

THE OBERLIN HERALD

# Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

**125 YEARS AGO — Feb. 1887**

A dance was given by Theodore Schultz last week. Would not a telephone exchange in Oberlin be a paying investment?

E.E. Stewart is building on his place one mile west of town where he will reside.

Ethan Allen has disposed of his interest in the Commercial Barn to Gay Wooster, who will conduct the business.

Rev. Burt, editor of the Wano Plaindealer, was in town Tuesday. Mr. Burt was the first Decatur County superintendent of schools.

Sixteen members of the Knights of Pythias went to Atwood Friday to institute a lodge of that order.

**100 YEARS AGO — Feb. 1912**

Prairie hay is higher in Oberlin than it is in Kansas City.

The new whistle on the engine house is a corker. It begins like the screech of a wildcat and ends like the wail of a lost soul.

Clint Johnson traded his hotel in Nebraska last week to Fred Gallentine for the old Oscar Ecord farm in Bassettville Township.

Colonel Parker is having some of the big trees cut down around his city residence and made into stove wood. Sam Berry and Barney Gunther of Olive Township are "ridin" the cross saw to a fare-you-well as long as the Colonel is looking on.

Arch Marks, son of R.A. Marks, who has been residing at Detroit the past six years arrived in Oberlin Saturday on his wedding trip. He was married Jan. 25 to Olive Dust of Detroit.

A Farmers County Union was organized at the court room with the following officers: Ed Anderson, president; Ed. Woolley, vice president; Tolle Hoppas, secretary and treasurer, who with A. E. Bennett, Frank Johnson and Lew Cielek make up the executive board.

**75 YEARS AGO — Feb. 1937**

The stage is set for Decatur County to honor her now world-famous football and track star, Harrison "Sam" Francis, on Feb. 10 with a

banquet and program at the city school auditorium. Arrangements have been made to accommodate 300 persons and 220 reservations have already been made including many from out of town and the Norton football team.

The Oberlin grapplers coached by Bill Huey beat Colby 24-13 with two of the toughest battles won by Vernon and Helmkamp in the heavier weights. In basketball Colby won 16-14 over the Red Devils to take first place in the NWKL. The teams had been tied for first prior to that game.

Work will be started in the spring to bring natural gas service to the City of Oberlin with the franchise granted to the Kansas Pipeline and Gas Co.

With the closing of a business transaction Saturday, Lee R. Kump, popular young business man of Oberlin, became a partner in the ownership of the Roberts Motor Company, authorized agents for Ford Motor cars and trucks.

Oberlin lost one of its finest older women when Mrs. Ella B. Parker passed away at Benton Memorial Hospital at the age of 85. Mrs. Parker came to Oberlin in 1892 as the bride of L.G. Parker who was owner and editor of the Oberlin Times from 1897 to 1909. She is survived by four children, N.B. Bush, Mrs. D.G. Addleman, Clark Bush and Mrs. R. C. Kirtland.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Sauvage are the parents of an 8-pound baby boy, Virgil Don, born Jan. 27. Mrs. Helen Stimbirt is helping at the Sauvage home.

Stevenson's Drug Store is looking like a new store this week because of fine new inlaid linoleum laid by Eldon Jacobs of Griffith Furniture Company over the weekend.

**50 YEARS AGO — Feb. 1962**

Mr. and Mrs. C.R. (Mac) McCormick will formally open their Firestone Store at its new location, 154 South Penn, this week.

School News: Mrs. Matthews reports 100 percent parental visits at kindergarten the past week. In some cases both mother and father of the student were able to attend.

CWO Robert Riley, son of Mrs. Ross Riley and the late Mr. Riley has been assigned as an officer on the recently commissioned aircraft carrier "The Enterprise."

The DCHS wrestlers coached by Melvin Simpson downed Oakley 31-13.

Dresden: Funeral services were held at the Dresden Methodist Church for James Burton Sawyer, 88, who came to Decatur County in 1884. After attending high school he taught several terms of school and after his marriage to Ida Trometer in 1900 they made their home on a farm in Custer Township. He is also survived by a son, Guy and wife Alice, and a grandson, Dr. James Sawyer and wife Julie, and a twin sister, Jennie Sawyer of Fort Collins, Co.

New Arrivals: Mr. and Mrs. Orris Aumiller, Selden, son, Roger Lee, 1/28/62; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Greenlee, Oberlin, son, Kurt Alan, 1/28/62; Mr. and Mrs. Dale Richardson, daughter, Anita Jean, 1/27/62; Mr. and Mrs. Derry Bishop, Wooddale, Ill., daughter, Jodie Marie, 1/19/62.

Mr. and Mrs. Rhomine Smith announce the engagement of their daughter, Garrah Lea, to Pfc. Vernon Thornbrugh, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vern Thornbrugh, McCook. Miss Smith graduated from DCHS and the McCook Beauty Academy and is now employed at the Academy. Her fiance is in the Army stationed in Germany.

Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Loaker, Sidney, Neb., announce the engagement of their daughter, Deanna, to Gary Grose, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Grose of Brush, Colo., formerly of Oberlin.

Norman Stanley was honored with a birthday and farewell dinner Sunday at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Stanley. Norman will leave Tuesday for the Army.

Results from the recent Oberlin Grade School sponsored basketball tournament: Oberlin Grade School unlimited basketball team coached by Phil Nemeth, third place; the Midget team coached by John Wright, second place.

**25 YEARS AGO — Feb. 1987**

The Kansas Bankers Award for 1987 was presented to Mable Holmberg and her son, Lowell, who have farmed in Custer Township in Decatur County nearly 40 years. James and Garrah Gaumer, who began their windbreak by planting 750 trees on their farmstead in Jennings Township over 25 years ago, were the recipients of the Windbreak Award. Presenting the awards was Gale Cook of the Citizens State Bank of Norcatour. Other banks which funded the barbecue sandwich and pie meal were Farmers National Bank, Oberlin, THE Bank of Oberlin and the Jennings Bank.

Oberlin PRIDE discussed the possibility of making a downtown park on the land at the corner of Commercial and Penn which was donated by Farmers National Bank. Development of the park will fall under the auspices of the newly formed Arts and Humanities Council according to city manager Bob Finkbinder.

New Arrival: Charles and Janet Look, Oberlin, son, Corey James, 1/30/87.

At the annual Area Chamber of Commerce banquet, President Kent Reinhardt presented a commemorative silver tray to Floyd Lotker who is retiring after serving 15 years as head of Decatur County Amusement Authority. It was announced that Don Stapp will be Lotker's replacement.

Rotary Exchange student Paulo Ramos, of Sao Paulo, Brazil, is making his home with Ward and Janice Sauvage and son, Alan, and attending DCHS where he is classed as a junior.

The Oberlin boys basketball team downed Atwood by a score 56-46 and Norton 53-43 to bring their season record to 9 and 4

Senior honor students at DCHS who will attend the annual dinner sponsored by the KU Alumni Association are Brian Wood, Pam Votapka, Brad Simonsson, John Kelley and Mark Frickey.

## Lyle News

By Veda Wood

Zip ☐ the first month of 2012 is over, and I spent half of it on the sick list. I hope that doesn't happen again. Anyway, I feel fine now. I hear there is a lot of sickness going around ☐ after all, it is winter.

Kathy Van Meter visited Helen Helm last Monday, and played Bingo at the Senior Center in Cambridge on Thursday. Helen celebrated her birthday with the state of Kansas again, Jan. 29. Of course, Kansas is many years older. [I'm sorry, Helen, I just couldn't resist the temptation.]

Toots Magers played pinochle with the group at Norcatour on Thursday. She and her daughter, Judy and Charlie Easton joined the Norcatour Church for potluck on Sunday, then went to Toots' home for more visiting. Rea and Dee Magers brought jam and bread and visited Toots on

Friday. Doesn't it make your mouth water?

Joyce Sumner reported that her granddaughter, Amy Archer is now on the transplant list for a liver. We pray she won't have to wait much longer.

June Jolly has almost finished the quilt she has been working on. She has been visited by Rhonda Jolly and several neighbors and has done her usual cards and bingo.

The potluck dinner at the Norcatour Educational Building was wonderful; so many people and so much good food. People from the Clayton, Lyle, and Norcatour and surrounding areas enjoying fellowship. Quoting Martha Stewart, "It's a good thing."

To top off the week, Sunday was delivery day for pizzas from the Norcatour Fire Department.

## Cedar Living Center

By Teresa Shaughnessy

Every once in a while we all need to try doing routine things a little differently. This past week it was time to shake things up in the kitchen at Cedar Living Center.

The cooks had to find a way to prepare and serve meals without using the kitchen, while some much needed repairs were under way. The dietary staff not only did the job well, they did it with smiles on their faces. The residents enjoyed a few menu changes and no one went hungry. The repairs are almost completed and the dietary staff returned to the kitchen by Friday, though they still have some limitations. We are all looking forward to life returning to normal.

Several residents met on Monday afternoon for a game of penny cards. Joining in on the fun were Audra Duncan, Darlene Fisher, Irene Fringer, Ira Kolsky, Dottie Lotker, Joan Noble, Alice Shirley and Mary Votapka. Teresa Shaughnessy led the sing-along time before supper on Monday. Sherri Shuler assisted.

The Reading Buddies from Mrs. Tacha's second grade class came for a visit on Tuesday morning. The children scattered throughout the dining room to pair up with a resident. The room grew really noisy when each child read aloud to the residents. The children all hugged or shook hands with the residents before leaving.

Mary Votapka won the first bingo

and the blackout game on Tuesday afternoon. Marian Dempewolf and Dewaine Stapp assisted.

Cookies and coffee were served during the social hour on Wednesday afternoon. We enjoyed stories and trivia.

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

We celebrated Kansas Day a few days ahead of schedule on Thursday afternoon. We had stories and trivia questions about the Sunflower State.

We were unable to bake cookies on Friday afternoon because of the work going on in the kitchen so residents selected a store-bought treat to have instead.

We discussed chips and dip, crackers and cheese, and a variety of other options. Powdered sugar doughnuts came out as the clear winner and they proved to be a big hit with everyone who attended.

Recent visitors: Dale Blake, Danbury; Susie Youngblood and Linda Files, Atwood; Julie Hafner, Linda Bosler, Herndon; Shelley McKenna, Jennings; Norma Ward, Clayton; Jodee Stillman and Cash, Hoxie.

Carol Kompus, Dolores Koerperich, Frank and Mert McEvoy, Marilyn Gamblin, Robert Fringer, Bill and Carol Duncan, Oberlin.

## Mount Pleasant News

By Dianne Bremer

Our sympathies to Edith Tate and her family upon the death of her mother, Lois (Rezner) Carlson, 89, who passed away Monday, Jan. 23, in Oberlin. Lois's funeral was held Saturday at the Oberlin Evangelical Covenant Church with Pastor Tom Smith officiating and burial in the Oberlin cemetery. Lois is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Edith and John Tate, grandchildren Jay and Becky Tate, Dakota, Mollie, and Grace of Oberlin and Jaron and Tara Tate and Abigail, Fort Collins, Colo. She is predeceased by her husband Elder; parents Walter and Lela Rezner; a brother Walter Wayne Rezner; and sisters Lee Ora Carlson, Alice May, Doris Staack and Maurine Kay Hartman. In addition to Edith and John and Jay and Jaron and their families, other relatives attending her funeral were Bill and Myra (Carlson) Sater and Tim and Darlene (Sater) Lindskog, Holcomb; Aaron and Rachael Carlson, Loveland, Colo.; Ralph Carlson, New Underwood, S.D.; Pat and Elvera (Carlson) Wendelin, Lindsborg; Patti Swisher Carrizales, Aurora, Colo.; Roger Hol-

mdahl, Herndon; Larry and Judy (Noren) Thelander, Salina; Ken and Alice (Noren) Robson, Ellsworth; Martin and Lois Leibbrandt, Imperial, Neb.; Loyd and Fern Moore; John and Dianne Bremer; Jessica Bremer; Esther Noren; Steven and Connie Noren; Britta Noren; and Royce and Vicky Leitner.

Tyler Shields has been selected as a runner for the West Team in the Shriner's All-Star Cross Country two mile race this July in Emporia. Tyler is a senior at Decatur Community High School and the son of Paul and Kelly Shields.

Hannah May represented Decatur Community High School as she competed in Poetry at the Hill City Speech Tournament on Saturday.

Marty Cunningham, Kansas City; Jerry Erding, Stillwell, and his parents, Gene and Ethel Erding, Minneapolis, Minn., visited from Friday through Monday with Walter and Betty May and the Roland May, Roger May, Robert May, and Rhonda May and Dan Nedland families. They were guests at the Roland and Walter May farm.

Elizabeth Nedland was chosen

to play third chair French horn in the honor band at the Kansas State University Band Clinic January 20-22 in Manhattan. All six bands participating ended the clinic with a concert Sunday before returning home.

Ralph and Violet Shaw were Jan. 23 breakfast guests of Duane and Marilyn Waldo at a local restaurant. Duane and Marilyn, Tucson, Ariz., were in Oberlin to attend his step-mother, Myrtle Waldo's, 100th birthday party.

## Rexford News

By Gwen Griffiths

Have you noticed the new Rexford Community Church signs along the highway? They sure add a bright spot on the way into town.

A group of students from Golden Plains attended an awards night for the Sheridan County Conservation Coloring Contest on Monday in Hoxie. A big congratulations to all students who did such great work!

The quilters from Country Quilting and Keepsakes of Oberlin arrived Thursday afternoon and spent a busy weekend piecing together projects of all kinds. We love checking in on the ladies and seeing the progress they've made. They will be back in April with a whole new batch of projects.

Tyson and Jesalynn Griffiths competed in the High Plains Home Educators Mid-Winter Tournament in Garden City on Friday. Tyson earned a second place ribbon in the

spelling bee and a third place ribbon in the chess competition. Jesalynn came home with a first place ribbon in the Bible Bowl.

A number of Rexford residents drove to Oakley for the Western Plains Arts Association's "Blues Brothers Review" on Sunday. We spent two hours listening to blues music of all sorts, and the audience had lots of fun participating.

Shepherd's Staff has a variety of events coming up in the next few months: Christian Workers Conference in Colby, scrapbooking retreat, men's day, and more. Visit www.shepherdstaff.org to see what's coming up and what you might be interested in.

That's it for this week. Don't forget to leave your news in the jar by the door at the Red Barn, call me at 687.2076, or email your events to griffithsgang@gmail.com.

## Chamber News

By Carolyn Hackney

The Oberlin Business Alliance meets at noon today at the LandMark Inn for its monthly meeting. All members are welcome, but please call the LandMark to order if you plan to eat.

I have had several responses from sponsors for the Farmer-Rancher Appreciation Banquet. A committee from the Chamber board will be contacting businesses I haven't heard from starting this week. If you are interested in helping, please call the Chamber office at (785) 475-3441.

The banquet will be at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, in The Gateway's arena. It is a good time for everyone to get together and have a fun evening.

The February-March table tents will be out this week. The information for April and May needs to be in by March 15.

I had a person ask me how the community garden project was coming along, and I really didn't

have an answer. Does anyone have some information that I could share with others when they ask?

I also have people ask about houses for rent. I have a list of apartments and the contacts. If you have a house to rent, I would be happy to pass along the information if you want to let me know.

If you have anything to discuss about our Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce, my door is open 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. I may not always have an answer or solution, but I will try and find it for you.

The 2012 Chamber board members might be of assistance also. They are Candi Ketterl, Marvin Slabaugh, Sharleen Wurm, Judy Scott, Shelby Hackney, Amanda Grafel, Ken Basky, Galen Olson, Ruth Miesner, Rick Thomeczek, Mary Holliday and Carrie Morford.

Have a great week!

## Midway News

By Mary Lou Olson

Sympathy is extended to the family of Lois Carlson, who died on Jan. 23. Her husband, the late Elder Carlson, was a native of this community.

Larry and Judy Thelander of Salina and Ken and Alice Robson of Ellsworth were weekend guests of Esther Noren and attended the funeral for Mrs. Carlson on Saturday at the Oberlin Covenant Church. Among other relatives who attended were Bill and Myra Sater, and Tim and Darlene Lindskog, Holcomb; Aaron and Rachel Carlson, Loveland, Colo.; Ralph Carlson, New Underwood, S.D.; Pat and Elvera Wendelin, Lindsborg, and Patti Carrizales, Aurora, Colo.

Samantha Anderson was chosen for first chair in French horn in the

top Honor Band at the Kansas State University Band Clinic held in Manhattan from Jan. 20 to Jan. 22. She also received an Exceptional Musician Scholarship Award. Her parents, Richard and Maureen Anderson, and grandparents, Elden and Detta Anderson and uncle, Gary Anderson, Oberlin, and also Wane and Cheryl Stull, Solomon, attended the band concert on Sunday, Jan. 22.

Dick and Donna Kelley attended the Kansas State Well Drillers meeting in Hutchinson recently. They were weekend guests of Sheldon and Brenda Kelley, Kendra and Jessica, in Frederick, Colo.

Keith and Mary Lou Olson were Sunday dinner guests of Mark and Barbara Olson in Oberlin to honor Mary Lou on her birthday.



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