



**CELEBRATING ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY** in 2000 are members of the 1950 class. They include, row 1 (from left) Gail Long, Ivan Lemman, Raleigh Dean, Chuck Votapka, Alva Caster, Gene Lindemann. Row 2: Bill Deines, Elizabeth Johnson Dean, Eleanor Jeffus Matal, Phyllis Peterson Berry, Donna Griffin Lincoln, Elsie Craig Winder, Joyce McLaughlin Cook, Eldon Laidig. Row 3: Earl

Winder, Phyllis Eiler Metcalf, Joanne Ater Castle, Delores Jording Wheeler, Lelia Krizek Benton, Marilou Berndt Long, Marjorie Cederberg Lindgren, JoAnn Lincoln Ufford, Estella Carper Harold Row 4: Alfred Kennedy, Keith Olson, Owen Wilson, Lester Williams, Jay Kay Locy, Doyle Fredrickson, Arlie Rydquist.

## State wrestling held here for fourth time in 1950

By **MARY LOU OLSON**  
ml.olson@nwkansas.com

The state wrestling tournament was held at Decatur Community High School in February 1950 for the fourth time in history the year the 60th anniversary class graduated. The Oberlin team placed fourth with Dale Votapka, Chuck Young and Cordette Eerickson winning the crown while Aard Erickson placed third.

In April 1950, 1,000 songbirds and tooters came to Oberlin for the District Music Festival with the local musicians entering about 100 students in band, mixed chorus, glee clubs, small ensembles and solos. The band was sporting new uniforms, which were purchased by band students raising the money themselves after Vincent May became band director.

Football season proved to be an exciting when they were juniors. The Goodland Cowboys came to Oberlin undefeated, but the Red Devils surprised them in the final minutes when Center Keith Olson caught a pass in the end zone, preventing a win by the opposing team.

Supt. Harry Mahon had told the Oberlin boys that if they beat Goodland, he would get a stock tank, fill it with ice water and every student

in the school could have a free bottle of pop. The football boys came through, much to the delight of the student body. Joanne Ater, Mary Lou Woodward and Arlie Rydquist were among members of the class who were cheerleaders.

Other classmates who were on the football team included; Gene Lindemann, Cordette Erikson, Doug Corder, Ivan Lemman, Jack Hines, Wayne Waldo, Jerry Hilsinger, Don Campbell, Charles Young, Alva Caster, and Duane Purcell. Coach was Jess Woodruff.

The FFA captured first in the Albrecht Duroc Judging Contest in Smith Center and Bill Deines topped all other boys by placing first as an individual. He contributed 292 points toward Oberlin's winning total.

Wrestlers from the class included: Gail Hayward, Owen Wilson, Raleigh Dean, Chuck Young, Arlie Rydquist, Jack Hines and Cordette Erikson. Among basketeers were Loyde Orr, Gene Lindemann, Keith Olson, Jerry Hilsinger, and Delaine Barton.

"The Slip of the Slipper," was chosen as the May operetta by vocal instructor Genie Wallace.

Phyllis (Eiler) Metcalf, who lived on a farm

two miles from town, said she rode the school bus all 12 years.

"There were many memories riding the bus, which the kids referred to as "The Tin Can." There were seats on both sides and a bench down the middle so you had to crawl over everyone if you were in the back. The drivers were usually senior boys and looking back I realize they had a lot of responsibility and weren't paid much. There were no radios or cell phones so if we got stuck someone just walked to the nearest house and help came, so we were either late for school or late getting home.

"One time, the bus slid off the road by our place and my Dad took his team of horses to pull it out. Some thought they couldn't do it, but he proved them wrong.

"There weren't any sports for girls so there was very little to do after school but go home to chores. It was always a fun time when the big boys game was in Oberlin especially when we played Norton.

"At several of our reunions, the topic came up about my Dad's watermelon patch, which many of the class visited. My Dad just got a big laugh about it, especially in later years when he

would see someone and they would mention his patch."

There were 16 class members who went to school together all 12 years in Oberlin. They were Alan Addleman, Joanne Ater, Sidney Barnhart, Alva Caster, Phyllis Eiler, Gail Hayward, Eleanor Jeffus, Alfred Kennedy, Eldon Laidig, Gene Lindemann, Joyce McLaughlin, Arlie Rydquist, Charles Votapka, Wayne Waldo, Mary Lou Woodward and Ruth JoAnn Lincoln.

"Prom was always a big time but our junior year we didn't get to walk down main street as it was raining. This year when we get together we will have 18 who will be with us in memory only."

Alva Caster was valedictorian of the class and Elizabeth Johnson, salutatorian. Class officers were Charles Young, president; Jack Hines, vice president; Phyllis Peterson, secretary-treasurer, and Cordette Erikson, marshal. Bob Keefer was an outstanding trumpeteer and played "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp" at commencement exercises on May 18, 1950.