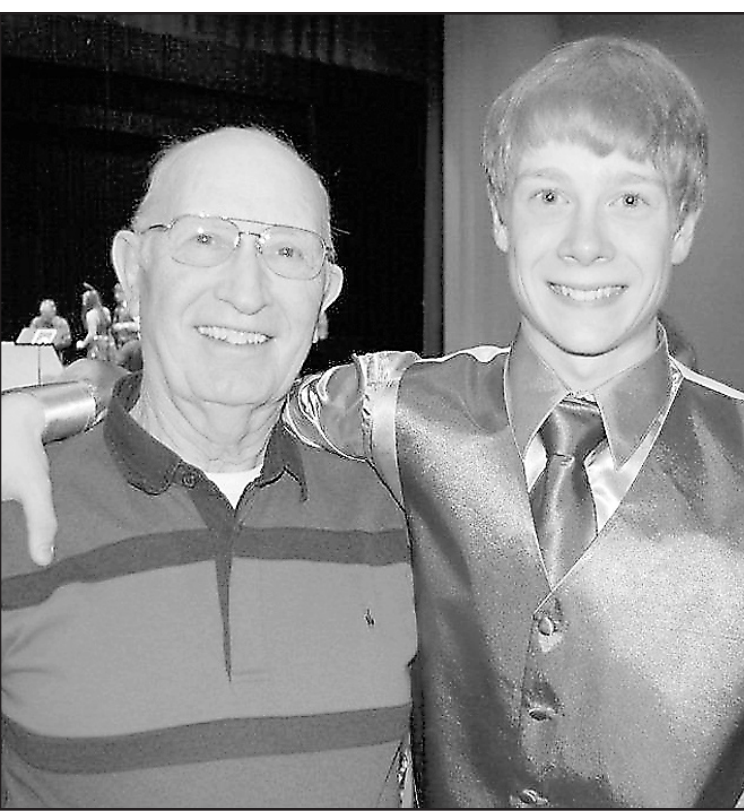


People in Our Community

Mary Lou Olson, society editor

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John Juenemann and grandson Justin

Student writes tribute about his grandfather

(The following story was written by Justin Juenemann, a student at Phillipsburg High School, about his grandfather, John Juenemann of Oberlin. It was written for a Composition I class and was sent by Vicki Constable, a teacher at Phillipsburg High. He is a son of Dr. Ron and Charlene Juenemann.)

A Voice to be Heard
In the early 1950s, every kid looked up to a famous singer, such as Johnny Cash or Porter Wagoner.

John Juenemann, my grandfather, looked up to many country singers along with these two. He wanted a big, low voice like those singers had. John prayed and prayed that God would grant him this request, even though he didn't want to enter a life on the road in place of a good family life. God granted him this request, and John took full advantage of it.

John's dream of becoming a singer began with his kind, supportive parents. "My mother would tell me that I sounded just as good as Porter Wagoner," Juenemann explained. "She also would shed tears most of the time when I sang 'Mom and Dad's Waltz.' I really appreciated their love and support."

Radio stations in Lexington, Colby and Oberlin helped by playing his songs repeatedly. "The disc jockeys really helped share information about my songs. It felt great to be able to hear my own songs over the radio," he recalled. From easy tasks, like learning the pitch tones by hearing others sing with any musical instrument, to difficult tasks, such as learning to accompany his singing with a guitar because he had no lessons or music teachers. Singing involves emotional and physical talents. Those talents tested John, especially during his first performance.

When he turned 14, Clayton High School, the same high school he attended, asked John to sing between the acts of a school play. He sang the "Auctioneer" and the crowd loved it.

"I felt like the 'Auctioneer' was well received and still is the most requested song after 60 years," Juenemann said.

Writing songs seems difficult when words will not fill in the blank spaces. He did not have much trouble writing songs that always had a certain story or purpose.

"The desire to share a story and express my feelings in a deeper way was the basic drive to writing songs," Juenemann expressed. "Even when a parent tells his child that he loves him or her, it can seem inadequate as love grows. My drive to write songs for the family came from this desire to express my love more deeply and in a way that could be heard or listened to long after my life ends here on Earth."

When creating a first album, singers can have mixed emotions. My grandpa really only had two emotions, happy and thankful.

"The inspiration to make an album really came on strong when we, the family, entertained in Wichita for a statewide conference with representatives from all of the Kansas counties," Juenemann mentioned.

Many people came to the stage asking for an album as they greeted the family with open arms. Your dad, Ron, was about 9 years old at the time. Other emotions included thankfulness that we had a keepsake recording including a couple of my most requested songs, 'The Auctioneer' and 'I've Been Everywhere,' along with the individual songs I wrote for each of my children and my wife. The cost was quite high, but one local store sold

over 500 albums, so we recovered most costs."

Comedian Bob Hope performed all over the world back in the 1970s. John became very fortunate to sing in front of him when his group, "The Impromptuos," came back together for their reunion. After that, Mary Moore, the group's musical director, asked John to sing his old-faithful and well-known "Auctioneer" song. John spilled out the lyrics and tune as Bob looked on with a pleasant surprise and a lot of interest.

"I remember Bob's eyes growing big and him smiling with fascination through the entire song," Juenemann said with a big smile. "It was pretty cool how a small town singer could entertain a well-known celebrity."

As John finished his song with the auctioneer's chant, he cried, "Sold to Bob Hope!" Bob utterly enjoyed it, yelling, "Fantastic!" as he applauded.

"It was a pretty special moment that I know I will remember it forever. I just thank the good Lord every day for giving me these kind of opportunities that not a lot of people get to have," Juenemann exclaimed.

Many singers usually get their first guitar or have lessons at a young age. John received his first guitar when he went to college (1957) and did not have any lessons throughout his singing career.

"My first guitar was very special, as previously I tried to play on one my dad had and a very small one borrowed from my first college roommate. My guitar was a black six-string electric guitar with an amplifier given to me by my brother, who was about four years older than me," Juenemann declared. "He said he thought I was doing well enough to deserve it. This new guitar took me to the North Atlantic singing for the troops in Iceland, Greenland, Newfoundland and Labrador."

Singing in Iceland was a difficult task, especially with the six-hour flight and having their first performance overseas.

"The program went really well, but I will always remember that one specific part in my mind. Right when my partners got done singing a song, I remember when one out of approximately 500 troops stood up in the back of the theater and yelled, 'Let's hear from the hillbilly again!'" Juenemann announced. "That was another event that I know I will always remember."

He remembered many more experiences most vividly, including the first program with the college "Impromptuos" in Great Bend; the program in Wichita inspiring their first album; singing in Washington for the Kansas congressmen in 1962; singing on the Wilburn Brothers Show; meeting Johnny Cash; and singing for Baxter Black, the nationally recognized cowboy poet.

"One of the most meaningful events was when Ron wrote a song entitled 'I Love You, Dad' for a grade school class assignment," Juenemann proclaimed. "It meant so much, I put those words to music. It still means so much I hope someone will sing it or play it at my funeral."

Music has shown a lot of singers their deepest thoughts or desires. Sometimes music can be the only thing that keeps two people together.

"Music is such a powerful weapon," Juenemann stated. "Singing has helped me be who I am, express myself in a deeper way and inspire others to think about the love, joy, happiness and rewards of a good family life."

Jim and Linda Holloway received word of the death of his mother, Vera D. Matthews, 98, of Denver on Friday. Funeral services will be held on Thursday at Olinger-Highland Funeral Home at 8600 E. Hampton in Denver.

The Haughty Hatters of Northwest Kansas Red Hatters Club met at the LandMark Inn on Sunday, Dec. 2, for the Victorian Christmas Tea. Attending were Karen Bruning, Jeri Buchholz, Ann Mines, Marty Olson, Sherri Shuler, Eloise Smith, Fern Moore and Charlotte Meints.

— **Cinema and bowling gift certificates available for stocking stuffers at EDC office, 104 S. Penn. 50-51**

Over 70 people enjoyed the Decatur Professional Women's Home Tour on Sunday at the homes of Jim and Diane Barrett, Sid and Cheryl Metcalf, and Chris Dempewolf and Wayne Hackney.

— **20% off all Jewelry Ladies Shopping Night. Oberlin Mercantile Company Wed., Dec. 12, 8-??**

Winning highs in pinochle at the Golden Age Center last week were Ivis Hanson, Max Carman, Ardis Roe, Norma Anderson and Dewaine Stapp. Lows went to Norma Anderson, Neil Marshall, Kelva Dryden, Marie McKisson, Dewaine Stapp, Dorothy Moore and Max Carman. Dorothy Moore, Veanna Carman, Henry Edgett, Dewaine Stapp, Max Carman and Kelva Dryden.

Marjorie Olson and Zane Geis were Chicken Foot domino winners. There was no pitch. Bridge highs were won by Cynthia Matson, Ila Ray, Dewaine Stapp, Marie McKisson, Merle Shirley and Charlotte Meints. Senior potluck will begin at 12:15 p.m. Sunday at Golden Age Center.

— **Enjoy a light Buffet before Ladies Shopping Night, Wed., Dec. 12, 6-7:30 p.m., LandMark Inn. 475-2340.**

Darren and Joan Glading and Cassadra Canto attended the concert at St. Fidelis Catholic Church in Victoria on Sunday. Katie Glading sang with the Fort Hays Singers and Pam (Johnson) McGowne was accompanist.

— **Cookie Party Sat., Dec. 15, 10-12. Golden Age Center \$6 a pound, UMW.**

Mary McAnany of Kansas City, Mo., was a weekend guest of her daughter, Stephanie DeCamp.

— **Cinema and bowling gift certificates available for stocking stuffers at EDC office, 104 S. Penn.**

Cecil Hess visited Steve and Jean Ann Confer, Jenna and Jessica in St. Francis and attended the Christmas program at the United Methodist Church and a party which honored Jessica on her 12th birthday.

— **Swedish Buffet Sunday, Dec. 16, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. LandMark Inn. 475-2340.**

Club News

Group holds final meeting

The Prairie Chapel United Methodist Women held their last meeting at the LandMark Inn for lunch on Dec. 5.

They will be joining the Oberlin United Methodist Women in January and will be known as Oberlin/Prairie Chapel United Methodist Women.

The group was known as Prairie Chapel Ladies Aid from the time the church was organized until 1940, when the name was changed to Women's Society of Christian Service. Later it was changed to the present name.

President Cheryl Metcalf opened the meeting with the group repeating the purpose and singing "Silent Night," followed by prayer. Roll call, "Memories of Christmas Programs," was

answered by seven members and Pastor Nancy Proffitt. The president read a letter from the district president and Angie Wilson shared a card from Diane Hart, district officer. Each member shared something about Christmas for the program and Prayer Partners exchanged gifts.

Hostesses were Rowena Cathcart and her daughters, Carolyn Hackney and Joyce Rippe. The next meeting will be at the Oberlin United Methodist Church at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 2.

The group told about the many blessings, happy times and the work they have accomplished over the years, but members said they are looking forward to a new beginning with the Oberlin women.

Women hold holiday party

The Oberlin United Methodist Women met Dec. 5 at Wheat Ridge Terrace for a Christmas party with the executive board as hostesses.

Guests included Esther Carlson, Doris Gilbert, Luetta Pollnow, Veanna Carman, Melanie Anderson and Teresa Shaughnessy.

Devotions were given by Mary Ann Amack on observing the sacred meaning of Christmas. President Violet Shaw said that Prairie Chapel and Oberlin United Methodist Women will merge during the coming year. The first joint meeting will be at noon Wednesday, Jan. 2, in the fellowship hall of the Oberlin church. The Day of Prayer and Self-Denial will be observed with Laurene Van Otterloo as hostess.

Members were reminded of the cookie party from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 15, at Golden Age Center, where cookies will be sold by the pound.

The group moved to the parlor, where music was furnished by Amy Carman and her children with piano solos by Isaac, Patience and Moriah, combined with Christmas music selections which included Gideon and Hope on the piano and guitar.

Food drive set for Sunday

The Oberlin Teens for Christ will conduct their eighth annual "Porch Light Food Drive" between 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday.

The youths will drive through town collecting food donations for the Decatur County Food Pantry. Anyone who wants to help simply needs to put their donations on their front porch in a box or bag and leave the light on.

For safety reasons, the teens will stay within city limits. Those

outside the city limits can drop off a donation at the group's building between 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. that evening.

"The need for food assistance has been very high this year," said Doug Mason, leader of the group. "So a strong response from the community is critical. We hope to catch all the homes, but for obvious reasons, it is easy to miss one, so feel free to call 475-2599 if your donation is missed."



PLACING A WREATH on the grave of Lawrence Jennings at the Jennings Cemetery in observance of Wreaths Across America were Eugene Mrstik and Lila Jennings.

Legion Post honors veterans with wreaths

The Jennings American Legion Post joined others across the nation in the Wreaths Across America project on Friday and Saturday.

On Friday, Legionnaires, Auxiliary members and volunteers distributed wreaths to the graves of veterans at both the Jennings and Big Timber cemeteries.

On Saturday, Legionnaires placed a wreath at the base of the deceased veterans' rosters at both cemeteries, concluding with a short program.

The second Saturday in December is traditionally the date set by the wreath project for decorating the veterans' graves.

Neoma Tacha, sister of Willis Kusy, who is buried at Arlington National Cemetery, first noticed the story about the Arlington Wreath Project in *American Profile* magazine on Dec. 1, 2007. After discussing it with the Jennings Czech Museum board and the Jennings Legion and Legion Auxiliary, purchase of wreaths for the project began the day after Christmas that year.

In 2008 the Legion, Legion Auxiliary, members of the Czech Museum and other volunteers placed wreaths at 97 Jennings graves and 38 at Big Timber. This year, 107 wreaths were placed at the Jennings Cemetery and 39 at Big Timber. Donations and volunteers continue

to be important to the project, organizers say.

Those participating in placing wreaths this year included Eugene and Dona Mrstik, Bob and Neoma Tacha, Darlene LaRue, Doyle Brown, Tom Votapka, Terri Hanke, Mary Wahlmeier, Dean Robinson, Dave and Paula Krizek, Kenneth Krizek, Clint Krizek and Mike Tacha.

Others who assisted or attended the ceremonies on Saturday included Ty Yahne, Josh and Allen Davis, Duane Metz, Martin LaRue, Daryl and Marge Hartzog, Rachel Carter, Allen Carter, Lila Jennings, Mary Wahlmeier, Ken Carter and Jesse Carter.

In 2008, over 300 locations held wreath laying ceremonies in every state, Puerto Rico and 24 overseas cemeteries. Over 100,000 wreaths were placed on veterans' graves by 60,000 volunteers. Dec. 13, 2008, was unanimously voted by the U.S. Congress as "Wreaths Across America Day."

In 2010, Wreaths Across America and a national network of volunteers laid over 220,000 memorial wreaths at 545 locations in the United States and beyond. This included ceremonies at the Pearl Harbor Memorial, Bunker Hill, Valley Forge and the sites of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Native to direct puppet show

An Oberlin native, Ladd Wendelin, now an artist living in Lincoln, Neb., will direct "King Kong: The Puppet Show," a comedic one-act retelling of the classic 1933 monster movie, at the Bieroc Cafe, 312 Norris Ave. in McCook, at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 22.

The afternoon performance, which runs about 30 minutes, is free and open to the public. Donations will be taken.

Directed, designed and adapted for the puppet stage by Mr. Wendelin, "King Kong: The Puppet Show," features what he calls a unique mix of live action and puppetry. The show is appropriate for all ages and includes memorable moments from the film, not to mention a few surprises.

Joining Mr. Wendelin in performance will be puppeteers Spencer Wolfe and Michael Booton, as well as the vocal talents of actors and actresses.

The show follows the adventures of a floundering nature filmmaker, Carl Denham (played by Mr. Wendelin), who learns of a mysterious island in the South Pacific from a deranged sailor (Michael Booton). Having captivated a beautiful, unemployed actress (Amelia Barrett), Denham and his intrepid crew, including Captain Englehorn (Matthew Gee) and Ensign Jack Driscoll (Spencer Wolfe), set sail for Skull Island, home to savage natives, prehistoric beasts and the king of them all — a simian overlord known as Kong.

When Denham seizes the opportunity to capitalize on the great ape, Kong is whisked away to civilization, where he unleashes terror and mayhem with tragic results.

Mr. Wendelin, a 2000 graduate of Decatur Community High School, is the son of Joanne Wendelin of Oberlin and the late Norman Wendelin.

New Arrival

Tucker Andrew Spanier

Adam and Andrea Spanier of Oberlin are the parents of a son, Tucker Andrew Spanier, born at 8:13 p.m. Nov. 12, 2012, at No Greater Love Ministries Birth Center in Bird City. He weighed 10 pounds, 1 ounce and was 21 1/2 inches long. Attending midwives were Sara Sowers, Joanna Howard and Abby Howard. He has a sister, Evelyn, 4. Grandparents are Troy and Deb Marshall, Norcatur, and Allen and Deanna Langness, Goodland. Inez Jackson, Norcatur; Neil Marshall, Oberlin; and Marcelle Sloan, Mulvane, are his great-grandparents.

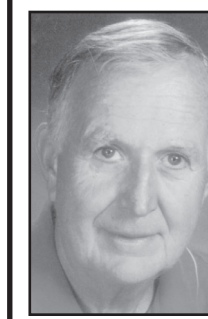


Tucker

Happy Birthday

The family of **Maxine Berls Shipley** requests a card shower for her 80th birthday on December 22nd.

Cards can reach her at P.O. Box 976, Hoxie, Kansas 67740.



Merry Christmas!

Thank you for the votes and encouragement.

Ward Cassidy
120th State Representative

Ad paid for by Cassidy for Representative, Mike Day Treasurer

Dennis and Judy Shirley invite friends and family to an **Open House December 28, 4-6 at The Gateway** honoring their daughter and husband **Vicki and Steve Ruggiero**, on their marriage August 14. The couple asks there be no gifts.