

Museum doors open for 50 years

For the past 50 years, the Decatur County Last Indian Raid Museum has provided information, history of the area and a tourist site on the south end of Oberlin's Main Street.

It all started in 1958, when the Decatur County Historical Society decided to purchase two buildings and the surrounding land, that had been the former lumber yard.

The museum started with the front office and the general merchandise building which both house exhibits now.

Curator Sharleen Wurm said the main office was opened in 1952, and was located in the former Redman-Paddock Lumber Co., which the Foster Lumber Co. out of Kansas City later purchased.

The rest of the buildings left by the lumber yard were auctioned off by the historical society. In the summer of 1958, volunteers built the sod house, known as the "soddy", on the grounds.

In 1960, the first annex, the addition to the main building, was built. In 1972, a second annex was built behind it.

Over the years, nine buildings were moved in, including:

- The Burlington Route depot from Oberlin in November 1984.
- The old Adleman School House in 1986.
- Decatur County's first jail in October 1986.
- Duke's Grocery in November 1994.
- Paul's Oil brick service station in 1996.
- The doctor's office and land office from Jennings in January 1997.
- The Old Bohemian Hall in April 2000.
- St. Mark's Lutheran Church from Norcatar in July 2005.

The museum, said Mrs. Wurm, has had eight curators: Kathleen Claar, then came Fred and Wilma Wallsmith, Sandy Russell, Fonda Farr, Kathy Almquist, Myrna Jones and Mrs. Wurm.

Other staff at the museum include: Michelle Hollars, who Mrs. Wurm's assistant; and Myrna Jones, who runs the Seeds of Hope Gift Shop. Present board members are: Chris Koerperich, president; Tami Shaw, vice president; Dick Carman, secretary-treasurer; and Byron Hale, Judith LaBash, Cheryl Votapka, Dana



AN OLD COVERED WAGON held one of the Last Indian Raid Museum signs on the grounds for several years. The sign was designed by Jeanette (Wurm) Diederich.

Marintzer, and Betsy Jakowski.

The museum board, staff and supporters will

celebrate with a pancake feed, parade, buffalo Mini Sapa Celebration Saturday.

burger feed, melodrama and more during the

Welcome

Welcome to the 2008 history section put together to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Decatur County Last Indian Raid Museum. The museum staff, board and supporters will celebrate the 50 years with Mini Sapa on Saturday.

Thanks to the advertisers who have made this section, featuring all of the buildings at the museum, possible.

For this section, Karla Jones designed ads

and the section, Kimberly Davis and Mary Lou Olson wrote the stories, and Dave Bergling sold the ads.

A special thanks to the museum staff for their help and information for the stories, especially Curator Sharleen Wurm.

The Old Bohemian Hall, (on cover) was moved to the museum grounds in April 2000.

50th Anniversary

Congratulations
on a job well done!

of the Decatur County Last Indian Raid Museum

THE OBERLIN HERALD

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