

# \*Music talent fills woman's life with a song

was decorated in Hawaiian decor and we sat on the floor with guitar and ukulele and sang Hawaiian songs."

At home after supper, she said, the family would congregate in the living room and sing and tell stories after working in the fields. Often she and her sisters would end up in water fights with the young men who were helping her father at harvest time. "My father insisted that all of us, harvest hands and all, go to church," she said. "I doubt that some of them had ever been in a church before, but that was the 'law.'"

When she was a sophomore, she was chosen to sing an alto solo at Music Contest, but she said, she would get tonsillitis every time she had an important event coming up. "That year, the music department gave a musical, 'Doctor, Doctor,'" she recalled. "I had one of the main parts and how I loved it.

"Senior exams came too soon, and I had to give up my piano lessons the last semester to spend more time on normal (teacher) training. Miss Elvin had her 'pets,' and I wasn't one of them. I had other interests, such as my music and entertaining clubs, and she didn't think much of that, but when the returns came, I was third in my class. The 'pets' didn't do so well."

After graduating in 1932, Mrs. Olson taught her first term at Sunnyside Country School for \$45 a month. Her first pupils, she said, were Melvin and Dale Simpson, Leota Brown, Margaret Roberson, James Screen and Virgil Corcoran. "I'm afraid they didn't learn too much, since I was only 17," she said, "but we played baseball, touch football and cowboys and Indians, and they learned to sing and enjoy stories and poetry. We gave programs and even printed a monthly newspaper."

The next year, she was hired at the Fairview "Schissler" School south of Midway, where she stayed with Mabel Olson.

"Of course, she had a brother, Alvin, who lived there too, and that was the beginning of something

new. He offered to take me to school and that was OK with me, since I had to build the fire. One Friday, he asked me for a date for Saturday night, and I accepted. We went to a movie.

"One day when I started to go upstairs to get ready, Alvin stopped me at the door, put his arms around me, kissed me and said, 'I love you.' I nearly fainted."

This was the year for the dust storms, she said.

"The first one struck about 1:30 p.m. when I was at school," Mrs. Olson said. "I saw that black ground cloud coming from the west and the sky was clear, but the cloud rolled up from the ground. Shortly, it became dark and we didn't know what had happened. There were many days that year that we couldn't have but half a day of school because of the dust.

"That year my salary was \$50. The folks didn't raise anything, so I helped out with groceries. My students were Harold, Irvin and Harlan Swanson, Harold Paschke, Raymond, Denzil, Dallas and Marvin Banzet, Beulah Yost, Irene Henningson, Elsie, Elaine and Frances Schiessler and Arthur Madden. I really enjoyed them."

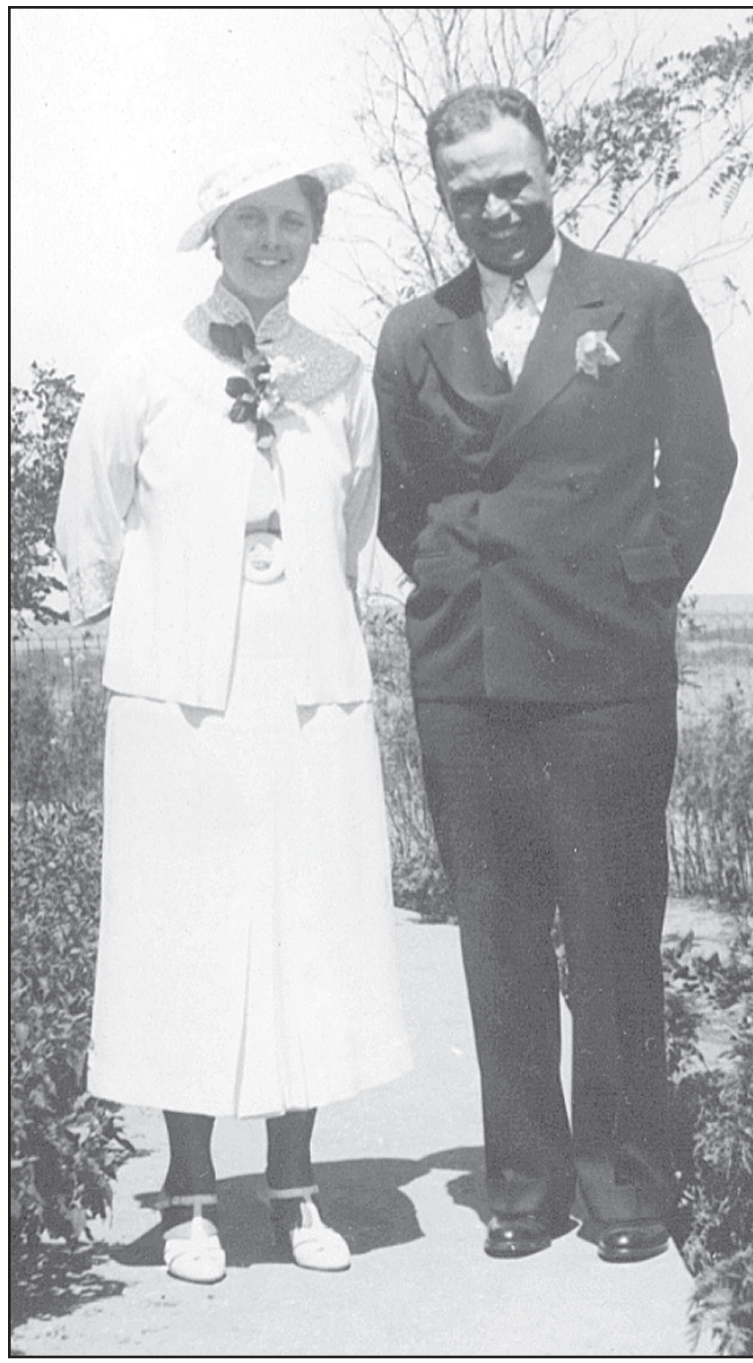
During the summer of 1935, Mrs. Olson said, she went to summer school at Fort Hays State Teachers College, but she said she sure missed Alvin.

"One day," she said, "he drove into the old garage and asked me to marry him. My answer was, 'I'd love to, someday.' Before he left, he gave me a lavalier and I wore it all the time.

"The next summer, we were married in the Lutheran church parsonage with only our immediate families present. The temperature was 119 degrees. Eunice Anderson sang and the reception was at home."

After a honeymoon in Yellowstone Park and Salt Lake City, they moved to the Olson farm.

They had two daughters, Arian and Nione, and a son, Galen, all of whom inherited their mother's musical talent. When they joined



**SHOWN ON THEIR WEDDING DAY** on Aug. 18, 1936, were Alvin and Edla (Nelson) Olson. They were married at the Enne Lutheran Church parsonage and their attendants were her brother, Ernest Nelson, and his sister, Mabel Olson.

4-H, Mrs. Olson was in charge of the music and the chorus always brought home top ribbons.

Over the years, Mrs. Olson has continued to share her musical talent, not only at church, but for

many other events. She and her daughter, Arian Arnold, were a hit for several years with their "Me and Ma" program, which included vintage hats modeled by Mrs. Arnold while she played music of each era

on the piano.

Her other daughter, Nione, was a member of the Impromptu vocal music group at Fort Hays State, and made a trip to Japan with it. Galen, too, has a good voice, and Mrs. Olson said her husband was their best supporter.

She and her husband moved to Oberlin when they retired, and she and Doris Shoemaker played piano and organ duets before services on Sunday at the Oberlin United Methodist Church. Mrs. Olson also taught a Sunday School class for 10 years.

Mrs. Olson said that she and her husband enjoyed several trips to Sweden to visit relatives and also a trip to the Holy Land before his death. After moving to Wheat Ridge Terrace, and later to the Good

Samaritan Center, she has often entertained with her piano playing.

Arian and her husband Steve now live on the Olson home place; Nione lives in Loveland, Colo., with her husband, Mike Rhodin; and Galen and his wife Lynne live in McKinney, Texas. Her only grandchild, Lee Munsell and his wife, Terri, and daughter, Amanda, live in Lee's Summit, Mo.

"If it hadn't been for my faith in God, I would have faltered many times and let worry take over my good reasoning," Mrs. Olson said. "The Lord has been very good to me. I have given Him many of my troubles, and He has taken them away from me. I have been blessed and am thankful for the gift of music He has given to me."

## Midway News

By Mary Lou Olson

Sympathy is extended to the family of Stu Lindell of Overland Park, who died Thursday. His wife is the former Barbara Bergling, daughter of Verol and Rosemary Bergling.

Congratulations to Kjell and Laessa Nordgren of Atwood on the birth of their son, Justus Jerik, who was born at 8 a.m. on Friday at the Citizens Medical Center in Colby. He weighed 9 pounds, 2 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. He has a sister, Kiah, to welcome him.

Elma Lee Erickson, and Don and Em Threlkel were Saturday dinner guest of Nora Bearley, and Jerry and Montine Alstrom, to honor Mrs. Erickson on her birthday. Sally Olson visited from Monday

to Wednesday with her daughter, Annette and Bob Frenzl, in Salina and also had a medical check-up.

Dewayne Jackson of Norcatur was guest speaker at the Herndon Covenant Church on Sunday, in the absence of Pastor Keith Reuther, who was attending a meeting in California.

Dolores Benda is visiting her son, Dave and Marsha Benda, in Fort Worth, Texas.

Mary Lou Olson met Gara Lee Sprague of Arapahoe, Neb., for lunch last Tuesday in McCook.

Don and Sarah Benda are observing their 25th wedding anniversary. They live at 404 N. 3rd, Atwood, Kan., 67730.

## Jennings News

By Louise Cressler

There will be an informational meeting on wind energy at 8 p.m. Monday at the community hall in Jennings. For details, call Bob Jones.

The Jennings Tuesday Study Club made a trip to Atwood on Sept. 23. Kristi Hawkins of Kristi's Quilt Farm, demonstrated using a long arm machine to finish a quilt. She showed methods to mark a pattern and ran her machine using a pantograph. We viewed several of her freehand designs, one of which won a blue ribbon last May at the International Machine Quilters Showcase.

Kristi then joined the club at the Park Hill Restaurant for lunch. After lunch, President Helen Rhoads opened the meeting. Discussion about participating in the Angel Tree led to a motion supporting this project once again. Ruth Chance, Wilma Mader, Joan McKenna, Helen Rhodes, Jean Skubal, Lynn Tacha and Neoma Tacha interpreted "In Stitches" for roll call. The October meeting will feature Ann Gallentine's knitting.

Jennings City Council met Thursday, Oct. 2, in the Senior Center. President Louise Cressler called the meeting to order. Abby His-

song and Tammy Fredrickson of Fredrickson Insurance, presented and explained insurance coverage and gave a quote from Employers Mutual Casualty Insurance, which is so much under the Allied, which city now has. The council voted to insure with Employers Mutual Casualty Insurance.

Christmas street decorations were discussed. Council voted to buy four new decorations this year. The carpeting in the Senior Center was discussed with no decision made at this time. Two bids had been received. Millings will be put in several alleys when Leroy Spreser can haul it. A generous gift was given to the City of Jennings from the Maurine Erlich estate. We thank them for this. The next meeting will be Nov. 6.

City water meters will be read Saturday, Oct. 18. If your meter is inside, please post reading on your door. Burning within the city limits will be permitted Wednesday Oct. 15 through Friday, Oct. 31. Use caution when burning. The recycle trailer was brought to Jennings Thursday and may be here only until Wednesday. It is located at the Community Hall yard. A regular

schedule will be set up for us to have it each month.

Brian and Westley Jennings, Solomon, were weekend visitors of Lawrence and Lila Jennings.

Norine Bailey fell in her home Saturday morning. She was taken by ambulance to the hospital in Oberlin.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Jennings accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Steve Carlton of Oberlin to Klamath Falls, Ore., where they visited Steve's parents, the occasion being Clair and Betty's 61st wedding anniversary. On Tuesday evening, the group met Lawrence and Lila's granddaughter, Megan Synder, of Medford Ore., at Lake of the Woods. They returned to Kansas by way of Yellowstone Park where it snowed while they watched Old Faithful erupt.

The Czech Museum held its meeting on Oct. 2 at the Royal Neighbor Hall in Jennings. Neoma Tacha presided over the meeting with directors Larry Mizer, Lawrence and Lila Jennings, Bob Tacha, and Dean Gawith present. The minutes of the previous meeting were given and approved and the treasurer's report was given. We thank the estate of

Maurine Erlich for the generous donation.

The Jennings American Legion hosted the yearly Legion and Auxiliary Coffee Tour at the Royal Neighbor Hall on Sept 30. The same day, we had 12 visitors from the Good Samaritan Center in Oberlin tour the museum. Neoma Tacha provided the kolaches for both groups, along with tea and coffee.

The lattice work has been installed around the walkway to the church building and the Viet Nam Wall memory book is on display. It contains information about two local men, Bart Brooks and John Diederich. We discussed and decided to continue with the no loaning of museum exhibits due to the frail and non replacement condition of them.

The Jennings American Legion will meet at the Royal Neighbor Hall tonight (Oct. 15). Their fundraiser is planned for Sunday, Oct. 26. They will have a ham and bean dinner at noon with a bake sale at the Senior Center and a garage sale at the same time in the American Legion building. The next meeting will be at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 6, with the public invited to attend.

## Lyle News

By Veda Wood

Gary Anthony is recuperating from thyroid surgery, and Keith Anthony will see a doctor this week for information on his treatment.

You may have noticed that Kathy Van Meter has not been in our column lately. The reason; she has been traveling, and has given us her report.

"I, Kathy Van Meter, drove to Akron, Colo., Sept. 19 and had lunch with my sister, Marion Pachner, then drove on to Loveland, where I was an overnight guest of my sister, Margaret Wilson. On Sept. 21, we met the Great Time Tours and Travel Company at the Denver Airport with the Senior Citizens group to fly to New York.

"The tour guide was Mary (Sughrue) Fox, from Kersey, Colo. She is a cousin of Helen Helm. What a small world!

"Some of the places we visited: Niagara Falls, Ellis Island, Statue of Liberty, Ground Zero, Central Park, Cape May, Atlantic City, Get-

tysburg, Hershey Candy Factory, Phantom of the Opera, and Shopping on Fifth Avenue.

"Margaret's daughter and husband, of Maryland, joined us for two days. Emily Grompone, of New Jersey, visited me one evening.

"Parts of the tour, for a ferry ride under the bridge, was canceled due to the high winds. We all flew back to Denver, Sept. 29, and back to our home."

I thought about Kathy when the East Coast was having that rough weather. That would be the trip of a lifetime for many of us.

Veda Wood and Carol Moye watched the Indian dancers perform at Oberlin, on Saturday. On Friday, Hannah Jirak and sons, Landon and Layton; Hester and Danny Bundrock and son, Cohen; Tielia High and Carol Moye had dinner with Veda and they dropped in on the seniors at the Educational Building for a quick visit. They were on their way to Stockton to attend

the wedding of Katelyn Jade Riffel and Jason Lee Lindsey. Katie is the daughter of Toby and Jennie Wood and Steve and Carrie Riffel.

Dewayne Jackson served as our minister on Sunday, and plans to be there next Sunday. We are grateful that he is willing to fill in.

We had a good time, good crowd

and good dinner at our Sunday potluck at the Lyle Community building.

Margaret "Toots" Magers was pleasantly surprised when her daughter, Judy and Charlie Easton came in on Sunday. She and June Jolly played in the pitch tournament at Norton, Sunday evening.

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