



**THE TORNADO**, which cut a devastating path east of Oberlin on April 30, 1942, left 14 dead, stripped and uprooted trees and caused thousands of dollars in damages to farmsteads.

# Killer

By MARY LOU OLSON

Irel Lohoefer of Oberlin was a young farm wife and mother when the 1942 tornado, termed the county's worst tragedy, struck without warning on April 30, killing several neighbors and friends.

Mrs. Lohoefer and her husband, Harold, and their 4-year-old son, Jerry, lived on a farm about two miles northeast of Oberlin. She said the day before the storm, the weather was so warm that she had let her 300 baby chicks out, cleaned out the brooder house, then washed the windows of their home.

"We didn't get the screens back on, however, so there was no protection from the glass when the storm struck that night," she recalled.

Before going to bed, she said she looked out the window and saw the tornado when the lightning flashed, so she awakened her husband and they grabbed their son and went to the basement.

When they opened the flat basement door after the storm, they realized all of the outbuildings were gone. All the baby chicks were gone, but the old hens, who were in a building in an embankment, survived, as did the cattle.

Her husband went to town to get their hired man. Coming back home, they drove by the Gus Leinwetter home and there was nothing left.

After searching the place, the men found that the whole family, Gus and his wife; their two

## *The Dresser Spring Fashion Show* *"Blooming Into Spring"*

Sunday, April 6, 2003

2:30 p.m. at The Gateway in Oberlin

\$2 ticket available at The Dresser or at the door.

Proceeds of ticket sales donated to Oberlin Tree Committee. Join us for an afternoon of fashion, fun, food and entertainment.

See our booth at the Great Northwest Farm, Home and Recreation Show on the 5th and 6th.

152 S. Penn Ave. – Oberlin – 785-475-3407

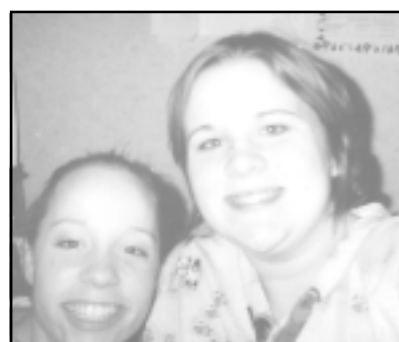
The  
Dresser

## "Decatur Good Samaritan Center Opens New Doors to Choices in Senior Life"

"Life in the New Neighborhoods Create Diversity and Smiles"

### New Neighborhoods

"Angel Lane and Country Reflections" offer:



Senior 2003 Smiles: Jenny Swart and Becky Moore.

- Skilled Nursing Environment 24 hours a day
- Bringing Senior Independence to a New Level
- Home base decision involvement with learning circles
- Intergenerational interaction with Child Day care children, teens and other senior volunteers
- Medicare Certified Skilled Nursing Facility
- Daycare and Respite Care Services

Garrah Gaumer, Elder from Country Reflections quotes: "I respect the young people here, they are encouraging, patient and truly devoted to caring for others."

*A smile worth remembering.*

Building Social Core Values and providing: "A Home Away From Home"



Decatur County  
Good Samaritan  
Center

*In Christ's Love, Everyone Is Someone.*

108 East Ash — Oberlin, Kan. (785) 475-2245

## *We're YOUR one stop shop!*

\* Full line convenience store

\* Sinclair gas station  
(785) 475-3090

*and not to mention an*



ALL AMERICAN FOOD™

\* Daily 99c specials \* Home of the Root Beer Float

\* Flavor Burst Ice Cream \* Dine In, Carry Out, Drive Thru  
(785) 475-3096

*Top of the Hill, Hwy 36 — Oberlin*