



ICE WAS BULLDOZED into piles against the background of the sagging awning in front of the Farmers Union building in Selden. Workmen labored all day to clear hail from the streets and debris from collapsed sections of buildings.

# \* Storm ruined stores and closed down streets

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water from going into the water wells," he said. "My uncle, David Carman, who lived 6 1/2 miles north of Selden, said he never got off of this tractor that day, but could see the storm. He said it looked like a big bowl of popcorn over the town. "Velma's Cafe was ruined and never opened again. Pope Motor Co. was also completely destroyed. The storm dumped from 3 to 4 inches of hail south of Selden, but otherwise many farmers escaped damage to their crops. The National Guard stayed for quite awhile and helped tremendously in cleaning up the damage."

Vernon Diederich of Oberlin said he was serving in the Navy on the USS Sperry at the time and read about the storm in a San Diego newspaper.

The Selden newspaper story said Pauls Furniture Store had several thousand dollars of damage, and sold all the new and used furniture at public auction, then started work on repairing and redecorating the building.

The Selden High School gym, only four years old, suffered extensive damage when a sagging roof shifted archways as much as 10 feet. The gym floor was a complete loss

and roofs of several businesses also collapsed.

"Crops on outlying farms were obliterated," *The Oberlin Herald* reported. "Torrential rains flooded most basements and about 40 residents fled their homes and spent the night in the telephone exchange building."

"Traffic was stopped until bulldozers and other machinery from other towns could clear roads and streets."

Comments from Selden residents included "I've never seen anything like it!" and "You'd have to see it to believe it."

August Karls of Karls Cash Store was quoted as saying, "I've been here 37 years and I've never seen anything like it."

Don Porsch added, "We don't have a blade of green on the farm." Mayor Ted Andrews said, "The wind kept circling and circling and all of the hail dropped in one place."

A few days later, strong winds and heavy rain caused additional damage to buildings with fallen roofs.

The story said that the freak storm had many bizarre aspects. The temperature the morning after the hailstorm stood at 38 degrees. "Steam" caused by the sun's heat rose from the hail, adding to the eerie, surre-

alistic effect of all the ice.

A filling station owner filled a car's gas tank with water, not realizing that the storm had flooded the underground gas tank through a spout above ground.

Glenn Aumiller wrote a letter to the editor of *The Advocate* the week following the storm and said, "I couldn't get out of the house door, the hail was piled over three feet deep against it, so I went out the window. Just a few days before the storm, I had asked Carol Carman for a setting of eggs and I saw Carol the next morning after the storm and he said he had the eggs for me, but 'I be darned, the old hen drowned.'"

Before the storm, farmers were concerned about the date mite, then the green bug, but the Selden newspaper reported that these two insects had been practically eliminated.

The Oberlin Seed House donated bushels of onion seeds and Cecil Drake, owner of Norton Greenhouse, gave 4,000 tomato plants to Selden residents who had lost their gardens.

"Selden even made the national news, when pictures of the storm were shown on the Huntley-Brinkley News Show," Mr. Carman said.

# Committee members needed

Decatur County residents are needed to serve on a recycling committee to help guide and build the county program.

In July 2005, said County Clerk Marilyn Horn, the county started the program, getting a loaner trailer and parking it by the old county shop on East Victoria Street in Oberlin, east of the Decatur Co-op elevator.

County commissioners decided to start the program through the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Center in Colby, which had been in operation for 10 years.

To join the program, she said, the county pays \$1 for each resident in Decatur County, which is \$2,093 a

year.

The trailer is set up to take newspapers, office paper (both white and colored), chipboard, plastics, magazines, telephone books and corrugated cardboard, each in separate compartments.

Recently, said Mrs. Horn, the recycling group started to take plastic bags that people get at stores to carry their merchandise home. She said that helps the county, because then the bags don't end up in the landfill blowing around.

The program has also expanded to take computer components called E Waste. Those can also be taken to the old county shop. People taking

E Waste need to call Mrs. Horn first so the shop can be unlocked.

In the future, she said, the plan is to take the trailer to Norcat, Jennings and Dresden each for a week at a time, then bring it back to Oberlin to dump and bale the stuff. It is then taken to Colby.

Anyone interested in serving on the recycling committee can contact Mrs. Horn at (785) 475-8102 or Jack Benton at 475-3174.

Other counties in northwest Kansas that take part in the recycling group are Thomas, Gove, Rawlins, Cheyenne, Logan and Sheridan.

# County talks behind closed doors

The Decatur County commissioners held two closed sessions at their meeting last Tuesday, one for personnel and one for "security measures," but didn't make any decisions.

Patti Skubal, assistant emergency preparedness director, asked for the 15-minute closed session for non-elected personnel. The commissioners, County Attorney Steve Hirsch and County Clerk Marilyn Horn met with Mrs. Skubal. There wasn't any action taken.

They then had closed sessions of 15 minutes and five minutes for "security measures" with the same people, but didn't take any action. The commissioners can close the door to talk about security matters relating to a public body or agency.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman said he received information from the Decatur Co-op about future propane service.

The service needs to be "uninterrupted," he said, which means the

# County countdown

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Approved raises for the county employees, with half of the raise now and the other half in October. Story to come.
- Held two closed sessions, one for non-elected personnel and one for "security measures," but didn't make any decisions. Story at left.

tank needs to stay full. All new customers will need to go through an inspection, he said.

Mr. Stallman said he thought the only building that uses propane is the Jennings ambulance barn, so he will have Director Linda Manning fill out the form.

There was some discussion on whether the fire station in Jennings also uses propane. County Clerk Marilyn Horn said she would call Chief Kerry Green.

Ms. Manning said she has done some research on the masks the ambulance crew needs. She said she

just ordered the cheapest ones, but that might not have been a good idea.

Mr. Hirsch said he would like to see one and she said she would get him a picture.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Agreed that Health Director Marilyn Gamblin's granddaughter can ride in a county vehicle with her back from Salina. Ms. Gamblin will be there for a meeting.
- Approved an abatement to the 2006 tax rolls for \$66 for Kevin and Kayla Wurm.

# SUMMERTIME Savings

**1996 Chevrolet Corvette**  
43,000 Miles



**\$18,995**

**'05 Pontiac Bonneville**  
12,000 Miles, Local Owner



**\$17,995**

**'01 Chrysler PT Cruiser Limited**



**\$5,995**

**'97 Lincoln Continental**  
Clean Local Trade



**\$5,995**

**'05 Hyundai Sonata GLS**  
28,000 Miles, V6, AT, Loaded



**\$13,995**

**'06 Cadillac DTS**  
NorthStar, V8, Local Trade



**\$29,995**

**'04 Buick Park Avenue Ultra**  
28,000 Miles, Pearl White



**\$19,995**

**'03 Buick Park Avenue**  
43,000 Miles Super Clean



**\$15,995**

**'02 Buick LeSabre Limited**  
45,000 Local One Owner Miles



**\$12,995**

**'06 Pontiac G6 GTP**  
CHOOSE FROM 2



**\$16,995**

**'96 Chevrolet G30 Sport Van**  
15 Passenger, V8, AT, A/C



**\$4,995**

**'06 Pontiac Torrent AWD**  
16,000 Miles



**\$17,995**

**'05 Chevrolet Tahoe LS**  
24,000 Miles



**\$24,995**

**'04 Jeep Grand Cherokee Larado**



**\$16,995**

**'00 Chevrolet Tahoe LT**  
Clean Local Trade



**\$12,995**

**'04 Chevrolet 2500 HD Crew**  
4x4



**\$23,995**

**'07 Chevrolet Colorado 4x2**  
4 Cyl., AT, A/C, T/C Only 500 Miles



**\$14,995**

**'07 Chevrolet Colorado Crew 4x4**  
Only 10,000 Miles



**\$23,995**

**'00 Chevrolet 1500 Ex. Cab**  
4x2, 54,000 Miles, V8, AT, Loaded



**\$13,995**

**'04 Chevrolet 1500 Ex. Cab**  
4x4 V8, AT, Loaded



**\$19,995**



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