

THE OBERLIN HERALD

# Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

**125 YEARS AGO — Feb. 1887**

The wind last Thursday did a good deal of damage in and about town. The barn of F.F. Bliss was blown down and the framework of Wilkes & Newsome's implement warehouse, just erected, was razed to the ground. The lumber yard, Wonner's Bakery, the peanut stand south of McGee's and H.O. Douglas' windmill also suffered from the gale.

Last Saturday night a banquet, sponsored by the Oberlin Bar Association, was held at the Oberlin House honoring Frank Bacon, the new Register of the Oberlin Land Office and A.L. Patchin, the retiring Register. About 70 persons attended the banquet.

**100 YEARS AGO — Feb. 1912**

Jess Walker got home Saturday for a visit. He has been running out of McCook to Denver as a brakeman on the passenger.

Smiling Ikey in the Prairie Dog News: Jim McHenry of the Solomon was blowing his breath over phone lines the first of the week trying to hook onto some cane seed.

Norcatour News: Guy Loper is having more trouble with the city well, having lost more tools at a depth of 200 feet.

Ray Vernon is the new photographer at the Norcatour Gallery.

Traer Items: Dr. Nichols is kept very busy these days waiting on patients as there is no other doctor between Danbury and Atwood.

**75 YEARS AGO — Feb. 1937**

Elwood M. Brooks, cashier of the Farmers National Bank here, and one of the best and most favorably known bankers in this section of the state, has been named by Governor Walter Huxman as the new State Bank Commissioner. Although it will be necessary for Mr. Brooks to spend much of his time in Topeka after assuming office April 1, he will retain his business connection here much the same as in the past. Mr. and Mrs. Brooks are expected to return today from Topeka where they have been attending the annual Democratic Washington Day gathering.

The architect's drawing of the bath house in Sappa Park which is now under construction by the Na-

tional Park Service in the 500-acre Sappa State Park located a mile and a half northeast of Oberlin is shown on the front page of the Feb. 25 issue of The Oberlin Herald. The drawing is by the architect H. Ernest Nichols. CCC workers are already at work on the ground work, stone is being hauled and others are dressing the stone for use.

Oberlin's debate team will go to the state tournament in Lawrence after winning the district tournament. According to their coach, Mrs. Sam Stowell, the members have only one or two years experience but won against teams with three to four years of experience. Team members are Raymond Lippelmann, John Laidig, Maxine Walker and Carol Stevenson with Elma Ashley and Lloyd Reist as alternates.

St. Francis took first in the league wrestling tournament held in Oberlin with 34 points with Oberlin in second place with 30 and Colby in third with 27. Red Devil champions were Townsend at 95 lb. and Cody at 115.

Dresden: Harold McKinney ran into the ditch last Monday trying to drive during the dust storm. He had to call for help in order to get out.

**50 YEARS AGO — Feb. 1962**

Old Man Winter has cut loose with what Kansans and Midwesterners hope is the last frigid blast of the winter as the mercury plunged to -16.

The state attorney general had released the names of 71 counties which are in violation of the cash-basis and budget law including Decatur. County attorney Elmo Lund said the violations occurred in the road and bridge fund whereby equipment has been purchased on a lease-rental basis using an installment contract.

Mounting costs have caused the Decatur County Hospital to increase the charge for semi-private rooms from \$10 to \$11 a day while private rooms will be changed from \$14 to \$15 a day. According to hospital administrator Joe Pollara this is the first year the hospital has been in the red. A total of 893 patients were admitted during the past year with an average stay of six and one-half days. There were 102 newborns and the out-patient department had 1,574 visits, a new record.

Five DCHS wrestlers — Dennis

Young, Mike Machart, Bob Brown, Russell Stanley and Bill Brown — qualified for the state tournament to be held at Norton. According to Coach Melvin Simpson, the favored teams are Norton and Douglas.

Norcatour: The Norcatour High School basketball team played a close game with Jennings Friday with Jennings winning 54-50.

Funeral services were held in Topeka for Mrs. D.E. Logan who came with her husband to Decatur County in 1885 and homesteaded living in a sod house 16 miles north-east of Oberlin. She is survived by four sons, Harry, Glenn, Charles and Dale; one daughter, Mrs. Mattie Cleland Johnson; one brother, Charles Woods and grandchildren. Committal service was held at Sherman Chapel Cemetery.

**25 YEARS AGO — Feb. 1987**

Joseph O. Rainwater, M.D., Denver cardiologist, has begun consultations at Decatur County Hospital on a regular basis. He is scheduled to visit the local hospital on the second Thursday of every month. Rainwater is a member of the Denver Cardiology Group with offices adjoining Presbyterian Hospital in Denver.

Fred Anderson has opened a new business in Oberlin called Computech in which he services most major brands of computers.

John and Mary Tongish celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Sunday, Feb 15 at the Long Term

Care Unit where he is a resident. Both John and Mary (Hutffles) are natives of the Herndon community and were married Feb. 14, 1917, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Herndon and they have three married sons, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Tongish, Rancho Mirage, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. Denis Tongish, Herndon and Mr. and Mrs. Marion Tongish, Littleton, Colo.

Norcatour: Mr. and Mrs. Rodney O'Hare spent Jan. 27-Feb. 1 in Orlando, Fla., vacationing with other PAG seed dealers.

New Arrival: Evelyn and Danny Larson, Ludell, son, Arthur Ernest, Feb. 16, 1987 at Decatur County Hospital.

John Kelley, son of Jack and Anne Kelley, rural Norcatour, has been named one of the six winners of the Dane G. Hansen Leaders of Tomorrow scholarships. He will receive \$3500 per year if a satisfactory grade point average is maintained. He plans to enroll in pre-veterinary medicine at Kansas State this fall.

Seniors Kent Winder and Glen Baughman were the only Red Devils fortunate enough to advance to the finals at the regional tournament held at Oakley. Baughman placed fourth in the 119-pound class while Winder placed fourth in heavyweight.

Both DCHS basketball teams won their games against Oakley, the boys by a score of 60-57 and the girls by a score of 30-28.

## Chamber News

By Carolyn Hackney

The Western Night at the theater was a lot of fun. Several people have suggested we do it often with a variety of westerns. Might be a great idea.

This was a benefit to help buy new downtown banners. You can also still donate for the banners by contacting Connie Grafel or the Chamber office.

The Farmer-Rancher Banquet was a success. We had good food with about 175 people attending. Dr. Weldon Slieght gave an informative message to help Decatur County keep thriving. He would welcome the opportunity to come again with even more information.

Many prizes were given away, thanks to all of our participating businesses. There will be a list of all the sponsors in *The Oberlin Herald* next week. If there are any businesses that we didn't make contact with, you may still make your donation at the Chamber office.

A couple of events this week are the Oberlin Turnaround at the Golden Age Center today, and the Arts and Humanities Dinner Theater at the Gateway on Saturday. Posters with information about each of these events have been placed around town for your convenience.

Have a great week!

## Decatur Health Systems

By Becky Wilson

American Heart Month is winding down, and in the final week of February we're going to be offering information about how to keep track of your heart health.

Decatur Health Systems will have a free medication review from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. today. Some of us can be on so many medications that it becomes difficult to keep track of them, and a review is a good way to help head off any problems

from over medication.

Gather up all of your medications, both prescription and over-the-counter, and bring them to the hospital's main lobby. The medical staff will go over them, looking for possible harmful interactions. We will also have medication reference sheets that you can have filled out and take with you, so that you won't have to rely on memory if you're asked what you're currently

taking.

Law enforcement officers will be on hand to take any expired, unused and unwanted medications and dispose of them according to federal guidelines. It's safer to put older medications into their hands than it would be to put them in the trash or down the drain.

This way there's no chance of them ending up in the landfill or in our water supply. Plus, you'll have the satisfaction of knowing what you're taking is safe, as well as a tidier medicine cabinet — good things all around.

## Midway News

By Mary Lou Olson

The congregation of the Herndon Covenant Church enjoyed a Valentine dinner on Sunday evening at the LandMark Inn in Oberlin.

Those attending included: Pastor Keith and Sandy Reuther, Chris and Sherri Schmidt, Elden and Detta Anderson, Dick and Donna Kelley, Steve and Connie Noren, Emma Threlkel, Elma Lee Erickson, Mildred Holmdahl, Norma Anderson, Esther Noren, Daisy Schmidt, Kyle and Cindi Grafel, Ben and Mariah Grafel and Clara, Greg and Gwen

Jones, Josiah and Mandi Jones, Gerald and Patti Benda, Steve and Arian Arnold, Frank and Margaret McEvoy, and Keith and Mary Lou Olson.

Chris and Sherri Schmidt returned home after visiting their daughter and family, Dawnelle and Curtis Heim, Karli, Kelsi and Christopher, in Tucson, Ariz.

Ash Wednesday services will be held at 7 p.m. tonight at the Oberlin Covenant Church with Pastor Doug Mason officiating.



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## Jennings News

By Louise Cressler

A large crowd attended the soup and dessert lunch served Sunday at the Community Hall. Donations went to the Historic Building Preservation Committee for improvements on the former Masonic Hall. In the afternoon a community meeting was held with about 35 attending. Mayor Marge Hartzog presided over the meeting. A list of accomplishments by the city in the year 2011 was reported. The recent repair of the water leak under the highway and moving meters outside of homes were discussed. A spring clean-up date was tentatively set for the second Friday of April. A discussion was held about empty houses which could be fixed up for rent or for sale. It was suggested to have a list in the city office. The community is fortunate as everyone

works together when needed.

Stan and Ramona Shaw spent the weekend at the home of Chris Gillespie and Tom Neff in Marion.

Helen Rhodes is home from the hospital and doing well.

The Sunflower Senior carry-in potluck noon meal on Valentine's Day was enjoyed by 14 seniors. A Valentine exchange was held. The door prizes were drawn by Rachel Carter, Linda Spresser, Agnes Wahlmeier and Kenny Krizek. A business meeting was held following the meal. Several people then stayed to play cards.

Last Wednesday cards were played at the Center. Those playing were: Stan and Ramona Shaw, Scott Taylor, Eleanor Morel, Diane Carter, Alice Waggoner, and Wayne and Louise Cressler.

## Lyle News

By Veda Wood

Monday was President's Day, but I guess the only presidents we celebrate today are Washington and Lincoln. And I see that Washington is sharing his day with Ash Wednesday, followed by Lent. My mother, Hazel Van Gundy, used to give up coffee for lent, and the next cup was one of the blessings of Easter morning.

Guests of Veda Wood on Saturday were Carol and John Moye, Oberlin, and great-grandchildren, Kylie and Skylar; Tracey Pershing of Douglas, Wyo.; and Aubrey High. Later Garrett Bader and Grant Slater, great-grandchildren, came by.

I was grateful to Brandi Kohart, who took me to Norton last Wednesday. We went for doctor visits, errands and shopping.

Earnest Huff died at Hillcrest Nursing Home of McCook on Feb. 14. His funeral was Friday at Pauls

Funeral Home in Oberlin, officiated by Don Argabright of Atwood. Many Lyle, Norcatour, Oberlin and Atwood friends and neighbors attended. Burial was in the Oberlin Cemetery and refreshments were served at The Gateway in Oberlin. Toots Magers and I rode with Rea and Dee Magers and were glad to see friends and relatives. Donna Huff will be living at Willow Ridge in McCook.

Kathy Van Meter and Lloyd Frandsen attended the funeral of Earnest Huff on Friday.

June Jolly has been busy quilting, working to get "on line", playing cards and Bingo in Indianola and McCook.

Our good friend, Helen Helm, has moved to Cedar Living Center in Oberlin. It will be good to have her closer.

## Rexford News

By Gwen Griffiths

I hope you all had a good Valentine's Day and remembered to show someone special that you care about them. Tim and I attended the "Chocolate and All That Jazz" event at the library. We enjoyed the music, and of course the chocolate, as well as seeing friends from all over Thomas County.

It's always fun to drive by the Red Barn and see the marquee all lit up with flashing lights. It looked like the 40-and-over crowd was having a grand time during Spuds and Splits on Thursday night. This event is held every month, so make a mental note to attend next month!

Shepherd's Staff hosted a birthday party for a young man from McCook at our paint ball field on Saturday. There were five young men and two adults, and they had a blast playing paint ball. And the weather was perfect for it — none of this "high wind warning" that we're

having now!

Friday afternoon is a perfect chance to catch the Red Barn Gang at play; they'll be holding their monthly practice. I'm hoping to remember so that I can stop in and hear them!

Don't forget that the Christian Workers Conference is only a week and a half away! It will be held at Heartland Christian School in Colby on Saturday, March 3. Registration opens at 8 a.m., and the first main session will be at 8:45. The day continues with workshops, sessions, and vendors through 5 p.m. Registration is \$45; call 785-687-2565 or visit www.shepherdstaff.org.

That's the news from Rexford this week. Don't forget to call or email me with your news, or drop it off in the jar by the door at the Red Barn. Have a great week! Call 687-2076, or mailto: griffithsgang@gmail.com.

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