

THE OBERLIN HERALD

# Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

## 125 YEARS AGO — July 1883

We this week print 3,000 immigration pamphlets for distribution throughout the East. They gave full information about Decatur County.

All pre-emption settlers in this land district whose filings have expired or are about to expire, and who are unable to pay for their lands, will find it to their advantage to call on Ed. Martin, Oberlin, Kansas, one of the oldest land men in the state.

A trip to Lyle and an inspection of the farms and crops discloses evident marks of progress, improvement and refinement.

Decatur Items: Mr. Wright, a colporteur employed by the American Trail and Missionary Society, visited our neighborhood last week.

L.G. Parker has just been informed by the Department of War that S.M. Weston has been allowed a pension, dating from July 13, 1865.

## 100 YEARS AGO — July 1908

As Oberlin didn't celebrate the Fourth, our townspeople were badly scattered, Norton and Norcat getting the biggest share of them, but others went to Dresden and to Traer.

A severe hail storm hit several places in the county last Sunday.

The Oberlin ball team went to Norcat on the Fourth and defeated their ball team 11 to 2. O'Toole and Briggs were the battery for Oberlin.

Mr. Paddock sold his city residence last week to a man from Logan County and purchased the fine V.R. Caster home in the east part of the city.

## 75 YEARS AGO — July 1933

Decatur County wheat farmers may share in the federal government \$150,000,000 wheat bonus money to the extent of \$250,000, providing all the county's wheat producers make application.

Twila Machart, 8-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Machart, was struck by a car as she crossed the street directly in front of Stevenson's Drug Store. She was attended at the local hospital by Dr. Loyd Mousel of Cambridge, who was there attending relatives.

Jennings: The accidental killing of Mrs. Storch on the porch of her home in Jennings Saturday evening by a car traveling on No. 83 highway makes one wonder just where a person can feel secure.

Mr. and Mrs. George McGuire and daughter were returning to their home in Brewster from St. Joseph, Mo., when they stopped for gas at Friday's Service Station located just one block east of the residence of Mrs. Storch in Jennings. Leaving the station he drove westward to the first corner but for some unapparent reason Mr. McGuire instead of making the turn made only a partial turn

and his car left the highway, crossed the ditch and headed straight for the Storch house. Mrs. Storch was born Jane Ludra in Sedlice, Bohemia and came to the U. S. in 1866 and with her husband Frank Storch to Kansas in 1900 where they settled four miles north of Jennings. She was buried at the Bohemian Cemetery.

Yesterday morning some 30 men working under Willis Miller, who is in charge of county relief work, started to clear the area where the state lake will be. Actual work to construct the dam will begin in a week or 10 days according to Francis Barclay, engineer in charge of construction along US-183. The land has been purchased from Chas. Votapka and stone for the dam will be quarried from the Victor Lorig farm southwest of Oberlin.

Funeral services were held for August Pollnow, 91, who came with his wife Augusta from Germany to this country in May 1881 and purchased a home five miles west of Oberlin. He leaves to mourn his passing two daughters, Mrs. Alvina Soderlund of Kanona and Mrs. Julia Graves of Oberlin and a son, Arthur Pollnow of Oberlin.

Mr. Etta Joy of Luray announces the marriage of her daughter, Gladis, to Mr. Marion Gaumer, son of Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Gaumer of Oberlin on June 24 at the German Lutheran parsonage at Russell. Mr. Gaumer attended Jennings High School and Kansas State College majoring in civil engineering, worked for the State Highway Commission and has been chosen for the job of county engineer by the Decatur County commissioners. They will be at home to their friends in the Morrish Apartments at 212 North Cass.

Fred Thomsen, who has been visiting at the homes of his brother, Dr. A.J. and Tom Thomsen, returned home Monday. Mr. Thomsen is football coach at the University of Arkansas.

—World's Fair, only \$32.70 to Chicago on Burlington Route. C.M. Pfrimmer, ticket agent.—adv.

## 50 YEARS AGO — July 1958

All storage places and the three local elevators were filled to capacity Tuesday evening with the '58 wheat harvest little more than half finished. Yields reported thus far range from 25 to 50 bushels per acre with those below 30 being the exception rather than the rule. John Bearley at the harvest employment office reported that he was unable to fill the demand for combines.

Harold Hahn, district director of Boy Scouting in Colorado, was the speaker at Oberlin Rotary Tuesday noon.

Glenn Jones, with his son, Glenn, jr., have leased space in the Paddock building on Hall Street and have moved their shoe and leather repair equipment from Dresden into that location.

Selden: Funeral services were held for Pete Pauls, 65, well-known business man in the furniture and undertaking business for many years.

Kyle Mines, son of Mrs. Cecil Mines, has been named head wrestling coach at the University of Arizona at Tucson. He was the coach at Colby High School last year where his team won the state championship.

Jack Lamb began work Monday at Oberlin Jewelry. He has worked the past seven years at Worden Jewelry in Norton. Mr. and Mrs. Lamb and John are living at the Nichols Apartments.

New Arrival: Mr. and Mrs. Don Berry, Denver, daughter, Shawna Rae, July 3, 8 pounds, 6 ounces.

Donna Vacura, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Vacura, is attending a six-week music camp on the University of Kansas campus in Lawrence. She will be a senior in high school this year.

Mr. W.E. Soderlund of Oberlin announces the engagement and approaching marriage of his daughter, Carolyn, to LaVern Holle, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Holle of Ludell. The wedding date has been set for Aug. 24.

## 25 YEARS AGO — July 1983

When the thermometer touched 102 degrees last Thursday afternoon on Oberlin streets, the municipal power plant was churning out 1,300 kilowatt hours of power, added to the 2,000 kilowatts coming in on the interconnect.

Funeral services were held for a former Rexford area resident, Robert R. Morgan, who was born in 1897 in Decatur County, the son of Robert and Bertha (Rodehaver) Morgan. He attended school in Rex-

ford and served in the U.S. Marines during World War I. He was married to Madonna Dechert in 1921 and they made their home in Rexford, Selden and Colby where he was a postal employee before moving to Oberlin in 1962 following his retirement.

A ceremony at All Saints Episcopal Church in Brookline, Mass., on June 4, 1983, united in marriage Mary Elizabeth DeKnight and Charles Francis Kelliher. Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. William DeKnight of Oberlin and Mr. and Mrs. John J. Kelliher, Brookline, Mass.

Women employees of The Oberlin Herald held a noon luncheon at the Pizza Hut July 1 honoring Mrs. Jim (Marian) Pachner who is leaving this summer to make her home in Colorado.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Brown, Oberlin, announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Kelly Jo, to William Hellyer, Arlington Heights, Ill. The wedding is planned for July 30, 1983, at the United Church of Oberlin.

Mark Meyer, son of Judge and Mrs. Marvin Meyer of Topeka and a 1976 graduate of Decatur Community High School, will be in Hoxie during the month of July serving a preceptorship under Dr. John Neuenschwander and Dr. John Rand Neuenschwander. Meyer is completing his final year at the Kansas University School of Medicine in Kansas City. His brother, Tim Meyer, a 1977 graduate of Decatur Community High School, is serving with the U.S. Marines at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Hospital News: Linda and Harvey Lynn Wright, Gem, son, Nathaniel Eric, June 28, 1983.

## Let's Go to the Museum

By Sharleen Wurm, director

Looking back in History: Oberlin Herald July 17, 1958.

"Historical Museum A Beehive of Activity as it Progresses Towards Official Opening Date.

Decatur County's museum has been a beehive of activity lately. With cataloging, visitors, ordering supplies, work on showcases, new contributions, curious reporters, and other activity going on all the time, Curator Mrs. Claar barely gets time to catch her breath.

Souvenirs have been ordered for the museum and are expected to arrive sometime next week. Items to be sold include tom-toms, tomahawks, Indian dolls and head-dresses, western ceramics, salt and pepper shakers, and numerous other pieces — all in the Indian and western motif.

Mrs. Claar said the museum hopes to be officially open by fair

time, but expressed doubt that it would be in full gear even then.

The guest register at the museum passed the 100 mark in names last Friday and Idaho became the sixth state represented."

Back to July 2008. As I read these 50-year-old items I am reminded of how much the museum has grown but also how it has stayed the same. We still have souvenirs of somewhat different variety but yet they represent the Museum and Oberlin. We keep getting new items such as historical books, hand knitted items, Oberlin souvenirs, T-shirts, and our 50th Anniversary shirts and bags.

The guest register at the museum gets added to with names each day. Since I have been director, every state has been represented several times over. If your name has not appeared there lately, it is time to come and visit us!

## Good Samaritan News

This month we are celebrating our "Families." The bulletin board will boast a fruitful Family Tree where residents will display pictures of their loved ones and the tables will have smaller trees depicting our Good Sam Family.

Family reunions, vacations, traditions and celebrations will be the topic of discussion. In keeping with the theme we played "Family Feud" on Tuesday with volunteers, Penny Fringer, and Andrew Martinez. They were taking a much needed break from cleaning out the fish aquarium. R.D. Thornton was the head of his "family." Other members were: Andrew, Opal Bryan and Alice Bobbitt. The other "family" was headed by Lora Zwickle. Her members were Penny, Evelyn Olson and Faye Miller and Serena Stacy. Our version was not as lively as TV, but we had fun, just the same.

On Monday, we had a nice surprise visit from Jen Fahrenbrock and her horse, Bea Cyrus. She brought him to walk the parade route for Friday's parade. Many residents made their own parade, right out of the building to see him. What a fun spontaneous afternoon it made!

On Wednesday, Amy Carman led our Songs of Worship. She is a longtime friend of the "family," often sharing her gift of singing with us. Angie Wilson and Donna Lincoln, members of the Quilters Guild, stopped by with new Patriotic wall hangings to adorn the halls. Several residents "walk the square" daily and love looking at beautiful quilts. Thank you, ladies, for your thoughtfulness!

Another special guest came to sing on Thursday. Angie Wilson brought a young friend to help us celebrate the Fourth of July. Miranda Long is nine years old. She sang several patriotic songs for us during Social Hour. This was her first solo performance and she did an extraordinary job. We hope she will come sing for us again!

The 180 Boys came Thursday night. Last time they were here we helped them to understand what it might feel like to deal with some of the effects of aging. One of the boys was given a pair of glasses simulating macular degeneration. One set of ear plugs to inhibit his hearing. Another had his knuckles wrapped with tape simulating arthritis. And the fourth boy was placed in a wheelchair, unable to speak.

The residents then challenged them to a game of Hillbilly Horseshoes. It was a great sensitivity exercise for them. This week the Boys shared with the residents things that set them apart like tattoos and piercings, low riding pants and brand name clothing. It made for an interesting exchange of dialogue. We have particularly enjoyed this group of boys; they have become quite active with helping around the facility and with the special events. David McGee, among many others, loves them!

Everyone loves a parade! And it was the highlight of the week! The front lawn and patio were filled with spectators who came from near and far to watch. They were delighted to see the bikes, trikes, electric scooters, walkers, wheelchairs and

a horse all decorated in red, white and blue.

Residents who joined the parade were Shirley Hayward and great-grandson, Alex as Uncle Sam; Amy Rehm and her great-granddaughter, Amy Lynn; Faye Miller, Alice Bobbitt, Doris Marintzer, Elsie Macy, Dorothy Pryor and Day-care resident, Paul Miesner. After the parade, homemade ice cream, prizes and fellowship were served up, making this a great "family" get-together! Our thanks to all who participated making this a memorable event.

We had lots of visitors this week: Eloise Thornton (Rush Center), Shelby Thornton (WaKeeney), Mr. and Mrs. Leland Francis (Wilson) and Marian Thornton for R. D. Thornton. Ken and Clem Mumm (Selden/Colby) and Bud and Vicky Mumm (Gem) for Hubert Mumm. Helen Brooks, Ron Snyder (Colby), Jim and Reva Marshall, Penny Fringer, Martin, Ellen and Iris Osborne (Wichita), Sarah Fringer (Colby) and Robert and Penny Fringer for Dorothy

Hunt. Marvin and Sharon Slabough, Brian, Pam, Breck and Nathan Simonsson, Eunice Richards and daughter, Georgia, for Opal Bryan. Ralph and Norma Unger for Leo Mooty. Marilyn Horn for Myrtle Ross. Mert McEvoy and Ralph Crimm (Atwood) for Lucy Schissler. Eunice Martin for Glenn Martin. Brandon Doebell (New Strawn), Darci Meitl, Helen Brooks and Shelby Hackney for Ethel Nemeth. Barbara Castor, Beverly Eiler (McCook) for Elaine Thomas. Eunice Richards and Georgia for Eva Bryan, Earl Brown and Edla Olson. Edla also was visited by Steve and Arian Arnold (Herdon). Eileene Grose for Evelyn Olson. Donovan and Lora Randolph (Hutchinson) and Amy Lynn Randolph (Manhattan) for Amy Rehm. Bud and Vicky Mumm (Gem) for Doris Marintzer. Kerri and Brecken Rowh (Hoxie) and Mark and Luke Shippers (Hoxie) for Mary Lemman. Maurice and Rita Schaller (Larned) for Faye Miller.

## Selden News

By Jacque Boultinhouse

On Thursday, at Senior Citizens, Gail Mumm won high, Betty James took second, Leone Porsch got low and Lola Cook had the most Queens. Other members present included: Jeanie Spresser, Edna Schiltz, Royce Cook, Helen Karls and Marilyn Meyer.

Birthdays and anniversaries: July 11 - Delores Juenemann, Chris Koerperich, Luke Juenemann, Kayla Wurm. July 12 - Darrel Brugge-man, Lakyn Rogers. July 13 - Clem Mumm, Daniel and Janella Benoit, Mary Juenemann. July 16 - Shawn Spresser, Mark Wessel.

## Cedar Living News

Fred Counter has returned to his home after a short stay at Cedar Living Center.

New residents at Cedar Living Center include Wilma May, Helen Derby, and Mary Votapka.

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Lois Eckhart who passed away on Thursday at Cedar Living Center.

We had a fun game of penny cards on Monday in the dining room. Residents who joined in on the game included Darlene Fisher, Elsie Goodnight, Donna Kent, Ruth Leopold, Edie Pettera, John Schuhart, Delores Wheeler, Blanche Skubal, and Mary Brooks.

Myrna Jones led the sing-along time on Monday afternoon. Lois Carlson brought her harmonicas along and joined in on the accompaniment.

The residents have been enjoying going outside together on Tuesday morning. It is a good time to listen to the birds, watch the cars go by, and breathe in the fresh, warm air. We have a couple of gentlemen who like to sit outside on the hot afternoons, but most of us prefer the air conditioning inside.

Frank Ward won the first bingo on Tuesday afternoon. The black-out game ended in a three-way tie among Elsie Goodnight, John Schuhart, and Edie Pettera.

Pastor Charlotte Strecker-Baseler of the Faith Lutheran Church led the monthly Communion Service on Tuesday afternoon on the patio.

The bowlers met for a lively game on Wednesday afternoon. Snacks were served following the game.

Stuart Euhus gave the Bible study lesson on Wednesday afternoon.

Father Henry Saw Lone brought Communion for the Catholic residents on Thursday morning.

Juanita Williby hosted the pin-ochle players on Thursday afternoon. Other residents gathered for a social hour and 4th of July trivia quiz in the dining room.

The dietary department served up an old-fashioned 4th of July lunch on Friday. The activity department served root beer floats in the afternoon.

Sandra Young brought in a big bag of fresh rhubarb last week. This will make some wonderful treats.

Mary Votapka was the guest of honor at a birthday celebration with her family on the patio on Saturday afternoon. Her birthday was July 8.

The poker group met for a game on Saturday night with Sam Mack and his grandson, Jonathan.

Recent visitors: Doyle and Kay Brown, Julie Carter, Jennings; Max and Norma Ward, Clayton; Lillian Sulzman, Dresden; Marvin and Millie Matchett, Norton; Carol Malloy, Topeka.

Jody Betts, Dorothy Moore, Art and Alice May, Sandra Young, Lyle Gamblin, Ira Kolsky, Roxie Pome-roy, Elvin Beneda, Orlin Beneda, Edie Tate, Marilyn Gamblin, Connie Miller, Jodie Wenger, Oberlin.

## Mount Pleasant News

By Dianne Bremer

Hannah May took second and Zach May took first in their age divisions at the junior golf meet Monday in Oakley.

Edwin Potratz, New Orleans, La., and Christian Rountree, Lafayette, La., were Tuesday supper guests of John and Dianne Bremer and Jessica at an area restaurant. Herschel and Jody Betts were additional after dinner guests at the Bremer home for cake and coffee. While here, they also visited Keith and Helen Muirhead, as well as visiting with Helen Derby. Ed is a cousin of John, Jody, Helen, and Keith.

Ed Waterman, Sedgwick, spent the Fourth of July Holiday weekend with David and Karen Eskew and Melvin Waterman and family.

Greg and Janice Cundiff visited

Thursday through Sunday with their son and daughter-in-law, Quintin and Lindsay Cundiff in St. Louis, Mo., where Quintin is studying for the ministry at the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Seminary. While there, they all traveled to Collinsville, Ill., to visit Greg's uncle, Keith and Mary Cundiff. Greg and Janice returned home Monday morning.

Ben Jorns, Preston, arrived last week for an extended visit with his daughter and family, Roland and Pam May, Zach and Hannah, and will return home after helping with harvest.

John and Dianne Bremer and Jessica returned home Saturday evening after spending a few days vacationing in Manitou Springs, Colo.

## Lyle News

By Veda Wood

We had a good message from Jim Plotts at church on Sunday, June 20, and a beautiful special song by him and Carolyn. Services are being held in the regular church at 8 a.m. during the summer months.

Sheryl Patterson took Veda Wood to Norton to the Andbe Home to see Aunt Alta VanGundy.

Red Hat ladies met at the Town and Country Cafe for lunch and then the group went to Logan and attended the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Services exhibit. Beautiful color photographs of animals, plants and creepy crawlers, which inhabit the rain forest, and without the forest would be in danger. People need to understand not only the beauty, but the necessity to preserve these habitats.

Tielia and Aubrey High visited Veda Wood on Sunday evening.

On June 14, Earnest and Donna Huff attended the wedding of Sarah Cherry, the granddaughter of her sister, Billie Morton. They also got to visit with their son, David

Huff, who was there from Shattuck, Okla.

The usual ladies worked on quilts Tuesday. Ivy Roland and Eleanor Jensen are still helping nearly every week, which is greatly appreciated. Margaret "Toots" Magers, Kathy Van Meter, June Jolly, Joyce Sumner and Veda Wood made up the rest of the group.

Veda Wood helped with Fern Anderson's funeral dinner. Many of Fern's family and friends were there to honor her memory.

Rea and Dee Magers worked on the mower for Toots Magers on Saturday, then her daughter, Judy and Charlie Easton came and mowed.

Twila Vernon, Arvada, Colo., sister of Veda Wood, has suffered some illness but is at home and is better.

Jim Plotts was the minister at Lyle Church on June 29. It was good to have Larry Van Otterloo, and also Larry Sumner and Glenda Alexander.



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