

# Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

## 125 YEARS AGO — May 1885

This vicinity was visited with a snow storm last Thursday, but the flakes melted as rapidly as they fell. Born, Saturday to Mr. and Mrs. H.O. Douglas, a daughter, weight 9 pounds.

Married, May 3rd, Mr. David Royce and Miss Florence Bell Hamper.

The Vallonia boys organized a baseball club Saturday.

G.A. Keller and J.E. Kulp have bought the tent and photographic outfit of L.M. Marble. Tent opposite the Oberlin House.

Geo. Colby has placed with Geo. Reynolds of this place, an order for 125,000 brick. Mr. Colby intends building a brick business block 150x80 on the lots of the west side of Penn Avenue opposite the City Drug Store.

C.E. Carper of Harlan, Nebr., arrived here Saturday with his family and household effects. He brought with him eight fine covered buggies and eight span of good roadsters.

Clayton is going to have a school this summer.

Garfield Township has a population of 350 and 70 dogs.

## 100 YEARS AGO — May 1910

Mr. and Mrs. D.G. Campbell are rejoicing over the arrival of a nice 11-pound daughter.

The hard freeze last Monday might obliterated the last hope of the fruit owners.

The fine rains last week made things look much more encouraging and farmers are busy planting corn this week.

On May 18th the earth will pass thru the tail of the comet and to those who will be observant a fine display of heavenly fireworks will be on exhibition.

Mrs. J.W. Blickenstaff has been seriously ill for some time.

The Decatur Community High School track team placed second at the meet at Norton with Norton first and Phillipsburg third.

Norcatour Items: Charley Dixon and family are the proud owners of an automobile.

Jennings Items: Teachers for the school have been hired: Mr. Mordy, principal; Vernon Brock, Misses Imo Nellans and Letha Rouse.

Joe Meier, assisted by Ray McClaury, A.C. Compton and R.H. Riley, is building two cement bridges for Bassettville Township.

## 75 YEARS AGO — May 1935

Winning the championship at the state shop contest is getting to be a habit with Decatur Community High. The teams are coached by S.H. Howard and Thue Jorgensen. Mr. Jorgensen learned the trade in this native Denmark and has been teaching blacksmithing and tool finishing at Decatur Community High School for 13 years.

A dinner at the hotel Monday noon sponsored by all members of

the National Honor Society able to attend welcomed the four new members from this year's senior class: Marjorie Everist, Lorraine Love, Norris Reist and Gerald VanVleet. Norcatour: Nineteen students went to Oberlin to take part in the State Scholarship contest but were compelled to stay overnight on account of the dirt storm. The Norcatour band took part in the marching contest at Colby on Monday.

Liberty Star: The 11 club women who met at Mrs. Mattie Huff's had only been there an hour when one of them called their attention to an ugly looking cloud coming up in the west and in less than five minutes all had headed for home leaving Roy and Mrs. Huff to eat all the refreshments.

A wedding of special interest to Decatur County people is that of Miss Ruth Nicodemus and Mr. Floyd Laidig who were united in marriage May 1 at Randall by the Rev. Roy E. Frey, a former pastor in this community. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Nicodemus of the Prairie Chapel community and has been teaching in the public schools. Mr. Laidig is also a graduate of Decatur Community High School and farms in the Prairie Chapel community where he has a beautiful country home all furnished waiting for his bride.

## 50 YEARS AGO — May 1960

Commencement activities are being held in Decatur County this week. At Oberlin there are 43 graduates at Decatur Community High School where the valedictorian is Mary Reeves, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Veeh Reeves and the salutatorian is Harold Cochran, son of Mrs. Merlin Cochran and the late Merlin Cochran. Other honor students are Nancy Nemeth, Peggy Huff, Marilyn Huebert, Robert Urban, James Wesch, Bill Machart, Gerald Lawson and Glendis Mott.

At Norcatour High School Eddie Temple, son of Mr. and Mrs. L.E. Temple, is valedictorian and Herbert Shirley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Manley Shirley is salutatorian. Other graduates are Robert Strevey, Eugene Wentz, Gary Gallentine, Delbert Jackson, Orville Thornton, Wayne McAllister, Vonda Bowman and Ruth Cozad.

At Jennings High School valedictorian is Betty Perrin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Perrin, and salutatorian is Doreen Zimmerman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Wahlmeier. Other graduates are Lydia Arnold, Greta Heaney, Carolyn Mizell, Arline Smith, Marjorie Stanton, Mary Gaumer, Frank Bennett, John Jones, Richard Reed, Gary Vaughn and Duane Zimmerman.

The valedictorian at Leoville High School is Dorothy Schiefer-ecke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Schiefer-ecke. Salutatorian is Joseph Robben, son of Mr. and Mrs.

Joseph Robben. Other graduates are Joseph Bruggeman, Darlene Dwyer, Ervin Juenemann, Kathleen Kaus, David Kruse, Roger Long, Bernadine Mindrup, Raymond Scheetz, Elaine Schroer, Carol Jean Spesser and Alice Sulzman.

Women of the Prairie Chapel Church served Oberlin Rotary members and their guests at dinner Wednesday evening. Speaker was Myrna Domingo, a Rotary Exchange student from Mexico who is a graduate student at Fort Hays State.

Funeral services were held for two longtime Decatur County residents, Alice Wagoner, 94, who made her home two miles north of Dresden for many years and Roy Chilson, 81, who came to the county in 1885 and lived many years on a farm 15 miles southwest of Oberlin.

## 25 YEARS AGO — May 1985

A highlight midway into Oberlin's Centennial year will be a celebration of the city's day of incorporation on June 13. The Oberlin Rotary Club has moved its weekly meeting from Tuesday to Thursday, declared it an open meeting and invited a distinguished Oberlinite, Richard D. Rogers, Judge of the United States District Court at Topeka to speak. J

Archie and Art Hamilton announce the sale of Hamilton Transport Co., to Matador, a subsidiary of Koch Industries, Wichita. Matador has purchased carrier permits for eight tractor rigs and 11 transport trailers. Hamilton Transport served 58 area counties with fertilizer and fuel. They will continue to operate the service station on West Hall and the fertilizer business along

U.S. 36.

Jennings: The Rev. and Mrs. John Boyles returned home last week from a tour of the Holy Land. Others from this area accompanying them were Helen Derby of Dresden, and Gertrude Railsback of Oberlin.

Don Carlisle of Topeka who has served as staff manager of transmission engineering for Southwestern Bell Telephone has announced his retirement as of July 8, 1985. The son of Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Carlisle of Traer, and a Decatur Community High School graduate with the class of 1947, Carlisle began work with the company in 1948. He and his wife, the former Shirley Jones, plan to move to Prescott, Ariz.

Senior Jim Berkheimer captured the 110-meter hurdles in the 3-A State Track meet held at Wichita with a time of 14.9. According to track coach Duane Dorshorst, although Jim fell behind when he hit the first hurdle, he had the desire to win and wouldn't let anyone beat him. Sophomore Laurie O'Toole placed sixth in the high jump.

Some 550 persons were served at the Alumni Banquet by women of the Methodist, United and Covenant churches. Idella Frickey conducted the business meeting and introduced Mable Allen, Centennial First Lady and Howard Banta, Grand Marshal. Centennial cups were presented to Neta (Miller) Monaghan and Mary (Farris) Brook, members of the Decatur Community High School Class of 1915, representing the oldest class in attendance. Larry Nelson of Washington, D.C., Class of 1960, and Jessie (Lincoln) Chandler of Oceanside, Calif., Class of 1930, were honored as members who had traveled the farthest distance.

## Museum Matters

By Sharleen Wurm

The new 2010 Alumni Directories are done and are on sale at the Decatur County Museum. The directories are \$10 each if picked up and \$15 if they are to be sent out of town.

The Decatur County Last Indian Raid Museum will host Alumni weekend on Friday and Saturday, May 28 and 29. We invite all alumni and the public to make this a place to come and socialize. We will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days.

There will be snacks and coffee, tea, and water. Dick Carman, Class of 1957, will be showing a Decatur Community High School picture presentation throughout the two-day party.

The two-day event, along with museum tours, will be free, but donations will be appreciated. The Oberlin Business Alliance will be grilling up hamburgers and polish sausages in front of the Museum on Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a free will donation.

Come to the museum, tour the museum, look through the year-books, enjoy the Alumni Room, reminisce over pictures, watch the history of Decatur Community High School through a picture presentation, buy a 2010 Alumni Directory and an Historical Oberlin calendar, and relax and visit with family and friends in our newly-expanded parlor.

The museum is the place to be on Alumni Weekend.

Car Show information coming next week. Mark your calendars for Friday, June 4, and Saturday, June 5.

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 family or \$10 per individual. Be a part of Oberlin's number one attraction.

## Herndon News

By Julie Hafner

Saturday evening Jerry and Kim Niemeth went to McCook to visit Kim's parents, Gary and Joyce Huffman. Kim's brother, Mike Huffman and daughters, Michelle and Kelly were down from Broken Bow, Neb.

Chef Gary and backyard helpers grilled tasty burgers while the gals prepared all the trimmings.

The Herndon community extends sympathy to the family of Janice Barenberg Irvin of Lakewood, Colo., who died Sunday, May 16. Janice was the daughter of Francis and Cecelia Barenberg and sister to Geraldine Nemeth, Herndon. Geraldine, Cheryl Timm, Ludell, Melissa, and Olivia Rickford of Hays spent Saturday, May 15, with Janice.

Family and friends gathered at Fort Hays State University Commencement on Saturday at Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays. Congratulations to Rodney Alan Rippe, Herndon, for receiving his Bachelor Degree in Business Administration, Management and Marketing and Jeffrey Allan Riener, Herndon, for his Associate of Science Degree in Radiologic Technology. Nola Ochs of Jetmore received a standing ovation when receiving her Masters in Social Sciences. Oh, by the way, Nola is 98 years young and rides a motorcycle!

Bob and Julie Hafner spent Thursday in Lexington, Neb., with Jason Hafner and Raquel Frerichs. They enjoyed dinner before attending Mass at St. Ann's for Ascension Thursday, visiting friends and heading home in the evening.

Jerry and Kim Niemeth enjoyed

rolls and coffee at Laverne Niemeth's home Sunday after Mass. A perfect balance of nicely seasoned Tacos and delicious Tang was served for lunch making the day complete.

Richard and Theresa Rippe attended Rodney's graduation from Fort Hays State College on Saturday, along with Kevin, Megan, Lilly, Michaela, and Allison Rippe; Tim, Alicia and Wyatt Rippe; Ed Rippe and Michelle Stevens, all of Ludell; Aaron, Brenda and Addison Schilde, Minneola. Others attending were Katelyn Clark, and friends from Hays; Brian and Mary Clark and Jan Sattler, Atwood; Bob and Julie Hafner, Herndon; Gary and Pat Louise Sloan, Colby; Paul Prewo, Logan, and Ryan Becker, Wichita. Surprise visitors for Rodney were his Uncle Ron and Aunt Debi Rippe from Texas, their daughter Holly and husband, John, Denver, and his Uncle Cliff Rippe from Lenexa. The Rippes hosted a reception along with Rodney's two roommates and families at the Bingo Haas in Hays. After the reception, family members attended mass at the new Immaculate Heart of Mary church and enjoyed an evening at the Golden Corral. Rodney will remain in Hays working full time for First Class Kitchen and Bath, a remodeling company.

Roger's Bar and Grill re-opened Saturday, May 15, after an extensive remodeling project with the new addition. They offer a dinner special each noon and pizza, burgers with other appealing selections each

evening. The business is closed on Tuesdays. Congratulations, Roger

and Rodney for this roomy, friendly gathering place in Herndon.

## Jennings News

By Louise Cressler

Tamala Schulze, Kansas City, Mo., came to visit her parents, Keith and Helen Muirhead, for a few days. She helped her mother plant some flowers and with many other jobs.

Ten Senior Citizens met May 11 for a potluck supper at the Sunflower Senior Center followed by bingo. Those enjoying the evening were Alice and Larry Mizer, Bob and Neoma Tacha, Ramona and Stan Shaw, Agnes Wahlmeier, Rachel Carter, Eleanor Morel and Louise Cressler.

City water meters will be read Saturday, May 22. Jess Jones, Neb., came Sunday to visit his mother, Dorothy Jones, his brother and sister, Bob Jones and Carla Latimer.

Janeil Dilling, Goodland, visited her mother, Imogene Keenan over the weekend.

The Heritage Associates of Jennings, Czech Museum held its meeting on May 6 at the Royal Neighbor Hall with Neoma Tacha presiding. Directors present were Larry Mizer, Mary Wahlmeier, Lawrence and Lila Jennings, Bob Tacha, and Dean Gawith. Yard work has been done by Mike Tacha. Dean Gawith and Bob Tacha put up the new shelving in the office-workroom.

New displays are the roll-top desk from Shimmick's hardware

store and several interesting items from the Eastern Star, Masonic, and Modern Woodmen lodges. We thank Bob Jones and the Smokey Robertsons for them.

The museum will be open Memorial weekend from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 29, and after the Alumni Banquet. We will be open Sunday, May 30, after the dinner at the Senior Center. The Class of 1950 will have its 60th class reception from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Royal Neighbor Hall and invites all classmates and others to visit.

Marcia Casey, Denver, Vicki Cook, Fort Morgan, Colo., and Brian Jennings, Solomons, were Mother's Day weekend guests of Lawrence and Lila Jennings. Weekend visitors were Derek Cook and Nathan Forbes, Brighton, Colo.; Neil Forbes, Denver, and Brent Jennings, Topeka.

The Jennings American Legion Auxiliary Post met on May 7 at the Royal Neighbor Hall. Present were Neoma Tacha, Dorothy Shimek, Rachel Carter, Alice Mizer and Lila Jennings.

Poppy arrangements for veterans graves at Jennings and Big Timber cemeteries were prepared. A short business meeting was held. The Legion fundraiser was well attended.

## Good Samaritan News

By Lisa Paulson

When you think of the Good Sam, does the term "Old Folks Home" or "Rest Home" ever cross your mind? If it does, I would challenge you to think again! May is typically one of our busiest months for visitors and activities and this month is no exception; life happens here!

Besides our regular routine, a lot of celebrations occurred. Tuesday, both First Grade classes came for our end of the year Teddy Bear Picnic. The kids brought their favorite Teddy Bear to join them for yummy treats, and our traditional Teddy Bear Spiral Dance Parade. They gave hugs and kisses all around and promised to come this summer to read to their First Hand Friends reading pals.

They came back on Friday, this time bringing the Second Graders and Mrs. Nelson to perform a musical concert for us. We never tire of their sweet, smiling faces and again the hugs and kisses that go 'round.

Thursday, we had a birthday party for Alice Bobbitt! She turned 90 years old. Her daughter and daughter-in-law brought cake and ice cream and her card shower was a huge success!

Saturday, we celebrated the 95 years of Edla Olson. She had a big wingding in Town Square. Many of her friends and family traveled fair distances to share her special day.

Happy Birthday to both Alice and Edla. They are both living proof that despite their ages, there are no "old folks" here!

The party was hardly ended when Square Dancers showed up. Angie and Roger Wilson arranged for their club to keep the evening swingin'. Betty May even joined the dance.

While everyone was enjoying the dance, Ashli Samson and date Wiley Farr, Rhiannon Davies with Hunter Nedland, and Mary Olson escorted by Justin Williams and Toby Peters, stopped the show for a Mini-Promenade. The girls looked beautiful and the guys were dashing! Then the Square Dance continued... what a wonderful day!

Monday, May 31 will be our An-

nual Walkway of Flags. This is a fund raiser for the Activity Department. If you would like to have a flag flown in honor or in memory of a loved one, just make a donation in any amount and provide Lisa Paulson with the name of the person you would like to honor.

Visitors were Penny Fringer, Reva Marshall and Dixie and Ron Snyder (Colby) visited **Dorothy Hunt**. Audrey and Murry Pavlicek for **Mary Lemman**. Gerald and Connie Olson for **Evelyn Olson**. Franci and Dale Miller for **Faye Miller**. Clem Mumm (Selden) visited **Hubert Mumm** and **Alice Bobbitt**. **Alice Bobbitt's** daughter, Jeannine Rhoades (North Platte) and Charollette Neff (Norton) visited her. Marilyn Horn visited with **Myrtle Ross**. Edie Tate and Gladys Geis visited **Lois Carlson**. Eunice Martin for **Glenn Martin**. Marilou Long for **Elden Long**. Connie Simonsson and Erin May visited **Amy Rehm**. Mert McEvoy for **Lucy Schissler**. Louise Pollnow, Sharon Addleman, Steve and Arian Arnold (Herndon), Galen and Lynn Olson (Texas), Amanda, Lee and Terri Munsell (Kansas City), Bill and Marilee Beggs (Hollister, Mo.), Ron and Jerry Temple (Norcatour), Sherrel Adams (McCook), Jody Betts, Oran Bradley (Lafayette, Colo.), Mike and Nione Rhodin (Loveland, Colo.) Tom and Maxine Smith and Bitsy Chase (Texas) for **Edla Olson**. Roberta Petracek (Jennings) for **Don Thomas**. **Goldie Stapp** enjoyed the company of Janelle Morel (Norton) and Jody Betts. Ralph and Norma Unger for **Leo Mooty**. **Lucy Schissler**, **Walt** and **Betty May** and **Earl Brown**.

Jeanne and Kerri Britton (Thornton, Colo.) Brian, Breck and Pam Simonsson and Sharon Slabaugh for **Opal Bryan**. Martin and Evelyn May for **Leona Helmkamp** and **Nila Wesch**. Nancy Vath for **Floyd Edgett**. Erin and Susan May, and Rhonda May for **Walter and Betty May**. Doris Fringer for **Edla Olson**, **Myrtle Waldo**, **Amy Rehm** and **Alice Bobbitt**.

## Cedar Living News

By Teresa Shaughnessy

The residents and staff of Cedar Living Center spent the past week celebrating National Nursing Home Week and Hospital Week. The nursing and activity departments started the week off with an ice cream social. Residents and staff from all over the facility enjoyed ice cream sundaes. Toppings included bananas, hot fudge, strawberry syrup, chocolate syrup, whipped cream and cherries. The sundaes were a big hit with everyone.

Alvina Gamblin won the first bingo on Tuesday afternoon and Darlene Fisher won the blackout game. Residents and staff were invited to a birthday celebration following bingo in honor of James Plotts. Jim and Carolyn Plotts served cake and ice cream.

Pastor Charlotte Strecker-Baseler of the Faith Lutheran Church gave the monthly Communion service Tuesday afternoon on the patio.

Everyone enjoyed a piano concert during lunch on Wednesday given by Dianne Bremer.

The crafter group met on Wednesday afternoon to start working on decorations for Memorial Day. He also donated several vegetable plants for our patio garden boxes.

The dietary department hosted a facility-wide potluck dinner at noon on Thursday. Lynn Doeden and Amanda Fortin grilled up hot dogs for everyone, while staff members provided the salads and desserts. There was a big variety of food available and no one left hungry.

Thursday evening we had two hours of toe-tapping good fun and

special music provided by the Wagner family.

Friday was the last day of our week-long celebration so we went all out. John Juenemann gave us a special concert. After the music ended we enlisted John's help and put him to work as an auctioneer. Staff members donated a variety of items for residents to bid on, including jewelry, snack foods, stuffed animals, wall decorations, and socks. Residents earned points over the past two weeks by attending activities and by participating in special events, such as wear a hat day. These points were traded for scrip money which could be used at the auction. Marsha Morford volunteered as our auction clerk. There were bidding wars on a few of the popular items, but everyone went home with something. The dietary department provided fruit smoothies for a special treat.

Dietary employee Erin Jeffrey was one of the students who stopped by before prom on Saturday night. It is always a special treat to see everyone dressed up for prom.

Recent visitors: Linda Bosler, Julie Hafner, Jerry Wolfram, Herndon; Lillian Sulzman, Dresden; Shirley Williams, Atwood; Judy Jackson, Norcatour; Alysha Tadlock, Goodland; Les and Myrna Pettera, Loveland, Colo.

Eunice Richards, Connie Olson, Max and Veanna Carman, Gladys Geis, Lyle Gamblin, Opal Huntley, Marian Dempewolf, Ila Ray, and Ralph LaSalle, Oberlin.

## Midway News

By Mary Lou Olson

Congratulations to Jill Bergling, daughter of Mark and Gail Bergling, who will graduate at 3 p.m. on Sunday at Rawlins County High School in Atwood, and Mary Rachel Olson, daughter of Mark and Barbara Olson, who will graduate at 2 p.m. Saturday at Decatur Community High School.

Norma Anderson, and Clay and Jennie Anderson attended the wedding of Austin Fink and Emilie Miller in Bethel, Pa., on Saturday. The bridegroom is the son of Robert and Carol Fink of Wamego and a grandson of Norma Anderson. The bride is the daughter of Mike and Sheila Miller of Meyersville, Pa.

Among out-of-town relatives who attended the open house honoring Edla Olson at the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center in Oberlin on Saturday afternoon were

Mike and Nione Rhodin, Loveland, Colo.; Lee and Terri Munsell and Amanda, Lee's Summit, Mo.; Galen and Lynn Olson, McKinney, Texas; Bill and Marilee (Nelson) Bonna, Hollister, Mo.; and Oren and Donna Bradley, Lafayette, Colo.

Bob and Sally Olson attended the high school graduation of their grandson, Joe Marks, son of Larry and Deb Marks, in Mulvane on Saturday. Among other relatives attending were Kathy Legier, San Diego; Rennie Olson, Celina, Texas; Annette Frenzl, Salina; and Lewis and Ava Perkins, Wichita.

Detta Anderson and Mary Lou Olson took Joy Votapka out for lunch at the LandMark on Friday for a belated birthday celebration.

