

Winds spur flames

An electrical fire Saturday afternoon damaged rafters in the attic of an Oberlin home and pretty much totaled the attached garage.

Fire Chief Bill Cathcart said he thought there was around \$30,000 in damage to Dennis and Judy Shirley's property on North Antelope Avenue.

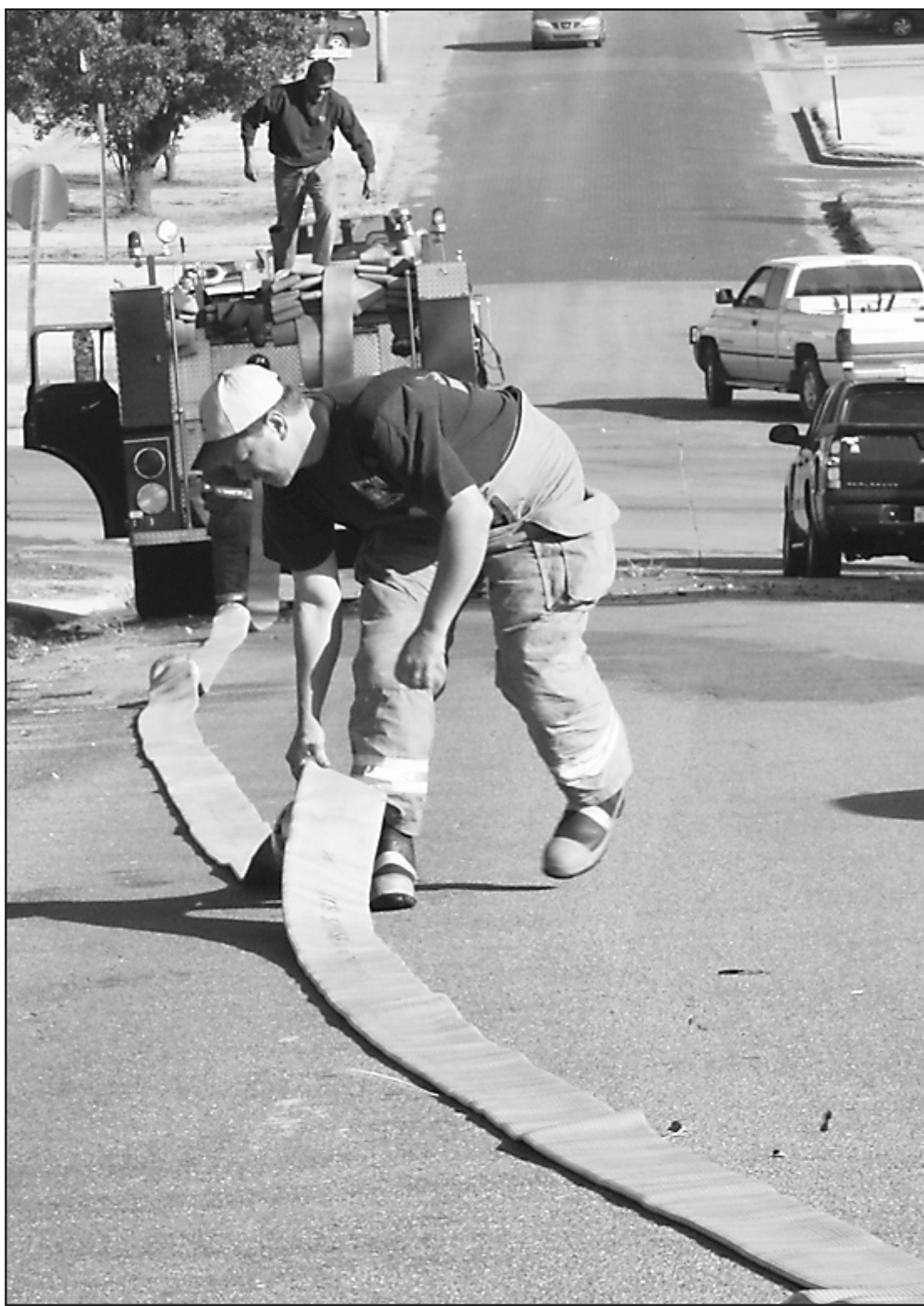
The fire started in an outside light fixture, said Chief Cathcart. Gusts of wind up to 30 mph helped fan the flames, which burned through the wall into the garage.

The garage, which is attached to the house, had heavy smoke and fire damage, the chief said, and the attic had some damage.

There was minimal damage inside the home, he said, and no water damage. The wind helped with that, he said, because the garage is on the north side and the wind was out of the south and blew the flames away. The fire call came into dispatch at 3:04 p.m. and the Oberlin volunteer firefighters were at the house for just under an hour.

Chief Cathcart said he thought the family had been home at the time, as they were in the yard when the firefighters arrived. He said he thought someone noticed the fire and alerted them.

Firemen leaving the station reported seeing heavy smoke.



SMOKE POURED out of the Shirley house on Antelope Avenue on Saturday afternoon (above) after an electrical fire spread quickly to the garage. Volunteer firemen (top)

on the south side of the house started to wrap up the hose back on the truck after the fire was almost out.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Banquet to kick off bird season

Saturday is opening day for the 2011 pheasant season, but before the shooting starts, the Sunflower Chapter of Pheasants Forever will hold its annual banquet with a prime-rib dinner, drawings and raffles and an auction.

Events are scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. Friday at The Gateway civic center, at the intersection of U.S. 83 and U.S. 36 in Oberlin. Dinner will be served starting at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$25, said Charlie Haag, banquet chair. No reservation is needed. Hunters can also buy a Pheasants Forever membership for \$35 at the door.

Hunters under 18 who pay the \$25 for the dinner will also get a \$10 gift certificate to either the Sunflower Cinema or the bowling alley, Dale's Fish 'N' Fun or Pizza Hut. It's their choice, he said.

The youth hunters also will be entered for a chance to win a lifetime hunting license in Kansas.

The chapter plans to hold a bunch of raffles throughout the night. In one, said Mr. Haag, said they will

sell 104 chances to win any item off the auction table with the exception of the mystery gun, any youth auction item or the group's art print of the year. Those tickets are \$20 a shot.

For \$5, or three for \$10, people can buy tickets to win the youth raffle table.

Another raffle, said Mr. Haag, is the "stretch" raffle. People can buy either six tickets for \$5 or all they can stretch between their arms for \$20.

Besides the four-gun raffle, he said, there will also be one for a pistol and others.

Mr. Haag said they will also have a live auction.

He said they will do the youth auction, where people bid and win half of what's raised and the young winner gets a gun package.

Money raised at the banquet is used for chapter projects, including improvements at Sappa Park. This year, the group wants to stress the importance of getting kids involved in hunting, he said.

Veterans to parade down Main Street

At 11 a.m. on the 11th day of the 11th month of the 11th year, Decatur County veterans are invited to parade down Main Street for Veterans Day.

Dave Bergling, committee chair, said this is the only time the parade will be held at 11, 11, 11. Any veteran who wants to ride or walk in the parade is asked to meet at 10:45 a.m. at East Ash Street and North Griffith Avenue, just east of the Good Samaritan Center.

Mr. Bergling and Gary Allen talked with the Oberlin City Council on Thursday night on behalf of the commander of the Oberlin American Legion Post. The men asked permission to hold a parade on Friday and every year following for Veterans Day.

"Veterans," said Mr. Bergling, "have only one day a year."

Mr. Bergling, who served 26 years in the U.S. Army, including

service in Vietnam, said they will have four Jeeps and a trailer for people who want to ride. He said he's contacted the director of the high school band and invited them to march.

Veterans can go to a program at the Oberlin Elementary School at 10 a.m. Friday, before the parade, he said. The program is in the gym and is open to the public.

Councilman Rob McFee, who was presiding as acting mayor, said he thought the parade was a great idea. He asked if the veterans would like Main Street closed. Mr. Bergling said they will have a police escort.

No one voiced any objections. Councilwoman Fonda Farr said she thought the parade was an excellent idea.

"Good luck," said Councilman McFee. "I hope you have a lot of interest."

Norcatgur bills jump to pay for new well

Norcatgur city bills will increase \$31 this month to help pay for a new water well, city officials say.

At the end of the summer, said City Clerk Deb Marshall, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment told the council that one of the town's two wells couldn't be used anymore.

The second well was shut down, she said, and now the town is served by just one well. The city has about

100 water users.

Earlier this month, the City Council sent a letter to the water users explaining the situation.

The city is working with Chris Miller, an engineer and owner of the McCook firm Miller and Associates, on the project. The letter says that the project will not only provide a second well, but also connect both wells to one chlorinator to save on (See NEW on Page 10A)

Work session needed to discuss city water

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
k.davis@nwkans.com

The Oberlin City Council talked Thursday about scheduling a work session on water issues after six test wells are drilled outside of town, part of the city's search for a better source of drinking water.

Councilman Jim Miesner said he talked with Dick Kelley, who is drilling the test wells, on Sunday and gave him a list of all the landowners and people who might be affected by the wells. Mr. Miesner

said he doesn't think anything has been drilled yet, but he hopes to have it done by the next meeting on Thursday, Nov. 17.

Mr. Miesner said he would like to hold a "water workshop" to hash out the city's goals, a plan of attack and the end plan after the test wells are drilled.

The city has been planning to build a \$4.5 million water treatment plant, but the council has backed away from that plan because of high costs to operate the plant and dispose of uranium removed from the water.

The city applied for and received (See OBERLIN on Page 10A)

Outdoors store celebrates 50 years

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
k.davis@nwkans.com

Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, a business that started in a couple's garage in 1961, just celebrated 50 years of service to Oberlin and the entire region.

The wholesale sporting goods outlet started in Dale and Eris Young's garage at 310 N. Beaver. At the time, said Bob Woolsey, the couple's son-in-law, Mr. Young was still operating another business, Young Construction Co.

He was in construction for 25 years before that business dissolved in the late 1960s.

To start, said Mr. Woolsey, the outdoor business handled all fish and tackle items. Mr. Young went on the road to sell wholesale routes.

Back then, he said, the area had more population and not as many discount stores. Mr. Young's routes, said Mr. Woolsey, weren't as long as the ones the store runs today.

Mr. Young went lake to lake and town to town, offering products to dealers who would then sell to the public.

He offered a weekly service, something the company still does today.

Back then, said Mr. Woolsey, the routes were 200 to 250 miles roundtrip. Now they are 500 to

800.

Mr. Young's sons-in-law started at the business years after joining the family, Mr. Woolsey joining in January 1977 and Joe Dejmal in June 1983. In 1984, Mr. Young retired.

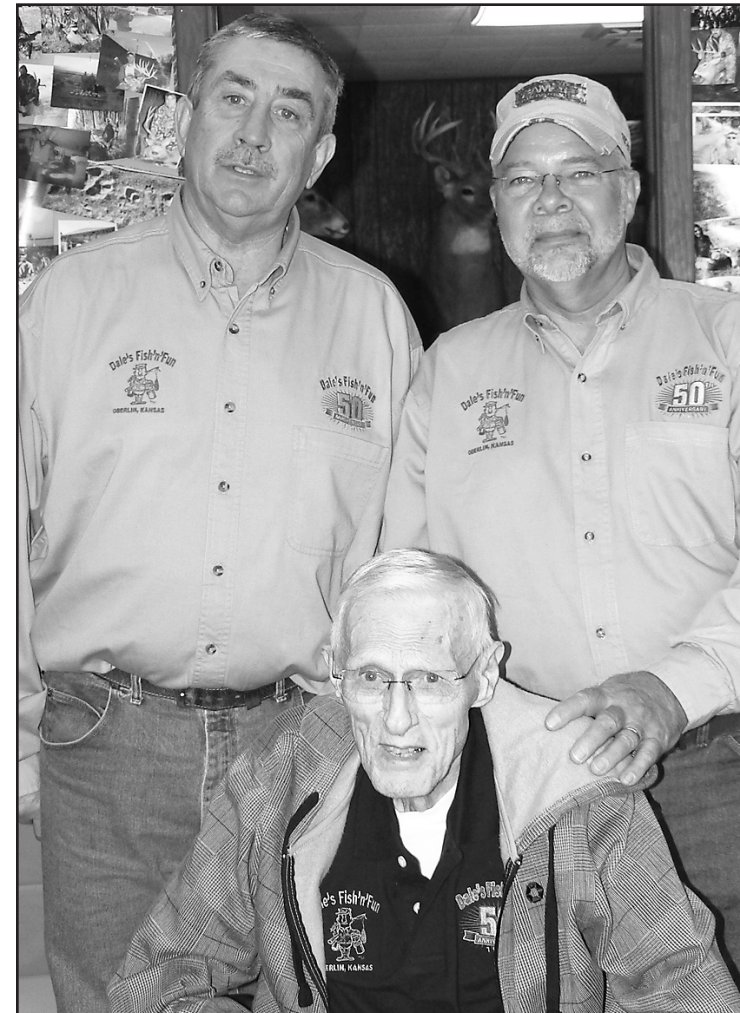
On Oct. 29, 1979, Dale's moved to the store building on U.S. 36, because they wanted to expand. Mr. Young had rented warehouses at the fairgrounds and around town after he started in the garage.

The outdoor store now sells fishing and hunting gear and sports stuff, with wholesale routes serving primarily Kansas and Nebraska. Over the years, said Mr. Woolsey, they have expanded into eastern Colorado and Wyoming and last week, he made a delivery to South Dakota.

Mr. Dejmal's routes cover Kansas and eastern Colorado, going into Denver and Colorado Springs. Mr. Woolsey said he covers Nebraska, eastern Wyoming and occasionally other areas.

The business, he said, buys items from manufacturers, then lists them at wholesale for businesses that sell to customers. That's why there are no prices on the items at the store, he said, because they use it as a show room. Retail and wholesale prices are different.

(See BUSINESS on Page 10A)



AT THE STORE, Joe Dejmal, Bob Woolsey and Dale Young marked 50 years of business for Dale's Fish 'N' Fun at the end of October.