

Foreman to work on power

The Oberlin City Council asked the city foreman to work with the manager at the Housing Authority to replace the transformers for the Sappa Valley Manor apartments.

The transformers were checked recently and are leaking oil, said Ardith Louderback, manager for the authority. Although the leaking transformers don't pose a health hazard, with the warmer weather here the transformers will be needed because of the increase electricity usage as air conditioners get turned on. Mrs. Louderback said the way she understood it with the transformers leaking oil, if they get hot, the items could burn up.

The need to replace the transformers came up at a meeting Thursday, May 21. There was some question about whether the city should replace them or hire Prairie Land Electric to do the job.

Mrs. Louderback said the apartments were completed in March 1969. The city, she said, owns the housing authority, the buildings and the land. The mayor appoints the five-member board.

Under an annual contribution contract, she said, the apartments get money each month from the government as they are operated as low-income housing. Twenty years after the last money is received, said Mrs. Louderback, the city will get the deed back.

She said they are trying to keep the buildings up, replacing the roofs, siding and windows as needed.

There was a question at the last meeting about whether the city owns the property, said Mayor Joe Stanley. That's been made clear now.

If it's the city's project, and the transformers don't work, said Councilman Rob McFee, they need to be replaced.

The city's electric department, said Administrator Austin Gilley, has assured him that they can work with Mrs. Louderback and do the job.

The wiring is currently underground, he said, so the same type of transformers would need to go in. The city crew might have to buy some tools to get the job done.

If the wiring is put on poles, Mr. Gilley added, the job would be a little more extensive.

The flip side, he said, is if Prairie Land does the job, it would save time for the staff and they will work on other projects.

If the choice is to go with the best option, said Mayor Stanley, he thought they should leave it up to the city staff to do. He instructed Mr. Castle to work with Mrs. Louderback to get the job done right.

Joyce Hartzog, on the Housing Authority, urged they get it done as quickly as possible because the transformers have been causing problems for a while. As it gets warmer, she said, residents living in the apartments are going to want to use air conditioning.

Mr. Gilley said they are prepared to make it a priority.

Parent meetings moved

The Oberlin School Board approved moving the fall and spring parent-teacher conferences to Wednesday instead of Thursday nights at its meeting last Monday.

Elementary Principal Duane Dorshorst said he surveyed the teachers in early April about moving the conferences. In the past, they have been on Thursday night and Friday morning. He said he's had one comment from a teacher who really didn't want to move the conferences, but the others said if it would get more teachers and parents there, it would be good.

Junior high events on Thursday nights can take parents from the conferences, he said.

With the change, the conferences would move to Wednesday, Oct. 21, instead of Thursday, Oct. 22. The Friday, Oct. 23, conference would stay the same. It would also change the Thursday, Feb. 11, conference to Wednesday, Feb. 10, with the Friday, Feb. 12 one staying the same.



AT THE OBERLIN ROTARY CLUB meeting last Tuesday, Professor Don Steeples pointed to a slide on seismic work he's done over the years.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Expert explains seismic testing

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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Who knew that an experiment at the age of 10 would turn into a lifetime of seismic experiments that just keeps growing.

Don Steeples, the McGee Distinguished Professor of Geophysics and senior vice provost at the University of Kansas, talked with the Oberlin Rotary Club last Tuesday about some of his experiments over the years.

Dr. Steeples, a leading expert on shallow underground imaging, said his first experiment was when he was 10 and he wanted to see if a .22-caliber rifle could penetrate an engine block. Dr. Steeples said he kept getting closer until he was about two feet away from the block. Next thing he knew, he was on the ground and a friend was digging a bullet fragment out of his leg.

Most scientists would have said they weren't going to do that again, but not him. His response was that he needed a bigger rifle. Eventually, he got a .30-06, and he said, it worked.

In 1980, he used a rifle to see if he could get an echo by firing it into the ground. Before that, the shallowest echo images were below 100 feet, but with the rifle, they got a reading at 25 feet.

Next he used a .50-caliber ma-

chine gun, which he said went through the purchasing process at the university faster than anything else he'd ever ordered.

There was a problem getting a reading using the gun because of the air blast, he said, so they started shooting it at the ground from a cherry picker. It turns out that was a stupid experiment, he said, so they built a silencer for a single-shot 50-caliber rifle.

Dr. Steeples said they found that the second shot into the ground actually produced better data than the first shot.

Next, he said, they built a device to put microphones into the ground to get a reading off of what was happening.

Firing a spark plug in the ground, he said, they are able to get a reading of very high frequencies, but the rifles seemed to work better.

The geophones, which is what reads the echo, or return, from the ground, take a lot of time to put into the ground with a graduate student doing it by hand.

Dr. Steeples said they developed a way to do it faster by attaching the geophones on the bars of a tillage machine. That way, 72 geophones could be put into the ground in two seconds using hydraulics. Otherwise, it took 15 minutes to do the same number by hand.

To get a 3-D reading, the geo-

phones are put in a rectangular array, and he said he eventually built a trailer to do.

Dr. Steeples has traveled a lot over doing this work, including overseas. He said his team went to Korea to try to find tunnels around the demilitarized zone by the North Korean Army, but wasn't able to. In Korea, he said, the testing was done through solid granite.

He's also done testing on the Mexico border, which he added, was softer ground that they could dig through. Some of the government work is classified, he added.

His underground imaging, said Dr. Steeples, is very similar to the work oil companies do for seismic testing, but the oil firms use huge blasts or big "thumper" trucks to go deeper and farther.

Rotary members wanted to know if this technique could be used to find water. Dr. Steeples said he started doing work in this area in 1975 for that reason. The main problem is that it costs as much to run this kind of testing to find water as it would to put in a well.

The original idea was to develop a way to look for water, he said, but so far, it's just too expensive. Practical applications so far involved looking for places where oil or pollutants might pool up underground.

Tractors, cars and engines receive awards

Around 100 tractors, cars and small engines showed up Sunday for the 16th annual Selden Antique Tractor and Car Show, traditionally held the first Sunday in June.

Throughout the day, participants took part in activities put together by the Selden Community Foundation, which sponsored the show.

On the south side of the tennis court downtown, 28 people tried their hand in a horseshoe competition hosted by Robert Koerperich. Winners were Gerald Jackson, Norcatur, and Chris Hildebrand, Colby, who took first; Tom Juenemann and J.R. Albers, Selden, second; and Pat Koerperich, Selden, and Josh Miller, Goddard, third.

In the morning, kids were able to enter the basketball free throw contest. Winners in the third-to-fifth-grade category were Kade Wessel, first; Tad Holm, second; and Koi Wessel, third.

In the sixth-to-eighth-grade group, A.J. Stoll won first after several shoot-offs needed because of the number of participants. Cameron Spresser was second and Danae Weston third.

Kids from 5 to 10 years old tested their skill during a pedal tractor pull on the tennis courts. Winners included:

- Andrew Meitl, first; Toby Korte, second; and Brooke Stoll, third in the 5-6 age range.

- Alexis Schmitz, first; Kaylee Miller, second; and Jake Geisinger, third; in the 7-8 group.

- Matt Vacura, first; Dawson Spresser, second; and Sam Pierce, third, in the 9-10 group.

Throughout the day, kids 8 and under got to dive into a stock tank full of corn, digging for coins or just playing, while others took part in games hosted by the Girl Scouts.

In the barrel roll contest, the winning tractor drivers were Harvey Wright first, Darrel Bruggeman second and Don Laugherty third.

In the washer drop event, Kyle Emigh took first, Harvey Wright second and Roger Emigh third.

In the late afternoon, all the entries paraded down Kansas Avenue, with the top five cars and tractors receiving awards. Winners of the top five cars:

- Tom Aschenbrener of Brewster with his 1972 Ford Mustang.
- Evan and Judy Goltl of Hill

City with their 1970 Chevrolet Chevelle.

- Jack and Wanda Ball of Ellis with their 1935 Ford coupe.

- Dave and Bev Posson of Norton with their 1949 Mercury coupe.

- Renee Wagoner of Quinter with a 1967 Chevy Camaro.

Winners of the top five tractors:

- Everett Shuler of Oberlin with a 1957 Farmall 450 IHC.

- Bob and Peggy Anderson of Superior, Neb., with their 1959 Case Diesel 630 Caseomatic.

- Merlin Hussey of Selden with his 1949 John Deere Model A.

- Norman Wendel of Alma with his 1943 Allis Chalmers WC.

- Bill Biel of Colby with his 1954 John Deere R.

Plaques were awarded to the Thummel family and Keith Kuhn for their small engines.

There were several opportunities to win raffle prizes. Winners included:

- Taryn Fleckenstein of Jennings for a truck bank donated by Dave's Auto Supply.

- Garrett Emigh for a 26-inch bicycle from the Western Fraternal Life Association of Jennings, usually known as the Bohemian Lodge.

- Frank Bouts for the 50/50 drawing also sponsored by the lodge. He took home \$106.

Raffles sponsored by the Selden Community Foundation included:

- Bernie Vacura for a Case-IH pedal tractor donated by Hoxie Implement.

- Joe Stanley for an all-terrain tricycle donated by Frank Bouts.

- Macie Juenemann for a toy John Deere tractor donated by Southwest Implement.

- Carsen Meitl for two bags of Ultimate Fertilizer donated by CMA Distributing.

"The day went very well," said Jacque Boltinghouse, Selden mayor and a foundation member. "I was pleased with the number of exhibits and participants. It was great to see so many people enjoying themselves in town, especially the children.

"We sincerely appreciate the generosity of all the sponsors and the hard work of all the volunteers. They, along with the exhibitors, are what make the tractor show a success year after year."

Principal advises on kindergarten

The Oberlin School Board discussed whether to have two sections of kindergarten or one for next year at its monthly meeting Monday, but didn't make a decision.

Principal Duane Dorshorst, who takes over as superintendent in two weeks, said they have 21 to 24 kids enrolled for next year, but there's no telling who might move in over the summer or what parents will decide their kids aren't mature enough to enter school.

That number is difficult, he said, because if the school ends up with 19 kids, there might be 10 in one class and nine in another.

If the number goes up, he said, the school might not want one class of 26 kids.

President Dwayne Jackson asked if there is any way to have two teachers in the class when the primary subjects are being taught, and then have an aide in there to help at other times.

Mr. Dorshorst said the district has just one kindergarten teacher for next year, Diana Steinmetz. It's hard to hire another teacher, said board member Barb Olson, and then end up with 18 kids.

Mr. Dorshorst recommended that the board wait and see what happens. The board agreed.

He said the enrollment numbers show 30 kids in first grade with two classes, 28 in second grade with two, 31 for third grade with two, 22 in fourth grade with one, 32 kids in fifth grade with two and 24 in sixth grade with one.

He noted that several families with children have moved into the district this summer.

School Roundup

At the meeting last Monday, the Oberlin School Board:

- Approved extracurricular sponsor and coaching positions for the new school year. Story to come.

- Approved moving the fall and spring parent-teacher conferences to Wednesday instead of Thursday nights. Story at left.

- Approved the final section of the board's policy book, approving rental fees for school buildings. Story to come.

- Discussed whether to have two sections of kindergarten or one for next year. Story at left.

- Approved a new language arts, or English, curriculum for the district. Story on Page 5A.

Belinda Jones, who teaches junior high language arts, will move to the grade school to teach English, health and spelling in fifth and sixth grade, he said.

At the high school, said Principal Charlie Haag, with Mrs. Jones going to the grade school, some of the tutoring will have to be picked up in the study hall.

He said he's working on the schedules now, but didn't have any enrollment numbers.

Another change for next year is that J.D. Johnson will teach all of the American History courses and will also pick up a psychology class.

Time to guess on first wheat load

A good guess on when the first load of wheat will be delivered at participating elevators in Decatur County during the Oberlin merchants' annual Harvest Countdown contest could win you a share of \$100 in prizes.

Participating elevators include the Decatur Co-op in Oberlin, Kanona, Jennings, Herndon, Danbury, Neb., Ludell, Lenora and Edmond; Hi-Plains Co-op in Selden and Dresden, and Hansen Mueller Grain in Oberlin and Cedar Bluffs.

Anyone who is 18 and older can try their hand at guessing the minute, hour and day the first dry load — with moisture content under 14 percent — will be delivered.

Those who have won the contest in the last five years or those who have delivered the first load in those years are ineligible. Also ineligible relatives of

the person delivering the first load and employees of the newspaper and their immediate family.

The contest is put together by *The Oberlin Herald*. Sponsoring businesses include Decatur County Title and Abstract, Decatur Co-op Association, Farm Credit of Western Kansas, Fredrickson Insurance Agency, Hansen Mueller Co., Hi-Plains Co-op, Hirsch and Pratt, Goltl Home Planning Center, KFNF, Pizza Hut, Raye's Grocery, Southwest Implement and Ward Drug Store.

The deadline to enter is 4 p.m. on Friday, June 26, or whenever the first load comes in.

Winners will receive \$50 for first, \$35 for second and \$15 for third. All prizes will be in scrip money which can be spent only at sponsoring businesses. No change will be given.

No purchase is required to enter.

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