

# Events of Yesteryear

By Jody Betts

## 125 YEARS AGO – July 1885

The foundation for Geo. Colby's new brick is being laid.

Oberlin has thrown off her baby clothes and now writes herself a city of the third class.

Gene Worcester has sold the Sheridan County Times to W.D. Street and has for the time being retired from the newspaper field.

We are in receipt of No. 1, Vol. 1. of the Kenneth Democrat, published by S.P. Davison.

A.A. Wilbur is erecting a fine residence 24x36 on his homestead four miles west of town.

The first election for city officers was held last Monday with 87 ballots cast: For Mayor, J.W. Allen; Police magistrate, N.G. Addleman; for councilmen, W.A., Fraser, S.F. Colby, Frank Hurt, Geo. A. Metcalf and J.C. Wilson.

## 100 YEARS AGO – July 1910

The Editor, wife and daughter, returned from their eastern trip Thursday of last week. The immense sighs heaved by the local editor when we showed up made us imagine he was willing that we go to work for a while at least.

Charley Hendricks of Harlan has a new Buick auto.

J.H. Millen has the job of driving the mail wagon for the Dresden contractor.

John Graves married a Montana maiden June 12th. Her name was Yvone Collom.

Frank Tacha brought the Sam Harris property in southwest Oberlin and is moving in this week.

Otis L. Benton made a 150-mile trip on Tuesday in his auto visiting the towns of Bird City, St. Francis, Goodland and Colby.

Kanona Items: The most excitement that happened here the Fourth was for one man to start for Norton and leave one child on the platform and his pocketbook at the ticket window.

## 75 YEARS AGO – July 1935

The Fourth of July committee exercised good judgment when they had fresh water drinking fountains installed in the city park and on the athletic field. They were busy most of the time on the holiday.

Court House News: The treasurer's office has issued new tags to: Ira Masterson, a Plymouth; Henry May, Plymouth; Elmer Thiringer, Ford; Chas. Chambers, Norcat, Ford; George Smith, Dresden, Chevrolet and E.N. Kious, Norcat, Chevrolet.

Elmer Jenkins, Oberlin, and Lorena Fowler were married by the probate judge on July 5; Edward John Kaus, Leoville and Irene Stegeman, Dresden, obtained a license on July 8.

Hospital News: Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Anderson are the parents of a baby girl born July 9.

Billie O'Toole, who has lived with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Kulp, left Saturday with

his father, Earl O'Toole, to live in Kansas City. Bill will be missed in this community.

Funeral arrangements are being made for a Herndon woman, Mrs. Sebastian Zwickle who died from burns when her clothing caught fire while burning trash. Traer: A baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Rathbun on June 24 and will be known as Dixie Marlene.

## 50 YEARS AGO – July 1960

Hot, dry, windy weather over the weekend aided harvest operations and storage space is a scarce commodity with 30 to 40 bushel yields, or better, being reported county-wide.

Area baseball fans will have a chance to see a three-game series between the New York Yankees and the Kansas City Royals according to a "package" arrangement offered by Lloyd Corcoran, the Continental Trailways agent.

Oberlin's newest recreational project – the Trampoline Center – is open and operating on a regular basis with David Blickenstaff as manager. The center is owned by Oberlin Amusement, Inc., with Ward Sauvage, Don Fredrickson and Don Zimmerman as principal stockholders. Charges are 40 cents per person per half hour.

Editor's comment: The only trouble with spending an evening watching youngsters bounce on the trampoline is that you may leave feeling like you've been on an indecisive elevator.

Mrs. Art Peters sold the Sinclair Bulk Service dealership to C.B. Railsback last week. The Peters family operated the business for 28 years. Mr. Peters died March 5.

KU star halfback John Hadl, who addressed Oberlin Rotarians last Tuesday, described the 1960 football team as the best in 15 years and the schedule the toughest with games with TCU, the Southwest conference champion, Syracuse, a top-ranked national team and powerful Oklahoma, all to be played in Lawrence.

Jennings: Funeral services were conducted for Dr. L.A. Jeffries at St. Thomas Cathedral in Denver. He was a physician in Jennings for more than 50 years and is survived by his wife, Caroline; one son, Hugh and his wife and a grandson, Jeff, of Albuquerque, N.M. Burial was in a Denver cemetery.

Delores Chancellor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. V.E. Chancellor, McCook, and James Jennings, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Jennings, Dresden, were united in marriage July 2 at the Oberlin Covenant Church.

Hospital News: Mr. and Mrs. Miles Ray, daughter, Marla Jean, July 12, 1960.

Sunday afternoon, June 26 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Linda Jording, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ewald Jording, and Wayne Bosler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Bosler,

exchanged wedding vows with the Rev. Walter Stoeppelwerth officiating.

## 25 YEARS AGO – July 1985

John Wells, owner/operator of Cedar Bluffs Grain Inc., said of the 1985 wheat harvest in his part of the county. "I've never had a better harvest."

The Decatur County Rural Fire Department volunteers and Oberlin city firefighters were kept extremely busy the past week answering more than 10 calls around the county. Only two were stubble fires while most of the others had been set by fireworks.

The Oberlin Centennial chairman Phyllis Nelson estimated a crowd of 2,500 persons viewed the Fourth of July fireworks at Smick Field following a day of activities in the park which featured games and entertainment for all ages and 15 food booths. Setting off the fireworks were Harold Nichols, Ron Kump, David Green, Kevin Meitl and Del Pomeroy.

Hospital News: Jean and Theodore Stallman, Oberlin, daughter, Briana Marie, July 1, 1985; Patricia and Jerry Foster, Jennings, daughter, Peggy Renee, July 2, 1985; Denise and Thane Moore, Oberlin, daughter, Emily Kay, July 4, 1985; Judy and Glen Stragey, Oberlin, son, Cole Justin, July 6, 1985.

The wedding of Jennifer Fillmore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs.

Keith Fillmore, Garden City, and Roger LaSalle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph LaSalle, Oberlin, was solemnized June 8 at the First United Methodist Church in Garden City. The bride is a graduate of Garden City High School, Garden City Community College and Kansas State University and is employed as home economics teacher at Holcomb. The bridegroom is a graduate of Decatur Community High School and Garden City Community College and is employed by SCS Farms of rural Garden City.

Decatur County runners placed second in the five-county Northwest Kansas Challenge Race for distance runners held July 4 in Atwood. Team members were Deb Klima, Kenda Unger, Jenni Peter, Gina Klima, Randall, Lori, Catherine and Scott Braden, Brandon Russell, Brad DeKnight, Trish Wild, Mark Huntley, Bob Shuler, Teri Leitner, Teresa Buchanan and Doug Horn.

Clayton: Will Kirk, son of Bill and Stephanie Kirk, has joined the Farm Credit Bank of Wichita as a summer intern. He is a graduate of Jennings High School and will graduate from Kansas State University in May 1986 with a degree in agriculture economics.

Albert Bearley, Atwood, and his son, John (Jack) Bearley, Oberlin, were honored at the Atwood Masonic Lodge #164 when they were presented their 75-year and 50-year pins, respectively.

## Cedar Living News

By Teresa Shaughnessy

There was a big crowd at the penny card game played on Monday afternoon in the Cedar Living Center dining room. Players included Dale Butler, Irene Fringer, Darlene Fisher, Elsie Goodnight, Ruth Havel, Donna Kent, Ira and Mary Kolsky, Wilma LaSalle, Edna Mott, Joan Noble, James Plotts, Agnes Pruitt, Linda Shuler, Aleen Van Vleet, Mary Votapka and Delores Wheeler. Following the game everyone was treated to a root beer float.

Before supper we enjoyed an hour of sing-along time.

Mary Votapka won the first bingo on Tuesday afternoon. The blackout game ended in a tie between Agnes Pruitt and Hattie Toth.

The craft group met on Wednesday afternoon. The group did a good job of making piggy banks, which will be on display at the fair. Staff members assisted with the project by donating milk cartons and empty paper towel rolls.

Stuart Euhus gave the Bible study lesson on Wednesday afternoon.

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

Mary Votapka was the guest of honor at a birthday celebration held at noon on Thursday. Family members who ate lunch with Mary

were Sue Long, Tom Votapka and Terri Henke.

The P.E.O. Club hosted the July birthday party on Thursday afternoon. Club members served doughnuts and coffee. The musical program was led by Cheryl Metcalf on the piano, with club members leading a sing-along time. Mary Votapka is the only resident celebrating a July birthday.

Residents met for an evening of games on Thursday.

The baking group made butter-scotch oatmeal cookies on Friday afternoon. The cookies were served warm from the oven.

The Royal Neighbors held their July meeting on the Cedar Living Center patio on Friday afternoon.

Recent visitors: Lillian Sulzman, Dresden; Shirley Williams, Jan Sattler, Atwood; Carol Kompus, Herndon; Alysha N. Tadlock, Goodland; Stean Olson, Hays; J.B. Talk, Denver; Evan Wenger, Aubrey, Texas; Stephani and Adrian Hawkins, Euless, Texas; Chris and Alex Hosaka, Atlanta, Ga.; and Eda and Jay Allen, Miami, Fla.

Gary Allen, Marian Dempewolf, Lyle Gamblin, Phyllis Screen, Audra Duncan, Nadean Stoney, Lois Lamb, Eunice Richards, Connie Miller, Marilyn Gamblin and Jim Gamblin, Oberlin.

## Good Samaritan News

By Lisa Paulson

*Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due. When it is in the power of your hand to do so. Proverbs 3:27*

Last week we reported on a special request made by some ladies in Bible Study, that friends would remember to casually use their name in their greeting. Since that article several people have approached me with questions regarding loved ones living with dementia.

Almost two years ago, consultant Erin Bonitto came to train us on better caring for our residents with dementia. In addition to an overview of the changes that take place in the brain associated with Dementia and Alzheimer disease, Erin taught us communication strategies and how to create a "memory care environment" for all the residents. We have been implementing these strategies now for two years, and thought you might like an update on how they are working and the changes we have seen.

The most effective strategy is simply approaching your loved one in a different way. There is a 4-step guideline to follow, and if you have someone struggling with dementia living with us here, or still at home, it would be a great thing for you to adopt as well.

Step 1: Approach from the front. (So not to surprise or frighten). Get down a little lower than eye level (puts your loved one in a place of honor and respect). Call her by her familiar name ("Sally" or "Mom") and extend your hand (wait for her to reach for yours).

Step 2: Say your familiar name and a simple statement (seven words or less) of who you are ("I'm Lisa, your daughter").

Step 3: Make a simple statement of what you are doing ("I'm here to have coffee with you.") Avoid questions like (Do you want to have coffee with me?)

Step 4: Always end your interaction with an endorphin boost ("I love You" I'd like to give you a hug").

This approach is proven to set the mind at ease by gently reorienting her. Your mom may recognize you, but be unable to retrieve your name, causing great frustration that will hinder further communication during your visit. Remember while conversing to again avoid questions. Instead of saying "Do you remember Dad and how hard he worked?" Replace the question with a statement like "I was thinking about Dad, he worked hard." This will facilitate much more meaningful conversation.

Lora Zwickle, a dear friend who has gone to be with the Lord, once told me "old people are slow, we need everyone to slow down."

This technique causes us as caregivers to slow down. It puts the focus on relationship versus tasks. It makes our jobs more enjoyable and the residents more relaxed. It has been a very good thing to do for those we love and easily in the power of our hands to do so. (Proverbs 3:27).

Save the date! A Dementia Awareness Forum for the community will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 5. If this is an area of interest, please mark your calendar!

Our week was one of sweet routine. After the excitement of the Fourth, it was rather refreshing. Of course there is always something to celebrate.

Emma Sanford had a birthday and the Eastern Star ladies came to help us honor her. She says she is not having any more birthday, but agreed to come if we wished her a "Happy Un-Birthday." She did enjoy her gift, the ice cream and the company!

In Art Class, Butterflies took flight! Myrtle Ross, Betty May, Faye Miller, Evelyn Olson, Goldie Stapp, Amy Rehm, Alice Bobbitt, Leone Porsch and Opal Bryan made one. They are on display at the Front Porch.

Story Tellers for the week were Elden Long, Olive Arnold, Amy Rehm, Leone Porsch, Alice Bobbitt, Evelyn Olson, Opal Bryan, Myrtle Ross, Leona Helmkamp, Cheryl Hill, and Betty May. This week's story was titled "Is it Port Wine?"

Visitors were Bud and Vicki Mumm (Gem) for **Hubert Mumm, Doris Marintzer and Francis Janousek**. Mert McEvoy and Eunice Richards for **Lucy Schissler**. Ron and Dixie Snyder (Colby) Reva Marshall and Penny Fringer for **Dorothy Hunt**. Sharon Slabaugh, Jeanne Britton (Denver) and Eunice Richards for **Opal Bryan**. Sue, Erin and Ryan May for **Walt and Betty May**. Janelle Morel (Norton) for **Goldie Stapp**. Brian, Amber and Caitlyn Farrell (Hays) and Chase Newton (Hays) and Dona VanPelt, Murry and Audrey Pavlicek for **Mary Lemman**. Ron and Becky Hunziker (Breckenridge, Colo.) for **Amy Rehm**. Eunice Richards for **Earl Brown**. McKenna Claussen (Manhattan), Eunice Martin and Connie Robison for **Glenn Martin**.

May God Bless your week and always remember "In Christ's Love Everyone is Someone."

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## Museum Matters

By Sharleen Wurm

Back with the Oberlin Quasi-quincentennial Tidbits after several busy weeks at the museum.

*The Oberlin Herald*, July 12, 1888:

Commissioner's meeting of July 2, 1888:

The petition of J.M. Crooks et al to set off township 1, range 28 from Olive township and form a new municipal township to be known as Sherman township, was taken up. The petition was granted and the following officers appointed: T.J. Van Pelt, trustee; C. McCarty, treasurer; George McCurdy, constable.

*The Oberlin Herald*, July 19, 1888:

Cattle and horses continue to roam at will over the graveyard, occasionally knocking down a tombstone or headboard. Those buried there have one satisfaction — they don't "live" in a commu-

nity that will tolerate such ghoulish indifference. A photograph of the graveyard should be taken and hung up in every house in Oberlin. If the grounds are too small, buy others; if the present place is kept, fence and survey it. No resurrection can be looked for with the graveyard in its present condition. (They are talking about the Oberlin Cemetery)

In the fall of 1874 Charlie Canfield was the first to be buried in the Oberlin Cemetery.

The first post office in the county was established as Sappa, which today is known as Oberlin. J.A. Rodehaver was appointed postmaster in April 1874.

The museum will be celebrating Oberlin's 125th Anniversary during fair week on Saturday, Aug. 7. Watch for details in the coming weeks.

## Jennings News

By Louise Cressler

Sympathy is extended to the family of Betty Miller of Colby, formerly of Dresden, who died Sunday, July 4. Funeral services were held Wednesday, July 7, at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Colby. Burial was at the Leoville Cemetery. Among survivors are her sons, Larry and Mary Miller and Greg and Marie Miller, rural Dresden.

Several are finished with the wheat harvest. With the cloudy, humid weather others are having a long struggle-out harvest time.

Wayne and Louise Cressler received word that our newest great-granddaughter, Josie Lemmons, has been released from the Children's Hospital in Kansas City. She is at home in Manhattan and doing well.



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