

Events of Yesteryear

By Joan Betts

125 YEARS AGO — March 1888

Sunday evening a heavy rain storm set in which changed to hail about midnight and then changed to snow. The wind was blowing a gale, drifting the snow badly and thus it continued all day Monday and all travel was brought to a standstill. It was the worst storm of the season. Tuesday was warm and pleasant but the snow disappeared rapidly but the snow most effectually blocked the railroads and no mail arrived Monday or Tuesday.

Quite a number of prairie schooners put in to Oberlin the first of the week to escape the effects of the blizzard. The various mail and stage lines centering at this point sent out no stages Monday on account of the prevailing blizzard.

Our county officials are now occupying their new quarters in the Lathrop block.

John Cameron has moved his stock of goods from Shibboleth to Oberlin.

100 YEARS AGO — March 1913

Last Thursday morning it began to rain and kept it up most of the day. By midnight an old-time blizzard was in full progress and continued until early Saturday morning. The snow piled up on the west side of Main Street as bad as it has been in 28 years. No trains until Monday.

Both the public and high schools were dismissed Friday because of the blizzard.

H.Q. Banta, H.O. Caster and Judge Langmade were snowbound at Norton over the Sabbath.

Prairie Dog News: Bert Wernette was overtaken by the blizzard at the old W.C. Hoppas farm while en route from Oberlin with his household effects. George McCoy was assisting with the moving and both were compelled to hold up from Thursday until Sunday.

Tolle Hoppas met with quite an accident last Sunday evening while hanging up a set of harness behind a team of young mules. One of them landed a clean upper-cut to the lower part of his right shoulder blade and "Willie" went down for the count. Luckily, no bones were injured.

Harry S. Kennedy has again assumed editorial charge of the Beaver Valley Booster. We imagine it is a good thing to have a bank back of a newspaper in this western country.

75 YEARS AGO — March 1938

The entire community of Oberlin was shocked at the death of J.H. Young who died at his home on North Buffalo Avenue in his sleep. He would have been 68 in May

and Dr. Nelson determined that his death had occurred several hours earlier, heart trouble having taken its toll during peaceful slumber. He is survived by his wife, two sons, Joe of New Orleans and James of Topeka, and a daughter, Mrs. Uriel Goodrich, of this place. The Young family were engaged in real estate for many years and in recent years Mr. Young has served as district court reporter for Judge E.E. Kite.

A jury has been selected for the trial of Eugene Jones who is charged on two counts — robbery and larceny — in connection with the robbery of the Dresden State Bank on Dec. 14, 1937. Jury members are: Walter Castle, foreman; Fred J. Counter, Wm. Leitner, Glen Heller, C.W. Craig, Harold Barrett, Geo. Carstens, Fred Janousek, Eldon Adamson, A.E. Burg, E.W. Benton and Kenneth VanVleet.

Joe Jenkins of Selden was overjoyed last week to receive a letter from his sister, Mrs. Lizzie Wilson, from Knighton, Rodnorshire, Wales. He had not heard from her in 30 years and discovered that he still had two sisters and one brother living over there. He left Wales 60 years ago and hasn't seen any of his folks since. — Prairie Dog correspondent

Even old timers here are unable to remember more favorable crop weather so early in the season with another week of slow rain in amounts up to an inch in places.

The Oberlin City School Midgits took first place in the basketball tournament held at Grainfield Saturday.

Dresden: Our former depot agent, A.S. Hutchins and family, are returning to Dresden from Burlington, Colo., where he was transferred in November and he will resume his duties here.

Traer: A birthday party was held Sunday afternoon at the Carlisle home for Donald's 8th birthday. Cake and fruit salad were served.

Prairie Dog: Simonson Bros. trucked four loads of horses down to Beloit for a sale last week.

The annual party for the husbands of members of the Fairview Community Club was held March 10 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tolle Hoppas with 45 present - 24 members and 21 men. A potluck dinner was served at noon and a program followed.

50 YEARS AGO — March 1963

High winds roared across the Great Plains last Saturday causing considerable property damage. At Oberlin Airport winds were clocked

at 70-75 miles per hour with gusts up to 80. In downtown Oberlin display windows were blown out at Oberlin Motor Company and at the W. W. Sauvage building and many television antennas throughout the city and area were broken. Bob Rapp reported damage to the roof at Norcatur High School and the tin building owned by Arnold Jackson, Norcatur blacksmith, and to some grain bins in the area.

Approximately 2,176 Decatur Countians braved the roaring winds last Saturday afternoon to participate in the Type III Sabin oral polio vaccine clinics held in Jennings and Oberlin. Dr. Ken Bickford, Decatur County health officer, was disappointed in the turnout as the number was about 35 percent of those needing to be immunized to prevent an epidemic. Vaccine can still be obtained at Oberlin Clinic.

Harold Raburn, high school teacher and basketball coach at DCHS since 1961, has been promoted to assistant principal for the coming school year. He will receive his MA in administration in August from Colorado State College in Greeley.

Sacred Heart Church's newly installed "Marian" bells instrument which produces bell tones that can be heard throughout Oberlin, is a welcome addition to the city. Too bad it can't replace that cursed siren. — hdk

Funeral services were held for Wise Wiggins, 94, a resident of Decatur County for nearly 90 years. The Wiggins family came to this county in 1874 with a yoke of oxen, two horses, a small herd of sheep and a few cattle where they homesteaded in Grant Township. He was 9 years old at the time of the last Indian raid in Kansas and when word was received of the raid along the Sappa Creek, neighbors gathered together to defend themselves but the Indians did not continue their journey down the Sappa. He is survived by two daughters, Carolyn and Winifred, who still live on the home place.

Gary Young, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Young, and Jim Morford, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Morford, have been chosen by the Oberlin American Legion to represent DCHS at Boys State to be held in Wichita this summer.

25 YEARS AGO — March 1988

It's been nearly a year since Decatur County voters approved a bond issue to finance an addition to Decatur County Hospital and Long-Term Care and extensive remodeling.

Herndon News

By Julie Hafner

The "Casserole Chicks" met Saturday morning for their regular monthly brunch gathering at the Nadine Green farm home. They enjoyed a St. Patrick's Day theme with an Irish breakfast casserole, a ham quiche, blueberry coffeecake, cherry tarts, a fruit dish, mimosas, pineapple, fruit punch and coffee.

Those attending were: Rita Marintzer with guest Eileen Portschy; Destiny Schroeder; Jennifer Davis, baby Mason and her mother-in-law Shelly; and Cindi Sattler. Marita Portschy, Jeanne Tuma and Brittany were Nadine's guests.

The "missing chicks" were Peach Beims, Deb Portschy, Pam Stuczynski and Jacque Leitner. Baby Mason fared pretty well, being the only "male chick." He received lots of hugs and kisses. Rita Marintzer will host the next Chicks gathering at her home on Saturday, April 6.

Herndon received word of the death of Dwight Bartlett, a Herndon teacher and coach from 1949 to 1953. He died March 6 in Alamosa, Colo., at the San Luis Care Center at the age of 90. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Rogers Family Mortuary

in Alamosa. Jackie Votapka, Clifton, visited Bob and Julie Hafner on Wednesday afternoon after visiting family in Oberlin.

The Pride group will hold its annual Easter bake-sale and egg-hunt at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 30, in City Park. The drawing for the Easter baskets filled with goodies, one for men, and one for women will follow the children's hunt. The baskets are on display at The Bank in Herndon.

The schedule for St. Mary's Catholic Church Holy Week and Easter celebrations are: Palm Sunday, meet at the parish hall prior to the 8:30 a.m. Mass for distribution of palms and procession to the church; Holy Thursday Mass, 5:30 p.m.; Good Friday Mass, 3 p.m.; and Easter Sunday Mass, 8:30 a.m.

Area residents helped Hattie Toth of Atwood celebrate her 102nd birthday over the weekend and on Monday, Sunday afternoon, family enjoyed birthday cake and chocolate covered strawberries while singing to all those in the family celebrating birthdays this week.

Cedar Living News

By Teresa Shaughnessy

The annual Easter Egg hunt will be held in the Cedar Living Center dining room at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

All children are invited to attend. Each child should bring a small basket. It is important that the children arrive on time as the hunt is over very quickly.

We hope to see many little ones at this fun intergenerational event.

Monday was ironing day at Cedar Living Center. Several residents showed up to iron a few items or just watch and visit. We are all in agreement that ironing is much easier than in the old days plus we all have fewer items that need pressing.

Myrna Jones, Mary Ann Amack, and Dolores Koeperich led the sing-along time before supper on Monday. The group sang many favorite old hymns.

There was a big crowd at Bingo on Tuesday. The tables were full and the competition was fierce. Helpers included Mike Helm, Becky Cox, Caroline Jacobs and Ila Ray.

Pastor Charlotte Strecker-Baseler of the Faith Lutheran Church gave the monthly Communion service on the patio Tuesday afternoon.

Wednesday afternoon residents enjoyed sitting around the table reading *The Oberlin Herald* together.

Fr. Mark Berland had Mass for the Catholic residents on Thursday morning.

There were lots of winners at the dice game played on Thursday afternoon. Players included Marguerite Bailey, Everett Gerdes, Vern and Wanda Heller, Helen Helm, Beth Sebaugh, and Ann Szwesit. Snacks were served following the game.

Several residents enjoyed sitting

outside to enjoy the warm afternoon before supper on Thursday. Everett Gerdes even planted a few radishes.

The baking group met on Friday afternoon to make sugar cookies with green sugar on the top in honor of St. Patrick's Day. These extra large cookies were a big hit.

A large group of family members gathered on the Cedar Living Center patio at noon on Sunday to honor Floyd Lotker with a belated birthday celebration.

Alvina Gamblin celebrated her St. Patrick's Day birthday on Sunday. Family members brought in a special lunch.

The Rev. Roy Matthewson of the Lund Covenant Church gave the worship service on the patio on Sunday afternoon. Following the service residents met for a St. Patrick's Day social hour complete with green candy and mint chocolate chip ice cream as well as stories about St. Patrick. Residents wore shamrocks on Sunday that were made by the craft group.

Recent visitors include: Linda Bosler, Herndon; Wava Reames, Timothy, Deb, Matthew, and Mike Helm, Norcatur; Margaret Rhodes and Lillian Sulzman and Carol Rhodes, Dresden; Tom Votapka and Terri Hanke, Jennings; Tara Larson, Colby; Ceanne Rinehart, Ogallala, Neb.; Izzy Erickson, Chase and Amy, Tecumseh; and Delpha Sis, Jarett and Rose Marie Sis, Atwood.

Marilyn Gamblin, Marla Wozniak, Varlan and Catherine Neal, Dolores Koeperich, Robert Fringer, Kary Miller, Jamie Miller, Leon Miller, Phyllis Screen, Sherri Shuler, Laurie and Jim Wasson.

Good Samaritan Center

By Whitney True

Don't forget, the Good Samaritan Hoedown is on Saturday.

We invite you to join us with a corporate or individual sponsorship. Individual tickets are \$30. As always, proceeds from the event will be used for projects throughout the year for the Good Samaritan Society and our residents.

The deadline to buy your ticket is today. Tickets will not be available at the door, so go ahead and give us a call. We need your support and who would pass up an opportunity for fun at a good old-fashioned hoe down, Northwest Kansas style.

For additional information contact Cindi Sloan Sauder at (785) 475-2245 or mail to: csauder@good-sam.com.

Whoever said it's in the small things that we feel the joy of life was right. We try to keep this in the

forefront of our minds and hearts when planning activities. Everyone can relate to the power that laughter can bring to an otherwise gloomy or dull day. Proverbs 17:22 says "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones."

In devotions this week we have challenged one another to find one way each day to be "merry," the residents know that laughter makes them feel better and helps them to focus on the positive. One of our residents said that "we have to exercise our funny bone — just like we do everything else."

In other news this week, we celebrated the birthdays of Marilou Long, Elden Haas, Woody May, Galen Tacha and Evelyn Olson. Our S.T.A.R.S. committee threw a St. Patty's Day shindig on Friday.

This weekend we played Bingo. One thing for sure is our competitive nature gets better with age. Myrtle Waldo and Amy Rehm went head to head and Betty May was hooting and a hollering with each Bingo she scored. What humor she always brings to everyone. Our residents gave their Bingo winnings to our fund for the food bank. In our first week we have raised close to \$20 and we have three weeks to go.

Our residents went a little mad with science experiments as we made a mini volcano and silly putty. If you've ever seen a child get silly with putty, our residents were no different.

To top it all off, we had a men's luncheon where we served home-cooked chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, Brookfield corn and brownies. Yum.

We think our residents are enjoying the variety of fun stuff we are trying out these days. We are certainly in need of additional volunteers and would love for anyone

to join our family through volunteer work. Remember that it doesn't have to be a weekly commitment. We are just looking for new faces and friendly, caring conversation. Give us a call or stop by if you think you could be interested. No obligation. We promise.

As always, we say thanks to our faithful volunteers for all their time and big hearts.

Visitors included: Phyllis Metcalf for social hour, Cheryl Miller for Loren Schrock; Reva Marshall, Dixie Snyder, Tara Larson and Penny Fringer for Dorothy Hunt; Sharon Slabaugh for Opal Bryan; Nadine Tacha and Lois Heilman for Galen Tacha; Connie and Gerald Olson for Evelyn Olson; Danielle Richard and Ayden Long for Phil Erickson; Ann Mines for Marilou Long and Leona Helmcamp; Loretta Caffe and Desiree Bates, Becky and Dylan Cantwell and Marcella Capps and Reta Barrett for Margaret Vacura.

Lyle News

By Veda Wood

Easter sunrise services will be held Sunday, March 31, on the east side of the Lyle Church at 7:15 a.m.

Charles Keller has agreed to have the service. Breakfast will follow at the Community Building. Hope to see you all. It's a good idea to dress warm.

Toots Magers was a guest at the birthday party for Cassie Browning, held at Lynn Scrivner's home with the family of the former Martha Scrivner. They had supper and played games.

June Jolly is taking advantage of the swimming pool at the McCook YWCA these days as they are planning to close it for repairs soon. She went to Indianola, Neb., on Wednesday for cards and 'fries'. She won third in pinochle on Friday.

Teresa Wood's news from her tests was not altogether good, but no cancer, which was the biggest concern.

Dwight is having neurological tests, and is going to see a doctor in Lincoln, Neb., on Wednesday.

Babe Hawkins was hostess for Liberty Star Club on Wednesday. Toots Magers, Kathy Van Meter, Sandy Gade, Carol Moye, and Veda Wood helped with the good time and delicious food. All members were there except Carolyn Plotts who is on a trip to Guatemala, and Joyce Price, who had company that day.

Kathy Van Meter and Lloyd Frandsen drove through some snow and rain Saturday evening on their way to Oberlin, where they watched the show, the Euphoria Stringband Concert. They enjoyed the five instrument string band very much.

I finally made it to the Norcatur free movie, and was impressed by how much it was like the old movie theater. Don Knotts is always funny. Loved the popcorn, too.

Mount Pleasant News

By Dianne Bremer

The Kansas State USA Gymnastics Championships, hosted by Pinnacle Gymnastics of Shawnee, was held March 15 to 17 at Baker University in Baldwin City.

Rielly Rittmann, daughter of Butch and Colleen Rittmann, Shawnee, and the granddaughter of Ralph and Norma Unger of Oberlin, represented Pinnacle and competed in the level 7, age 12 group. She took seventh place in vault with 9.55, first in uneven bars with 9.45, sixth on the balance beam with 9.425 and sixth in floor exercise with 9.5.

She claimed the state bars championship and was second in the all-around with a 37.925. There were 17

gymnasts in her group. Her level 7 team of four girls placed fourth.

This was very tough competition and the last meet of the season. Congratulations, Rielly, on a job well done.

The Decatur Community High School annual school play, "Dr. Evil and the Basket of Kittens", will be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 13, and again at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 14. Among the characters are Alexandra Waterman as Archduchess Arsenica and Garrett Scott as Lord Warhammer. Portraying author Mary Shelley, Elizabeth Nedland will be one of two narrators for the play.



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