# **Oberlin Arts Council to have** historical tour of Jennings

The Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission will offer its annual history tour on Sunday, April 27, visiting Dresden, Clayton and Jennings. This is the second of a series of stories about the three fine place to grow up .." communities. For details, call Ella Betts, (785) 475-3557 or Mary Henzel, (785) 470-0218.

#### By Mary Lou Olson Oberlin Herald

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In Jennings, which once boasted more than 400 residents, a lot of people remember Saturday nights, when everyone came to town and enjoyed treats at the Hardesty Drug Store.

Mildred (Allen) Tacha, 96, said she moved to Jennings in 1920 with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Allen, and has many happy memories of growing up there. When her family moved there, she said, Jennings was a thriving town.

"My dad bought the creamery and continued in that business until he died in 1958," said said. "Farmers brought their cream and eggs to town to sell, and then bought groceries. Saturday night was especially busy, with the town full of people.

"We had movies on Saturday night and occasionally live groups entertained. These were all held in the opera house, the building which later became the Masonic Hall and is now part of the Czech Museum.

"We had active, successful sports teams, both girls and boys, clubs, class parties, music and many activities. which the community supported. Jennings also had active clubs, including the Tuesday Study Club, Fine Arts Club, lodges and church activities.

"After I married Julius "Punch" Tacha, I belonged to the Golden Rule Club, which met in members' homes for potlucks, fancy work and quilting for members.

"Jennings was a fine place to grow up, gain a good education, raise a family and form lifelong friendships.

"I have many fond memories of the elaborate programs, luncheons and dinners hosted by Mrs. C. E. (Ura) Feely. Holidays were always special because of her work.

played in a city band that enter- up north of town - no electricity, tained in the bandstand on the running water or indoor plumbcorner of the city square. Dances ing. We did have warm bricks at to 12 students, and the last year, were held many Saturday nights in the opera house. My mother would go with me as a chaperone so I could dance.'



who was reared at Kanona, said. "I remember well when I went to Jennings with Mama. Her parents, John and Laura Guy, operated a cafe on the east side of Main Street, and she would leave me there while she did her trading.

"I loved to cross the street and push my nose on the screen door at the pool hall. The fellows sitting outside would always tell the owner, 'The Pill is here,' then he would come out and tell me, 'Nice girls don't go in here.' He would give me as nickel and I would go to Hardesty's Drug Store, climb up on the tall stool and get a big ice cream cone."

She said she also remembers going to quilting bees in Jennings. She said she loved lying below the quilting frame and watching the needles come through, and she often fell asleep while the women were talking in the rhythmic Czech language.

A lifetime resident, William Carter said, "Our older brother, 'Carney,' had the Home Oil bulk business. When he died, my twin brother Willard and I bought out his share from his widow Hazel. Jess Tacha was also in the partnership, and when we went to the service (during World War II), he took over the business.

"We were fortunate to stay together the whole time we were in the army. Before we went overseas in 1943, we married sisters Rachel and Naomi Carlton. When we returned home from Europe, we bought back into the business. "When Jess retired in 1951, we bought his share. then added propane and changed the name to

Home Oil and Gas Co. Later, we purchased a service station in Jennings and added that to the business

"I was born in this community and had a business interest, as well as family to come home to, so it just seemed the right thing to do.

Galen Carper, who returned to "Moritz Nauer organized and Jennings to retire, said, "I grew the foot of the bed at Grandma's. "School days were the best; graduating in 1945 and missing verv few alumni banquets. Four of the class of '45 live here in Jennings: Eugene and Dona (Wiley) Mrstik, Larry Mizer and myself. "Granddad John Tacha had a nine-hole golf course in his pasture. Being left-handed, I played the course with a putter. Didn't count strokes.

Jennings was laid out. Slab City was relocated and the town named after Mr. Jennings.

The same day, the post office closed in Slab City and opened in Jennings. The city was incorporated on Oct. 4, 1906, with a population of 265. At its peak, the town boasted some 450 residents, but the present population is only about 100.

Dr. H.O. Hardesty and Dr. A. Jeffries both served the town for over 50 years. Dentists were Dr. Litton and Dr. Ligget. Churches have included Baptist and Methodist

George W. Shook came from Almena and started the first newspaper, the Jennings Echo, in 1888. The last paper, the Journal-Advocate, was operated by Norine Bailey and Alice Wagoner, who later sold it to Richard Rippe in the middle 1970s. It ceased publishing in shortly thereafter.

The Jennings City Hall was built in 1936 and 1937 by the federal Works Progress Administration, under the supervision of J.S. Flaska, at a cost of \$18,000. Rock for the stone building was brought from the A.M. Brock farm southeast of Jennings; he was paid 15 cents per wagon load. The basement has been remodeled into a modern senior center.

An ambulance building houses the ambulance and a clinic, and Dorothy Vacura, a registered nurse, is there each Monday to see patients. Jennings became known for its Kolache Festivals, featuring the Czech pastry, which were held from 1965 to 1971. Today, many are attracted to Jennings to visit the Czech Museum, operated by Heritage Associates of Jennings with help from the county.

Friendship Village Housing was completed in 1980 with eight units. It was owned by the City of Jennings until 2008, when it sold and is now used for rental apartments.

The Jennings School District organized March 12, 1880, and a frame school was built in 1888, which was used for 35 years. It was replaced by a brick building in 1922. An addition in 1953 included a gymnasium, plus vocational agriculture and music rooms.

The school board voted to dissolve the district in 2005, then the territory was divided among the Norton, Hoxie and Oberlin districts. Attendance for preschool and elementary school had fallen

# **TV LISTINGS**

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# **WEEKDAYS**

# APRIL 22 - APRIL 28

	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
KLBY/ABC	Good Morning Kansas		Good Morning America				The Martha Stewart Show		The View		Million- aire	News
KSNK/NBC 8 8	News Cont'd		Today						Live With Regis and Kelly		Today	
KBSL/CBS	News Cont'd		The Early Show			The 700 Club		The Price Is Right		The Young and the Restless		
K15CG 2	Busi- ness	Body Electric	Curious George	Clifford- Red	Super Why!	Dragon Tales	Big Big World	Word World	Sesame S	treet	Caillou	Barney- Friends
ESPN 28	SportsCenter				Sports- Center	Varied	SportsCenter		SportsCenter		Varied Programs	
USA (37)	JAG		JAG Monk			Walker, Texas Ranger		Walker, Texas Ranger		Movie		
TBS 38	Saved by Bell	Saved by Bell	Saved by Bell	Saved by Bell	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Movie			Home Improve.	Home Improve.	
WGN 39	Chang- ing	Believer Voice	Hillbil- lies	Hillbil- lies	Matlock		Nash Brid	lges	Nash Bridges		Homicide: Life on the Street	
TNT 40	Angel		Charmed		Charmed		ER		ER		Las Vegas	
DSC (42)	Paid Program	Life Today	Joyce Meyer	Paid Program	How It's Made	They Do It?	Cash Cab	Cash Cab	Deadliest	Catch	How It's Made	They Do It?
A&E (47)	Third Watch		Crossing Jordan Crossing		Jordan	lan The Sopranos		American Justice		Cold Case Files		
HIST (48)	Varied Programs											
NICK (55)	OddPar- ents	OddPar- ents	Spon- geBob	Dora the Explorer	Backyar- digans	Go Diego	Wonder Pets	Dora the Explorer	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Yo Gabba	Dora the Explorer	Go Diego
DISN 56	The Wiggles	Higgly- town	Ein- steins	Mickey Mouse	Handy Manny	Tigger & Pooh	Bunny- town	Charlie & Lola	Doodle- bops	Koala Bro	Lilo & Stitch	Little Mermaid
FAM 58	Sister, Sister	Sister, Sister	Sabrina- Witch	Sabrina- Witch	Step by Step	Living the Life	The 700 Club		Gilmore Girls		Full House	Full House
HALL 60	Paid Paid Program Program		The Waltons		The Waltons		Little House on the Prairie		Little House on the Prairie		Touched by an Angel	

## **WEEKDAYS**

**APRIL 22 - APRIL 28** 

	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
KLBY/ABC	All My Children		One Life to Live		General Hospital		Million- aire	Judge Judy	News	Judge Judy	News	ABC Wid News
KSNK/NBC 8 8	News		Days of our Lives		The Ellen DeGeneres Show		The Insider	Extra	Jeop- ardy!	Jeop- ardy!	News	NBC News
KBSL/CBS	News Bold, Beautiful		As the World Turns		Guiding Light		Dr. Phil		Oprah Winfrey		News	Evening News
K15CG (2)	Reading Rainbow	Teletub- bies	Varied Programs			Lions	Cyber- chase	Arthur	Maya & Miguel	Fetch! With	Cliff Pup	Busi- ness
ESPN 28	Sports- Center	Varied	Outside- Lines	Sports- Center	Varied Programs		NFL Live	Rome- Burning	Around the Horn	Interrup- tion	SportsCe	nter
USA 37	Movie Cont'd	Varied	Movie				Monk	Monk		Varied Programs		
TBS (38)	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Just Shoot	Just Shoot	Yes, Dear	Yes, Dear	King of Queens	King of Queens	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Friends	Ray- mond
WGN (39)	WGN News at Noon		Matlock		America's Home Vid		Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Sister, Sister	Sister, Sister	Funniest Pets	Funnies Pets
TNT (40)	Without a Trace		Law & Order		Law & Order		Charmed		Charmed		Law & Order	
DSC (42)	Varied Programs		A Haunting		A Haunting		Deadliest Catch		It Takes a Thief		Cash Cab	Cash Cab
A&E (47)	CSI: Miami		Crossing Jordan		Crossing Jordan		The Sopranos		American Justice		Cold Case Files	
HIST (48)	Modern Marvels Varied Programs											
NICK (55)	Backyar- digans	Wow! Wubbzy!	Spon- geBob	Spon- geBob	Varied Programs			Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	Spon- geBob	Spon- geBob	
DISN (56)	Ameri- can Drgn	Kim Possible	Emperor New	Replace- ments	Varied Pro	ograms			•			
FAM (58)	Sister, Sister	Sister, Sister	Sabrina- Witch	Sabrina- Witch	Full House	Full House	What I Like	What I Like	Gilmore G	àirls	8 Simple Rules	Varied
HALL	7th Heaven		7th Heaven		Little House on the Prairie		Little House on the Prairie		M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H

**APRIL 22** 

**APRIL 23** 

When Czech families came to the silent movies, she said, their kids would read the subtitles to the parents, since most had not learned English.

"When I was growing up," said Mrs. Tacha's daughter, Kay Brown, "Jennings was full. Houses were occupied, Main Street was busy. I loved to go to my Granddad Allen's creamery and watch him candle eggs, test cream and dress turkeys.

"We had Noone Hardware, where a dusty stuffed eagle sat on the shelf. There was Feely's Dry Goods, with piles of overalls and blue shirts. We were privileged to have grocery stores, a locker plant, restaurants and a pool hall, where we high school girls once played pool after choir practice, much to the chagrin of our parents, and the wonderful drug store.

"I feel so fortunate to have spent my growing-up years on a farm near Jennings. We had good, caring teachers, solid citizens and a strong sense of community. We played cards, danced and had a strong Youth Fellowship at the church."

Marjorie (Shimmick) Hartzog said, "I remember how eager my sisters and I were to go to Jennings with our parents on Saturday nights during the summer. We would deliver the cream and eggs to the creamery and then go to the grocery store to do our week's grocery shopping, or trading, as our mother called it.

"The town would be full of people and cars, so often it was difficult to find a place on the Main Street to park. Each of us Shimmick girls were given a dime to spend, which usually bought us Chum gum, licorce Nibs, candied watermelon slices, other penny candy, or ice cream cones.

our parents "Occasionally were willing to stay in town long enough for us to attend the movie in the Jennings Community Building."

"What do I miss the most now? Family get-togethers."

"Losing our school was bad, but after touring BCI's new plant, I think the future of Jennings is really bright.'

### Jenning history

Jennings is on K-383 highway on the southeast corner of Decatur County. As early as 1870, settlers began to locate along the Prairie Dog Creek.

According to Harwood Kolsky, "hard times in Europe, the hope for a good life in America, including the possibility of owning land, and the desire for religious freedom brought the early Bohemian settlers to the Big Timber (Creek) area."

The threat of being drafted into the Austrian army at age 18 prompted many younger men to come to this country.

In 1862, the Homestead Act provided that for a \$10 filing fee, a citizen, or anyone who was 18 or head of a household and took out citizenship papers, could receive 160 acres of land by living on it for five years.

Warren Jennings and his family arrived from Iowa and homesteaded on the Prairie Dog about a mile east and half a mile north of what is now Jennings. They built a two-story house with the lumber brought from Fort Kearney, Neb., by team and wagon.

In 1874, he established a small trading post at the farm. On Oct. 22, 1874, a post office was established there under the name Slab City with Walter Hopkins as the first postmaster.

In 1888, though, the main line of the Rock Island Railroad cut across the southeast corner of the Regina (Wennihan) Henrickson, county, and the present city of

there were no high school classes. Junior and senior high students were sent to Oberlin or Hoxie.

"We were very pleased and fortunate that after the school closed, the school building was purchased by Bus and Coach International of Chino, Calif., to be used as a listing and office headquarters," said Mrs. Tacha. "The company manufactures the Falcon 45 Motorcoach. The operation is moving along quite nicely and with time, the facility will be in full swing." Perhaps Kay Brown sums up

the feelings of residents the best: "Jennings may be smaller now, but the core flames of pride and community spirit still burn brightly."

### Public Notice

# IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DEBORAH A. STEPPER, Deceased CASE NO. 2008-PR-17

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS

You are hereby notified that on April 8, 2008, a Petition for Probate of Will and Issuance of Letters Testamentary was filed in this Court by Cynthia K Stepper, an heir, devisee and legatee, and Executo named in the Last Will and Testament of Deborah A Stepper, deceased

All creditors of the above named decedent are no tified to exhibit their demands against the estate within four months from the date of first publication of this Notice, as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited they shall be forever barred

Cynthia K. Steppe Michael H. Haas

ttorney at Law 21 Main - Box 407	
loxie, Kansas 67740 85-675-3762	

(Published in the Colby Free Press April 14, 21 and 28, 2008.)

> We want your local news e-mail to pdecker@nwkansas.com

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## IUESDAY

#### 6 PM 6:30 7 PM 7:30 8 PM 8:30 9 PM 9:30 10 PM 10:30 11 PM 11:30 Dancing With the Stars (Live) (CC) News (N) (CC) Boston Legal The Court Supreme (CC) News (N (CC) **lightline** N) **(CC)** Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) (CC) KLBY/ABC Enter-Accord-Accord-46 ainmen ng-Jim ng-Jim aw & Order: SVU The Tonight Show With Jay Leno (CC) Wheel of Outra-Saturday Night Live Sketches News (N News (N (SNK/NBC Late Night jeous 88 Fortune eature Chris Farley. (CC) ICIS Int N) (CC) nal Affairs Big Brother 9 (N) Inside Edition Late Show With David Letterman lews (N) CC) 8 Hours Mystery CC) lews (N CC) Late Late 12 11 The NewsHour Doctors Second-Nova Car of the Frontline Globa Independent Lens Charlie Rose (N K15CG With Jim Lehrer (N on Call Health uture (CC) (DVS) CC) CC) varming Baseball Tonight (Live) (CC) ESPN E:60 (N) NFL Live ootball Baseball Tonight (Live) (CC) SportsCenter SportsCenter (Live) (CC) 28 .ive Live) Special (Live) Law & Order: Criminal Intent NCIS Termi Leave (CC) USA 37 Monk A man who is aw & Order: SVU Law & Order: SVU Law & Order: SVU ressed as Santa. TBS 38 Ray-mond Ray-mond Familv Famil Family Family Γhe Frank TV Sex and Sex and Movie: Guy (CC) Guy (CC) Office Guy (CC) Guy (CC) Office the City the City America's Funnies Home Videos (CC) WGN News at Nine Scrubs Corner Gas WGN Funniest Funniest Funniest Pets Pets Pets Pets Scrubs Becker (CC) 39 Pets N) (CC) CC) (CC) Law & Order Standoff (CC) (DVS) BA Basketball: First Round TNT (40) Teams TBA. (Live) BA Basketball: First Round eams TBA. (Live (CC) How It's How It's Made Made Deadliest Catch A Numbers Game (N) Deadliest Catch A Numbers Game **Deadliest Catch** The Alaska Deadliest Catch DSC (42) Experiment (N) striking Out striking Out The First 48 Easy Prey; Widowmaker CSI: Miami Payba The First 48 Easy A&E (47) Sim Sim Sim Sim Sim-Sim rey; Widowmake (CC) mons mons mons mons mons mons HIST 48 The Universe Gravity (N) (CC) Ax Men The Close Call (CC) Modern Marvels The Universe (CC) The Naked The Universe (CC) Archaeologist (CC) (CC) NICK 55 George Lopez Drake & Drake & Home Home Georg Lopez Fresh Fresh Prince lome Home Zoey CC) Josh Josh eBob Improve Prince mprove Improve Improv DISN That's-Raven Zack & Hannah Zack 8 Movie: Johnny Kapahala That's-Life Wit Hannah Replace-Kim Possible Back on Board (2007) (CC) Montana Cody Raven Derek Cody Montana nents Ground-America's Funniest America's Funniest Home Videos (CC) The 700 Club (CC) Greek F Ground eshman (58) ed-Life led-Life Home Videos (CC) Daze **(CC)** Walker, Texas Ranger (CC) Walker, Texas Ranger (CC) Movie: Little House: The Last Farewell \*\*<sup>1/2</sup> (1984, Drama) *Michael Landon.* (CC) Murder, She Wrote Murder in Milan (CC) HALL Murder, She Wrote Family Secrets (CC) 60

# WEDNESDAY

#### 7 PM 11 PM 11:30 6 PM 6:30 7:30 8 PM 8:30 9 PM 9:30 10 PM 10:30 KLBY/ABC Enter-Wife Swap Stockdale/Tonkovic **News** (N) (**CC) Supernanny** Schrage Family **(CC)** Men in Trees Kiss and Don't Tell (CC) News (N CC) lightline ∖) (CC) Jimmy K (N) (CC) tainmen Deal or No Deal A New York salesman tries his luck. (N) (CC) Law & Order Burn Card (N) (CC) lews ( Wheel of The Tonight Show With Jay Leno (CC) NK/NBC lews Late Night 88 Fortune Big Brother 9 Eviction. (Live) (CC) CSI: NY The Thing About Heroes (CC) Late Show With David Letterman News ( (CC) Inside Criminal Minds 3rd Late Vews Edition ife (CC) ate 12 11 (CC) Secrets of the Dead National Geographic's Strange Days on Aztec Massacre (N) Planet Earth (Season Premiere) (N) (CC) The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N) Charlie Rose (N) (CC) K15CG BBC As Time Aztec Massacre (N) World Goes By SportsCenter (Live) (CC) MLB Baseball: Teams to Be Announced. (Live) (CC) ESPN aseball Tonight Fast-Baseba (28) Live) **(CC)** break Tonight USA 37 Law & Order: Criminal Intent Movie: How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days \* Romance-Comedy) Kate Hudson. (CC) Law & Order: SVU Law & Order: SVU (2003 Law/Ord SVU Ray-mond Family Family House Guy (CC) Guy (CC) Payne TBS (38) Ray-mond House of House of louse of House of Friends Sex and Sex and Friends (CC) Payne Payne the City the City ayne Corner Corner Beck Gas (CC) Gas (CC) (CC) Becker (CC) WGN America's Funnies Becker VGN News at Nine Scrubs (CC) Scrubs Corner Home Videos (CC) (CC) N) (CC) (CC) Gas TNT (40) Law & Order Thin Ice (CC) (DVS) NBA Basketball: First Round NBA Basketball (CC) eams (Live) Round eams TBA. (Live CC) How It's How It's Made MythBusters Alaska DSC Extreme How It's Asseml Assem-How It's Extreme Engineering (CC) Engineering (CC) (42) pecial (N) (CC) bly Reg. bly Req. Made Made CSI: Miami The Score (CC) CSI: Miami (CC) CSI: Miami Dead A&E CSI: Miami Dead CSI: Miami Simple CSI: Miami Dispo Voman Walking (47) Woman Walking //an (**CC**) Dav (CC) Modern Marvels Harvesting (CC) UFO Hunters UFO Vortexes (CC) UFO Hunters Alien Contact (CC) HIST (48) UFO Hunters UFO Files Majestic UFO Hunters 2: UFO Coverup Reverse Engineer everse Engine NICK 55 Zoey 10 (CC) Drake & Josh George Lopez George Lopez Drake & Spon-Home Home Fresh Fresh lome Home losh eBob Improve Prince nprove mprove mprove DISN Hannah Zack & Movie: The Country Bears \*\* Life With Derek Zack & Hannah That'slhat's-Replace (im Cody Possible Montana Cody 2002) Christopher Walken Raven laven Montana nents Movie: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory \*\*\* (1971) Gene Wilder. FAM America's Funnies Iome Videos (CC) 5:00) Movie: Willy The 700 Club (CC) Nhose Whose (58 /onka \_ine? HALL 60 Walker, Texas Ranger (CC) Movie: Mickey Blue Eyes **\*\***<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> (1999 Romance-Comedy) Hugh Grant. Murder, She Wrote The Mole (CC) Walker, Texas Murder, She Wrote Ranger (CC) (CC)