

THE OBERLIN HERALD

Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

125 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1884

Seventeen degrees below zero Wednesday morning. Marion Salisbury, while endeavoring to teach a pair of roller skates the art of motion, fell and broke one of the bones of his leg. Prof. Borin is confined to his bed with lung trouble. Ed. Patchin returned from Lawrence Tuesday to spend the holidays with folks at home.

A regular nor'wester set in Sunday afternoon. Tough weather for the freighters.

Kenneth wants a town to take possession of its name.

Oberlin has 44 souls. Holiday trade has almost depleted the immense stocks of our merchants and the shelves look as empty as a greyhound's shadow.

J.W. Allen & Son have moved their millinery department from the old quarters on the east side of the avenue to a room attached to the north part of their double-room store. A restaurant will soon be started in the room vacated by the millinery.

100 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1909

The Oronoco Orient quit last week; the editor saying he was losing \$2.50 per week besides his own work.

Charley Ater is firing an engine out of McCook at present.

A.L. Miller of Olive Township took out a brand new surrey as a Christmas present for his family.

Caleb Smick and Oran Milleson returned Wednesday from Washburn College for the holidays.

Curry Brothers are erecting an addition to their buildings recently purchased of H.D. Colvin, Clarence McCarty and Jess Walker seem to be the architects.

Misses Emma Griffith and Lula Metcalf are home from Ottawa University for the holidays.

Traer Items: John Gardner is now running a butcher shop in the new location.

75 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1934

Four Oberlin players were picked for the all-Northwest Kansas League football team: Rex Gill, the crafty little quarterback of the Red Devils, and Elmer Hackney, the powerful fullback, were unanimous choices while Vic Claussen at end and Lem Montgomery at tackle were chosen by the majority of coaches for first team. Other unanimous choices were Nordstrom of Norton at center and Thompson of Goodland at

guard. An additional \$15,000 has been allotted to Decatur County for the purchase of distressed cattle for which there is a shortage of feed. Emil Petracek, Emergency Drouth Relief Administrator, estimates that there are still 1,500 cattle listed for sale.

The office of the county poor commissioner distributed 967 pounds of creamery butter and 119 cases of canned beef. This is furnished by the federal government relief organization, the canned beef being the processed beef purchased from farmers in the drouth area.

Hospital News: Mr. and Mrs. Ed Grafel, Herndon, baby girl; Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Francis, baby girl, Barbara Ann.

New Masonic Lodge officers installed by Past Master Chris G. Jor are: Master, Leon Steinsouer; senior warden, Ben Miller; junior warden, Earl Sproul; treasurer, Ray Dyer and secretary, Wallace Wolfe.

Dresden: King Muirhead and Raymond Didlake took the grade school basketball team to Oberlin to play Friday evening. Oberlin won 16-14. Boys who played were Martin Chapman, Clark Watson, Jesse Jones, Dennis Nelson, Francis and Frederick Welter.

Jennings: Mrs. Emil Petracek and baby son, Howard Allen, have left the Oberlin Hospital and are staying at the home of her mother, Mrs. Fred Bremer. Mrs. Verna Plotts is assisting with their care.

Miss Elsie Watkins and Mr. Ralph Brown were married at 6:30 o'clock Monday morning at the home of Rev. and Mrs. David Cunningham. Both of the couple are graduates of the local high school and Ralph is an employee of the Farmers National Bank. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Watkins of Danbury and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Brown of Sappa Township.

Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Young have received an announcement of the approaching marriage of their son, Joseph C. Young to Miss Mildred Mary, the daughter of Mrs. Paul E. Mary Sr. of New Orleans. The marriage will take place Dec. 22 in New Orleans and it is probable the couple will spend the Christmas holidays in Oberlin.

50 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1959

Between four and five hundred people heard the Decatur Community High School Vespers Sunday

afternoon. Dr. and Mrs. C. Nelson, 502 N. Rodehaver, earned first prize in the annual Lions Club house decorating contest. Second prize went to the Virgil McMains family at 311 N. Beaver.

DCHS seniors have planned their annual New Year's Eve party, "The Snow Ball," scheduled at the Masonic Temple Dec. 31. The party will feature dancing and recreation and seniors expressed the hope that a large number of alumni will be able to attend.

In a transaction last week, Jesse Jones, Pete Jones and Albert McVay became one-third owners each of the Oberlin Livestock Commission.

New Arrivals: Mr. and Mrs. Waldemar Marcuson, girl, Karen Arleen, Dec. 17, 1959.

Three pioneer residents of this area, all octogenarians, died this past week: John Huff, 88, pioneer in the Lyle community; Charles Wilson, 83, who spent nearly all of his life on a farm 12 miles south of Oberlin, and M.H. Neff, 84, of the Selden area.

25 YEARS AGO — Dec. 1984

Sumner Schlenk, Winona, is president of the newly chartered and organized Selden State Bank. R.L. Gaskill, president of Farmers State Bank, Winona, purchased

the banking facility after the doors were closed on Farmers State Bank of Selden last week. Schlenk and his wife Virginia will soon move to Selden. They have two children, Travis, age 10 and Maryse, 9. Closing of the Selden facility brought to seven the number of bank failures Kansas has experienced this year.

Monty Mockry, who suffers from muscular dystrophy and has been in a wheelchair since third grade, is one of the three managers for Coach Tom Alstrom's wrestling team at DCHS. He uses an electric wheelchair and attends a full day of classes just like everyone else. He is assisted as needed by two seniors at DCHS, Scott Gawith and Scott Goltl, who have helped him throughout his high school years.

Both DCHS varsity basketball teams won over St. Francis, the boys by a score of 72 to 40 and the girls 60 to 34. The Red Devil matmen downed Oakley 41-14.

From a metropolitan midsummer in Brazil to a snowy winter in rural Kansas is a long jump. Luciana Coelho deMarchi Gherini has enrolled as a junior at DCHS and is making her home with the Don Ulrich family where she will be a big sister to Brent, 10, and Selena, 7. She is sponsored by the International Fellowship organization which arranges study trips for students from other countries.

Chamber News

By Carolyn Hackney

The end of the year is fast approaching and I am wondering where it all went. I didn't get near as much done in 2009 as I had planned. There were some accomplishments, but a lot left undone. I guess that gives me something for 2010 to work on.

Memberships are coming in for the Chamber and Oberlin Business Alliance. I am glad to see our town supporting these organizations. There is still plenty of time to take advantage of the 10 percent discount and 25 percent discount for new members for their first year. All memberships are greatly appreciated.

It was great weather on Saturday for the Oberlin Business Alliance Soup Lunch and the Methodist Ladies cookie sale at the Golden Age Center. The ladies did a fantastic job, and I think every kind was for

sale. I was hoping for a bit larger turnout for the Soup Lunch, as we did have soup left over. The alliance thanks all those that attended and Merry Christmas to all.

Congratulations to Connie Grafel on winning the big prize for the Christmas on Us from The Oberlin Herald and other sponsoring businesses on Saturday.

You can still buy Santa Dollars here in the Chamber office. I do need a few hours advance notice for a large order. The Santa Dollars make a great gift to help keep shopping in Oberlin, and I'm sure people enjoy getting them.

Events have quieted down now, and people are getting the last things ready for the Holidays. Drive carefully for those traveling and enjoy the Holiday time with family and friends. Have a great week!!!

Herndon News

By Julie Hafner

Rachelle Solko spent three weeks enjoying the warm sunny weather in Orlando, Fla. She was housesitting for her Aunt Sonja Singh while they went to India to visit family and celebrate several family weddings. Sonja and Gurinder Singh also had a wedding ceremony at the Temple in Patiala, India. Rachelle traveled to Fort Meyers, Fla., for several days of work.

Chris Wood and Sharon Ecker made their annual jolly Christmas rounds visiting Herndonites at Good Samaritan and Cedar Living Centers on Thursday morning. Residents at Cedar Living enjoyed the movie, White Christmas, with Bing Crosby on Tuesday while munching on popcorn.

Tom and Myra Sattler were surprised by a visit from daughter, Angela, Matt and baby Thomas Haller arriving Saturday evening. Seems family all knew about the trip, other than Tom and Myra. They missed a one-year birthday party for Jackie and Kale Sattler on Friday but everyone got together on Sunday to celebrate Christmas early. Everyone had eons of fun playing with babies everywhere. There was Kale and Jackie Sattler, Lauren Sattler, Thomas Haller, Renae, Ryan, Jax and Syd Brumback, all with parents in tow.

Mason Reiter, Denver, visited Bob and Julie Hafner Saturday. He was introduced to Christmas prune "kiepfers", an old family recipe, warm from the oven before doing some enjoyable pheasant hunting.

Steve, Susan and Makenzie Nelson, Oberlin, and Todd Nelson, Colby, were pre-Christmas guests of Don and Joan Grafel Saturday evening.

St. Mary's Christmas Mass will be Thursday, Christmas Eve, at 11 p.m. with the choir singing Christmas hymns at 10:30. Deanna Sattler and family, playing guitars, will be joining the choir. Happy Birthday baby Jesus!

Marty and Tyler Rohm of Au-

rora, Colo., spent the weekend at the home of Kent and Chris Wood. Sunday afternoon Kent and Chris hosted their Christmas party celebration at the Pool Hall where a special toast in remembrance was made to C.J. Hartner who was born 100 years ago.

Virgil and Eileen Portschy hosted their family Christmas dinner and gift exchange on Sunday. Those attending were: Jacob, Tara and Kade Marintzer, Westmoreland; Caleb Kastens and Eva Anderson, Ludell; Elijah Kastens, Hays; Abe and Alex Marintzer, Emporia; Isaac Marintzer, Colby; Emily Chessmore, Atwood; Dean, Deb, Marcus and Neil Portschy, Cheri Kastens, Greg, Rita and Joe Marintzer, and Gene Kleidosty, all of Herndon.

The Herndon senior citizens met last Wednesday for dinner at the center. There will not be another dinner/meeting until February.

The St. Mary's Christian Mothers will host a Christmas pizza party on Sunday, Jan. 3 at Roger's Grill. All members are encouraged to attend and welcome the new officers at 6 p.m. Call 322-5219 before Jan. 1.

Don and Joan Grafel, Herndon, and Susan Nelson, Oberlin, attended the Christmas concert at Friends University in Wichita. Makenzie Nelson participated in the program.

Santa touched down on the Cedar Living Center roof top Sunday afternoon since the roads were too muddy for the reindeer. Apparently, all the residents have been good since each received presents but not so with all the staff. It was pointed out that "two" received lumps of coal. Laverne, Jerry and Kim Niemeth attended the program with Chaz Janousek. Janice Sattler, Atwood. Bob and Julie Hafner attended with their aunts, Edie Pettera and Joan Noble. The singing, piano playing, Santa and goodies were enjoyed by all.

Merry Christmas to All and a Blessed New Year.

Cedar Living News

By Teresa Shaughnessy

We had a wonderful week of holiday fun. On Monday afternoon residents played a game of "Name That Tune" featuring Christmas classics. Before supper Myrna Jones and Mary Ann Amack led the sing-along time, which also featured all of the Christmas favorites.

The DCHS Singers, under the direction of Susan Nelson, gave a wonderful concert before lunch on Tuesday.

Donna Kent had a very lucky afternoon on Tuesday, winning both the first bingo and the blackout game.

Pastor Charlotte Strecker-Baseler of the Faith Lutheran Church gave the monthly Communion Service on the patio before supper on Tuesday.

We had a surprise visit from a group of students from the grade school on Wednesday. The children sang several holiday songs and some were dressed in Santa hats or reindeer antlers. The children also stopped by Wheat Ridge Terrace before returning to school for lunch.

Wednesday afternoon a group of residents gathered in the dining room to watch the movie "White Christmas." It is a special favorite for many of the residents and staff.

John Juenemann entertained before supper on Wednesday evening. He sang some old time favorites and some holiday classics.

The youth group from the United Methodist Church came caroling on Wednesday evening.

Fr. Mark Berland brought Communion for the Catholic residents on Thursday morning.

Residents who gathered for the dice game on Thursday afternoon included Dale Butler, Darlene Fisher, Irene Fringer, Elsie Goodnight, Donna Kent, Ira and Mary Kolsky, Edna Mott, Joan Noble and

Mary Votapka.

The baking group made chocolate chip cookies on Friday afternoon. While the cookies were in the oven, everyone enjoyed a performance by the Chanté group and the men's chorus from Decatur Community High School.

The Girl Scouts visited over the weekend. They hung handmade Christmas pictures on all of the doors.

Residents and their guests gathered for the Family Christmas Party in the Cedar Living Center dining room on Sunday afternoon.

We packed a big crowd into the dining room for a busy afternoon. Myrna Jones and Mary Ann Amack helped to lead the crowd in singing Christmas songs. Santa was next on the agenda. He dropped by to pass out gifts to all of the residents. He even delivered a lump of coal to one surprised resident. We finished the afternoon with trays full of holiday treats including cookies, muffins, candy, cream puffs, crackers, and crackers and cheese. Several staff members and guests assisted with serving and providing the treats.

Recent visitors: Deanna, Brooke, and Brady Sumner, Jim and Carolyn Plotts, Norcatur; Linda Bosler, Pete and Eileen Portschy, Carol Kompus, Chris Wood, Sharon Ecker, Bruce Wendelin, Herndon; Doyle and Kay Brown, Jennings; Lillian Sulzman, Dresden; Susan Orr, Colby; Perry, Paula, and Ella Mae Keller, St. Francis; Roger and Connie O'Hare, Alysha Tadlock, Goodland; Wayne and Sandy Orr, Rosalia, Kan.; Evan and Cathy Wenger, Aubrey, Texas.

Cecil Hess, Stuart Euhus, Mirium Fisher, Dolores Koeperich, Lyle Gamblin, Gary and Janelle Walter, Jon Fisher, Connie and Gerald Olson, Gage Scott, Ella Betts, Sandra Young, Oberlin.

Good Samaritan News

By Lisa Paulson

Our Modern Manger display in the Quiet Room was inspired by the many pregnant young women in our employ. There were eight, but two have already given birth, both blessed with baby boys. A song, sung by Faith Hill called "A Baby Changes Everything," is featured at our display. The message is that our own child will change everything in our life, but the baby in the manger changes everything for all eternity!

Dorothy Hunt has especially enjoyed the display; every afternoon she takes Baby Jesus for a walk!

Anita Hirsch sang that song for the Decatur County Ministerial Association's monthly meeting on Monday and on Tuesday when we hosted a Christmas Tea for Wheat Ridge Terrace. Teresa Shaughnessy brought the goodies and we provided the program. This is a delightful time for good friends to reconnect and celebrate together.

In the afternoon, Anita sang again for the young women who inspired the display along with all the staff and residents for our Employee Recognition Tea. We are proud of the longevity of our staff; it is testimony of the servant hearts of our workers and the true family we have become. Kyle Hartzog received an award for working at the Good Sam the longest. He has been part of the family for 28 years!

On Wednesday, Susan Nelson brought the DCHS Singers to entertain us at noon and the Chanté Ladies and the Men in Black on Friday to help Earl Brown celebrate his 98th birthday!

Jeni Henningson's first grade class came to read to their reading pals on Friday morning. They each chose a book to take home as our gift to them and as their gift to us they brought decorated door hangers to adorn the halls. The Girl Scouts also brought carefully colored pictures to hang between rooms.

On Saturday, Rachelle Lytle brought her Sabbath Day class to

perform a skit for everyone during Social Hour.

Santa Claus decked the halls, bringing cheer and candy canes! In the evening, staff members' children were invited to a Happy Birthday Jesus Party. Seventeen kids came to hear about Jesus' first birthday told by an old donkey (John Paulson, Puppeteer). Games were played as Wise Men and Shepherds. The gift bags were stuffed with candy and ornaments or toys made by the Residents.

Amongst all the gaiety and fun, we paused for another type of celebration, the celebration of the life and death of our dear Kathryn Post who passed away last week. Town Square was filled with those who knew and loved her and wanted to say good-bye. The service was given by Lisa Paulson, the choir sang and Janice Shobe played the piano.

Visitors included Dianne and Jessica Bremer for Alice May, Ralph and Norma Unger for Leo Mooty, Earl Brown, Lucy Schissler and Walt and Betty May. Reva Marshall, Penny Fringer and Ron Snyder (Colby) for Dorothy Hunt. Sharon Slabaugh brought gifts from the Oberlin United Methodist Church for members Edla Olson, Glenn Martin, Eva Bryan, Shirley Hayward, Eleanor Demmer and Opal Bryan. Bud and Vicky Mumm (Gem) for Doris Marintzer and Hubert Mumm. Dennis, Leona and James Barratt (Lincoln, Neb.) for Eva Bryan. Gladys Geis for Lois Carlson and Edla Olson. Chris Wood, Sharon Ecker, Eileen and Pete Portschy (all from Herndon) for Pooch Portschy, Helen and Doris Marintzer and Loren Escher. Helen Brooks, Betty Heisel and Darci Meitl for Ethel Nemeth. Max Carman for Myrtle Wald. Ella Betts and Steve and Barbara Brown came for Earl Brown's birthday. Wayne, Phyllis and Amy Zwicke for Lora Zwicke.

Rexford News

By Vicki Allison

The City of Rexford held its last council meeting for the year 2009 after a nice meal prepared at Montana Mike's. In old business, Enforcement Officer Jan Ackerman, reported that eight abandoned and untagged vehicles had been moved.

In new business, Terry Preston was appointed as the new council member, replacing Gary Delzeit. After an executive session, a motion was made and seconded to give Bill Scott and Jolene Hansen a \$200 bonus and a five percent pay increase.

The next council meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at

the Rexford City Building. To honor Edna Colson on her 90th birthday, her daughter, Grace Kauk, is having a birthday card shower. Cards can be sent to Edna Colson, c/o Roberta Colson, 223 W. 5th, Goodland, Kan., 67735.

Red Barn weekly activities: Monday - Barnswallows, 2 to 5 p.m.; Wednesday - Ladies Bible Study, 10 a.m.; Thursday - Come on Down, 2 to 5 p.m.; Fridays - Koffee Klatch, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Every second Saturday of the month, Bingo.

Until next time, make your week memorable.

Selden News

By Jacque Boultinghouse

Word was received of the death of Dolores Fleckenstein on Dec. 10. She was a sister of John Karls of Selden. Mass of Christian Burial was held Wednesday, Dec. 16, at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Denver. Burial was on Thursday at Fort Logan National Cemetery.

On Thursday at Senior Citizens, Edna Schiltz won high, Betty James took second, Lola Cook got low and Ann Hazlitt had the most Ace's. Other members present were Janice

Kruse, Bob Wessel, Jeanie Spresser, Ralph Weis and Royce Cook.

Birthdays and anniversaries: Dec. 25 - Helen Jo Ochs, Ron Jacobs. Dec. 26 - Kay Wade. Dec. 27 - Landon Truetken, Erma Kraft. Dec. 28 - Heath Schulte, Bill and Rose Bainter, Robbie and Debbie Koeperich. Dec. 29 - Mark Schieferecke, Teena Johnston, Travis Schlenk. Dec. 30 - Sumner and Cheryl Schlenk. Dec. 31 - Matt Cheney, Clayton Bainter.

Midway News

By MaryLou Olson

Christmas Eve services will begin at 11 p.m. tonight (Wednesday) at the Herndon Covenant Church.

Mike and Sarah (Bell) Thompson, Kelly and Rory of Binghamton, N.Y., are houseguests of Roger and Melinda Carlson while visiting relatives over the holidays.

Weekend guests of Norma Anderson were Robert and Carol Fink

of Wamego. The congregation of the Herndon Covenant Church enjoyed a caroling party at the Good Samaritan Centers in Oberlin and Atwood, as well as in homes on Monday evening. It was followed by a pizza and bowling party at the Atwood Bowling Alley.

