

Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

125 YEARS AGO — Jan. 1885

More snow Sunday night and everyone complains of colds. The thermometer registered 24 below at sunrise Monday morning.

Married at the residence of N.W. Strong, Jan. 13, 1885, Mr. Joseph Petracek and Miss Anna Cilek, all of Decatur County.

Mix & Darlings' billiard hall building caught fire from a defective flue and narrowly escaped destruction Wednesday morning. A timely alarm and energetic measures saved the building.

Clayton Chips: Oldtimers say this is the coldest winter we have experienced in 14 years.

100 YEARS AGO — Jan. 1910

W.E. Eubank and Miss Mary Lanigan were married at Alma, Nebr., Tuesday.

James Sage, who is attending high school, received a phone message Tuesday saying his father, Henry Sage, had his leg broken in a fall from a horse.

Jerry Votapka of the Big Timber area was in and jollied the editor for a time. He tells us he will not move for a while to the farm he recently purchased southwest of Oberlin.

Allison Items: A number down here have been husking corn in snow knee deep.

Jennings Items: H.C. Bradbury recently sold his residence property to Dr. Bainter.

Jennings is on the verge of a coal famine and it seems impossible to ship coal in.

Earl Jennings expects to move to town soon and build a residence on his tract in the south part of the city.

75 YEARS AGO — Jan. 1935

Last week in the company of Elwood Brooks a correspondent of *The Herald* was privileged to inspect the work being done on the lake site between Dresden and Jennings in the company of the engineer of the project, John King.

Work is also underway on the Alta Morgan Lake which is on the Kansas-Nebraska line four and one-half miles southwest of Danbury and two miles north of Sherman Chapel on the place commonly known as the Ben Murphy homestead. The project has been sponsored by Harry Asbahr, one of the trustees of Sherman Township, and others of the community and is made possible through the generosity of Miss Alta Morgan of Omaha. The lake area will cover 36 acres of land with 17 acres of water surface. The labor and material is furnished by the F.E.R.A. and is scheduled to be completed by April 1935.

There are three new faces among the list of county officials since last Monday: Mattie Cleland takes the place of Rudolph Hess as register of deeds; Ralph McLaughlin is now

probate judge in place of J.E. Kulp and C.C. Hendricks assumed the duties of commissioner from the first district in place of J.H. Alexander.

Miss Aileen Nitsch and Miss Eloise Utterback left Sunday with Harold Hamilton for Topeka where they will be working in the state legislature. The two young ladies have stenographic positions and Mr. Hamilton a clerical position. They were able to secure these positions though the recommendation of Representative Clayton C. Diehl.

The Decatur High wrestlers won over Colby but the basketball team lost by a score of 19-12. The basketball team also lost to Rexford High 36-28. Though a smaller town, this Rexford team has not lost any games and even defeated Colby.

Oberlin will lose one of its fine families when the Roy Wingfields move to Norton where he will go into business as the Dodge-Plymouth automobile dealer. He will leave his position with Benton & Hopkins Investment Company which he has held for the past 18 years.

Funeral services were held for Mrs. Gabriel (Dorthea) Brown, 94, who was born in Oslo, Norway, and came to this country in 1870. After her marriage in 1874 the couple made their home in Chicago until 1879 when they, with five other families, heard the call of Kansas for homesteaders and set out for the new land settling in Altory Township, Decatur County.

Funeral services were conducted at the Kanona Methodist Church where she was a charter member by the Rev. Lawrence Carlton and she was buried in the Kanona Cemetery beside the grave of her husband. She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Guy Battershell of Wichita and five sons, Gilbert of Kanona, Edward of Burr Oak, David of Osborne, Oscar of Ellis and Joseph of Farmington, New Mexico.

Funeral services were held for Alice Lee (Harris) Griffith,

94, who came to Kansas in May 1890 with her husband, William Emory Griffith, and filed a timber claim four miles south of Clayton, later moving to a farm one mile west of Clayton.

C.E. Gray of Emporia, 68, was hired last week as Decatur County engineer.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wright are the parents of a daughter, Mary Lynn, born Jan. 13.

25 YEARS AGO — Jan. 1985

Three farm families earned Key Banker conservation awards: Vollie and Sue Pollnow, Oberlin Township; Robert and Nancy Chaffin and family, Center Township and Tom and Cheryl Diederich and family, Lyon Township. The 40th annual meeting of the Decatur County Conservation District was held Jan. 24 at the Oberlin American Legion under the sponsorship of the Jennings Bank, the Citizens State Bank of Norcatur, the Decatur County National Bank and Farmers National Bank of Oberlin.

Oberlin postmaster Gary Miller presented a 40-year pin to Asa Alexander, rural route carrier for Oberlin route three. He began work in Norton as a substitute in 1947 and prior to that served in the U.S. Army from 1944-46.

The county's new ambulance unit purchased from Collins Industries in Hutchinson for \$36,487.32 has arrived and is now ready for service on local or in-county runs according to acting coordinator Bill DeKnight. The 1979 Ford ambulance will continue to be used to transport patients longer distances.

Chamber News

By Carolyn Hackney

I wish we could keep this nice weather around, but I hear there is rain and snow in the forecast for later this week. I will enjoy the good weather while it is here!!

The first business that I would like to acknowledge is Ray Jewelry, which has been in Oberlin and family owned for over 55 years. Vicky Ray carries beautiful glassware for wedding gifts and other occasions. One item I thought was interesting sitting beside the glassware was an assortment of very colorful coasters. There were many color themes to go with any décor. Other items of interest were baby tableware sets, a nice assortment of large calendars during the Holiday season, colorful puzzles, and a nice selection of the expected jewelry store shopping items of necklace sets, watches, bands and chains; individual bracelets, earrings, necklaces, and rings, plus a \$5 shelf that has an assortment of small figurines, little jewelry containers, small candle holders, and many more exciting items.

Following a meeting of the board of Citizens State Bank changes in staff positions have been announced by K.G. Ward, president and chairman of the board. Lyman Leichter moves to executive vice president and cashier; Gale Cook, to vice president; Lora Lynn Leichter to assistant vice president and Linda Hunt becomes assistant cashier. Ward continues to be chairman of the board and his wife Dorothy continues as vice president. Other directors present at the meeting were Manley Shirley, Oberlin, and Max Brooks, Denver.

The Red Devil cagers captured first place honors in the Oberlin Invitational basketball tournament with a 48-34 win over Grinnell in the finals Saturday evening. En route they defeated Cheylin and Sharon Springs. Marquis Sauvage was chosen most valuable player and he was joined by Doug Langerer and Jim Berkheimer on the all-tournament team. Other squad members on the DCHS team coached by Dan Buchanan are Evan Wilson, Ron Juenemann, Gary Juenemann, Don Simpson, Kyle Elwood, Mitch Bartels, Perrell Stanley and Dallas Johnson.

The tournament champion in the girls bracket was Grinnell with Oberlin placing fifth. Terri Leitner, a senior, was named to the all-tournament team.

Three DCHS band members have been chosen to play in the State KMEA band in Wichita: Robyn Russell, bassoon; Beth Votapka, baritone saxophone and Scott Braden, baritone.

Vicky also does some watch and jewelry repair. Stop in to take a look and say hello to Vicky.

An event to mark on your calendars is the Farmer-Rancher Appreciation Banquet, which will be held on Saturday, Feb. 13. With Valentine's Day the following day, this would be a fun time to take your sweetheart out for an evening.

Our four new board members for the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce are Kris Randel from Metcalf Real Estate; Shelby Hackney who is employed at Fair Chiropractic; Ken Morris who is the Oberlin agent for Bridges Group Inc.; and Robert Daniels from Creative Collision, which is soon to be open on North Highway 83.

Our retiring board members were Dave Olson, Amanda Grafel, Amanda Anderson, and Cindy Shirley. Thank you to all of them for their time spent helping with all the Chamber events.

Have a great week!!

The pledge was recited. Roll call, "A New Year's Resolution" was answered by members, Helen Rhodes, Ruth Chance, Rachel Carter, Alice Mizer, Patty Foster and Lila Jennings. The program "Prayer and Self Denial" video, "Here I Am Lord," was shown. Devotions were given by Helen and Patty served snacks.

The Czech Museum held its Jan. 11 meeting at 2 p.m. in the Royal Neighbor hall. President Neoma Tacha presided with directors Mary Wahlmeier, Larry Mizer, Lawrence and Lila Jennings and Bob Tacha present. The Veterans' Wreaths have been picked up from the Jennings Cemetery.

A Kansas Day program will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 31, in the Sunflower Senior Center. The public is invited to come. Guest speaker will be Lyle Hutchins who will talk about "Buffalo Hunters and the Plains Buffalo." He will have many items pertaining to this topic on display. The musical group, "Clueless," from Oberlin will entertain with several numbers. Members of the group are Lonnie McEvoy, harmonica; Mike Elwood, guitar; and Sid Metcalf, vocal.

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Cedar Living News

By Teresa Shaughnessy

The penny card players met on Monday afternoon to get the week off to a lively start. Those joining in on the game included Darlene Fisher, Irene Fringer, Elsie Goodnight, Donna Kent, Edna Mott, Joan Noble, Agnes Pruitt, Blanche Skubal, Jean Skubal and Delores Wheeler.

The Royal Neighbors held their monthly meeting on the Cedar Living Center patio on Monday afternoon.

Myrna Jones and Mary Ann Amack led the sing-along time before supper on Monday.

Joan Noble won the first Bingo on Tuesday afternoon and Aleen Van Vleet won the blackout game. Volunteers Ila Ray, Opal Huntley and Marian Dempewolf assisted with the game.

Pastor Charlotte Strecker-Baseler of the Faith Lutheran Church gave the monthly Communion service on the patio Tuesday afternoon.

Charlotte Kurtz hosted a game night for residents in the Cedar Living Center dining room on Tuesday evening.

The craft group met on Wednesday afternoon to work on Valentine's Day decorations.

Stuart Euhus gave the Bible study lesson on Wednesday afternoon.

Fr. Mark Berland brought Communion for the Catholic residents on Thursday morning.

Elsie Goodnight was the big winner at the word game social hour held on Thursday afternoon.

The baking group drew a big crowd when they met to make chocolate chip cookies on Friday afternoon.

Recent visitors: Lillian Sulzmann, Dresden; Carol Kompus, Chris Wood, Herndon; Jan Sattler, Atwood; Rhonda Wildeman, Jennings; Kelly Olson, Manhattan; Gregg Sayer, Cambridge, Neb.; Ron Wenger, Dayton, Tenn.

Lois Lamb, Phyllis Screen, Gladys Geis, Max and Veanna Carman, Dolores Koeperich, Eunice Richards, Robert and Penny Fringer, Pastor John and Lisa Paulson, Connie Olson, Gail and Kay Marcuson, Oberlin.

Good Samaritan News

By Lisa Paulson

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! II Corinthians 9:15.

Town Square has been transformed again, this time to celebrate all the babies to be born or already have been. A tree with baby shoes and adorable baby faces light up the room. Baby centerpieces made out of rose bowls grace each table and promote lively conversation. This was all done in preparation of the combined baby shower given on Wednesday. The theme of the shower was "Heaven Sent Babies," inspired by a book written and illustrated by Karla Dornacher. We found her book and contacted her about the shower and she sent nine autographed copies for us to give each Mom.

Excerpts from her book were read and the games were designed around the readings. Town Square was filled with great-grandmas sharing the joy of these expectant mothers. Amusing stories were told about rearing their children, nursery rhymes were recited, angel food cake was eaten and little Grady Alexander Leitner was passed from grandma to grandma... and he was sooo cute and well behaved!

It has been a difficult time for us as a family, as seems like every week I am reporting that we have said goodbye to another loved one. This week we have said goodbye to Lora Zwickle. She was a dear friend to so many, and lived a rich, full, faith-filled life. We will miss her but our lives have been blessed by knowing and loving her and the impact she had on us will live on in our hearts. Her life was remembered with the analogy of a patchwork quilt with bright colors representing the joys and darker pieces representing the sorrows. In my mind's eye I see a heart appliquéd right in the center of her life quilt reflecting the love she had for Jesus and the inspiration she was to anyone and everyone she encountered.

Of course, we had a week full of

our other routine activities: Devotions, folding, exercise, Bingo, Art, Bible study, etc. — all of these things add up to a life filled with meaning and purpose and to list them week to week may seem a little boring. What doesn't always come through is the family atmosphere that is established through these routines. The other thing that is missed in the telling is the seemingly small interactions, the joy and laughter that is shared in the doing. It is impossible to capture all the moments of the week and encapsulate them into a few paragraphs. I can only encourage you to stop by and see for yourself the reason we love doing what we do!

This week's visitors were Connie Bryan for **Leone Porsch**. Reva Marshall and Ron and Dixie Snyder (Colby) and Tami Cook (Norcatur) for **Dorothy Hunt**. Chris Wood (Herndon), Stan, Becky, and Muriel Jaine for **Doris Marintzer**. Chris Wood and Cheri Kastens (Herndon) for **Pooch Portschy**. Helen Brooks for **Ethel Nemeth**. Luanne and Mike Laird (Celina, Texas) for **Amy Rehm** and **Eileen Laird**. Donna Kelley and Ditta Anderson for **Eva Bryan** and **Eulaine Benda**. Ralph and Norma Unger for **Leo Mooty**, **Earl Brown** and **Lucy Schissler**. Mildred Holmdahl for **Evelyn Olson** and **Eulaine Benda**. Max and Veanna Carman and Peggy Carman, Jodee Stillman and Cash (Hoxie) for **Myrtle Waldo**. Erin and Susan May for **Walt** and **Betty Pryor**. Elsie Wolters for **Dorothy Pryor**. Sharon Slabaugh and Laurene Van Otterloo for **Opal Bryan**. Bev and Rocky DeLano (Wichita), Doug and Chris Dempewolf and Brian Hartman (Greeley, Colo.) for **R.D. Thornton**. Gerald Olson for **Evelyn Olson**. Eleanor Rogers (Selden), Anogene Rogers (Rexford), Elberta Ritter and Delores Raile (Hoxie) for **Hubert Mumm**. Gail and Kay Marcuson and Edie Tate for **Lois Carlson**.

Jennings News

By Louise Cressler

The Sunflower Senior Citizens dinner was held Tuesday Jan. 12, with the following people enjoying the day: Stan and Ramona Shaw, Bob and Neoma Tacha, Imogene Keenan, Rachel Carter, Glenda

and Larry Johnson, Tommie and William Kump and Louise Cressler. Bingo was played in the afternoon. A business meeting was also held.

The United Methodist Women met Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 2 p.m.

Lyle News

By Veda Wood

Dwight and Teresa Wood and Phoenix, daughter of Cari Riffel, were accidentally omitted from last week's item on the Wood Christmas dinner.

David Huff spent from Saturday, Jan. 2, to Tuesday at his parent's home.

Joyce Sumner was in the hospital several days, and is now recuperating at home.

Veda Wood's daughter, Carol Moye, spent a good share of Saturday with her. They always have a good time, even doing nothing but visiting.

A small group met in Margaret "Toots" Magers home on Sunday morning and had a very pleasant church service around her table, rather than heating the community building.

Kathy Van Meter went to Wichita on Thursday to the home of her daughter, Sylvia and Jack Lovin. Sylvia was having a baby shower for Maria Joplin of Garden Plains on Saturday. Thirty guests included Sylvia's daughters, Danielle Jear-doe and Colton of Glen Elder and Carrie Brinyer of Pratt. The husbands came afterward, visited and

took the ladies out. After everything was over, Sylvia was hospitalized with a possible mini-stroke. She was improving well enough for Kathy to return home on Sunday.

Sam William of Wilson, brother-in-law of Kathy Van Meter and a cousin to the Nicholsons in Lebanon, passed away on Saturday.

June Jolly's family had a birthday party for her daughter, Linda, at the Coppermill in McCook on Saturday evening. Besides Linda and Dennis, Carroll Jolly, Papillion, Neb., and daughter Becky; Linda's son, Les, of Lincoln, Neb.; Ron Weihs of Honey Creek, Neb.; Megan, Barbara and Butch Jolly; Louie and LaVeda McFarland and several other guests attended as it was also Louie's birthday.

On Sunday, June fixed dinner for Dean, Ron, Carroll, Becky, Dennis, Linda, Megan, and Les. She says she has the same problem that I do — we are out of practice when it comes to cooking for several people.

Our good friend, Gary Anthony, is going to McCook three times a week for his dialysis, and continues to gain strength slowly.

Mount Pleasant News

By Dianne Bremer

Funeral services for Alice May, 90, were held Saturday morning, Jan. 16, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Oberlin with Pastor Kevin Schnakenberg officiating. Out-of-town relatives attending her funeral and graveside services were Brian and Hannah Hartman, Jeanette, Phillip and Briannah, Greeley, Colo.; Aaron Carlson, Loveland, Colo.; Elvera (Carlson) Wendelin, Lindsborg; Bill and Myra (Carlson) Sater, Tim and Darlene (Sater) Linskog, and Ron Sater, Holcomb; Martin and Lois Leibbrandt, Imperial, Neb.; Sharon Wright and Kelly Olson, Manhattan; Robert Muirhead, Hays; and Lyndon and Linda Tomasch, Olathe. Alice was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur; parents, Walter and Lela

Rezner; brother, Walter Wayne Rezner; and sisters LeeOra Carlson, Doris Staack, and Maurine Kay Hartman. She is survived by her daughter and family, Dianne and John Bremer, Jessica and Kristen; a sister, Lois Carlson; and many relatives and friends.

Saturday supper guests of John and Dianne Bremer and Jessica were Brian and Hannah Hartman, Jeanette, Phillip and Briannah, Jay and Becky Tate, Dakota, Mollie, and Grace, Kristen Bremer and Dwayne Bray, and Warren and Jan Bainter.

Lyn and Linda Tomasch were Friday overnight guests of the John Bremer family, and Brian and Hannah Hartman and their family were Friday and Saturday overnight guests of the Jay Tate family.

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