



THE FIRST JAIL in Decatur County was completed on June 24, 1886, and is now an exhibit at the Last Indian Raid Museum. It originally sat in Oberlin near the old locker plant.

Jail moved to town for Centennial year

The first jail built in Decatur County has housed inmates, been a hospital for insane people, part of the Centennial Celebration and now is an exhibit at the Decatur County Last Indian Raid Museum.

The 16 by 14 foot wide, seven foot tall jail was completed on June 24, 1886. The jail was made with two by fours spiked together. The floor was made of two by sixes and the walls are six inches thick with two windows and one door.

Originally the jail sat in the north part of Oberlin, near the old locker plant.

Information from the museum states that Henry Euhus remembers the jail being moved by horses from Oberlin to a farm in Olive Township.

In an August 25, 1905, recording in a com-

missioners journal it stated that the old jail was going to be used as a hospital for the insane with J.E. Willcoxon in charge. At that time the commissioners were Harry Kennedy, R.G. Haden, and R.J. Conquest and L.F. Campbell was the clerk.

In 1985 the jail was moved to Oberlin as part of the Centennial Celebration. The jail sat on the corner of Hall and Penn to provide a place for men to be jailed who were caught downtown on Thursday evening who didn't have a Centennial style beard or a shaving permit.

In October 1986, the jail was moved to the museum by John Kropp Movers out of Colby.

After the move Richard Schissler, a 1934 Decatur Community High School graduate, donated tiles for the roof.

Original building still used today

The General Merchandise building is one of the buildings that is an original at the Decatur County Last Indian Raid Museum.

Curator Sharleen Wurm said the building was one of the old lumber yard buildings of Redman Paddock Lumber Yard, which was later purchased by Foster Lumber Co. It formerly housed

the concrete part of the business.

The building, which sits east of the Sod House, looks like a white and red barn with two large doors on the front side.

The General Merchandise building houses a few tractors, stoves, wheel chairs and other miscellaneous items.

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