

Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

125 YEARS AGO — Feb. 1881

The snow is melting fast. Miss Ella Stever returned last week from Buffalo Park, where she had been visiting relatives.

Married, Feb. 9, 1881, at the residence of the bride's parents, by Rev. J.L. Vannoy, Mr. John Wilson and Miss Mary A. Parker, all of Decatur County.

The county commissioners elected F.A. Cornish chairman of the board for the coming year.

Friday evening last a drizzling rain commenced which lasted for about 24 hours, wetting the ground thoroughly. It then commenced snowing and during Saturday night and Sunday, snow fell to the depth of 10 inches which drifted considerably.

The number of pupils attending school for the month ending Feb. 2, 1881, were males, 26 and females, 24. Pupils present every day were Chas. Miller, Bert Doom, Frances Hitchcock, Henry Baumgarten, John Johnson, Chris Mines, Millie Jackson, Evin Henderson, Dottie Addleman, Orlo Rogers, Rufus Persinger, Freddie Hitchcock and Dorah Witham.

100 YEARS AGO — Feb. 1906

Four degrees below zero Monday morning.

Harry Murphy moved to his new home on Commercial Street this week.

Surveyor Gilkison and Ned Coldren have been establishing the grades for sidewalks on Penn Avenue this week.

Born Monday, Feb. 5, 1906, to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Young, a son.

Allison Items: Born to Mr. and Mrs. Jess Carter on Jan. 28, a big fat boy. All doing nicely.

New Almemo is on the boom.

Thirty acres in lots have been surveyed and \$700 of it were sold the first day.

75 YEARS AGO — Feb. 1931

Elam Reist reports that the first hatch of the season came off yesterday with 2700 of the strongest and liveliest little chicks ever seen. This seems to confirm that an all-electric hatchery produces good chicks.

The steady growth of business for the Oberlin Laundry owned by G.A. Stewart has demanded a larger facility, which is now being built by Darl and Ray Uehlin in east Oberlin on Martin Street.

Jennings patrons of Route 1 honored their retired mail carrier, Mr. A.C. Wilson, who had served them faithfully for nearly 26 years, with a surprise held at the Jennings school. He was presented a fancy rocking chair and Mrs. Wilson a magazine case. Sandwiches, coffee and cake were served to the crowd of about 300 people.

The U.S. Census for 1930 shows that Decatur County had in farms 558,163 acres of land divided into 1,340 farms, or an average of 416 acres per farm. Nearly half the farms in the county are being farmed by tenants.

Jennings: Jack Bainter is serving on the U.S. Grand Jury in Topeka this week.

Big Timber: The fine new harvest hand at Henry Carstens has been named James Henry.

A little daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Earl Roe on Jan. 29.

Vickers: The entire community was grief stricken when little Beverly Brainard passed away at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Brainard.

Norcatur: Long Branch folks near here are planning to build a

new schoolhouse. The old one burned recently and at present, school is being held in the living room of the George Hughes home.

50 YEARS AGO — Feb. 1931

An oil well explosion south of Midland, Texas, killed Gerald Hackney, 29, son of Mr. and Mrs. Phil Hackney. He was born in Bassetville Township and was an outstanding athlete at DCHS and Kansas State where he wrestled and played football. A knee injury ended his playing career when a junior. In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife, Gladys, and four sons, Bill, Jerry, Ralph and Charles; two brothers and six sisters.

Funeral services were held for John Vavroch, 69, well-known Decatur County farmer and livestock producer for more than 50 years.

Robert Friedemann, 58, was fatally injured when he fell from the roof of the new St. John's Lutheran Church which he was helping to shingle.

At the annual Soil Conservation meeting, awards were presented to R. Guy Bemis, Harold Lohofener, Fred J. Counter and Norman Bainter.

Funeral services were held at Lund Covenant Church for Lena (Strand) Anderson, 91, who had been a resident of Decatur County since 1885. Born in Sweden, she came to America with her parents in 1864 and was married in 1885 to Erland Rydquist. After his death in 1902, she married Nels Anderson, who preceded her in death in 1935.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Beneda of Oberlin announce the engagement of their daughter, Glenva Jean, to Mr. Tom Burrell of Benkelman,

Neb. Miss Beneda graduated from DCHS with the class of 1955 and Tom graduated from Parks High School with the Class of 1950. An April wedding is being planned.

Pfc. Gary Guinn received his discharge from the U.S. Army Feb. 7 at Fort Knox, Kentucky., and he, Mrs. Guinn and Lemoine will arrive here this weekend and make their home on the Guinn farm just east of town.

Aard Erickson arrived home Jan. 27 from Korea, where he has been stationed for more than a year. He is a graduate of the DCHS Class of 1952.

25 YEARS AGO — Feb. 1981

A seven-inch snowfall over the weekend brought needed cover for the winter wheat crop, according to Allen Dinkel, Decatur County Agriculture extension agent.

Six area students are among the 87 recipients of the 1981 Dane G. Hansen Foundation scholarships: Phil Shields, DCHS senior and son of Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord Shields; Donna Gawith, a graduate of Jennings High School and currently a student at Kansas State University, who is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Gawith, Dresden; votech awards went to Joe Shobe, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Shobe, Oberlin, and a senior at DCHS; William Vacura, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Vacura, Jennings, and a senior at Jennings High School; Russell Aumiller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Orris Aumiller, and Susan Kaus, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Kaus, Selden, both seniors at Golden Plains High School.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wallsmith, curators, and the board members of the Last Indian Raid Museum are asking all persons whose ancestors settled in Decatur County sometime between 1872 and 1930 to compile a family history in preparation for the Oberlin City centennial in 1985.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Neff of Dresden announce the engagement of their daughter, Dorothy, to Kenneth Prusa of Claflin. The bride-to-be is a graduate of DCHS and Fort Hays State and her fiance is a graduate teaching assistant at Kansas State University in the Department of Foods and Nutrition, pursuing a doctorate degree. The couple plan a May 2 wedding at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Selden.

New Arrivals: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Spresser, Jennings, daughter, Deidre Lynn, Jan. 19; Mr. and Mrs. Rick Marcuson, Lenexa, daughter, Molly Jane, Jan. 31.

Jennings News

By Louise Cressler

The Jennings community extends sympathy to Kenneth and Violet Krizek. His sister, Dorothy Leonard, died on Jan. 31.

Also the community would like to extend their sympathy to the Mary and Roger Vanover family of Clayton. Her mother, Rena Garwood, died on Wednesday. Mary is rural mail carrier out of Jennings.

For the January meeting, the Tuesday Study Club met at the Broken Wheel Bar and Grill for lunch. In the afternoon Decatur County Sheriff Ken Badsy gave a program on identity theft. He shared with the group the necessary steps to protect yourself. A booklet designed to present information about identity theft to employers, employees and the general public is available at the sheriff's office in Oberlin.

Roll call was answered by Naomi Carter, Rachel Carter, Joan McKenna, Wilma Mader, Lynn Tacha, Helen Rhodes, Vendla Tacha, Kathy Nauer and Neoma Tacha.

United Methodist Women met Feb. 1 with seven members present: Helen Rhodes, Lila Jennings, Rachel Carter, Naomi Carter, Kathy Nauer, Ruth Chance and Vendla Tacha. Lila Jennings gave the program, "Renaissance Through Peace," a pledge service. Vendla Tacha had quiet moments.

The Jennings School Alumni Directory is being updated. Has your address, occupation or marital sta-

tus changed? Contact Mary Votapka or Norine Bailey if so.

Jennings City Council met Thursday at the Senior Center. Guest Scott Sproul from Rural Telephone explained the franchise agreement changes. Concerns about water loss were addressed. A meter will be purchased to put at the end of the main line coming from the well to help locate any leaks.

Other items on the agenda were: cost to repair burned pavement, leak at the Community Building, sewer repairs being made, sale of schoolhouse, emergency preparedness plans and monthly budget update. Present were council members Don Bolt, Stann Hartzog, Rick Foster and Louise Cressler; Mayor Bob Jones and City Clerk Sue Long.

Sunflower Seniors will have a potluck supper at 6 p.m. on Feb. 14. Entertainment will follow.

Frank Geibler, Topeka, visited Saturday and Sunday with Marlene and Tony LaRue and family.

Wayne and Louise Cressler went to Hoxie on Wednesday, Feb. 1, to visit Walter Cressler. It was his 97th birthday.

Pictures are being sought of the front of the Hardesty Drug Store in Jennings before it was remodeled, pictures taken inside the drug store, or of Dr. Hardesty and his family. These will be used in a story. If anyone has any they would loan, please contact Neoma Tacha at (785) 678-2470, or email to mlolson@nwkansas.com.

Selden News

By Jacque Boullinghouse

Birthdays and anniversaries: Feb. 3 - Rachael Ritter; Feb. 4 - Norris Sulzman, Nicole Spresser, John and Julie Geisinger, Mary Golden; Feb. 6 - Tom Stacey, Chris Bainter, Paul Bruggeman; Feb. 8 - Monica Aumiller Svoboda, Wanda Spresser, Joseph Koerperich; Feb. 9 - Joe Wessel, Dana Geisinger, Shirley M. Emigh; Feb. 10 - Carlene Bruggeman, Danica Ritter; Feb. 11 - Fansion Juenemann, Adrienne Pauls; Feb. 13 - Robert Ritter, Carol Lobato, Thayne Spresser, Olga Vargas; Feb. 14 - Nick Stacey, Tret Rogers, Alan Spresser, Shirley Albers Niermeier, Marge Miller, Dan and Miriam Shaw; Feb. 15 - Mikayla Lobato.

At Senior Citizens on Jan. 26 Alfred Albers won high, Carol Shaw took second, Julie Pope got low and Jeanie Spresser had the most jacks. Other members present included Lola Cook, Betty James, Carol Shaw, Edna Schiltz, Anna Albers, Gail Mumm, Ann Hazlitt, Bernita Aumiller and Paulie Neff.

At Senior Citizens on Feb. 2, Gail Mumm won high, Cecelia Ottley

took second, Jeanie Spresser got low and Anna Albers had the most nines. Other members present included Paulie Neff, Leone Porsch, Catherine Campbell, Edna Schiltz, Ann Hazlitt, Hilda Rall, Alfred Albers, Bernita Aumiller, Betty James and Lola Cook.

School Calendar: Feb. 9 - 3 p.m., Junior high basketball in Rexford with Sharon Springs; Booster Club meeting following the B-team boys game; Feb. 10 - High school basketball at Grainfield; Feb. 11 - 4 p.m., High school basketball in Rexford with Atwood; State scholar bowl; and ACT tests; Feb. 13 - School dismissed at 12:30 p.m. for parent/teacher conferences from 1 to 5:30 p.m., and 6:30 to 8 p.m.; Feb. 14 - High school basketball at McDonald; Gradschool Valentine's Day party; Feb. 15 - 10 a.m., Freedom Scholarship contest in Tribune.

Anyone wanting to help on the Community Center should contact Darrel Bruggeman. Crews work most Saturdays as well as weekdays. All help is welcome.

Mark your February calendars

Thanks to the gals who babysat the office the week we were gone. Harold is now home and improving each day. He can walk much better and feels no pain, for the first time in many years.

Now it's back to work. There are some important dates coming up you should mark on your calendar.

The first is Saturday, Feb. 18. Thrivent is sponsoring a pancake and sausage feed at the high school 8-11 a.m., prior to the regional wrestling tournament. This will be a freewill donation with the proceeds going to help sponsor the Chamber Farmer/Rancher Appreciation Day.

The Farm Bureau is hosting coffee hour this month along with their Food Check-off Day. This will be held Feb. 21 at the Business Enhancement Center from 9 to 11 a.m. They are asking people to bring homemade food such as breads, rolls, quick breads and the like that

Chamber News

By Glenva Nichols

use grains, milk and eggs, along with a copy of the recipe. After the foods are judged they will be taken to the Good Samaritan and Cedar Living Centers for the enjoyment of the residents.

The Chamber is sponsoring a Farmer/Rancher Appreciation Day on March 11. You need to either pick up your ticket at the Chamber office or call to reserve one. You will need a ticket to be eligible to win a door prize, and I understand that there will be some very good ones. This is FREE to the public, just remember the ticket. There will be a dinner, speaker, door prizes, and a dance starting at 6 that evening at the Gateway.

The Chamber and 101.1 KFNF

are sponsoring the third annual Home and Garden Show on March 18 and 19. Several vendors have reserved their spaces already and there have been lots of calls requesting information. The Gateway is a great place to hold this event, and its staff will be serving concessions. The show, which is free, will be Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Be sure to mark your calendar.

Next on our calendar is Professional Assistant's Day in April. Be thinking about sending your right-hand people to the luncheon. They are special and a thank you is in line.

Be sure and stop by for a cup of coffee and see what we have going on in the building.

Rexford News

By Vicki Allison

A surprise open house was given to honor Hulda Wark on her 85th birthday Saturday by her children, Sondra Barnett, Rexford; Gloria Dible, Rogers, Ark.; Roger Wark, Topeka; and Tamera Searls, Quinter.

Her granddaughters, Kristin Wark and Kelly Wark of Lawrence, were the cake attendants. More than 75 friends and family members from Nebraska, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Kansas came to help celebrate the event.

Sondra says she is so proud of the town for helping to keep the party a surprise for Hulda.

Weekend guests of Sondra Barnett were her daughter-in-law, Linda Barnett, and Tiffany and Michael from Holcomb. Michael played in the basketball Shoot Out held in Colby and Sondra went to watch Michael's Sunday game. Holcomb placed third.

The Country Store has reopened under new management. Dick Kyle, from Menlo, and his brother, Kevin, will offer mechanical service along with the convenience store. An open house is planned for this Saturday.

Ronnie and Janette Dible have returned home after spending three weeks touring parts of Missouri, Tennessee, Louisiana and Mississippi.

They visited Chattanooga and Memphis, Tenn., attended two evenings of a southern gospel music concert in Monroe, La., and toured Civil War sites in Vicksburg, Miss.

The Colby Berean Church Board held a Meeting Retreat at the Shepherd Staff on Friday and Saturday.

Betty Carswell is home after having gall bladder surgery on Tuesday.

Red Barn events: There were nine people at the card tables for Barnswallows on Monday.

The Social Hour Club met Tuesday with Jean Hawkins as hostess. The hostess prize went to Hulda Wark.

The Ladies Bible study has started a new lesson and they meet on Wednesday mornings from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Jolene Hansen is the leader of the group.

Grace Cheney brought delicious cookies to share with the other nine ladies at Koffee Klatch on Friday. Velma Barnett of Gem was a special guest.

Happenings at Golden Plains: The eighth-grade scholar bowl team placed second at the Grinnell meet on Monday.

The middle school B girls basketball team and the A boys basketball team won their games against Northern Valley at Rexford on Monday.

There was an assembly on bullying and racism presented to the student body on Tuesday, given by the Northwest Educational Service Center.

Mrs. Linda Garrett, gifted and talented instructor, took eight middle school students to a Languages around the World workshop on Wednesday.

The high school scholar bowl team placed fourth at the regional meet held in Brewster on Thursday.

The Weskan Coyotes traveled to Rexford on Friday to play basketball. The girls junior varsity won after overtime, 38 to 36. The junior varsity Bulldogs won their games. The ending score for the girls was 66 to 36 and the boys score was 54 to 48.

The senior class is taking orders for carnations and roses for Valentine's Day.

Two seniors, Jessica Shaw and Valerie Broeckelman, were selected to play in the All-star basketball games to be held in Colby.

Please return this completed form to Farmers Bank & Trust, First National Bank, The Bank or The Chamber of Commerce.

20 Clues to Community Survival*

Rate Decatur County 1 - 4 on each of the following: 1 - Excellent, 2 - Good, 3 - Fair, 4 - Poor

- Evidence of community pride: our community is a show place of care, attention, history and heritage
- Emphasis on quality in business & community life: people here believe that something worth doing is worth doing right
- Willingness to invest in the future: in addition to brick & mortar investments, all decisions are made with an outlook on the future
- Participatory approach to community decision-making: even the most powerful of opinion leaders seem to work toward building consensus
- Cooperative community spirit: the stress is on working together toward a common goal and the focus is on positive results.
- Realistic appraisal of opportunities: our community builds on strengths and minimizes weaknesses
- Aware of competitive positioning: local loyalty is emphasized, but our community knows our competitors and we position ourselves accordingly
- Knowledge of the physical environment: relative location and available natural resources underscore decision-making
- Active economic development program: there is an organized, public/private approach to economic development
- Deliberate transition of power to a younger generation of leaders: people under 40 regularly hold key positions in civic and business affairs
- Acceptance of women in leadership roles: women are elected officials, manager and entrepreneurial developers.
- Strong support for education: good schools are the norm, and centers of community activity
- Problem-solving approach to providing health care: health care is considered essential, and smart strategies are in place for diverse methods of deliveries.
- Strong multi-generational family orientation: activities include younger as well as older generations
- Strong presence of traditional institutions that are integral to community life: churches, schools & service clubs are strong influences on community development and social activities
- Sound and well-maintained infrastructure: leaders work hard to maintain and improve streets, sidewalks, water systems and sewage facilities
- Careful use of fiscal resources: frugality is a way of life; expenditures are treated as "investments"
- Sophisticated use of information resources: leaders access information that is beyond the knowledge base available in the community
- Willingness to seek help from the outside: people seek outside help for community needs, and many compete for government grants and contracts for economic and social programs
- Conviction that, in the long run, you have to do it yourself: we believe destiny is in our own hands; making our community a good place is a pro-active assignment, and we willingly accept it.

* By Heartland Center for Leadership Development (Lincoln, NE) based research in 18 communities and 14 states. Adapted by Kansas Communities LLC.

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