

THE OBERLIN HERALD

Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

125 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1884

To show the growth of Decatur County: In 1880 Decatur County cast 491 votes for presidential candidates; in 1882 a total of 491 votes were cast for the various gubernatorial candidates; in 1884 a total of 702 voters expressed their choice on presidential candidates.

The Oberlin Cornet Band has been engaged to furnish music every Saturday evening at the rink.

The McCook Tribune is agitating the question of a daily stage line between that place and Oberlin.

J.W. Allen & Son have ordered the material for the construction of a mammoth skating rink, 60x125 feet.

Jack Butters, ye genial clerk of the Oberlin House celebrated his 32nd birthday last Saturday.

The Carmichael brothers of Bassettville we understand have the apparatus on the ground with which to search for coal.

Geo. H. Hand of the Ludell Settler invaded our sanctum Monday.

100 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1909

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Claude Padlock on Dec. 10, a son.

L.G. Parker on Wednesday bought a half interest in the E.L. Bystrom stock of clothing, etc.

Will Landau returned from Washburn College last week to help his father in the county treasurer's office.

Mrs. Joseph Bivans returned from Utah last week and we understand Mr. Bivans will return soon and they expect to build a home in Oberlin.

Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Marvin were snowbound at Achilles for 10 days, not getting home until Monday.

Norcatut Items: The Commercial Hotel has changed hands again. This time a lady from Rexford will be proprietress.

Myrna Marietta has braved the storms and snow drifts all thru this cold weather to and from her school at Blue Star.

75 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1934

The kind of weather we are now having makes the school teachers and mail carriers feel like they are earning their money.

License tags are going out: Hazel Votapka owns plate #1; Rell Landau, #2 and the Farmers Loan and Abstract Company car is #3.

A group of men from Cook, Bassettville and Prairie Dog townships brought a petition to the county commissioners for a project in the southwest part of the county to gravel the Swede Road to the Thomas County line using relief labor.

Big Timber: The north side ladies met at Mrs. Helen Tacha's and organized a new club to be known as "The Golden Rule Club" which will meet every two weeks to work, feed and visit. President, Mrs. Fanny Koehn; vice president, Mrs. Clara Carper, secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Fanny Carper.

Jennings: Jack Noone has been a very sick boy with pneumonia.

Thirteen members braved the stormy weather and muddy roads to attend the Sappa Club meeting held at Merl Rezner's Thursday afternoon.

Dresden: Funeral services were held at the Dresden Methodist Church with the Rev. Charles Simpson officiating for Mrs. Roy (Ethel Sage) Watson who died Dec. 5 at the age of 46.

She is survived by her husband, a daughter, Mrs. Florence Rhodes, a son, Clark, her father, Henry Sage, all of Dresden; a brother, James Sage, Oberlin and a sister, Mrs. Effie Estebal, McCook.

Funeral services were held at the Selden Methodist Church for Amel Anderson, 55, who was fatally injured when struck by a car driven by Mrs. Cecil Bolin while he was checking on his truck while it was parked in front of the entrance to the Nitsch garage.

Mrs. Bolin said the sun was in her eyes as she turned at the intersection of Maple and Penn Streets and that

she did not see either Mr. Anderson or the truck until she had completed the turn. Mr. Anderson and his wife and three children, Carl, Howard and Grace made their home on a farm five miles north of Selden.

50 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1959

An epidemic-type virus stomach upset is making the rounds in Oberlin according to Dr. James Coffman, county health officer.

"Why The Chimes Rang" is the title of the Christmas Vespers to be presented Sunday at 3 p.m. at the high school auditorium. The program will be presented by the DCHS Mixed Chorus, James Haney directing. At OCS the grade school operetta "Christmas For Others" will be directed by Mrs. Sidney Morrish, OCS music teacher.

Elmo Lund has been elevated to a full partner in the law office of L.F. Cushenbery, effective Jan. 1 and the firm will be known as Cushenbery and Lund, Attorneys at Law.

Christmas lights seem to be everywhere in Decatur County. Brightest among Decatur showplaces are the Dresden grade school, Oberlin high school, county courthouse, Oberlin Methodist Church and the farm homes of Emil Petracek, John and Anna Petracek.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Simonsson and daughter have moved into their new home at 306 N. East Avenue.

Allison: The Allison school house which has been a landmark for many years, was moved the first of the week to the Frank Linden farm.

Lyle: All but the floor has been completed at the community building being constructed at Lyle. The 60x28 structure is located just west of the Bert Cozad home and has been built almost entirely by volunteer labor.

25 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1984

Official weather observer Sharon Wilkening reported 15 inches of snow have fallen the past week causing most area schools to be

closed.

Women of St. John's Lutheran Church are decorating a new 12-foot Canadian pine artificial Christmas tree with hand-made ornaments each of which is a religious symbol, according to Pastor Morris Kirchhof. Crowning the topmost branch is a white crocheted angel which was made by Mrs. Henry Euhus before she left for the winter.

New Hospice officers for the coming year are: Chuck Frickey, re-elected president; Joyce Ploussard, vice president; Gene Shoemaker, secretary and Gisela Humes, treasurer. Jo Lynn Hammond, executive director, reported that the Hospice volunteers are currently working with five families.

Dresden: An early morning fire leveled the frame home of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Jackson. An unvented propane stove in the bathroom was thought to be the cause. The Jacksons were not home at the time.

Word has been received from Myrtle Carman of Puyallup, Wash., of the death of her son, Rolan Carman, 51. He was one of the twin sons of Elmer and Myrtle Carman and a graduate of the DCHS Class of 1951.

Diane Messenger has moved to Oberlin and began learning office procedures at the ASCS office this week. Single and 23 years of age, she earned a BS degree in business administration from Kansas State University.

She is a native of Lane County where her mother works in the ASCS office and her father is District Soil Conservationist. She replaces Mike Gawith who leaves Jan. 5 to become District ASCS director in Stockton.

Decatur Dictator: Robi Dianne Bellah and Thomas Joe Alstrom were united in marriage Dec. 15 at Faith Lutheran Church. They are better known to DCHS students as teachers and coaches.

Cedar Living News

By Teresa Shaughnessy

We have welcomed several new residents into our Cedar Living Center family in recent weeks. New residents include Irene Fringer, Fern Jording, and Frances Schiessler.

We are busy with a flurry of holiday activities. Those who have a family member or close friend at Cedar Living Center will want to plan to attend our family Christmas party on Sunday, Dec. 20, at 2:30 p.m. The party will include entertainment, a visit from Santa Claus and plenty of holiday snacks. Anyone wanting additional information on this party or any of our other Christmas programs may call Cedar Living Center and ask for Charlotte Kurtz or Teresa Shaughnessy.

Monday afternoon found the craft group working on a project in the dining room. Christmas carols were on the play list during the sing-along time before supper.

Tuesday we enjoyed watching the snowfall and being safe and warm inside. There were several winners at the penny card game played on Tuesday afternoon. Players included Darlene Fisher, Irene Fringer, Elsie Goodnight, Ruth Havel, Donna Kent, Edna Mott, Agnes Pruitt, Aleen Van Vleet, Mary Votapka and Delores Wheeler.

A group of residents spent time on Wednesday afternoon decorating the Christmas tree on the patio. Refreshments were served.

Fr. Mark Berland had Mass for the Catholic residents on Thursday morning at Cedar Living Center.

In a rare break with tradition, the weekly Bingo game was played on Thursday afternoon. We were short of helpers on Tuesday due to the snow. As always, the game was a big success. Ira Kolsky won the first game and Donna Kent won the blackout game.

Friday afternoon we had the annual holiday visit from the Red Barn Gang of Rexford. The group played

a variety of Christmas favorites to an appreciative audience. The Eastern Star also hosted the December birthday party on Friday afternoon. They served ice cream and cookies and provided gifts for those celebrating birthdays. Those honored were Mary Kolsky, Karl Wendelin and Wilma May. Earl Brown, who also has a December birthday, spent the afternoon visiting Zola Brown and attended the party.

We would like to thank the ladies of the Eastern Star who have been doing a wonderful job of hosting parties at both Cedar Living Center and Good Samaritan Center. They have volunteered on several occasions to cover months when no other group was available to host the party.

The Royal Neighbors met for their monthly meeting on the patio on Friday afternoon. The group enjoyed the program by the Red Barn Gang before the meeting.

The Closely Knitted Friends met on the patio on Saturday afternoon for a meeting and holiday social. Edna Mott is a member of the group.

Residents, staff and visitors enjoyed a program of holiday music provided by Dianne Bremer on Sunday afternoon.

Recent visitors: Cheri Kastens, Carol Kompus, Herndon; Mary Sedlmayer, Norcatut; Ann Gallentine, Clayton; Alysha Tadlock, Goodland; Kristen Bremer, Colby; Jan Sattler, Atwood; Marj Law, Lakewood, Colo.

Opal Huntley, Lois Lamb, Na-dean Stoney, Phyllis Screen, Eunice Richards, Myrna Jones, Connie Olson, Julie Gallentine, Judy Jordan, Theresa Reeves, Judith LaBash, Sharleen Wurm, Stacey Hileman, Tami Shaw, Cheryl Votapka, Marilyn Gamblin, Ella Betts, Max and Veanna Carman, Janelle Walter, Oberlin.

Herndon News

By Julie Hafner

Payton Juenemann, Hays, spent the weekend with Nana and Papa Sattler while her parents, Chase and Dana, attended the KU/LaSalle basketball game. She helped "grampa" feed cows and helped with cleaning with "gramma."

Gisela Fisher, Traer, attended the youth Christmas program on Sunday morning at St. John's Lutheran Church in Oberlin, with a lasagna dinner following, sponsored by the Lutheran Youth Fellowship. They are raising funds for the national Lutheran youth gathering in New

Orleans this summer.

Gracelyn Julie Foxhoven, daughter of Dave and Jacalyn Foxhoven, was christened in the Catholic faith at Ave Marie Catholic church in Parker, Colo., by Father Don Brownstein on Sunday. Godparents were Robert Foxhoven, Wayne, Neb., and Raquel Frerichs, Lexington, Neb. Guests attending were her sisters, Caitie, Allie and Emmie; brothers, Caleb, Elijah and Seth; Dan Foxhoven, Denver; Marlene Cook, Parker, Colo., and Bob and Julie Hafner, Herndon.

Chamber News

By Carolyn Hackney

I assume all your shopping is done?? I was speaking with a friend over the weekend and the subject of shopping came up. Barb told me of her experience of shopping on "Black Friday." She got up, dressed up a bit, came to Oberlin, and went in all the stores that were open. She had the best shopping experience in a long time. She said, "Do you know what all the stores carry in Oberlin?"

She doesn't very often go in some of the stores just because of not needing what they carry, but she was truly amazed at all the selections and she made several purchases.

I encourage you to check out places you haven't been to lately. You might find a surprise!!

The Oberlin Business Alliance is sponsoring a Soup Lunch on Saturday, Dec. 19, in the west room of the Golden Age Center beginning at 11:30 and ending at 1:30. Chili and chicken noodle soup will be available plus a selection of desserts. Santa will also be in attendance to visit with the young ones during that time. A cookie sale will also be going on in the front room of the Golden Age Center, sponsored by the Methodist ladies.

A children's movie is scheduled in the new Sunflower Cinema at 2 p.m., right next door to the Golden Age Center.

The Chamber board and I are planning the Chamber Annual Banquet to be held on Thursday, Jan. 14, at the Golden Age Center, west room. Speaker arrangements are being made and will be announced, I hope by next week.

The Economic Development Corp. and the Chamber office are offering Sunflower Cinema tickets for any number of tickets purchased and will be available at either office. This would be a great stocking stuffer for Christmas.

I have sent new member invitations to many businesses, but I know we have many individuals as

faithful members of the Chamber also, and I would like to extend an invitation to any new individual that would care to help support the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce. By helping support this office is also helping to support our town by sending and giving information to many people who are interested in our town and this part of the country in general.

One interesting correspondence was from an individual who traveled through here several months ago on a motorcycle (yes, I am a bit partial to the big bikes) and he later wrote an article about his travels through the Midwest, mainly Kansas and Nebraska. He entered his article in a travel magazine and won first place. He is now working on a book, which a section of this book will be more in depth about his travels through the Midwest. I sent him a bit of information that he asked for in hopes this will help bring other travelers who read his book to our area.

The book will be out in April of 2010. There are many, many more inquiries where I have given information that helps bring business to Oberlin. If anyone is interested please call (785) 475-3441 and I will send you a registration form. Also, remember that anyone is welcome to attend our Chamber Banquet. More information will be available later.

It is also time for the new year to start for the Oberlin Business Alliance. Member letters have also gone out for new members. This is an organization of businesses to help promote our shopping and keep our little town alive. This organization works to help keep our business section pleasant to make shopping in Oberlin a good experience. They also help with the decorations during the Holiday season, and have kept the sound system going along the streets. (By the way, if anyone has any music they would like to

share for this purpose, drop it by the Chamber office, Christmas songs for now, then others later). They put on a fabulous fireworks show on the

4th of July each year. Last year's was one of the best.

Have a great week!!

Good Samaritan News

By Lisa Paulson

Gazing out the window in Town Square, the sun glistening through the icicles hanging on the front porch, the landscape is blanketed with snowy grandeur, everything is still and silent. In the beauty of the moment one cannot help but think of our awesome God. Then, turning to face the ones who have come to hear the morning devotion, I am struck by the mirror image of what is outdoors. I can see the Son, glistening in the eyes of those that meet mine. The dining room is blanketed with the grandeur of snowy white heads waiting with quiet anticipation to hear the Word of God. These mature individuals have experienced His abundant blessings and are keenly aware of how great is His love! How sweet it is to meet God every morning with these devoted loved ones.

As winter has settled in for awhile, the daily plans must change to accommodate the cancellations the weather dictates. Not only that... it is a little humorous, when inviting residents to activities, you are greeted with "No thanks, I don't want to go out in this weather." They just like to cozy up in their recliners with the television or a good book just like home!

Tuesday, our First Hand Friend readers couldn't come, so we did a little bird watching. Twelve pictures of birds were placed around the "Square" and the avid "feathered friend finders" paired up to find them all. Red Cardinal Christmas cards were strategically placed and brought extra credit if turned in at Social Hour. Teams were Emma Sanford and Alice Bobbitt; Dorothy Pryor and Myrtle Ross; Evelyn Olson and Faye Miller.; Leone Porsch and Opal Bryan. Evelyn Olson was the winner for the most Cardinals found.

We decorated and ate gingerbread men with our hot cocoa for Social Hour, then we played one of our favorite games, Snowflake Toss. Helen Derby, Evelyn Olson, Myrtle Ross, Dorothy Pryor, Shirley Hayward, Amy Rehm, Opal Bryan, Eva Bryan, Leone Porsch, Alice May,

Emma Sanford, Alice Bobbitt and Betty May took part.

Anita Hirsch gave a musical presentation featuring songs from our Modern Manger display (more about that next week).

Penny Fringer brought homemade pie for Social Hour... "just because"! Was it ever delicious!

Wednesday is our day that we are especially blessed with many volunteers. Songs of Worship, Marilyn Horn on piano; Bible Study, Mert McEvoy; nail care, Dorothy Alstrom, Rachelle Lytle and Rosella Meitl; Social Hour, Reva Marshall and Penny Fringer; Bingo, Colleen Geishler, Pat Fringer and Marilyn Horn. Other volunteers for the week include Dennis Brown, devotions; Larry Smith, computer; Keith Reuther and Frank McEvoy, men's coffee; Larry Mack, Poker; current events, Carol Duncan; one-to-one visiting, Gladys and Zane Geis. Thank you all for your dedication and hard work.

Friday the snow had been successfully removed, and although the temperature was still a bit frosty the Red Barn Gang from Rexford, weathered the weather to cheer us with Christmas tidings! A wonderful ending to a wonderful week!

Staff members: a reminder that the Happy Birthday Jesus Party is this Saturday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m. All kids are invited... just R.S.V.P. to Lisa Paulson.

Visitors this week included Reva Marshall, Penny Fringer and Ron and Dixie Snyder (Colby) for Dorothy Hunt. Sharon Addleman for Louise Pollnow. Marvin and Sharon Slabaugh for Opal Bryan. Pastor John Paulson for Kathryn Post, Lora Zwickle and R.D. Thornton. Frances Porsch (Selden) for Leone Porsch. Gerald Olson for Evelyn Olson. Bud and Vicky Mumm (Gem) for Doris Marintz and Hubert Mumm. Merit McEvoy, Ralph Crimm (Atwood) for Lucy Schissler. Ken and Clem Mumm (Selden) for Hubert Mumm. Ralph and Norma Unger for Leo Mooty.

Selden News

By Jacque Boultinhouse

On Thursday, due to cold weather there was no Senior Citizens.

Birthdays and anniversaries: Dec. 18 - Kami Miller. Dec. 19 - Renee Bruggeman Filmore, Kayla Sulzmann, Chad Focke, Avery Spresser. Ben and Christa Wessel. Dec. 20 - Stephanie Ritter, Dave Neff, Nathan Zodrow. Dec. 21 - Troy Emigh. Dec.

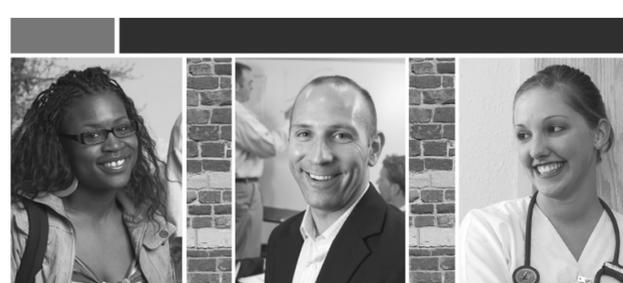
22 - Pat Wessel. Dec. 23 - Tammie Bainter. Dec. 24 - Curtis Carman, Mitzi Wachendorfer.

School Calendar: Dec. 18 - 11:30 a.m. Junior High Combined Choir Concert. High school basketball at Grainfield. Dec. 21 thru Jan. 3, No school Christmas break.



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