

AT THE CROSSROADS

Herndon schools seeking a partner

Oberlin board not sure voters ready to give up their mascot and traditions

By **KIMBERLY BRANDT**
The Oberlin School Board says it would welcome students from Herndon coming here to school, but the members agreed they aren't interested in "true" consolidation where the larger district would lose its identity.

The board answered 10 questions from the Herndon School Board during a special meeting Thursday night.

The board decided to hold the special meeting to prepare for a joint meeting Monday night with the Herndon board, which is looking at three neighboring districts for a possible merger.

The weighted enrollment for budget purposes at Herndon has shrunk to about 85 students from more than 110 eight years ago, giving the district less money to work with, especially with recent cuts from the state.

The merger candidates are Oberlin, Atwood and Golden Plains. Herndon Superintendent Kim Juenemann said the board has already met with Atwood but the meeting with Golden Plains had to

Merger roundup

At a special meeting Thursday night, the Oberlin School Board:

- Prepared for their meeting Monday night with the Herndon School Board by discussing questions about a possible merger of the two districts. Story at right.

- Agreed that they aren't interested in "true" consolidation with the Herndon District, which essentially it starting over with a new district. Story below.

be postponed until 7 p.m. Wednesday in Selden.

The Herndon School District starts at the county line west of Traer and is completely in Rawlins County. There is a small part in the southeast corner of the county that is in the Golden Plains District.

Drive time, it is the same from Herndon to either Oberlin and Atwood, said Superintendent Juenemann.

Herndon's one school building houses kindergarten through 12th grade, with just over 90 kids enrolled. The state figures there are 11.9 certified staff, with 10.4 of them being teachers.

Oberlin Superintendent Kelly Glodt said he and board clerk Vickie Lippelmann had been putting together numbers to form a packet for the Herndon board. The numbers show everything from Oberlin's enrollment to the budget to how many teachers there are per student.

Questions the Herndon Board wanted to have answered varied from keeping the school in Herndon open for a few more years to salaries to transportation.

Oberlin board members went through each question and discussed what they may say at the joint meeting.

The first question dealt with keeping the school in Herndon (See HERNDON on Page 12)

Board here surprised by question on name

There was complete silence as the Oberlin School Board members listened and read question No. 6 from the Herndon School District on Thursday.

The question: "Discuss ideas, regarding district name, mascot and colors."

The Herndon board wants to know if Oberlin is willing to do a "true consolidation," dissolving both districts end and forming a new one. Teachers in both districts would keep their tenure, but that is about it. Schools would change their names, their mascot, their colors and teachers who aren't tenured wouldn't be guaranteed a job. A new board would be elected.

The other option is for the Herndon District to disorganize and merge into Oberlin. That would mean, said Superintendent Kelly Glodt, that the kids would have the option of coming here, they would become Red Devils and the Herndon teachers wouldn't be guaranteed a job nor would they be tenured in the Oberlin District, even if they had been in Herndon.

Both true consolidation and disorganization would involve cooperative agreements between the districts, he said. Both would be done under rules set by the Kansas Association of School Boards or the state Board of Education.

In the end, the board decided Herndon could disorganize and merge into Oberlin, but they wouldn't support a ground-up consolidation.

Board Member Barb Olson was the first to speak. She said it would cost a lot to change everything. The stadium would have to be redone, buses relettered and new uniforms bought.

If there is a true consolidation, said Mr. Glodt, all of that stuff will change. The best way to do it is keep the board, staff and parents out of it, he said, and let a group of the students make the decisions.

Is the board looking at true consolidation or just disorganization? said member Dan Wasson. He said he wasn't sure if the taxpayers here would give up the name Decatur Community High School.

The board has to decide if they want to consider consolidation, he said.

"I would rather pass it up (the merger) than do true consolidation," said Mr. Wasson.

This is all about helping the kids, ours and theirs, but will consolidation really help everyone? asked Mrs. Olson.

The consolidation would have to be voted on by the public, said Board Member Dewayne Jackson, and he said he didn't think the public will support it.

Board Member Kurt Vollertsen said since an article was printed in *The Oberlin Herald* about the proposed merger, people he has talked with didn't want consolidation.

"We want to do whatever we can to help their kids," said Mr. Glodt, "but at what price?"

He went on to say that he didn't know what the price of true consolidation would be.

The board reached a consensus without members Jeannie Martin and Delayne May, that they would not support "true" consolidation.

Atwood board open to study of full merger, a new district

By **KATHY DAVIS-VRBAS**
Rawlins County Square Deal

The Atwood and Herndon school boards held a joint meeting Monday evening to explore the possibility of merging their districts.

The meeting marked the first of the Herndon board's visits with neighboring school districts, as Herndon Superintendent Kim Juenemann and her board seek the best consolidation option for Herndon.

The Herndon board also plans visits with the boards in Oberlin and Golden Plains/Rexford to review options for consolidating with one of those districts.

Mrs. Juenemann expressed the need for open communications with patrons, staff and students as her district faces changes for the future.

"It makes for a very anxious time for all employees," she said. "One of the key things that must be done is to keep all staff informed of what's going on, because it can be extremely nerve-wracking."

Mrs. Juenemann said she has visited with students and staff to get their input. The Herndon board also plans to hold a town meeting to share information and get input from patrons before any decisions are made. The final decision rests with the voters.

"We're just exploring at this point," Mrs. Juenemann said.

The option for the Atwood and Herndon boards, should Herndon choose to merge with Atwood, would be to dissolve both the Herndon and Atwood districts, merging to create a brand new district.

The Herndon board provided a list of issues and concerns, which the boards went through together Monday evening. The list included options for keeping the Herndon school open; bussing concerns, particularly with younger students; combining budgets; sharing staff; extracurricular activities; school colors and mascots; and teacher tenure and benefits.

(See ATWOOD on Page 12)



THE GINTHER FAMILY welcomed its first girl when Sophia Katherine was born on Sunday. Her father Blaine and brother Will came to pick mom Erin and little sister up on Monday.

—Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

Little girl is first baby here and in Rawlins Co.

By **KIMBERLY BRANDT**

Sophia Katherine Ginther, the first girl in her family, was born at 3:14 a.m. Sunday, just five days into 2003, making her the first baby of the New Year in Decatur County.

Sophia will be in for a bundle of loot, since she's also the first baby in Rawlins County, where her family lives.

She is the third child for Erin and Blaine Ginther of Atwood. The family had their middle child here four years ago when they lived between Oberlin and Atwood. Mrs. Ginther said they really liked Dr. Richard May, and since the hospital in Atwood doesn't deliver babies unless it is an emergency, they decided to have their third child at Decatur County Hospital, too.

Sophia wins double the prizes from contests sponsored by *The Oberlin Herald* and *The Rawlins County Square Deal*.

The Ginthers have two boys, Cameron, 7, and Will,

4. Their mother said both of the boys wanted to have a baby girl. She said she thought most of her friends wanted her to have a girl and when they found out Sophia had been born they were happy.

Monday morning, Blaine Ginther and Will came to take his wife and baby girl home. Although Cameron wanted to help, his dad said, he had to go to school. Will, who got to the hospital a little after 9 a.m., saw Sophia and said she looked a little different than the day before.

Mr. Ginther is a salesman for J.D. Skiles, which manufactures and distributes fertilizer and farm equipment. Mrs. Ginther has been a teacher and worked in the mentoring program Big Brothers, Big Sisters but said her plans now are to stay home and be a mom.

Sophia's grandparents are Carrol and J.R. Ginther of Achilles and John and Mary Montgomery of Aurora, Colo.

(See BABY on Page 5)

Two police vehicles go up for sealed bids

The Oberlin Police Department, already down from four to three officers, may soon be down a vehicle as well.

The department is getting a new Chevrolet to replace a '96 Ford Crown Victoria, which the chief says has 65,500 miles and is using a little oil.

City Administrator Gary Shike asked the council during its meeting on Thursday, if it would prefer to sell the car he is driving, a 1995 Crown

Victoria with almost 93,000 miles. It's a former police car.

Earlier in the meeting, Police Chief Wade Lockhart had told the council that he had not been able to get the part-time help as he had hoped. His only part-time person has not been able to work in December, Chief Lockhart said, because of school sports and activities.

Chief Lockhart said he has another candidate but isn't sure if he can get qualified with the hours he

already has or if he will have to go to the academy.

In the meantime, Chief Lockhart said, his two regular officers have logged more than 111 hours of overtime in December. All three officers are working 50-60-hours a week, he said, and everyone is wearing down.

Chief Lockhart said that he doesn't get overtime pay, but has also been putting in long hours. After his

(See POLICE on Page 12)

Only eight days remain for candidates to file for boards

Two out of a long list of people who are up for election this spring have filed, and others have only a week and a day to decide whether they will run for school board or city council seats in Oberlin, Jennings, Norcatur or Dresden.

Jeannie Martin and Dan Wasson, who serve on the Oberlin School Board, are the only people who had filed as of Monday afternoon. Both decided to pay the \$5 fee rather than taking out a petition, said County Clerk Marilyn Horn, who is the county election officer.

Mrs. Horn said Board Member

Barb Olson has been in to inquire about filing but hasn't done it yet.

The last day to register to run in the election is noon on Tuesday, Jan. 21, said Mrs. Horn. She said candidates need to remember that they can't file that Monday because it is a holiday. Although the courthouse isn't closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, she said the election books will be closed and no paperwork can be taken.

If there needs to be a primary for any of the positions up for election, it will be held in a month on Tuesday, Feb. 25. The general election

will be held Tuesday, April 1.

Voter registration books will reopen on Wednesday, Feb. 26, and then close again on Monday, March 17.

Positions which are included in the upcoming election are:

- Mayor Gary Walter and Councilmen Jerry Fidele and Ray Ward in Oberlin. All of the positions are for four years, although a city election is held every two years.

- Board Members Kurt Vollertsen for District No. 1, Mr. Wasson for No. 2, Mrs. Olson for No. 3 and Mrs. (See CANDIDATES on Page 12)

Decision to cut back vehicle inspection hours draws complaint

By **KIMBERLY BRANDT**

When half his deputies got called up by the National Guard, Sheriff Ken Badsky decided to cut back on the hours his office would do vehicle inspections.

That's prompted the county treasurer, who said the change will

inconvenience taxpayers and force her office to turn customers away.

At the beginning of December, Sheriff Badsky announced the office would only inspect vehicles from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Mondays and from noon to 3 p.m. on Wednesdays. He said they're shorthanded

because Undersheriff Randy McHugh is on National Guard duty again.

The office is down to two full-time officers, the sheriff and Deputy Mark Dahlsten. Dispatcher Bert Cool, a former undersheriff, can still do inspections, but he can't leave the dispatch desk. Part-time officer Barry

Richards can do them, but he isn't around all the time.

When the sheriff told county commissioners last month, they told him the hours were a bad idea. Commissioner Pat Glenn said she thought the county should be providing the service all the time.

Sheriff Badsky said then that the hours will be run on a trial basis and if there are a lot of complaints, he could change them back. He said he'd like people to come in during the set hours, but officers will do inspections by appointment at other times

(See INSPECTIONS on Page 5)

* Atwood open to full merger

(Continued from Page 1)
 "It would mean a lot of work," Atwood Superintendent Lee Tarrant said. "You're forming a completely new district — and actually could get the best of both worlds, bringing them together as one."

The procedure for creating a new district requires voter approval, with next April's general election as a probable time for this question to appear on the ballot and the 2003-04 school year to see the new district in operation.

Before the issue reached an election, the boards would have to develop a resolution featuring the details of the proposal, including how many buildings the district would manage.

Should Herndon opt to consolidate with Atwood, the boards of both districts would designate, from their members, a seven-member board to oversee the new district temporarily until a board could be elected for the new district.

"That transition board is extremely important," Atwood Board President Kent Morgan said, noting that the board would be responsible for determining the negotiated agreement, a crucial feature of the new district.

"With your master negotiated agreement, you would begin from scratch," Mrs. Juenemann emphasized.

As the group discussed their feelings about keeping the Herndon school, members of both boards expressed concerns over distances and providing adequate staff at all locations.

Mr. Morgan said the Atwood board felt "confident" about a year of joint operation in keeping both Atwood and Herndon sites open.

Members of both boards and administrations complemented each other's districts on providing excellent education and activity opportunities for students, especially in light of tight budget constraints facing Kansas' small rural schools.

"We're aware Herndon has done an outstanding job, being able year by year to turn out such an excellent product," Mr. Morgan told the visiting Herndon representatives. "Your OM (Olympics of the Mind) and Academic Bowl successes are well-known."

"You obviously know how to do this."

"Some of our students have also mentioned they're excited about the possibility of adding to our curriculum, expanding classes," Mrs. Juenemann said.

Dr. Tarrant noted the possibility of sharing staff in music and art programs.

"I think there are a lot of things we could do," he said. "The two districts have done an outstanding job of educating students."

Morgan commended the Herndon board and administration for being "proactive" in looking at future possibilities for their school.

"It's very well that two districts should combine before they're told they have to," he said.

"I like that comment," Mrs. Juenemann said. "I like the idea that we are deciding our own fate."

Attending the meeting were Herndon School Board members Jerry Niemeth, Pat Allen, Francis Wahrman, Andy Green, Tom Kogl and Dave Ketterl, and Atwood board members Kent Morgan, Pattie Wolters, Bill Beamgard, Jerry Holste, Marvin Green, Chris Schmidt and Peggy Cabrinha.

* Herndon schools seeking partners

(Continued from Page 1)
 open for at least two or three years after a merger. State law says a district can keep the combined budget at its existing level for three years, and the Herndon board wanted to know if the Oberlin board would keep their school open. The budget in Herndon for the 2001-2002 school year was \$859,914.

Oberlin Board Member Dan Wasson said if they kept the school open, they would have to hire a principal or administrator of some kind in case there is a problem at the building. Board Member Barb Olson said she didn't see how that would save any money.

One of the problems the board saw throughout the two-hour discussion is that the schools in Oberlin offer more classes and extracurricular activities. If they kept the school in Herndon open, members asked, would they have to provide all of the same activities there or could the kids just come to Oberlin after school for sports and other activities?

It would be possible to keep the Herndon schools open with the programs they offer now, said Mr. Wasson, but if they want what Oberlin has, they would have to come to Oberlin.

After three years, Mrs. Olson said, she didn't think it would be affordable to keep the school open.

The second question dealt with what happens to teachers after a merger. There is no question that Herndon has good teachers, said Mr. Glodt, but it will depend on the need whether they will have jobs.

The Oberlin district doesn't have any openings, he said, although the board won't know if anyone is leaving until spring.

There may be some turnover if there is a merger, said Mr. Glodt, but there probably wouldn't be much need to add teachers. It would depend on whether Oberlin got all 85-

90 students from Herndon, he said, or just some of them.

"We have to be honest with them," said Mr. Glodt. "We can't sugar coat it. We can't guarantee everyone on their staff will have a job."

Several of the questions, including taxes and technology, the board didn't discuss much because the numbers and information was already in the packets they planned to give to the Herndon board.

As far as sharing extracurricular activities go, Mr. Wasson said that Herndon students could come here, but that is about all that can be said. If the high school is kept open, he said, they would have to bus kids over for activities.

"I would love to help their kids," said Mrs. Olson. "but we can't make any decisions that will hurt ours."

The board said they would like to find out where the farthest pickup spot is for the Herndon District. The board said they didn't know if they would provide door-to-door pickup for all kids in Herndon. The students can't be on the bus for over an hour, said Board Member Dewayne Jackson, and depending on where in the district they live, it could be close.

The board said they also need to find out about drivers, how many buses Herndon has and what condition they are in.

If the two districts join, Mr. Wasson said, the board member district lines would need to be redrawn, although none of the board members knew exactly where they would be. As it is now, each of the districts has rural areas and a part of Oberlin.

The board decided to meet at 5 p.m. on Monday before heading to Herndon to discuss any last-minute questions.

The board said they didn't know what Herndon will do. Mr. Glodt said the Oberlin schools are open to any board members, parents or students who would like to come tour.

Cause of fire still not known

State investigators haven't pinned down the cause of a fire which reduced the Stuckey's Restaurant in Brewster to rubble last month, but officials say a rumor that it was caused by a drug lab probably isn't true.

Thomas County Sheriff Tom Jones said there's no proof of rumors that an illegal methamphetamine lab caused the fire.

Jones said the final reports from the state fire marshal's office have not been received. He said the reports should indicate the cause and origin of the fire.

"There isn't any indication one

way or another if that (rumor) would be true or not," he said.

The blaze was reported at 9:35 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30, by the alarm company serving the restaurant south of Brewster and north of I-70. Brewster and Sherman County firefighters spent more than six hours battling the fire, which also leveled the manager's apartment.

Investigators from the fire marshal's office brought in an arson dog, trained to detect petroleum products such as gasoline. Mike Cameron of the fire marshal's office said the investigation could span months.



LOADING UP THE DOZENS of boxes of food donated to the Decatur County Food Pantry, Principal Charles Haag of Decatur Community High (right) and Junior High Student Council member Branson Scott handed a crate to hardware store owner Joe Stanley, who spearheaded the drive.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

Food drive brings in 2,217 items

Stanley Hardware's annual food drive brought in 217 items more than the 2,000-item goal, plus 80 full punch cards and \$200 worth of gift certificates for Raye's Grocery.

Friday afternoon, owner Joe Stanley, with help from junior high student council members and Decatur Community High Principal Charles Haag, put box upon box full of food in the back of his pickup and trailer. The 2,217 food items added up to a lot of boxes.

The students left on foot after packing the vehicle and met Mr. Stanley at the Decatur County Food Pantry at the United Church. Mr. Stanley said there

are a lot of stairs and the pantry is back in a corner, so the students were a big help unloading.

At the food pantry, students were joined by classmates and Superintendent Kelly Glodt.

Mr. Stanley said the fourth annual drive was a big success and he plans on holding the food raiser again next year.

He said this was the first year they brought in gift certificates. Those, he said, will come in handy helping the pantry buy fresh produce and meat.

Mr. Stanley said thanks to all those who brought food into the store.

*Candidates still have time to file for school, city elections

(Continued from Page 1)
 Martin for the at-large position for the Oberlin School Board. Each is for four years.

• Board Members Sarah Coiner,

Sheila Rhodes, Lawrence Carter, Aden Schillig and Sara Carter for at-large seats on the Jennings School Board. There is one position that will be for only two years because

of a resignation.
 • City Council members Martin LaRue and Eric Green in Jennings. The council also has one open position to fill.

Neither the Dresden or Norcatur city offices could be reached.

Lunch will be served.

Machinery



John Deere DRA 16-10 grain drill



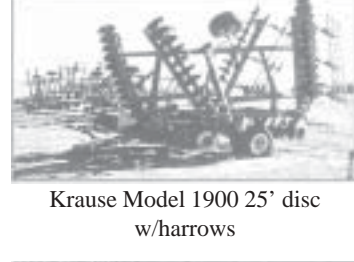
Kory 300 bu. gravity wagon



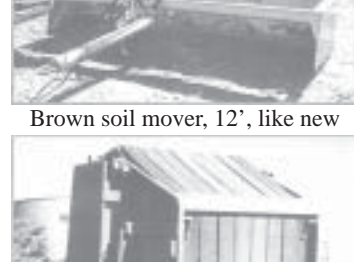
John Deere 500 grain cart



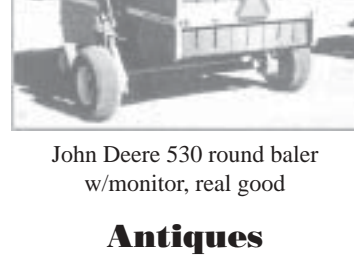
John Deere 3-section 8-12 grain drill w/John Blue squeeze pump & transports



Krause Model 1900 25' disc w/harrows



Brown soil mover, 12', like new



John Deere 530 round baler w/monitor, real good

Antiques

- Kitchen Cabinet
- Cross cut saws
- Chicken picker w/scalder
- Pedal stone grinders
- Assorted toys
- Lincoln logs

Many more miscellaneous items too numerous to mention

MACHINERY AUCTION

Tues., January 14, 2003 • 10 AM

Location: From McCook, NE, go 5 miles South on U.S. 83, then 3 miles east and 1-1/2 miles South. From Oberlin, KS, go 19 miles north on U.S. 83, 2-1/2 miles East, 1 miles North, 1/2 mile East and 1/2 mile North. Signs will be posted.

SELLERS: RON & ADONNA SIS

- Double tool bar w/ ditchers and John Deere insecticide boxes
- John Deere double toolbar w/71 flex planters
- Drag Miller disc w/ball bearings and hydraulic
- Case 5-16" plow on hydraulics
- 3-bottom plow
- 10' Moline one-way
- Richardson 5-5 sweep machine w/Richardson treaders, anhydrous, hitch and meters
- Flex King 25' rod weeder
- w/Deggleman harrows
- Sunflower 21' sweep machine w/chisels, Noble harrows
- Speed King 8'x51' auger, P.T.O., like new
- IHC 3-point planter, 4-36" Model 92 early riser units - milo, corn drums
- John Deere 5-16" 3-point plow w/harrows
- Crustbuster, 24'
- Kelly Ryan 5-wheel side delivery rake
- John Deere 6-section rotary hoe
- Volzke low boy trailer, 8-1/2'x20'
- Miller rod weeder, 15'
- John Deere dump rake
- John Deere 10' P.T.O. grain binder, good canvases

Livestock Equip.

- (3) 100 bu. Powder River calf creep feeders



Stock trailer, 6' x 16'

- Assorted wood & steel posts
- Electric fence wire
- Electric fence
- Portable hog scale
- Powder River cattle working chute
- Powder River calf cradle
- Portable hay feeder
- Heinke mixer feeder wagon w/scales
- Cattle oiler
- Strohberg metal feed bunks
- 12' sq. hay feeder on skids
- Bale mover, 3-pt.
- Post hole digger, 3-pt., 2 bits
- Portable loading chute
- Assorted livestock panels & gates
- Strohberg feeder panels
- Unassembled bulk bin
- Co-op bulk bin
- Feed shed on skids, 200 bu.
- Bruder house
- 50 round bales, excellent fine stem cane hay

Auctioneer's Note: Ron and Adonna are going to no-till farming practices so they are offering a nice, clean, well-maintained line of machinery at auction.

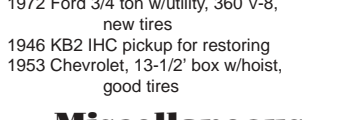
Trucks



1970 Ford F-600 truck w/rack to haul round bales, 8.25x20 tires



1970 Ford F-600 truck w/hoist, giant box w/steel floor, fold down stock racks, 9.00x20 tires



1972 Ford 3/4 ton w/utility, 360 V-8, new tires

- 1946 KB2 IHC pickup for restoring
- 1953 Chevrolet, 13-1/2' box w/hoist, good tires

Miscellaneous

- AMF 10-42" riding mower, deck good
- (8) 8.25x20 tires & rims for Ford truck
- Platform scales
- 20th Century electric welder
- (2) Drill presses
- Overhead winch w/hand crank
- 1,000 bu. grain bin
- 1,000 bu. barley
- BSB 2250 bu. grain bin
- Ribbed metal, 20 sheets, 10'x26"
- 30 sweeps for Quinstar
- Yamaha 225 3-wheeler
- Yamaha 250 motorcycle
- 50 gal. sprayer w/Briggs engine
- Electric motors
- Briggs & Stratton engine w/clutch
- (2) 500 gal. fuel tanks
- (2) 300 gal. fuel tanks
- Several bicycles

All items must be paid for day of sale and all items to be removed in 30 days.

Tractors, Combine, Dozer



John Deere 4640, completely rebuilt at 5900 hrs., good rubber, 20,8x38 duals, R-34 air conditioner, 3-point w/ Quick attach, triple hydraulics, quad range, front and rear wheel weights, field ready, 9267 hrs.

Otter dozer w/4640 mounts

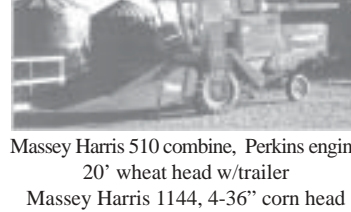


John Deere 4010 w/Farmhand F-11 loader w/grapple, push off hay basket



John Deere D w/wheel brakes, P.T.O.

John Deere 70 narrow front, propane



Massey Harris 510 combine, Perkins engine 20' wheat head w/trailer

Massey Harris 1144, 4-36" corn head

Oliver 88 standard w/Farmhand F10 loader w/silage fork and hay basket

John Deere front wheels, steel w/round spokes

Case 400 gas w/3-point, needs work

Universal 20' pickup reel

Not responsible for accidents. All guarantees are between sellers and buyers. No items are to be removed until paid for. Announcements Day of Sale take precedence over printed matter.

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