samaritan News

Moms, your love is a precious gift that God has used to touch our lives in so many wonderful ways.

The highlight of the week was the celebration of Mother's Day with a Hat Parade hosted by the Star committee. Everyone donned a pretty hat, provided by Linda Hollowell, invited their daughter or special friend and enjoyed pie and ice cream together. A program entitled, "The Many Hats of Mother" was presented by Lisa Paulson, Anita Hirsch and Cheryl Metcalf.

Star committee members who helped serve were Linda Hollowell, Joan Evans, Kelley Black, Michelle O'Dea and Phyllis Metcalf. Guests who attended were Carol Duncan for Myrtle Ross, Reva Marshall for Dorothy Hunt, Amy and Phyllis Zwickle for Lora Zwickle, Vicky Mumm for Doris Marintzer, Gladys Geis for Kathryn Post, Donna Lincoln for Faye Miller, Marian Fraker for Elsie Macy, Sharon Slaybaugh for Opal Byran, Donna Kelly for Eva Bryan, Linda, Bethany and Johanna Smith for Dorothy Pryor, Barbara Castor and Beverly Eiler for Elaine Thomas.

The Lyle Gals, Kathy Van Meter, Toots Magers and Joyce Sumner, came Monday for their monthly pinocle game. Filling the Quiet Room with laughter, good cookies

and unbeatable fun were Pooch Portchy, R.D. Thornton, Eileen Laird, Lora Zwickle, Kathryn Post and Lucy Schissler couldn't resist and played cards for nearly two hours.

Tuesday morning, Robin Wessel's 7th grade class came for a Great Depression Forum. The kids asked the residents questions to get some first hand accounts of what it was like living in that time. Kathryn Post, Evelyn Olson, Edla Olson, Opal Bryan, Shirley Hayward, Pooch Portchy, Amy Rehm, Eva Bryan, Lora Zwickle, Faye Miller, Alice Bobbitt and R.D. Thornton served on our panel. We always enjoy the opportunity to share with the young people of our community!

The Golden Ringers met on Wednesday to rehearse. They now have two songs in their repertoire, "The Lord's Prayer" and "His Eye is on the Sparrow." Ladies participating are Ruth Laidig and Opal Bryan, Eva Bryan, Evelyn Olson, Dorothy Pryor, Amy Rehm, Shirley Hayward, Kathryn Post, Alice Bobbitt and Fern Anderson.

The Quiet Room is bursting with Bible Study! Eighteen squeezed in for study on Wednesday and 15 for Thursday's study. We have been learning all about Angels. Learning what the Bible says about them and

dispelling some false notions about them. It has been a very interesting and rewarding time together.

We have a new resident bird that now lives in the Quiet Room. A pure white Turtle Dove was donated by Melissa Ewing. Since the bird arrived during this study the residents have named her "Snow Angel."

On Friday, several ladies gathered in Town Square to help Vi Krizek make wedding mints for the upcoming bridal shower for our Social Services Director Kelly Black. Everyone looks forward to celebrating wonderful life events with the staff. It really does help us to feel like one big family! Thank you Vi for sharing your expertise.

Steve Horn also brought a brand new set of goat twins for the Residents to hold, hear and watch. Montine Alstrom, our office manager, helped him show them off!

Sunday, Lora Zwickle, R.D. Thornton, Dorothy Pryor, Opal Bryan and Alice Bobbitt attended church in Lyle.

Other visitors this week were: Pat Berry for all. Cheri Kastars for Pooch Portschy, Ralph Crim and Mert McEvoy for Lucy Schissler, Jim Rogers, Ken, Bud and Clem Mumm for Hubert Mumm, Arian Arnold and Judy Scott for Edla Olson, Helen Brooks, Shelby Hackney and Betty Heisel for Ethel Nemeth, Jeanne and Kerri Britton (Denver) and Brian and Pam Simonsson for Opal Bryan, Ron and Dixie Snyder and Mildred Black for Dorothy Hunt, Daisy Rhein for Jeanette Conway, Rhonda and Ryan Wildeman for Faye Miller and Emma Sanford. Mr. and Mrs. Dean Thornton (Charleston, Kan.) and Marian Thornton for R.D. Thornton.

Foster parents help give children back their childhood. Thank you.

May 2008 National Foster Care Month



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