



SOME 240 FLAGS WAVED in the sunshine Monday (above) as visitors walked among them and the decorated graves at the Oberlin Cemetery before the annual Memorial Day ceremonies by the Oberlin American Legion Post. While waiting for the program to begin, John Otis (in uniform) spoke with another former sailor who was visiting from Florida.

— Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes

Flags honor fallen

The breeze picked up the 240 American flags at the Oberlin Cemetery on Monday and made them all flutter and flap as about 100 people paid tribute to those who served and those who died.

Flags also flanked both sides of the entryway to the newly opened western section of the cemetery.

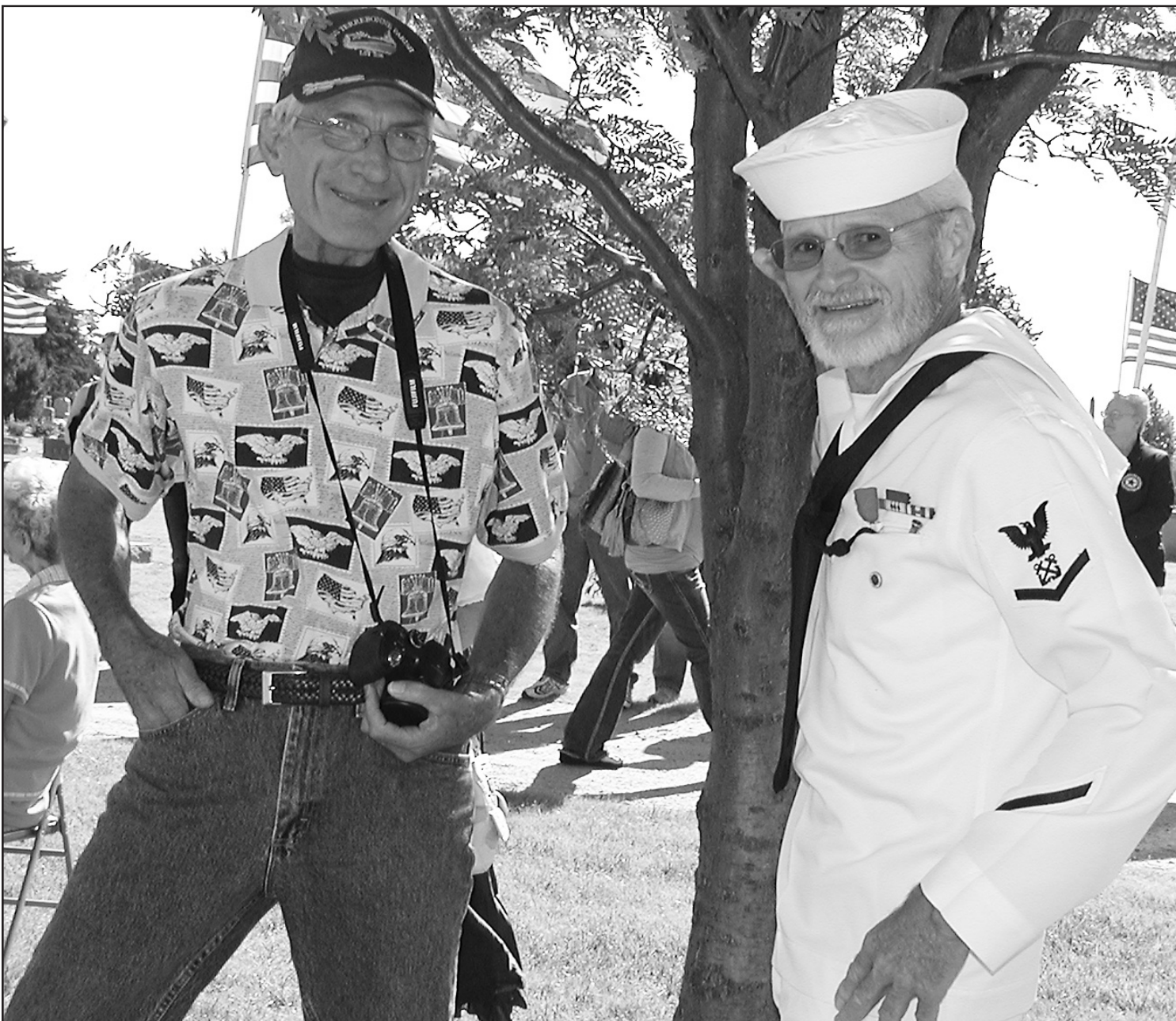
The annual Memorial Day service was conducted by the Oberlin American Legion, Sons of the American Legion and Legion Auxiliary.

Legion Chaplain Stan Chapin gave the opening and closing prayer and Samantha Anderson sang two verses of the national anthem.

Jim Miesner, Judy Scott and Megan Lohofener placed two wreaths in front of the newly restored Veterans Memorial.

Juliet Madsen, who was wounded in Iraq when she was a member of the Army spoke of her long trip back from the injury and subsequent illnesses.

Gary Jensen, with help from Bridget Corcoran, ran the American flag up the pole and then lowered it to half staff. The service ended with "Taps," played on



the trumpet by Baron Green. Over at the Good Samaritan Center, there was another "Avenue of Flags" as dozens of small American flags decorated the front porch and sidewalk, many of them with names of those who are or have been in the service.

Disabled, retired veteran tells her story after Iraq

This is the text of speech prepared by wounded veteran Juliet Madsen for Memorial Day ceremonies at the Oberlin Cemetery:

Thank you for inviting me to speak at Oberlin's Memorial Day remembrance celebration. I am Juliet Madsen, a disabled and retired 20-year veteran of the United States Army, who served in the First Gulf War and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

It was during my tour of duty in Iraq in 2004 that I endured a brain injury from a series of unfortunate events. I call Iraq "the gift that keeps on giving," because since that explosion, I have had two strokes, a heart attack and six surgeries. By 2006, our battered and bruised combat family moved to Colorado for a new beginning.

I started going to the Denver VA Medical Center for my extensive



Juliet Madsen

medical care, which included physical, occupational and speech

therapies, neurologists, cardiologists, urologists, gastroenterologists, endocrinologists, audiologists, musculoskeletal specialists, mental health care for PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) and depression, surgeons and surgeries. My poor primary-care physician had his hands full tracking and coordinating my multiple hospitals and facilities. I still feel bad when I got to see him, that I am giving him so very much to do.

Through all of these appointments and treatments, I have found myself having to learn how to do everything in my life in a new way. I have had so many days where I had to concentrate just to put my feet on the floor in the morning, and then would walk the house every night because I could not sleep.

I started to quilt again as part of the physical therapy for the left-

side weakness that the strokes had left me with. As someone who had quilted before I was in the military, and had even hand quilted a quilt while serving in both Saudi Arabia and Iraq, I found myself unable to do the most basic of quilt blocks.

Frustration and anger pushed me farther down while my husband and kids desperately pulled me up, holding me up, holding me up. I can honestly say, I didn't think I could hang on anymore. I was desperate and scared. I would see in children's eyes the worry and I knew I had to get up. You have to get up.

I quilted more and more of my own designs, of images stuck in my head of my military memories. Some of these images sketched out remain only sketches because in my heart. I am not ready to let the rest of the world share what weighs down my heart. Eventually, the

may become quilts, but until then, they have at least been put to paper to lighten my load.

I work with all kinds of fabrics, military parachutes, old uniforms, duffle bags, Velcro even some Kevlar used to make bullet-proof vests for the war. Textures I hold and cut and sew. The frayed remnants of my old life, working in the emergency room or out of a mobile hospital, slowly slip away. I miss here the old Juliet, the one with boundless energy and no medical worries and all of her original parts and pieces in their rightful places. I miss the wife, mother, daughter and sister that I used to be. I miss me.

But, I am so thankful to be alive. I am blessed to be walking and talking, even if my poor husband would probably wish I wouldn't talk quite so much. And as the

(See VETERAN on Page 10A)

Wheat starts to turn

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
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Wheat harvest has begun in Kansas, pushing as far north as Lincoln County, said Mark Haffiger, commodity manager at AgMark in Beloit.

This harvest is the earliest on record, said the Wheat Harvest Report provided by the Kansas Wheat Commission, though it'll still be a week or two before it gets to this area.

Fred Brubaker, grain manager at the Decatur Co-op Association, said he has been out looking at wheat in the area.

"This is going to be a real tough one to guess," he said Monday. "This hot, dry wind has really stressed the wheat a lot. I think yields are going to be all over the place — average or slightly lower."

Mr. Brubaker said he hated to venture a guess on when harvest would start around here, but estimated a little before the middle of June. No matter when, though, he said the elevators will be ready to accept this year's crop.

Rod and Kem Bryan farm nine miles southwest of Oberlin. Mr. Bryan said his wheat looks pretty good, but it's still green. He said the heat and wind have really changed the looks of the crop, though.

(See WHEAT on Page 10A)

Cat tests positive for rabies

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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The Decatur County Health Department is urging pet owners to have their animals vaccinated for rabies after a case was found in a family's pet cat in Norcatur.

Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin said an outside pet cat in Norcatur has tested positive. The animal was quite aggressive, she said.

A family of four in the Decatur County town is having to take the rabies series because they were either scratched or bitten. A 10-year-old dog was put down because it had been around the cat.

Ms. Gamblin said people need to stay away from aggressive animals or ones that act odd. It's very important for pet owners, she said, to get their animals vaccinated.

"Animal rabies continues to be a serious public health concern in Kansas," said Ms. Gamblin. "With warmer weather approaching, increased contact between humans, their pets and wildlife is likely to occur."

"Carriers of the disease include several wild animals common in Kansas, such as skunks and bats."

(See OWNERS on Page 10A)

Tractor and car show planned for Selden

For the 19th year, car and tractor enthusiasts will be in Selden on Sunday for the town's annual Antique Tractor and Classic Car Show.

The event, put on by the Selden Community Foundation, gives collectors and enthusiasts a chance to display their antique tractors, classic cars and small engines while enjoying a fun-filled day of family activities.

The day starts off at 9 a.m. with registration at the north end of Main Street. Exhibitors will line up their vehicles for spectators to enjoy while activities take place in and around the City Park.

A horseshoe-pitching contest will begin at 10 a.m. on the south side of the tennis courts and a basketball free-throw contest will take place

at 12:30 p.m. for students in grades 3 to 8.

Other activities for the kids include rides in the barrel train and corn tank seeded with coins for ages 8 and under.

Kids from 5 to 10 can enter the pedal tractor pull at 1 p.m., with trophies for first, second and third place.

For the adults, there will be an antique baler demonstration, a barrel-roll competition and a washer drop.

Chances to win a Case IH Pedal Tractor donated by Hoxie Implement, an all-terrain tricycle donated by Frank Bouts, a John Deere toy tractor donated by Taylor Implement, and other prizes will be sold throughout the day. The drawing will take place at 3 p.m., right before the parade.

(See TRACTOR on Page 10A)

Family still has Model A bought in 1936

By MARY LOU OLSON
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When a completely restored 1931 Ford Model A coupe joins the parade at the Selden Antique Tractor and Classic Car Show on Sunday, it will be driven by a niece of the late Lloyd Smalberger, who bought the vehicle in 1936.

Janice (Welsh) Kisker of McCook, daughter of Margie (Smalberger) Welsh, and her husband, Dennis will be accompanied to Selden by her uncle, Melvin Smalberger of Oberlin.

Mrs. Welsh said that her brother bought the coupe from Marguerite Peters of Oberlin, who had bought it new in 1931. She said that Lloyd drove it to work until he left for the service in 1941. He served in the Army in the Pacific Theater during World War II, then returned to the farm, where he lived until mov-



FIVE MEMBERS of the Smalberger family posed in 2001 with a 1931 Model A owned by their late brother, Lloyd Smalberger. They include (from left, front) Melvin Smalberger, Ella Mae Wahrman and Margie Welsh and (back row) Richard and Maynard Smalberger.

ing to Oberlin after he retired. "It was well used by several chil-

dren of my parents, the late Glenn and Arvilla (Sines) Smalberger,"

she said. "My brother Rex drove it to court his sweetheart, Gladys Lafferty. A sister, Ella Mae (Smalberger) Wahrman, drove it to get the mail."

Mrs. Welsh said that she drove the Model A when she taught school at Locust Grove, four miles east of the Sherman Chapel Cemetery.

"My brother Maynard drove it back and forth from the farm to high school in Oberlin from 1944 to 1948," she said, "and he also took our father to the hospital in it in August 1947 before he died."

Two younger brothers, Melvin and Richard Smalberger, enjoyed driving the car around the farm, about 15 miles northeast of Oberlin, and took it to Danbury or Oberlin to get a treat or to fill it with gas.

(See CAR on Page 10A)

