

# Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

## 125 YEARS AGO — April 1885

Monday was the windiest and dirtiest day experienced this spring. An immense prairie fire broke out in the neighborhood of Clayton Friday and swept over a large area of country. It is reported that Mrs. John Copeland was seriously burned.

Parties arriving from Nebraska say it looks like an endless procession of white-capped wagons traveling up the Republican Valley.

109 covered immigrant wagons passed thru town Saturday en route for Thomas County and the west part of Decatur County.

Isaac Cole and family, accompanied by his son Newton and family, left Monday to seek homes in Washington territory.

## 100 YEARS AGO — April 1910

Arapahoe, Nebr., went dry for the first time in its history by a majority of seven votes.

Teed Marks, the popular post office clerk, has a good position in a big wholesale house of Kansas City.

H.Q. Banta was elected director of school district No. 1 at the school election.

On Monday Will Guinn started for Jennings with a load of five passengers, H.A. Griffith and wife, Rev. W.H. VanCleave and wife and Blanche Marks. When just south of the Bob Riley farm a spark plug blew out and before they knew it the whole front end of the auto was afire. All that was combustible was burned. It was a serious loss to Mr. Guinn, who has been making considerable money in the auto livery business. We have not heard whether Mr. Guinn expects to get the car repaired or not.

## 75 YEARS AGO — April 1935

Out of the seven contestants representing Decatur High at the music contest at Enid, Okla., last week, four of them came back with a Superior rating. Lorene Harger ranked Superior in her piano performance; Carl Frickey in the bass horn solo and Roy Cody in his trombone solo. Elvera Cox received the only Superior given in the cello contest. No firsts or seconds are given in these contests, only the top two entrants are given Superior ranking and if the judges do not consider any performance as superior, no award

is given. The mass band directed by Edwin Franco Goldman was the big event of the week. Oberlin was unable to send a band this year to the event which was attended by 38 bands and 4,000 persons.

Custer: A farewell party was held for the Faye Smick family. Faye and family are now located in their new home known as the Grandpa Harmon farm two miles east of Oberlin.

Dr. Reeves reports the following births for March: March 16, a son to Mr. and Mrs. Dick Emery, 8 pounds; March 24, a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Collinsworth; March 27, a son to Mr. and Mrs. George Wurm; March 29, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Ulrich, a daughter; March 31, a son to Mr. and Mrs. Alfonso Cody.

Cedar Bluffs: Folks woke up last Saturday morning and found that a nice little grocery had sprung up in the old bank building. They have a nice stock of groceries and expect to improve it as time goes on. Wilson Coghill and Jarold Bell are the proprietors and they will also buy cream and eggs.

Elmer Hackney, heavyweight wrestler at Decatur High School, left this week by bus for Oklahoma City where he is qualified to wrestle because he won second place at the AAU meet in Manhattan recently.

## 50 YEARS AGO — April 1960

A new business will emerge in Oberlin May 1 when Reliance Motor & Equipment Co., Inc., becomes successor to Nitsch & Nitsch, long-time Buick and Pontiac dealers here.

E.R. Woodward announced yesterday that he would be a candidate for the Republican nomination for State representative.

Dresden: The depot was locked up Tuesday and will be torn down. New Arrivals: Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Nelson, a son, Todd Harold; Mr. and Mrs. Varlan Neal, a son, Kevan Charles.

Wedding bells rang on Easter Sunday 50 years ago for Ellen Westman and Ole S. Olson. Their golden wedding anniversary was celebrated this Easter Sunday afternoon with an open house in the home of their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Nelson.

## 25 YEARS AGO — April 1985

Jon Mapa, who has been serving an interim pastor of Faith Lutheran Church since Oct. 20, 1984, will be ordained as a minister of the American Lutheran Church on Sunday at the church. He is a native of Sacramento, Calif., and graduated in May 1984 from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. He is single and resides at the church parsonage at 306 W. Oak.

The weather for the Decatur Community High School junior-senior prom was excellent. Following the dinner, the program and the dance, a movie was held at the theatre followed by pizza and games at the Legion. Prom queen was Terri Leitner and prom king was Ron Juenemann.

Varsity golfers for Coach Dick Ahlberg entered in the Oberlin

tournament were Ron Juenemann, Perrell Stanley, Dustin Nichols, Evann Wilson, Kevin Vavroch and Gary Juenemann.

Herndon: A Hastings, Neb., man, Henry Potts, has signed a contract as the Herndon School superintendent effective July 1. He replaces Ralph Foster who will assume an administrator's position in the Pawnee Heights school system near Rozel and Burdett.

Marcia Tacha, Norton, has been named by the 17th Judicial Judge Magistrate Judge Charles Worden to fill the post of Decatur County Clerk of the District Court now held by Alice Vernon. For the past three years Tacha has served as deputy clerk in Norton County on a part-time basis.

## Museum Matters

By Sharleen Wurm

The museum board and staff want to thank everyone that donated items to the Ninth Annual Rummage Sale and/or came and gave generously for treasures found. Including the Bake Sale on Saturday, over \$2,000 was taken in. We really appreciate the support from the community.

On Monday, May 3, the kick-off event for Oberlin's 125th Anniversary will be held at the City Park with an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social from 6:30 p.m. to 7:20 p.m. It will feature the Community Band in concert at 7:30 p.m. in the high school. The Museum quilting ladies have made a quilt just for the anniversary with proceeds going to support activities for the year-long celebration. This quilt will be on display and raffle tickets available for donation.

### Oberlin Quasiquintennial Tidbits

Taken from the first edition of *The Oberlin Herald June 17, 1879 — The Most Prosperous and Thriving Town in Northwestern Kansas.*

Its Rapid Progress. — The Different Branches of Business and the Business Men (Continued from last week.)

"Mr. R.A. Marks was the next to embark in the mercantile trade, and, with fair dealing and strict atten-

tion to business, has succeeded in building up a good trade in general merchandise, of which he carries a full and well assorted line.

These, together with the log hotel and log blacksmith shop, comprised Oberlin in October last. (1878) And the only visible improvement was a residence building then in course of erection for our esteemed townsman, Mr. George Colby, who has since had erected the two commodious structures now occupied, one as a furniture store and the other a harness shop.

Mr. Mark Wright, who now has charge of the latter, had arrived and commenced work in town several weeks before the building was ready, having plenty to do, and has already established an enviable reputation as a first-class workman. And well he might, as we do not believe his superior as a workman exists in the State." To be continued:

**Museum hours:** April 1 to Nov. 1: 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

With all the wonderful and exciting happenings at the Museum, you should come and join us! Memberships are only \$20 per, or \$10 per individual. Be a part of Oberlin's number one attraction.

## Jennings News

By Louise Cressler

Michelle Zodrow, Grapevine, Texas; and Tefani Zadeh, Natalia and Dylan, Chicago, Ill., were guests of their parents, Keith and Helen Muirhead for a few days. A few weeks ago, Helen fell and fractured her pelvis and spent several days in the Colby Hospital. She is now home and her daughters came to help out.

Frances Bader was honored with an open house in observance of her 85th birthday Sunday afternoon at the Sunflower Senior Center in Jennings.

The Jennings American Legion will hold a benefit ham and bean feed and a bake sale from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 25, at the Legion. Proceeds will go to the American Legion.

Norton Correctional Facility men were in Jennings April 8 and 9 to trim trees which hang into the streets and over the sidewalks. We appreciate all the work they do for the city of Jennings.

Stan and Ramona Shaw and Wilfred and Alice Wagoner are happy

to announce the birth of their great-granddaughter, Tenley Ava Bollers. She was born April 13, 2010, at the Platte Valley Medical Center, Brighton, Colo. She weighed 8 pounds, 3 3/4 ounces and is 21 inches long. Big brother, Tyce Austyn, 2 1/2, welcomed her home. Proud parents are Lisa and Kyle Bollers, Lochbuie, Colo. Grandparents are Colleen and Kevin Wagoner, Sharon Springs; Mark and Marci Beltje, Brighton, Colo., and Bart Bollers, Sterling, Colo.

Jennings American Legion Auxiliary met April 6 at the Royal Neighbor Hall. The flag salute was said in unison by Rachel Carter, Alice Mizer, Lila Jennings, Neoma Tacha and Mary Wahlmeier. Officers elected for next year were Neoma Tacha, president; Alice Mizer, vice-president; Lila Jennings, secretary, and Pat Hall, treasurer. Chaplain and Poppy Chairman is Rachel Carter.

We are going to help furnish food sale items for the American Legion Ham and Bean dinner on Sunday, April 25. After the meeting, the

ladies decorated the wooden crosses for Memorial Day for the Jennings and the Big Timber cemeteries. The next meeting will be at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 4, in the Royal Neighbor Hall. We will be preparing the poppy arrangements for the Veterans graves. Please bring pliers to this meeting. Anyone interested in helping is welcome to attend.

Sunflower Senior supper was enjoyed by Agnes Wahlmeier, Eleanor Morel, Rachel Carter, Imogene Keenan, Larry and Alice Mizer, Bob and Neoma Tacha, Carla Latimer, Bob Jones, Ramona Shaw, Ruth Chance, Dan and Shelley Wahlmeier, Joaquin and Jazzmin, and Louise Cressler. Dan and Jazzmin entertained the group with several numbers played on the guitar and with singing. Everyone enjoyed listening to them.

Among the wild turkey hunters here from Colorado from Wednesday to Sunday at the Lawrence Jennings home were their son-in-law, Steve Cook, Fort Morgan, Colo., and their grandsons Damon Cook,

Dallas, Texas, and Derek Cook, Brighton, Colo. They reported a successful hunt.

The Czech Museum directors met April 7 at the museum. President Neoma Tacha conducted the meeting. There were no minutes of the last meeting as the secretary was absent. The treasurer's report was given. Mike Tacha has repaired the east fence. Dean Gawith has built shelving for the office and Bob and Neoma Tacha have laminated several more years of old newspapers. We received an old school clock from Paul Welter. The museum will be open Memorial weekend. The class of 1950 reunion will be held in the Royal Neighbor Hall and welcome any friends and classmates to join them on Saturday, May 29, from 2 to 5 p.m. The next meeting of Museum directors will be at 2 p.m. on Thursday. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Water meters will be read in Jennings on Friday, April 23. If your meter is inside, please post on your door.

## Mount Pleasant News

By Dianne Bremer

Elizabeth Nedland returned home Monday, April 12, after going on the Decatur Community High School band trip to Kansas City where they enjoyed a Royals game, visiting a museum, and a concert by the group "Stomp."

Duane and Lois Unger, Colby, and Ralph and Norma Unger were Friday evening dinner guests of Shirley Gaede.

Myra Sater of Holcomb and Edith Tate and Dianne Bremer of Oberlin met Elvera Wendelin at her home in Lindsborg Saturday morning for a "girls day out." While there, they also visited with Elvera's husband, Pat, Wyatt Wendelin, Jim and Heather (Wendelin) Wilson and Cassidy, and Kris and Farah (Wendelin) Erickson and Christian. After thoroughly enjoying the day, Myra, Edith, and Dianne returned

home late Saturday evening. Jerry Olson, and Justin and Wendy Scott, Garrett and Gage drove to Hill City on Sunday where they helped Myron Scott celebrate his birthday.

Janice Cundiff, Karen Eskew, Connie Olson, and Dorothy Moore returned home Sunday after attending a Kansas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) convention in Junction City Friday to Sunday at the Courtyard Marriott. Over 450 women were in attendance.

District President Betty Kruse of Colby opened the meeting and daily Bible studies were led by Pastor Mark Boxman. A total of \$143,745 was pledged by the delegates in support of mission projects. Roland and Pam May, Zach and Hannah spent Friday evening and

Saturday in Ogallala, Neb., where Hannah played on a 6th, 7th and 8th grade volleyball team, coached by Cricket Ketterl of Oberlin. Their first game was Friday evening and they played again on Saturday.

Mike Shields, Omaha, was a weekend guest of Gaylord and Shirley Shields.

Elizabeth Nedland was the guest of a friend at the Pretty Prairie High School prom Saturday evening and returned home on Sunday with her parents.

At the gymnastics meet Saturday in Atwood, Erin May won two gold medals and one silver medal, Mollie Tate won two bronze medals. Grace Tate enjoyed participating, as well, in the gymnastics exhibition.

Sue May, who serves on a Kansas Farm Bureau women's committee, did a presentation at the Kansas Farm Bureau county leaders conference held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in Manhattan.

## Good Samaritan News

By Lisa Paulson

*How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.*

This passage from *Psalms 139* was the inspiration for our "Down by the Sea" Volunteer Appreciation Tea. On Saturday, we wanted to say a special "Thank You" to our many volunteers who are so faithful to give of themselves for the benefit of others.

The program began with Amy Carman singing "Friends," by Ray Boltz. Janice Shobe then read the poem entitled "Starfish," which speaks about making a difference in just one life at a time. Lisa Paulson introduced all those who came to receive our gratitude: Frank and Mert McEvoy, Rosella Meitl and her sister Barbara, Amy Carman, Cheryl Miller, Carol Duncan, Connie Simonsson, Bernice Martin, Reva Marshall, Gladys Geis, Larry Smith, John Paulson, Kathy Van Meter, Coleen Rippe, Margaret "Toots" Magers and our resident volunteer Amy Rehm. Anita Hirsch was unable to be there but contributed delightful pudding filled "Starfish" puffed pastry desserts surrounded by a school of rainbow goldfish for us to enjoy. The program continued with *Psalms 139* being read and ended with the song "Thank You," again sung by Amy Carman. Volunteers received Sand Plagues and tulips. The fourteen residents who came got bottles filled with sand, seashells and a starfish to remind them of the message ... which also doubles as a game.

Again this week we said goodbye to yet another dear friend. Helen Marintzer's Memorial was held Tuesday afternoon. Our love and condolences go out to her friends and family. She was well loved and will be missed.

We have made a few changes in the Garden of Hope. We are beginning to operate it much more like the Butterfly Garden. Anita Hirsch and Vi Krizek will be teaming up to provide pleasant, peaceful, purposeful experiences for our Dementia residents. Frannie Nothdurft, who has been in the Garden of Hope, will be using her gifts spending one-to-one time with others outside the Garden. This week she spent time with Leona Helmkamp making welcomed change of pace treat - pineapple upside down cake! It was yummy and didn't last long!

Visitors this week were Max Carman, Merle Shirley and Marguerite Bodey for Myrtle Waldo. Gerald Olson and Gage Scott for Evelyn Olson. Shirley Gaede for Leo Mooty. Ralph and Norma Unger for Leo Mooty, Walt and Betty May, Earl Brown and Lucy Schissler. Cheri Kastens for Pooch Portschy, Don Thomas and Frank Janousek. Chris Edwards for Hattie Toth. Sharon Slabaugh for Opal Bryan. Bud and Vicky Mumm for Doris Marintzer and Hubert Mumm. Susan May for Walt and Betty May. Gladys Geis for Lois Carlson. Frank and Mert McEvoy for Lucy Schissler and Earl Brown. Martin and Evelyn May for Leona Helmkamp, Nila Wesch and Elden Long. Ron Snyder and Rava Marshall for Dorothy Hunt.

## Cedar Living News

By Teresa Shaughnessy

April 18 - 24 is National Volunteer Week. This is a great opportunity to thank the many people who provide volunteer services for the residents of Cedar Living Center throughout the year. We have volunteers who come faithfully every week to help with a game, play the piano, give a Bible study lesson, or serve coffee. Other volunteers come less frequently to help with a birthday party, assist with a church service, sing with a group, or donate fresh vegetables from the garden. Each and every one of these acts of kindness is appreciated.

The craft group was busy on Monday afternoon working decorations for spring. The crafters have also started working on May baskets.

Mary Ann Amack led the sing-along time before supper on Monday.

Linda Shuler won the first bingo on Tuesday afternoon. Linda also tied with Fern Wenger to win the blackout game.

Residents gathered on Wednesday afternoon to watch a movie. Everyone enjoyed snacks during the movie.

Stuart Euhus gave the Bible study lesson on Wednesday afternoon. Fr. Mark Berland brought Com-

munion for the Catholic residents on Thursday morning.

The dietary department hosted a special lunch for residents at noon on Thursday. They served chicken from Raye's Grocery and a salad bar. This menu was selected by the Residents' Council at their last meeting.

Dale Butler, Darlene Fisher, Irene Fringer, Donna Kent, Ira and Mary Kolsky, Jim Plotts, Agnes Pruitt, Linda Shuler and Ardith Wayne joined in on the bowling game played in the dining room on Thursday afternoon. Several residents met to play Monopoly on Thursday evening.

The baking group made coconut cookies on Friday afternoon. The cookies disappeared quickly.

Recent visitors: Barb and Steve Brown, Selden; Lillian Sulzman, Dresden; Carol Kompus, Linda Bosler, Herndon; Jim and Carolyn Plotts, Deanna Sumner, Norcat; Alysha N. Tadlock, Goodland; Marilyn Thyng, N.H.; Jean Tuttle, Colo.; Gregg Sayer, Cambridge, Neb.

Opal Huntley, Marian Dempe-wolf, Ila Ray, Ella Betts, Mirium Fisher, and Max Carman, Oberlin.

## Herndon News

By Julie Hafner

Theresa Rippe attended a Creative Movements Gymnastics Invitation competition in Atwood on Saturday. Michaela Rippe, granddaughter, was a participant. Michaela received a medal for being part of the pre-school team.

The Herndon City Council is looking into the safety issues of the rock grand stand at the city park. Please contact the mayor or city council members about restoring options as opposed to destroying it.

Aaron, Sarah and Gideon White, Norton, were Saturday visitors of Dave and Judy Ketterl. Aaron and Sarah gave pet vaccinations while Gideon spent time with Grandma Judy.

Kirche, Tasha, Kiana and Tristan Martin, Indianola, Neb., were Sunday dinner guests of Bob and Liane Martin. All joined in yard maintenance at Elk Inn, Oberlin, and sharing supper together.

Bob and Julie Hafner enjoyed Sunday dinner with their aunts, Edie Pettera and Joan Noble. Bob, Julie and Edie had a short visit with Aunt Hattie Toth and met Hattie's grandchildren in the afternoon.

Greg, Rita and Joe Marintzer visited Jacob, Tara and Kade Marintzer

of Westmoreland, this past weekend. Alex and Addisyn Marintzer, Emporia, joined them for a quick visit. Grandpa and Grandma got lots of playing time in with the grandchildren.

St. Mary's Christian Mothers Altar Society met Sunday following Mass in the church rectory. Plans were discussed for Father Stephen's 10th year celebration of his priestly vocation in May and St. Mary's Assumption Feast celebration Aug. 15. The Salina Diocese Council of Catholic Women will hold their Convention, Saturday, Aug. 28, in Abilene, and the guest speaker will be the nationally-esteemed Child Psychologist, Dr. Ray Guarendi. Nine members and one guest were in attendance to enjoy donuts, rolls and juice while discussing the upcoming events. President Theresa Rippe opened and closed the meeting with the mother's prayer from our Confraternity of Christian Mothers prayer book.

Bob and Liane Martin attended Mass Saturday evening in McCook and met Dick and Bette Martin of Wilsonville, for dinner following Mass. Monday Bob and Liane went to Indianola, Neb., to attend the funeral of a cousin, Lyle Bergin.

Spring cleaning? Sell your unwanted items in the Classifieds. Call Pat at 475-2206