

# Depot moved quickly

Probably one of the quickest building moves was the train depot, which took 15 minutes, to be taken three blocks from its original spot to the Decatur County Last Indian Raid Museum on Sept. 19, 1985.

The train depot, known as the CB&Q, for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad, sat on Oberlin's Main Street for almost 100 years.

Newspapers from 123 years ago stated the last spike was driven into the ground for the Burlington, Kansas and Southwestern Railway track in Oberlin on Wednesday, Oct. 7, 1885. A week later the first train came in.

The actual depot was built in 1885.

Steam locomotives provided the only power for trains in the beginning; in 1895 the first electric train was put into service and in 1925 the first diesel run train arrived.

Around four months after the track through Oberlin was finished the first eastbound mail train came through. In the spring of 1886 passengers were riding by the rail, with almost 150 daily stopping here.

According to information at the museum, the passenger train started in McCook, went to Orleans, Neb., and then to the branch in Oberlin. The train made stops in Norcatour and Kanona, along with other towns along the way. In all it took 150 miles to get from McCook to Oberlin on the rail.

The depot was also used as a departure spot for men going into the armed services for World War II.

Each Saturday night a train headed for the eastern market. In the late 1890's Oberlin was the runner-up to McCook in the number of livestock shipments. The end came in the 1950's when over the road trucks replaced the trains.

When people arrived here they were at the end of the line or the terminus, as railroaders called it.

By the 1950's a mixture of passenger and freight trains became a thing of the past.

The Oberlin and Norcatour branches were the last open agencies in this area.



**THE OBERLIN CB&Q DEPOT**, above, was moved to the museum grounds from its former location on the south end of Penn Avenue. Conductors and passengers, left, enjoyed rides to and from Oberlin in comfortable accommodations on the early-day train.

On Nov. 22, 1984, the Decatur County Historical Society voted to bid on the old train depot as it was on the list of buildings scheduled to be burned or torn down.

The two-story building was purchased for \$2,800 and moved to the museum grounds at the south end of Main Street.

John Kropp of Colby maneuvered the 80-ton building the three blocks to the museum. Elwood Construction dug out the area on the east side of the building. Also helping with the move were Eddie Kiefer and Tom Garcia of Burlington.

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