

THE OBERLIN HERALD

# Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

### 125 YEARS AGO — March 1887

On Jan. 1, the Union Pacific Railway adopted the bold experiment of running their trains by the 24-hour system and put it in vogue in the Idaho division. After a test of nearly two months they are fully convinced that it is the only correct method of computing time. It will go into effect on the other divisions as soon as a change in time is made.

**Lyle Items:**  
On Saturday, Feb. 19, the young men of his vicinity organized a baseball team. They have undoubtedly chosen a nine that is hard to beat.

Last Friday night a social ball was given at the town hall by the Lyle gents which was an entire success. It was so enjoyable that had it not got daylight they would be dancing yet. The music was grand. Musicians were Henry Johnson and Alex. Swagler, assisted by our general merchant, J.D. Wickham, Forrest Redman, Fred Wiggins and others.

### 100 YEARS AGO — March 1912

Arthur Kathka has moved to the Wilbur farm west of town. It snowed nearly every day last week and it has gotten to be just a little monotonous.

Mr. Wooden, the Dresden mail carrier, is having a severe struggle to get the mail over the past two months. The roads have been fearful nearly all the time.

The people in Sherman Township are puffed up over the fact that two Sherman Township boys, Glenn Logan and Rolla Harger, were on the Washburn College debate team that decisively whipped Nebraska Wesleyan College last week.

**Norcaturn Items:**  
There is talk of bonding the town for \$10,000 for the purpose of putting down a test well. There is great controversy and a hot time in the old town. It will be decided by a vote of the people on the 18th.

Mr. Ben Eckhart and Miss Grace Reager were married Feb. 28th.

### 75 YEARS AGO — March 1937

Moisture, real moisture which fell in a slow easy rain amounted to .65 and a number of farmers whose wheat had been covered by dust said that some of the wheat plants were now showing through.

The Oberlin Red Devils won first place in the State wrestling meet held at Hays with three taking first places — Tom Thompson at 95 lb., Elden Cody, 115 and Lloyd Emerson, 125. Don Everist, Jim Montgomery and Virgil Olson placed second in the 105, 175 and unlimited classes respectively. DCHS had 34 points; Wichita East, 26; Goodland,

16 and Douglas and Wichita North, 11 points each. Several of the coaches remarked that Coach Bill Huey's boys were undoubtedly the best conditioned team there.

**Jennings:** Fire of an unknown origin completely destroyed the Jennings Consolidated School bus garage on Friday. The fire occurred shortly after the busses left for the homeward trip and inside were three old busses used as extras, a ton of coal and some small barrels of motor oil and on the upper floor were lumber, school desks and supplies. The building was completed in 1935 as a WPA project.

A group of women met at the home of Mrs. Mary Counter on Feb. 17 and organized a Farm Bureau unit. Better Homemakers was chosen as the name and Mrs. Counter as president. The first regular meeting will be March 17 with Mrs. Ella Hunt and a special meeting will be held on March 4 when garden and clothing lessons will be given to the leaders.

**Allison:** More than 100 people braved the beautiful snowfall last Friday afternoon and evening to help Mr. and Mrs. John M. Williams celebrate their golden wedding anniversary.

The couple came to Kansas from Indiana and purchased their present farm home in 1917. They have three living children: Edgar, who is a farm partner; Mrs. Lenore Williams of Centralia, Illinois and Mrs. Minnie Laidig of Oberlin. Mr. and Mrs. Williams were both born of Quaker parents, always attended Quaker churches in Illinois and Indiana and sent their children to Quaker academies.

**Jennings:** Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Fortin announce the arrival of a baby boy on Saturday, Feb. 27 whom they have named Marvin Keith.

### 50 YEARS AGO — Feb. 1962

Mr. and Mrs. John Ready will open their new Skogmos Department Store at 168 South Penn next Friday at 9 a.m. and the grand opening will continue until March 17. The Readys are leasing the building from Guy Morrish. Employees will be Marcella Vacura, Mrs. Noble Nelson and Mrs. Mildred McVay. Ready will continue his active partnership in Corcoran-Ready Funeral Home.

In a transaction Monday Jess Jones sold his interest in the Oberlin Livestock Commission Company to John Simonsson Jr. Other owners are Albert McVay and Velcy Jones.

Funeral services were held for Sam Stowell, 88, who came to Decatur County as a young man

with his parents, brothers and sister. For a time he worked in the Farmers National Bank and later was in the practice of optometry. He was married in 1918 to Fern Marvin Langmade and in 1926 they moved to a farm south of Oberlin where they operated a dairy for a number of years.

**Judge Robert Hemphill** who has served as District Judge of the 17th Judicial District has announced his retirement and Wm. B. Ryan who has practiced law in Norton since 1939 is a Republican candidate for that office.

Under Coach Gaylord Bellamy's direction, a weight-training program for 33 DCHS freshman boys was begun Dec. 11 and ended Jan. 5. The results are surprisingly good and encouraging.

**Hospital News:** Mr. and Mrs. Elden Long, Norcaturn, girl, Linda Marie, 3-2-62; Mr. and Mrs. Elden Odle, Oberlin, boy, Eddy Eugene, 3-1-62; Mr. and Mrs. Norman Davis, Jennings, boy, James Edwin, 3-2-62; Mr. and Mrs. Valti Magers, Traer, girl, 3-3-62.

The 80-voice cappella choir of Kansas State University will appear in concert March 14 at DCHS on their spring tour. Accompanying them will be the K-State Singers, a talented group of 13 students who sing, play and dance. Director is William R. Fischer.

### 25 YEARS AGO — March 1987

The Oberlin Jaycees recently sponsored a ski trip to Silver Creek, Colo., involving 19 different chapters in western Kansas.

Three DCHS students participated in the state KMEA concert held Feb. 28 at the Century II Concert Hall in Wichita. Andrea Lauber and Aimee Plotts sang in the choir while Melinda Heinrich played in the band as first chair in the bass clarinet section.

**New Arrival:** Judith and Arnold Long, Oberlin, daughter, Megan Renee, 2-28-87.

**Rexford:** The Shepherd's Staff Conference Center, a non-denominational facility to provide a retreat and conference center for small groups, or a gathering place for up to 100 persons, opened recently. Director is Betty Nickols who has had 26 years' experience in public education and 17 years in professional Christian education. The dining hall can served up to 25 persons and 40 persons can be housed in the dorms.

The building was constructed by combining a former implement structure with the former Masonic Hall. The board of directors has five members besides Nickols. Her daughter, Debbie, who is an adult education coordinator in the Colby area; Frank Werth, M.D., his wife, Joan; Jean Carrow and Robert Choun.

A 100th birthday party was held Feb. 28th at Good Samaritan Center for Cora Kathka. Her family, John and Emma (Kennard) Barrett moved to Decatur County from Nebraska when she was seven years old and they lived in the Traer-Cedar Bluffs area in sod houses. She married Julius Kathka Jr. in 1909 and in 1917 they purchased the farm three and a half miles north of Oberlin now occupied by her son and wife, Elmer and Vi Kathka. After her husband's death in 1941 she moved to Oberlin until 1962 when she moved to a retirement home in Kuna, Idaho, to be close to a daughter and husband, Della and LaVelle Carter, before returning to Oberlin in recent years.

Funeral services were held for Mae (Woolley) Montgomery, 96, who taught at rural schools in Decatur, Rawlins and Sheridan counties for many years.

## Museum Matters

By Sharleen Wurm

March Madness has hit the museum. We are starting to get things cleaned from the winter winds, and displays rearranged for the 2012 season. The opening is set for Tuesday, April 3, with Oberlin Business Alliance Coffee Hour from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Annual Rummage Sale is Saturday, April 14 and Sunday, April 15, and you can start to bring your clean, gently used items on opening day, April 3.

I have found a lot of interesting history this winter as I have been

helping Jeremy Tally, sexton of the Oberlin Cemetery, update the listings. I will be passing on some of those in my news articles this year.

I will also be telling of Wild Bill Hickok and his ties to Decatur County. I have ordered several books written about him which will be on sale in the Gift Shop.

We are looking forward to a great 2012 and hope that if you are not already a member of the museum that you will want to come and join. Family membership is \$20 and a single membership is \$10.

## Good Samaritan News

By Lisa Paulson

"I've got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy down in my heart, down in my heart to stay!" Did you ever imagine that the catchy little songs you learned as a child in Sunday school would stay in your heart for 70, 80 even 90 years and more?

It is amazing that people with dementia sometimes can't remember what they had for breakfast but they can recall those sweet little songs, recite Scripture and prayers that were hidden in their hearts years ago. That is the introduction to the week's activities but so appropriate.

The Residents love it when the First Hand Friends come to read. They were here on Tuesday, and everyone enjoyed sharing time, hugs and smiles with them. They pray for children when they leave, knowing that some may not have grandparents or go to church, so they have committed to stand in the gap for them. It is the same with the 180 Boys; the boys listen and respond; always quick to hug Loren Schrock, Amy Rehm, Dorothy Pryor and Mary Waldo before saying good-bye.

Everyone gathered in Town Square on Wednesday to say good-bye to Edith Persinger. She was dearly loved and will be sorely missed. Janice Shobe presented a message on Lazarus and Anita Hirsch sang "It Is Well With My Soul."

Storytelling was fun this week. Loren Schrock, Opal Byran, Alice Bobbitt, Olive Arnold, Walt and Betty May, Leone Porsch and Edla Olson wrote a story titled "Love's Around the Corner" and set it to the tune of a Swedish love song (thank you, Edla!).

One Another. The discussion was lively and encouraging as we cited the many ways we still are serving others. Our third film canister was filled, adding to our goal of 10 which will provide 240 meals to be donated to the Feed My Starving Children Campaign. Right now, we have money enough for 72 meals. If you would like to help us, you can bring your quarters to Amy Rehm.

The In-House Club met on Friday to play Spring JINGO. Yes, we all have Spring fever. Arlie Hafer and his wife took a walk around the courtyard and marveled at our daffodils almost ready to bloom!

Don't forget to giddy-up. The Hoe Down is a-comin' up quick! Make sure it's on your calendar for 6 p.m., Saturday, March 24, at the American Legion. Call Dianne Bremer today for reservations at 475-3400.

Recent visitors were: Gail and Kay Marcuson, Jody Betts, Donna Kelley and Marian Fraker for **Mary Waldo**. Clemm Mumm, Don Guilfale (Colby) for **Earl Brown**. Connie Bryan (Scott City) and Julia Otter (Hays) for **Leone Porsch**. Cheryl Miller for **Loren Schrock**. Nadine Tacha (Jennings) and Allen Tacha (Norton) for **Galen Tacha**. Max Carman for **Myrtle Waldo**. Mert McEvoy with grandsons Spencer and Griffin and Ralph and Norma Unger for **Lucy Schissler**. Jerry Hill for **Cheryl Hill**. Pastor Bill Duncan for **Donald Gilbert**. Reva Marshall and Tami Cook (Norcaturn) for **Dorothy Hunt**. Mert McEvoy for **Earl Brown**, Donnia Lindgren and Arlie Hafer. Marvin and Sharon Slabaugh for **Opal Bryan**. Bud and Vicky Mumm (Gem), Damian Marintzer (Westminster, Colo.) and John Marintzer (Thornton, Colo.) for **Doris Marintzer**. Murry and Au-

drey Pavlicek for **Mary Lemman**. Galen Olson and Arian Arnold for **Edla Olson**. Gerald Benda for **Eulaine Benda**. Pat Fringer, Reta Barrett and Jody Betts for **Margaret Vacura**. Von Johnson for **Crystal Moore**. Connie Simonsson for **Amy Rehm** and **Marylu Brown**. Marilyn

Horn for **Myrtle Ross**. Betty Hafer (Atwood) Pastor Keith Reuther (Herndon) and Donna Kelley for **Arlie Hafer**. Carol Ginther (Gem) for **Donnia Lindgren**. Donna Kelley, Elden and Detta Anderson for **Eva Bryan** and **Marylu Brown**.

## Midway News

By Mary Lou Olson

Four students from Sterling College spoke during morning worship services on Sunday at the Herndon Covenant Church. They included Rachel Grafel, daughter of Kyle and Cindi Grafel. She and other members of the group will be going as a missionary team from May 16 to May 30 to Nepal.

The men of the Herndon Covenant Church will prepare breakfast at 8 a.m. Saturday for Covenant Women, who will then hold a missionary work day at the church.

Wilbur Leebrick is recuperating from injuries received in a recent fall. Mail will reach him at Fairview Estates, 1630 Sewell Ave., Colby, Kan., 67701. He has a new great-granddaughter, Ruth Nicole Leebrick, daughter of Daniel and Shannon Leebrick of Atwood, who was born on Jan. 29, 2012, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. She weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces and was 20 1/4 inches long. Grandparents are Lance and Brenda Leebrick, Atwood, and Keith and Diana Portenier, Jamestown.

Steve and Arian Arnold received word from Marcelene Olson of Mount Vernon, Wash., that her niece and nephew, Haylee and Kevin Rabenstein, placed at the state wrestling tournament in Tacoma, Wash. Haylee, who was one of

## Herndon News

By Julie Hafner

Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday. Move your clocks ahead one hour to "spring forward" Saturday evening.

Patti Chartier, daughter of Joe and Nadine Green, is recovering at home after her recent surgery. She extends thanks for the prayers and concerns from family and friends. She and husband Bobby live in Ozawkie. Cards of get-well-wishes will reach Mrs. Chartier at 9876 Valley View Dr., Ozawkie, Kan. 66070.

Ralph and Violet Shaw and Dante of Oberlin were Sunday afternoon visitors of Don and Joan Grafel.

For the last time this season Alan and Ann Solko watched their son, John, and his teammate, Macrae Migchelbrink, wrestle at the State Wrestling Tournament in Hays where John placed 4th at 113 pounds. They enjoyed a season of cheering John and his teammates and other local wrestlers from Oberlin, St. Francis, Hoxie and Oakley and visiting with fellow enthusiasts of the sport. They appreciate all of the support and are looking forward to a repeat next season.

Stations of the Cross at St. Mary's Catholic Church followed Mass on Sunday. Readers were Damian Kogel and Marcus Portschy. Cross-bearer was Neil Portschy. St. Mary's Penance Service will be held at 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 13.

Joan Grafel was a Sunday morning brunch guest of Steve and Susan Nelson in Oberlin. Makenzie Nelson of Wichita joined the family.

St. Mary's Catholic Youth Organization's annual St. Patrick's Breakfast will be Sunday, March

11, at St. Mary's Hall. The group will be serving pancakes, sausage, eggs, fruit, coffee and juice from 9:30 to 1 a.m. Check out the Silent Auction items. Everyone welcome. There will be a donation.

Nieces and nephews joined their Aunt Joan Noble at Cedar Living Center Sunday afternoon for her birthday gathering. Beth Chartier, Chris Wood, Alan and Ann Solko and Bob and Julie Hafner sang happy birthday and enjoyed snacks and dessert. Joan was celebrating her 94th birthday but says she feels like she is 51. Residents and staff of Cedar Living Center sang happy birthday and enjoyed birthday cake on March 1.

Bonnie Franke flew to Cozumel, Mexico, with friends from Texas, where they spent a week snorkeling. They also visited a park where they swam with the dolphins and with a manatee. Everyone had a great time.

Weekend guests of Kyle and Cindi Grafel were Rachel Grafel and her Sterling College mission's team, Naiya Hernandez, Victoria Miller, Kaylee Beutler and Chase Sperber. Team members who couldn't come were Danielle Burk and Wesley Cates. The team came to talk at the Herndon Covenant Church Sunday service about their mission trip to Nepal. The team is in the process of making money for the trip. They will be helping in villages and churches in Nepal. After church the team enjoyed lunch with additional guests Ben, Mariah and Clara Grafel and celebrated Ben's 25th birthday.

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