

People in Our Community

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THE HIGHLIGHT of Wayne Larson's trip to Washington to see the World War II Memorial was visiting with former Sen. Bob Dole, himself a World War II vet.

— Photo by Suzanne Cooper

Oberlin World War II veteran enjoys flight

By MARY LOU OLSON

Retired farmer Wayne Larson returned recently from Washington after joining other Kansas World War II veterans for a Kansas Honor Flight, run by an organization that takes these aging veterans to see their war's memorial and other patriotic sites.

His daughter, Suzanne and her husband, Jay Cooper, of Wichita accompanied him on the flight from Sept. 26 to 28.

Mr. Larson said he was drafted into the U.S. Army and took his basic training at Camp Roberts, Calif., with the 108th Infantry Division. With him were three other Decatur County servicemen, Martin May, Fred Bremer and Ernest Meitl. He said the men also returned home together after the war.

After completing basic training, Mr. Larson said, he came home on a 10-day furlough, then was sent overseas. He served in the Philippines and was sent to Korea after the war ended in August 1945.

Bob Haas of Preston served with Mr. Larson. He said that Mr. Haas was injured and wasn't able to return home with their outfit right away.

"I had borrowed Bob's camera," he said, "and when I returned to the States and took it to his home, I met his sister Lois, and 'the rest is history.'"

The couple started dating, later married, reared five children and lived on the Larson farmstead until his wife's recent death. They also have two sons, Craig and Brad Larson, and two other daughters, Joanne Wendelin and Bonnie Condit.

The trip included visits to the World War II and Korean War

memorial on the National Mall, the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Memorial Wall and Marine Memorial, and the changing of the guards and laying of a wreath by Honor Flight veterans at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. They also saw the Holocaust Museum, the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum and Fort McHenry, which is known for the battle during which "The Star Spangled Banner" was written.

The veterans got to meet with former Kansas Sen. Bob Dole at the World War II Memorial, as well as with Sen. Pat Roberts at the Marine Memorial. Sen. Dole is a decorated World War II veteran, while Sen. Roberts served in the Marines.

Mr. Larson said that the veterans were given first-class treatment during their trip. Perfect strangers in airports and restaurants would inquire about the Honor Flight group and express their gratitude for the veterans' service to their country. This flight included a special World War II veteran, Sam Maier of Great Bend, who at 101 is the oldest veteran ever to participate in a Kansas Honor Flight.

"The highlight of the whole trip was meeting Sen. Dole," said Mr. Larson. "Kansas Honor Flight is truly a moving and unforgettable experience for both veterans and their guardians."

If you are a World War II veteran or know one that might be interested in information about future Kansas Honor Flights, contact Mike VanCampen at (620) 546-2400 or mvancamp@scelcom.net. Information is also available at www.kansashonorflight.org.

Pizza benefit for cancer patient

Norcatour City Clerk Deb Marshall has been undergoing chemotherapy treatments since June and will soon begin radiation treatment.

The members of the Norcatour City Council and the Fire Department are planning a pizza-party benefit for her at 5 p.m., Sunday in

the all-purpose room of the former Norcatour school building. In addition to handmade pizzas, there will be lots of desserts and salads.

If you would like to donate a salad or dessert, call Betsy Jakowski at (785) 470-7844 or 693-4594.

Memorial services were held on Sept. 28 at Rocky Mountain Christian Church in Niwot, Colo., for Zachary Adam Messinger, 21, who died Sept. 23, 2012. He was a grandson of Roger Messinger of McCook and the late Gloria (Larreau) Messinger, a former Oberlin resident. Among other survivors are his parents, Lance and Cheryl Messinger, Longmont, Colo.; two sisters, Lindsey and Mandi; and his fiancée, Sreya Mehreen.

Gary Allen is recuperating at home after suffering a broken rib in a fall down the steps at his home last Tuesday. He was flown by air ambulance to Kearney, Neb., for observation.

Steve and Anita Hirsch returned home Sept. 10 from a trip to Alaska. He is a director of the National Volunteer Fire Council and the council's fall meeting was in Fairbanks. While there, they were able to do some sightseeing in Seward, Homer, Whittier, Anchorage, Fairbanks and Denali National Park. They were delighted to see the beautiful scenery and meet so many people in our 49th state.

— **Thursday is National Taco Day featuring beef or seafood tacos. LandMark Inn, 475-2340.**

Carissa Wentz of Wichita and Jacob Larue of El Dorado, flew into the Oberlin Airport on Friday to attend the Oberlin Invitational volleyball tournament. The also visited their parents, Dwight and Mary Wentz of Norcatour, and Bruce and Marianne Larue of Oberlin. They came especially to watch Rebecca Wentz, daughter of Darren and Lois Wentz, play in the tournament. Carissa is a student at Wichita State University and Bruce attends Butler Community College.

Sid and Cheryl Metcalf flew to Vancouver, Canada to board their cruise ship, the Celebrity Millennium for a trip to Alaska. Towns visited were Juneau, Stagway, and Ketchikan, plus the Hubbard Glacier. They were part of historical tours in each city, enjoying the informative and entertaining bus drivers. Musical and comedy entertainment on board ship was outstanding, plus enjoying all the activities and food that seven restaurants provided. They returned to Vancouver and spent two more days enjoying that port city, including Stanley Park and an airplane tour in a float plane.

Dorothy Moore spent from Wednesday to Friday visiting Eric and Shelly Moore, Justine and Dylan in Manhattan and Mike and Debbie Nickels, Emma and Mark in McLouth and enjoyed watching her grandsons, Dylan and Mark, play football. She also visited Martha Nemeth in Topeka.

Sunday visitors of Elaine Bryan were Allison Jones, Aiden, Ashton and Archer, and Selby Renk of Plainville. They came so Mrs. Bryan could make the acquaintance of her new great-grandson, Archer Jones,

who was born Aug. 27.

Karen Bennett was taken by ambulance to St. Catherine's Hospital in Grand Island, Neb., on Thursday after she suffered a compound fracture of her right leg in a fall on the front steps of her home. She underwent surgery and was able to accompany her husband, Frank Bennett, home on Sunday and is recuperating at Decatur County Hospital. Mail will reach her at 810 W. Columbia, Oberlin, Kan., 67749.

Winning highs in pinochle at the Golden Age Center last week were Henry Edgett, Ivis Hanson, Max Carman, Ardis Roe, Doris Fringer and Kelva Dryden. Lows went to Neil Marshall, Doris Fringer, Kelva Dryden, Dewaine Stapp, Dorothy Moore, Henry Edgett and Ivis Hanson. Mexican Train domino winners were Gladys Geis and Kay Marcuson. There was no pitch. Bridge highs went to Cynthia Matson, Charlotte Meints and Carol Shirley.

— **Brunch Buffet Sunday, Oct. 7, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. LandMark Inn 475-2340.**

Faye Lombardi, a 1942 graduate of Decatur Community High School, is recuperating from a broken collarbone, which she suffered in a recent accident. She is recuperating at an assisted living center. Mail will reach her at Atria Inn, 555 S. Pierce St., No. 143, Lakewood, Colo., 80226.

Gloria Godtel of Roca, Neb., was a Friday overnight guest of her sister, Joan Larue. On Saturday, they attended the wedding of their great-nephew, Brandon Melleck, and Andrea Soden, at the United Methodist Church in McCook.

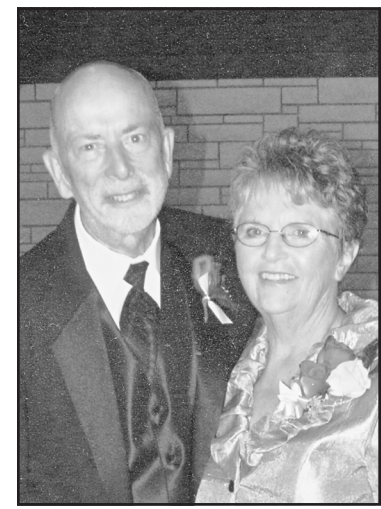
Piano students of Cheryl Metcalf performed two pieces each at the Kansas Music Teachers Association's District 6 Auditions held at Fort Hays State University on Saturday. Daniel Lerew, Kade Grafel, Isabel Grafel, and Luke Koerperich received I ratings and qualified for the State Auditions to be held in Topeka on Nov. 10. Michael Noren and Caleb Koerperich also performed.

Monica Landau-Bluff of Huntington Beach, Calif., is spending a month visiting her parents, Darrell and Mary Landau. She came on Sept. 1 after her mother fell and broke her hip at their home. She underwent hip replacement surgery at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, Neb., then was transferred to Decatur County Hospital. She was moved to Cedar Living Center on Sept. 19.

Jacob Larue will be performing on Saturday as a member of the Butler Community College vocal department with the Wichita Symphony Orchestra at Century II. He is the son of Bruce and Marianne Larue and grandson of Joan Larue, Oberlin, and Angie Biggs, Kingman.



The Kessingers — 1962



The Kessingers — now

Couple honored on 50th anniversary

Howard and Sharon Kessinger were honored with an open house on Sunday in the sculpture garden at the Koester Home Museum in Marysville to mark their 50th wedding anniversary and his 80th birthday.

Hosts were their children, Hannah and Marty Malotte, Sarah Kessinger and Peter Muraski, Mary

Kessinger-Wassom and Matt Wassom and Mike and Staci Kessinger, and seven grandchildren.

The couple married Sept. 29, 1962, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Abilene. They are former Oberlin residents and he is a former editor and owner of *The Oberlin Herald*.

Mail will reach them at 1103 Elm, Marysville, Kan., 66508.

Party honors anniversary

Darrell and Mary Landau were honored with a party on the patio at Cedar Living Center on Wednesday, Sept. 19, to help them celebrate their 63rd wedding anniversary. Their daughter, Monica Landau-Bluff of Huntington Beach, Calif., was the hostess.

Mary Hamilton, daughter of Archie and Lola Hamilton, and Darrell Landau, son of Rell and Corna Landau, were married Sept. 18, 1949, at the First Presbyterian Church

in Oberlin. They live in Garden Grove, Calif., but spend much of the summer each year at their home in Oberlin. Mrs. Landau is presently recuperating at Cedar Living from a broken hip which she suffered in a fall at their home.

Guests for the party were Cecilia Kump-Brown, Bob and Karla Ross, Wayne Larson, Joanne Wendelin and Rory, Ella Betts, David and Shirley Simpson, Charles and Donna Lincoln and Norma Richards.

Rotarians hear about pool

Valisha Raile and Sue May presented a program on the Oberlin swimming pool project at the Sept. 11 meeting of the Oberlin Rotary Club at The Gateway. They were introduced by Greg Lohoefer, program chair.

The women said the cost to build a new pool is estimated at \$1.98 million. This includes construction of a new outdoor pool and renovation of the bathhouse. They said that the proposed sales tax of 1.5 percent would raise almost \$225,000 a year and talked about sales taxes in other similar towns.

They said we need a new pool because the existing pool does not comply with current state and federal regulations, plus it uses an excessive amount of water. The proposed pool would include an indoor 20x40-foot therapy pool, to be built with private grants and donations. For details, contact the Oberlin Pool Project members.

Other guests were Junior Rotarians Kade Brown and Miki Dorshorst.

Rotarian Ben Jimenez introduced teacher J.D. Johnson, who gave the program at the Sept. 18 meeting. He sponsored a group of 31 eighth and ninth graders on a trip to visit the

state Historical Museum in Topeka. They saw exhibits which included Native Americans in Kansas and early settlers and wagon trains. They also visited the "Brown vs. Board of Education" site, along with the state Capitol.

Congratulations was extended to Warren Bainter for receiving the Paul Harris Plus Award and also to Darrell and Mary Landau on their wedding anniversary.

Guests were Junior Rotarians Ashley Farr and John Carlisle.

Members met on Sept. 25 at The Gateway for lunch, followed by a program by Dan Nedland.

Mr. Nedland spoke and showed slides of Azerbaijan, where he had worked. He said that this is a country rich in oil and natural gas. It is the largest country in the Caucasus region, located at the crossroads of Western Asia and Eastern Europe and has an ancient and historic culture heritage. It regained its independence from Russia in 1991 and now many oil companies have signed 30-year contracts to explore in the region.

Junior Rotarians attending from Decatur Community High were Keatra Fisher and Dakota Cook.

Comedian set to perform

Peter Davison, an award-winning juggler, dancer and physical comedian, will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Cultural Arts Center on the Colby Community College campus, presenting a mix of juggling and jocular for all ages.

In Davison's hands, discarded, seemingly unwanted objects come alive to create fantasies, memories and, most of all, fun.

Based in Boulder, Colo., he has toured by himself and as a member

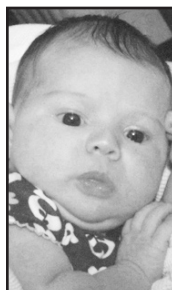
of the juggling/dance trio Airjazz, with whom he appeared on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson. He is a former national juggling champion and winner of the Ballet Builders NYC Award for New Choreography.

The performance is sponsored by the Western Plains Arts Association, and admission is by season ticket or at the door, adults, \$20, students \$10.

New Arrival

Sophia Elizabeth Richards

Curtis and Jessica Richards are the parents of a daughter, Sophia Elizabeth Richards, born at 7:39 p.m. on Aug. 27, 2012, at Community Hospital in McCook. She weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces and was 19 inches long. She has a brother, Alexander. Grandparents are Jo Ann Lerew, Oberlin, and the late David Koerperich, and Barry and Patti Richards, Oberlin. Great-grandparents are Lois Bryant, Norm Richards, Larry and Karen Thompson, Dolores Koerperich and Hope Kathka, all of Oberlin, and Marlin and Betty Hackney, Kansas City, Mo. Great-great grandmothers are Vena Walters, McCook, and Betty Hackney-Grout, Atwood.



Sophia

Club News

Club travels to Oakley

Pat Wright was hostess for Pi Alpha Club when members met at 11 a.m. on Sept. 27 at her home in Oakley.

Five members and a guest, Cynthia Matson, enjoyed a luncheon at the Subway Restaurant,

followed by a time of fun and socializing with Mrs. Matson winning the hostess prize.

Ila Ray will be hostess for the next meeting at 7 p.m. on Oct. 8 at the Golden Age Center.

Rawlins Clinic in Atwood

Rodney Dill, MD
Patrick Delano PA-C
Dana Jewell, PA-C
Michael Dorsch, PA



Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - Noon

707 Grand Street
Atwood, KS 67730
(785) 626-3241

Mona's Market in Dresden is now open!

We have mums, cool gourds, tulip bulbs, perennials, shrubs, trees, tomatoes.

Hours are 9-5:30 Monday through Saturday. Come see us where we have "every bloomin' thing under the son"



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