

# Events of Yesteryear

By Joan Betts

## 125 YEARS AGO — Jan. 1888

Fourteen below zero Sunday at sunrise.  
Jas. Blackley has taken charge of H. J. Potter's billiard hall.  
M.E. Mix shipped a carload of hogs to the Kansas City market Tuesday.

Fourteen final proofs were heard before the Land Office Tuesday.  
Geo. M. Miller was elected chairman of the board of county commissioners for the ensuing year. The county let the printing to C. Borin and the Eye was designated the official county paper.

The passenger train on the B.&M. now arrives at 3:37 p.m. instead of 9:45 a.m. as formerly. The B. & M. agent reports receipts of 902 carloads of merchandise during 1887 and outgoing shipments of 106 carloads. The three highest items in receipts were: 242 cars of coal, 198 of lumber and 147 of immigrant outfits. Outgoing shipments included: hogs, 28; cattle, 17; sheep, 18; wheat, 17, brick, 4.

E.D. Babcock, Wm. Ireland, Jas. A. Hughes and E.E. VanEpps are all putting up bountiful supplies of ice.

Oberlin has four banks with deposits subject to check to the amount of \$350,000.

## 100 YEARS AGO — Jan. 1913

T.E.G. Ransom Post of the G.A.R. held a big dinner and installation at the Hotel Benton-Smith Saturday at 1 p.m. Included among the speakers were: L.G. Parker (toastmaster) J.M. Chilson, Capt. J.W. Allen, Mrs. Jennie Dean, L.M. Parker, Lew E. Darrow J.A. Hughes, E.M. Coldren, H.A. Stowell, Mrs. Lydia Barnes, C.H. Paddock, Mrs. J.E. Allen, M.A. Ketchum, J.A. Redd, Conrad Scheler, James Jackson, George

Wyler and T.J. Spear, newly elected commander of the post.

Sunday, Monday and Tuesday acted considerable like winter with the mercury registering 8 below zero Tuesday morning.

W.A. Mount traded his Olive Township land for some fruit and alfalfa land at Artesia, New Mexico.  
George Kershner, proprietor of the Benton-Smith Hotel, sold his interest to Bertha and Fred Johnston.

At an adjourned meeting of the Decatur County Bar Association held Dec. 31, the following officers were chosen. F.F. Bliss, president; J.R. Correll, secretary; S.J. Morrish and Joseph H. Young, directors, for two years. The society owns 42 acres of land that is fully paid for and taxes paid for 1912.

## 75 YEARS AGO — Jan. 1938

Court House News: All clients of the Social Welfare Office who need warm coats should call at the office during the afternoons next week during which time a large supply of sturdy leather coats for children and men and women will be issued.

Funeral services were held this past week for two longtime residents of Decatur County, Mr. J.W. Railsback and his wife, Mrs. John (Mary Ann Dietz) Railsback both dying of pneumonia. During the years 1905-1908 Mr. Railsback served as sheriff of Decatur County and in 1917 was elected state representative for two terms and filled out a term as county clerk in 1926.

In a basketball game played at Norcat, the Norcat boys defeated Oberlin 33 to 21. The roster for Norcat was Bell, Craig, Anderson, Farwell, Ward, Clark and Witham while for Oberlin it was VanPelt, Ellis, Nelson, Adams,

Maddox, Bainter, Johnson, Bendon, Hague, Smick and Clausen. Both Smick and Clausen fouled out of the game. The first home game for Coach Paul Sandy's team will be next week with Norcat here.

Chris Jorn, a familiar face at the Oberlin National Bank and later the Decatur County National Bank, resigned Dec. 31 to pursue his agricultural interests.

Leoville: The Rev. Martin J. Schmidt is being transferred to Colby while the Rev. John J. Wolf of Delphos has been appointed to the Leoville parish. Father Schmidt has been pastor at Leoville for more than 30 years and during that period the rectory, convent, school and two churches have been built. The present church of the Immaculate Conception costing \$188,000 was erected after the former \$25,000 building was burned.

Miss Alice Aronson drove to Goodland to attend the dedication exercises for the new high school building at which Governor Huxman spoke.

Leoville: Helen Jo Karls of Leoville has a birthday on Christmas Day and this year she celebrated with a birthday party at which 16 girls were present. On New Year's Day, Mr. and Mrs. J.S. Schandler entered at a surprise dinner for their daughter, Virginia, in honor of her 11th birthday.

Liberty Star: Although a white Christmas would have been preferred, the beautiful day was appreciated by those who had drives to make.

## 50 YEARS AGO — Jan. 1963

Jim Carver has purchased Brown's Conoco Service on U.S. 36 from L.G. Brown. Brown plans to spend some time working with

his son, Joe, at Brown Motor Company.

Pester's Shoe Store is moving from 112 South Penn to the south half of the old post office building at 112 South Penn.

Decatur County Wheat Producers selected Henry Euhus, president; Jim Peters, vice president; Bartos Brown, treasurer and Gaylord Shields, secretary.

New Arrivals: Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord Shields, boy, Phil Lyman, Dec. 29, 1962, 7 pounds, 8 ounces; Mr. and Mrs. Stan Chapin, Wynewood, Penn., girl, Ranel Cathlene, Dec. 30, 1962, 7 pounds, 15 ounces.

Cadet Harold Cochran, James Wesch and Howard Benton have entered the advanced Air Force ROTC program at Kansas State University.

## 25 YEARS AGO — Jan. 1988

The newest bus to be built by Kansas Coach will be en route to Las Vegas this week where it will be displayed at Bus Expo '88.

Couples who are expecting babies in 1988 are assured that Decatur County physicians will continue to deliver babies at Decatur County Hospital. According to hospital administrator Charlie Myers, physicians associated with Oberlin Clinic have agreed to offer obstetrical care, all the while keeping a wary eye on what the Kansas Legislature will do with regard to anticipated increases in medical malpractice insurance.

Randall Braden, publisher of The Oberlin Herald, assumed duties Jan. 1 as president of the Oberlin Commercial Club and Russ Stanley, manager of Kelling's Fine Foods, will serve as vice president.

Dr. Robert Rachuiq delivered his first sermon as new pastor of first Southern Baptist Church in Oberlin on Sunday, Jan. 3. He and his wife, Joyce, are originally from Central, Texas.

Harold "Ole" Olson officially retired as postal clerk at the Oberlin post office Dec. 3. He first began working part-time in October 1959 when the post office was in the building at 159 South Penn where the Hobby Horse is now located.

Standing behind a counter and handling requests came naturally to Olson who during his time in the Air Force spent three years in France working in a supply depot. He has served under three postmasters, Gladys Miesner, Don Zimmerman and Gary Miller, the present postmaster.

## Midway News

By Mary Lou Olson

Christmas dinner guests on Dec. 23 at the home of Andy Hanson were Elizabeth Horney, Wichita; Christina Thompson, April Mul, Ava and Shane, and Scott Brown, Colby; and Brian and Jacque Hanson, Eddie, Gus, Raleigh, Katherine and Andy, Atwood.

Dinner guests of Jack and Mary Gutchewsky on Dec. 22, were Kendal and Tammy Neal, Katrina and Jimmy, Oberlin; Brian and Krista Gutchewsky, Gavin, Jena and Julian, Kearney, Neb.; and Sarah Uerling, Addy and Hayden, McCook.

Those who had Christmas dinner with Eulaine Benda at her home were Losson and Leanne Pike, Ashland; Gerald and Patti Benda, Ludell; Daryl and Shirley Maresch, Nathan, Jenna and Tim, Nekoma; Bev Messerly, Paul and Anna, Sublette; Mark and Barbara Olson and Spencer Rose, Hoxie; Mary Olson, Colby; Kurt Olson, Glendale, Ariz.; and Rachelle Scott, Hays.

Elden and Detta Anderson were hosts for Christmas Eve supper. Guests were Richard, Maureen, Samantha, Chris, and Gabe Anderson, and Gary Anderson, Oberlin, and Zach Hartwell, Norton. They all enjoyed the family tradition of "Aunt Wilma's Hawaiian Chicken."

Christmas supper guests of Keith and Mary Lou Olson on Wednesday were Rex Olson and Abbie, Boulder, Colo.; Seth Olson, San Francisco; Sam Olson, Greeley, Colo.; Sarah Shukert, Denver; Mark and Barbara Olson, Spencer Rose, Hoxie; Mary Olson, Colby; Kurt Olson, Glendale, Ariz.; Rachelle Scott, Hays; James and Kimberly Witt, Ashley and Whitney, and Tyler and Tiffany Witt, Trevor and Tessa, Oberlin; and Chris and Keely Wilson, Julie, Harmony, Derek, Noah and Luke, Minden, Neb.

Christmas Day guests of the Richard Anderson kingdom were Elden and Detta Anderson and Gary Anderson. Invited guests for some holiday cheer with the Richard Anderson family on Thursday were

Steve and Arian Arnold of rural Herndon, Mike and Nione Rhodin of Loveland Colo.; and Galen and Lynn (Chase) Olson, Oberlin.

Christmas Day dinner guests of Gary and Mary Ann Erickson were Dale and Debbie Withington, Hana, Ellie and Chloe, Chetopa; and Jeff and Tama Unger and Jacob, Rexford.

Norma Anderson returned home on Dec. 23 after enjoying the holidays with Robert and Carol Fink at Wamego. Additional guests were Austin and Emilie Fink, Wamego; and Beau and Ashley Skinner,

Bryan Texas.

Saturday dinner guests of Dick and Donna Kelley were Kirk Kelley, Davenport, Iowa; Sheldon and Brenda Kelley, Kendra and Jessica, Frederick, Colo.; Nathan, Payton and Mason Kelley and friend Mandi, and Seth, Chelsey and Brody Kelley, Topeka; Halley Robertson, Dallas; and Jan Hackney, Herndon.

Christmas weekend guests of the Richard Anderson family to enjoy a belated Christmas were Nick, Stephanie, Bryan and Cole Anderson of Lawrence.

## Cedar Living News

By Teresa Shaughnessy

We have had a wonderful holiday season at Cedar Living Center. The past two weeks have flown by with a flurry of festivities. I hope to include the most important highlights without leaving anything important out.

Myrna Jones and Mary Ann Amack led the last of our holiday sing-along programs on Monday, Dec. 17. We have had great fun singing along with all of our Christmas favorites.

Roberta Petracek donated bunches of yummy blarney stone cakes for the residents to enjoy during the holiday season.

We served them on more than one occasion, including following the bingo game on Dec. 18. Bingo volunteers Ila Ray, Caroline Jacobs, Dolores Koerperich and Mike Helm helped with serving the refreshments. Marguerite Bailey was the big winner at bingo that day, winning both the first game and the blackout game.

Residents and staff enjoyed a wonderful piano recital given by students of Cheryl Metcalf before supper on Tuesday afternoon. Each pianist played a favorite Christmas carol for an appreciative audience.

A Christmas potluck dinner was held at noon on Wednesday for residents and staff.

The dietary department provided the meat and table service and staff members from all areas of Decatur Health Systems brought in the side dishes. There was a mountain of good food and everyone reported having a great time sampling as many items as possible.

Several residents attended the reception held on Thursday afternoon in the Cedar Living Center dining room in honor of the retirement of longtime Decatur Health Systems employee Karol Styles. Cake, mints, nuts and punch were served.

The baking group made sugar cookies with red and green sprinkles in honor of the holiday season on Friday afternoon. The group met early so that the cookies could be in the oven before the program on Friday afternoon.

The residents were all smiles when Amy Carman and her children gave a musical program. There were piano pieces, vocal performances and even a little impromptu dancing by the children.

Pastor Nancy Proffitt of the Oberlin United Methodist Church was in charge of the Sunday worship service. She gave a Christmas reading and message and led residents in singing Christmas carols.

The Star Valley 4-H group met for caroling and a party at Cedar Living Center on Sunday afternoon.

The youth shared their hot chocolate and cookies with the residents who came out to listen to the music.

Christmas Eve was busy with finishing up delivering Christmas cards and packages. Santa had help from lots of staff members in leaving off a package for every resident.

Staff members have been helping to provide a special gift for Christmas morning for each resident for many years now at Decatur Health Systems.

We had lots of visitors on Christmas Day. Some residents did stay home on Christmas due to the weather, but they enjoyed a bountiful dinner here at the center.

Chocolate milk and cookies were a special treat during social hour the day after Christmas.

Due to Christmas being on a Tuesday, we did something that we rarely do at Cedar Living Center. We played bingo on Thursday instead of Tuesday. Everyone had a great time and Juanita Eckhart won the first bingo and Wanda Heller won the blackout game.

Helen Helm, with assistance from Mike, served chocolate chip cookies to the bingo players following the game on Thursday. The cookies were part of a gift that Helen had received and she opted to share them with everyone.

We have all been enjoying a lovely swag of fresh greenery donated to the Center by Kirk Brown of Raye's Grocery.

Staff members are all struggling with expanding waist lines after being so well treated by family members and friends of Cedar Living Center during this holiday season.

We have received many lovely donations of candies, cookies, and assorted other treats. We are grateful to be so well-remembered during the holidays.

Recent visitors: Israel, Hannah, Landon and Layton Jirak, Blanchard, Okla.; Aaron and Robie Helm, Fort Hood, Texas; Hester, Cohen and Cruise Bundrock, Fort Collins, Colo.; Jacob Helm, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo.; Kathy Shaffer, McCook; Ceanne and Martin Rinehart, Ogallala, Neb.; Kelly Olson, Manhattan; Bob Heller, Palco; Deb, Mike, Timothy and Matthew Helm, Rebecca Cox, Norcat.

Oberlin visitors: Robert and Penny Fringer, Dewaine Stapp, Lonnie and Mary McEvoy, Sherril Shuler.

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