

# Schoolhouse moved two times

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**

*k.davis@nwkansas.com*

Even today students from the Oberlin School District and the surrounding area take an occasional day to learn at the one-room schoolhouse at the Decatur County Last Indian Raid Museum.

The Addleman Schoolhouse was moved to the museum grounds in October 1986.

The school was originally built in the summer of 1922 by Louis Cornell for \$3,600.

Over the years the school served the Olive School District and among families who attended were the Rehm, Roberts, Barratt, Paddock, Eiler, Berry, Brown, Carver, Jackson, Wiggins, Fisher, Richards, Litton, Collins, Shafer, Thumser and Ulrich.

Information from the museum included rules for teachers in 1872. Some of the rules for the one room school houses included: "Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they attend church regularly," "Each morning teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session," "Teachers each day will fill lamps, trim the wicks and clean chimneys," "Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society," just to name a few.

On Jan. 28, 1928, members of school district No. 6 voted to consolidate with district No. 1, or the Oberlin school. A bus was purchased to haul students from Olive Township to Oberlin for classes.

The former school district put the building up for sale with Clayton Diehl, Harry Counter and Clyde Corcoran buying it. The board members moved the school to land about three miles southwest of town.

"The land for the school building site was given to the district by Nathan Addleman and the schoolhouse was named 'Addleman' after him," according to "A History of the School Districts of Decatur County Kansas," written by Katie Cornell in 1940.

Over the years, a number of teachers took their turns teaching students in the Addleman Schoolhouse including Lois Mines Steiner, Mildred Skinner, Berta Frickey, Rex Nicodemus, Gertrude Resch, Jessie Lincoln, Betty Huntley Bickett, Alice Hackney Bobbitt, Bertha Harmon, Irma Corder, Mildred Wilkening Waterman, Lois Moore Leibbrandt, Beverly Bryan Fleenor, Mable Brown McLaughlin, Herbert Graves, Eleanor Huntley Werner, Harold Ockerman, Anna Lee Kemper, Grace Teater, Leora Carman and Cora Churchill.

An article printed in *The Oberlin Herald* in April 1985 stated that students from the grade school had headed to the Addleman Schoolhouse to spend the day and learn. With the students were former teachers and helpers, Ruth Laidig, Florence Jones and Fern Gaumer.

"The country school was a tradition that did serve its purpose and was good," stated Mrs. Gaumer in the article. "And sometimes it got mighty cold and those days women did not wear slacks. Also, to have water at the school, you might have to carry it from home. A teacher



**THE ADDLEMAN SCHOOL**, (above) the flag pole and merry-go-round were donated to the Last Indian Raid Museum by the Oberlin Township Board of Trustees, R.J. Metcalf, Lemoin Raulston and Ron Bryan, after the school closed. Shown (below) are students who attended the school during the 1912-13.

not only taught school but had to be the janitor, too."

All three of the women at one time or another had to walk a mile to a mile and a half to get to and from school.

In 1986, 64 years after the school was built, members of the Oberlin Township Board of Trustees consisting of R.J. Metcalf, Lemoin Raulston and Ron Bryan, voted to give the school, the flag pole and merry-go-round to the museum.

Today kids from the grade school and other groups spend a morning or an afternoon at the museum learning reading, writing and arithmetic in the schoolhouse.

