



**INSPECTING A SHINY HEAP** at the Summerfest Car Show downtown Saturday were Ron McPhillips (right) from Empire, Colo., and Glen Vesterby from Georgetown, Colo., both of whom are moving to Oberlin. Dozens of people walked up and down the line of cars, trucks, cycles and trailers in the "Show and Shine," inspecting and asking

questions. During lunch, Terry Rose (below) sang country tunes on South Penn Avenue while people munched on pork burgers and brats. Jim Simeon of Ogallala, Neb., (lower photo) napped under a tree in front of the courthouse, away from the hustle and bustle of the show.

— Herald staff photos by Cynthia and Steve Haynes

## Vehicles all shine in the sun

By CYNTHIA HAYNES  
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The sun played peek-a-boo with the clouds, but that didn't bother the crowd wandering up and down Penn Avenue, checking out the cars, enjoying the food and gabbing with friends.

By most any standard, the Last Indian Raid Museum's seventh annual Summerfest Car Show on Saturday was a big success.

Antique and unusual motorcycles, bicycles, cars, trucks and campers lined the 100 block of South Penn Avenue as proud owners kept watch over their babies from lawn chairs in the shade of Oberlin's awnings.

Antique car buffs and the curious wandered up and down the blocked-off street, peering under hoods, peeking into open trunks and gazing at their reflections in both mirrors and highly polished framework.

Many people enjoyed the car show and headed off to find bargains at the many yard sales around town for the City-wide Garage Sale project sponsored by the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce. Many Oberlin merchants had sales going both on the sidewalk and inside.

At the corner of Penn and Hall Street, wagons sold kettle corn, cotton candy, lemonade and funnel cakes. KFNF Radio had a remote broadcast going during the morning and early afternoon and craft salesmen offered everything from bags to shoes.

In the 200 block of South Penn, museum board members cooked and handed out porkburgers, bratwurst and pop for hungry Summerfest goers, who sat at picnic tables in the sun.

The fun started on Friday, as vehicles rolled into town for a "cruise-in," and scores of people headed for the museum to enjoy hot dogs and sodas.

Those up early enough got to partake of a pancake breakfast at the Bohemian Hall on the



museum grounds, then registration for the car show ran from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The annual poker run started at 1 p.m. and a little after 2 p.m., starter and hub cap throws were held south of The Bank.

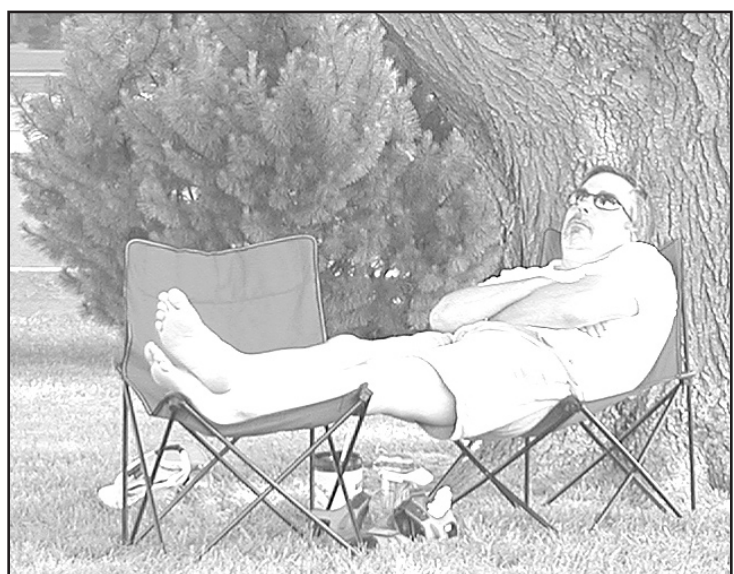
After the trophies were handed out, the museum staff and board again put on their aprons and provided a meal of barbecued beef, baked beans and chips at the Bohemian Hall.

Prizes were awarded for:

- Best of Show and Best Muscle Car — Evan and Judy Goltl, Hill City, 1970 Chevy Chevelle.
- Museum's Choice — Jim and Tina Simeon, Ogallala, Neb., 1962 Chevy Corvette convertible.
- Best Motorcycle — Darrel Clark, Phillipsburg, 1990 Harley Davidson.

Prizes were awarded for:

- Best Street Rod — Gary McClanahan, WaKeeney, 1934 Plymouth coupe.
- Mayor's Choice — Dave and Bev Posson, Norton, 1949 Mer-



mouth coupe. (See AWARDS on Page 8A)

## One week left to file for office

By KIMBERLY DAVIS  
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There's just one week left for anyone interested in serving in an elected county office to file with the county clerk, either by petition or by paying the fee, with races shaping up for two of the three offices where the incumbent is retiring.

All of the elected offices are up this year except for county commissioner in district No. 1, the seat held by Stan McEvoy. Both races should be settled in the Republican primary, as no Democrats have filed for any office.

Positions that are open, said County Clerk Marilyn Horn, who also serves as county election officer, include register of deeds, commissioner for districts No. 2 and 3, clerk, treasurer, attorney, sheriff and 17th District magistrate judge.

Someone has filed for every position so far, said Mrs. Horn, but there is still time for anyone interested in running to get on the ballot. The deadline is noon on Tuesday, June 10, she said.

Candidates can choose to either pay 1 percent of the annual salary of the position they are seeking or carry a petition and pay a \$35 filing fee to the state.

People who have filed so far include:

- Tiffanie Farr, who works at Decatur Co-op; Judy Marietta, who works at the high school; and Melissa Chambers, who works at RJ Metcalf Real Estate, for register of deeds. All are Republicans and all live in Oberlin. The spot is held by Judy Gaumer, who is retiring.
- Vickie Bailey, who works at Decatur County Title and Abstract and lives near Jennings, and Gene Gallentine, also from Jennings, for commissioner in district No. 3, where incumbent Doyle Brown is retiring. Both are Republicans.
- Colleen Geishler, a Republican who lives in Oberlin, for clerk. Mrs. Horn is retiring; Mrs. Geishler has

## Precinct people needed

Men and women interested in serving as party precinct committee members need to file for the seats by noon Tuesday in the Decatur County clerk's office.

Clerk Marilyn Horn said each of the 25 rural townships and the two Oberlin precincts are allowed two members, a man and a woman, on each party's county committee. Many of the rural spots are available.

The precinct committee members make up the party county committee, which chooses the replacement if an elected official dies or resigns before their term is up.

Anyone interested in serving has to file in the clerk's office. The form is on the Kansas secretary of state's website at www.kssos.org, then click on the link for forms. People can print it off at home if they want, Mrs. Horn said, but it has to be signed before a notary public, which Mrs. Horn can do.

She said the clerk's office has the forms, too.

So far, said Mrs. Horn, people have registered for Republican precinct committee seats in Logan and Finley townships and in both Oberlin precincts. Many townships slots are open.

been her deputy for 16 years.  
• Jean Hale, Republican incumbent (See DEADLINE on Page 8A)

## Riders to stop here for lunch on Sunday

Eight hundred bicycle riders will start the trek across the state at the end of the week, stopping for lunch Sunday in Oberlin.

Some of the riders in Bike Across Kansas will start at the Colorado state line on Friday, while others will join in St. Francis on Saturday.

On Sunday, the riders and their families, some of whom are following along for support, will pass through Oberlin.

At least three places have made arrangements to help feed the riders, who will be staying in Atwood on Saturday night.

Joyce Hartzog, with the Oberlin Covenant Church, said they were told the riders will be passing through Oberlin anywhere between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Sunday.

The church, she said, will be selling bags of trail mix in two sizes and bottled water at the corner of U.S. 36 and 83. The riders will be traveling east along U.S. 36.

The Last Indian Raid Museum plans a pancake and ham breakfast from 9 to 11 a.m. at the museum and then will switch to bratwursts and porkburgers for lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The two meals will be served for a donation.

The museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for tours at a cost of \$5.

The LandMark Inn will hold a brunch buffet from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., said owner Gary Anderson, and walk-ins are welcome.

Bike Across Kansas started in June 1975 as a recreational ride from the Colorado line to the Missouri border.

This year, all of the riders will travel on U.S. 36 with overnight stays planned in St. Francis, Atwood, Norton, Smith Center, Beloit, Washington, Sabetha, Horton and Atchison. The ride starts on Saturday and ends Saturday, June 14, a week later, at the Missouri River.

## Digital television sets don't get storm alerts

Newer television sets and a missing part means people on the Oberlin cable system weren't able to receive emergency alert system signals during a tornado warning last month.

Patti Skubal, Decatur County emergency management director, said the local cable channel isn't able to transmit the emergency alert to the newer digital television sets, which most people have now.

Since the storms on Thursday, May 22, she said, she's received a lot

of calls from people who couldn't get the alert on their televisions. Mrs. Skubal said people told her the local information channel turned blue or black or had a no signal.

She said she called Eagle Communications of Hays, which owns the system, about the problem and they said they are missing a sync generator to work with the newer sets and would check into fixing it. They didn't make any promises, she said.

(See STORM on Page 8A)

## Traer loses agricultural businessman

By MARY LOU OLSON  
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Harold G. Demmer, 93, who built a family farming and grain business in the Traer area, died last Wednesday, May 28, 2008, at the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center in Oberlin.

A lifelong resident of Decatur County, Mr. Demmer said in an interview with former District Conservationist Clyde Mermis in 1974, when he and his family received the annual Bankers' Conservation Award, that after he



H. Demmer

wasn't always lucrative, though. He started farming full time with his parents, then began his

own operation in 1930. The first year, he said in the interview, he harvested 300 bushels of corn on 105 acres for a whopping yield of 2.8 bushels an acre. Selling the corn for 11 cents a bushel brought in all of \$33.

He recalled that neighbors weren't very encouraging. They just knew, he said, "that Demmer boy" would be broke in short order, trying to buy and rent land like he was.

He said he just worked that much harder to prove that he could

make it. Conservation was not important in those days, he told Mr. Mermis, but it wasn't long before people realized that losing soil was a big problem, so later he became a "trash farmer," leaving crop residue on top of the ground.

Over the years, his interest in farming continued to grow. He was one of the first landowners here to put in an irrigation well and set up a sprinkler system for alfalfa. This led to the first hand-tie balers (See FRIENDS on Page 8A)

# \*Friends say final goodbyes

(Continued from Page 1A) shipped into Herndon. Later he put in a fat cattle feeding operation and bought breeding stock.

In 1968, Mr. Demmer and Carl Schreiber purchased the Waldo and Anderson Elevator in Traer, renaming it D & S Grain and Cattle Co. When Mr. Schreiber died in 1972, Mr. Demmer's daughter and son-in-law, Connie and Rich Grafel and their sons, joined the operation.

With a growing business, he always needed hired hands, and in 1974, Mr. Demmer figured he had employed more than 40 men over the years. Several young neighbors worked for him until they had saved enough to start their own farms.

The good work ethic and farm skills that Mr. Demmer taught helped shape the lives of many successful people, Mr. Mermis said. He and his wife Eleanore made a good team and built a prosperous farm and livestock operation from scratch while rearing two daughters, Connie and Carole.

He spent the past 10 years with his wife of nearly 68 years at the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center after he suffered a back injury in a fall from a tractor.

Administrator Janice Shobe, also a native of Traer, spoke at his funeral on Saturday. She said that what struck her most about Mr. Demmer through all those Traer years was his sense of humor. She said he and his wife used to come to square dances at the Traer School, and usually the entire square ended up in laughter before the dance was over, thanks to Harold.

"He always drove fast, but one day when he started to town for parts, two hired boys put a snake in the pickup cab, then followed him. When the brake lights came on, the two boys discovered that Harold could not only drive fast, he could run fast.

"Harold was one of the last of his generation of farmers around Traer. These farmers loved the land, started out farming with a team of

horses, moved up to an early mechanical tractor, and in Harold's case, more modern tractors.

"I think it was one of Harold's greatest joys in life that his grandsons continued his love affair with the land and the tradition of farming. Dan and Greg, along with their families, would come to the center to visit him, and maintain that connection with the farm."

Mr. Demmer was born July 15, 1914, on the family farm 3 1/2 miles east of Herndon in Finley Township, the son of George and Rose (Preisinger) Demmer. He attended Green Valley School through eighth grade.

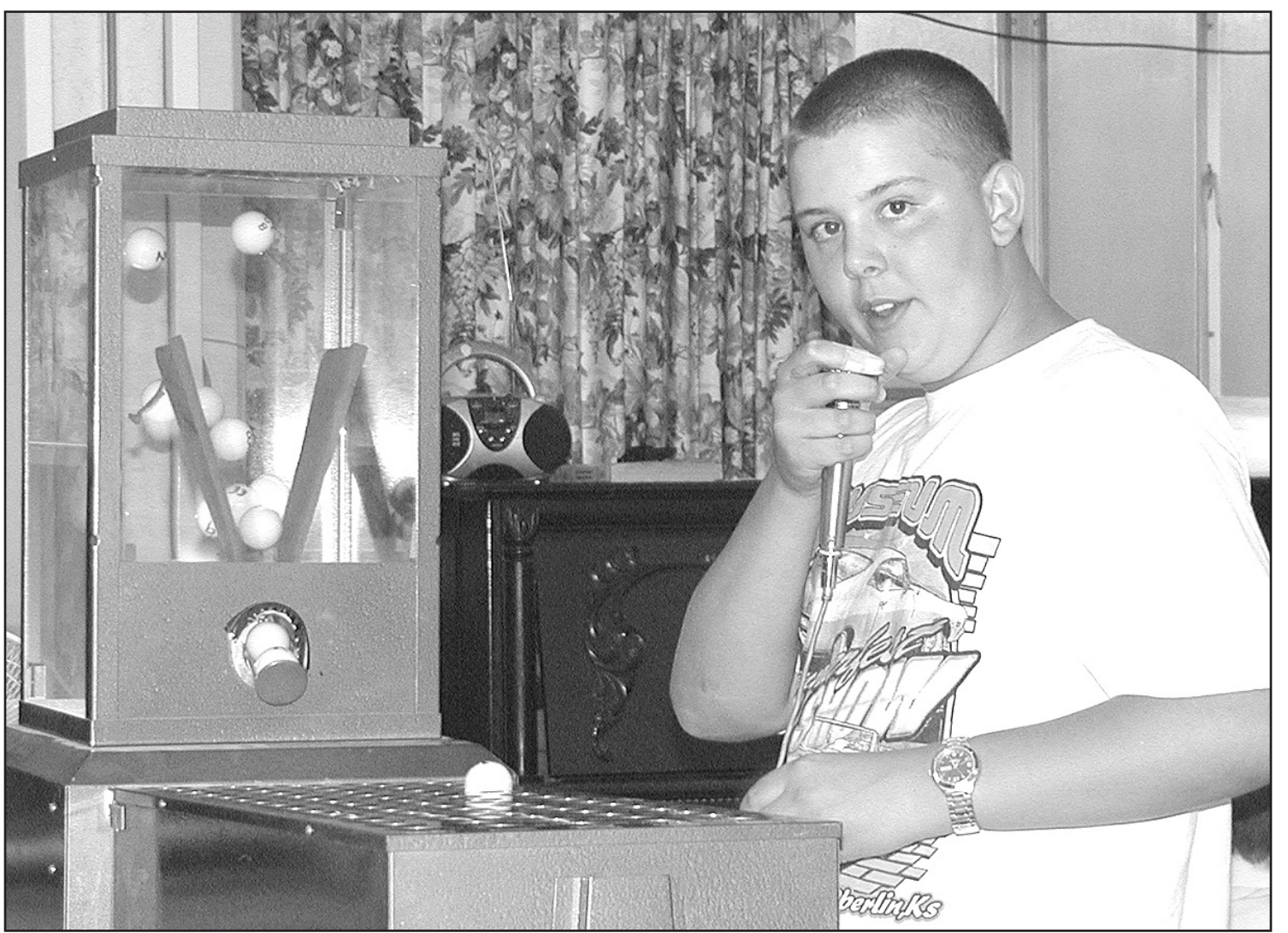
He met Eleanore Jane Bryan while helping her father, Ben Bryan. They married July 27, 1940, in Plattsmouth, Neb., with his sister Helen and her husband, Roy Harshman, standing up with them. They made their home on the Demmer farm west of Traer.

Survivors include his wife; daughters, Carole and J.R. Unger, Yuma, Colo., and Connie Grafel, Oberlin; two sisters-in-law, Elaine Bryan and Laurene Bryan Van Otterloo, Oberlin; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; infant sons, George Benjamin and Gary Harold; an infant brother, Eugene; two sisters, Laura Wolfram and Helen Harshman; four brothers-in-law, Roy Harshman, Floyd B. Bryan, Harry Wolfram and Wallace Bryan; a sister-in-law, Mildred Bryan; a son-in-law, Rich Grafel; and granddaughter, Casey Jo Unger.

Services were Saturday afternoon, May 31, 2008, at Pauls Funeral Home in Oberlin. The Rev. Royce Leitner officiated and burial was in the Oberlin Cemetery.

Memorials were established to the Decatur County Good Samaritan, Rural Fire Department and Decatur County Museum. Contributions may be sent to the funeral home, 121 N. Penn, Oberlin, Kan., 67749.



## Bingo brings out many

**CALLING NUMBERS** for bingo, Tyler Bruggeman (above) kept things lively Saturday night in the basement of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Oberlin. Eula Juenemann (below) played two cards in hopes of winning one of the many "white-elephant" prizes donated by parishioners for the game. The game took place after a parish potluck to celebrate Sacred Heart Sunday. — Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes



# \*Deadline Tuesday to file for offices

(Continued from Page 1A) of Oberlin, for treasurer.

• Steve Hirsch, Republican incumbent, who lives outside of Oberlin, for county attorney.

• Ken Badsky, Republican incumbent, who lives west of Oberlin, for sheriff.

• John Bremer, Republican incumbent, for 17th District magistrate judge.

The primary election, said Mrs. Horn will be Tuesday, Aug. 5, with the general on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

For both, polling places will be at The Gateway in Oberlin, City

Hall (the old school building) in Norcatour, the Methodist Church in Dresden and the Sunflower Senior Center in Jennings.

Around Tuesday, July 15, advance ballots will be ready for people who want to vote either by mail or at the clerk's office.

Anyone who isn't registered to vote, said Mrs. Horn, has until Monday, July 21. She said she will keep the clerk's office open until 9 p.m. that night.

Mrs. Horn said she will be calling election workers to get them lined up.

# \*Storm alerts not seen on newer televisions

(Continued from Page 1A)

The older analog televisions, said Mrs. Skubal, will be phased out in a year, which means more digital sets and fewer people able to get the emergency alert system until the part is installed.

Until the problem is fixed, she said, people should keep a battery-operated radio handy so they can receive the message. That's a good thing to have in case the power goes out anyway, she said, because the

television won't work then.

Mrs. Skubal said she tried to make the sirens for take cover to last longer than three minutes for the storms last month. She said she talked with representatives from Nex-Tech about making the sirens run longer and they said that the longer the siren goes, the more likely the motor could die. The motors, said Mrs. Skubal, are expensive to replace.

# \*Awards given at show

(Continued from Page 1A) curvy coupe.

• People's Choice and Greatest Distance (215 miles)— Ben Richardson, Salina, 1965 Ford Mustang Fastback 2x2.

• Best Ford — Shane Wurm, St. Francis, 1970 Cougar.

• Best Pontiac — Jerry and Diane Bull, Hoxie, 1966 Pontiac Tempest.

• Best Pickup — George Rose, 1953 Willy's Overland pickup.

• Best Work in Progress — Chris Mastin, Oberlin, 1930 Ford Model A coupe.

• Best Mopar — Will Haag, Danbury, Neb., 1973 Dodge Challenger.

• Best Chevy — LeRoy Krafft, Goodland, 1956 Chevy Bel Aire 2-door hardtop.

• Best Antique — Gleason and Kelva Dryden, Oberlin, 1927 F Model T coupe.

The top 10 vehicles (not in any

order) were:

• 1930 Ford A sedan, Mike and Majorie Watkins, Norton.

• 1957 Studebaker Golden Hawk, Leonard and Dan Sewell, Hoxie.

• 1953 Ford 1/2 ton pickup, Pete Jensen, St. Francis.

• 1967 Chevy El Camino, Leroy Neitzel, St. Francis.

• 1935 Chevy 2-door coupe, Bob and Vicki Adams, Trenton, Neb.

• 1957 Chevy pickup, Dallas Hays, McCook.

• 1980 Chevy Corvette, Danny and Diane Krayca, Goodland.

• 1967 Chevy Impala SS convertible, Dana Maringer, Oberlin

• 1960 Chevy Impala, Larry Morris, Oakley.

• 1937 Buick two-door coupe, George Rose.

Darrell Clark won the poker run while Byron and Jean Hale, Oberlin, came in second and Rob and Mary Henry took third.

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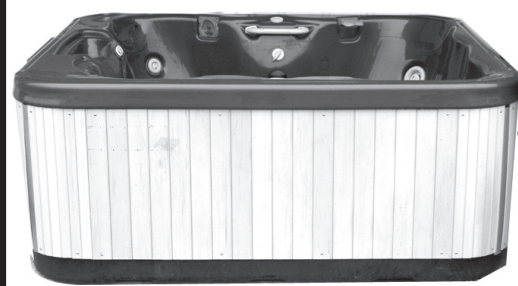
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