

THE OBERLIN HERALD —
People in Our Community
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RAISING HER HAND to take the oath to become a U.S. citizen on July 11, 1968, from Judge Robert Hemphill (left) was Gisela (Merkel) Humes. She came to Traer as the war bride of Donald Humes and still lives on the Humes farmstead.

Traer woman comes here as war bride

By **MARYLOU OLSON**
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It has been 50 years since Gisela (Merkel) Humes Fisher arrived in the United States with her new husband, Don Humes, and she has lived near Traer in northwest Decatur County since. She said she met her husband when he was serving in the U.S. Army at Boeblingen, Germany, near Stuttgart, and they married Feb. 17, 1961, near her home. They had their first child, Evelyn, while he was still stationed in Germany, then they and their baby left for her new home in the States.



Gisela Fisher

"As Don and I stepped off the plane at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey in September 1962, a hot wind was blowing," she recalled. "I didn't remember it ever feeling like that in Germany. After some time and numerous phone calls, we were on a bus headed for Michigan. There we met up with an Army buddy of Don's and his family. His wife was German as well. "From there, we rode with that family of five all the way to Kansas with the windows wide open for cooling, as it was still very warm outside. I was constantly astounded by the space between the little houses everywhere. I could not understand why they were so far apart. It seemed a waste of space. Only years later did I understand the difference of space in general between Germany and America.

and had surgery. I did not understand the seriousness of the situation, and maybe that was a blessing. He recovered quite well, though, and life settled into a bit of a normal routine."

After a few months, she said, her father left to visit friends in Pennsylvania and then went back to Germany for a few more years. "A year after our arrival from Germany, Don got a job working for a neighboring couple doing the farming and we moved to their farm north of Traer. Gradually, I started to reach out into my new world and learned some things and grew up a little. The encouragement of Louise Kelly was so helpful. I will always be very grateful for her acceptance and love. She was the first person to let me behind the wheel of her car and teach me how to drive. Later, there were others who dared to do the same.

"In 1968, I became a citizen I had to study some material and an official came from Kansas City to see if I qualified for citizenship. I was very nervous. When asked when America's birthday, was I answered 'Sept. 17'. He laughed and told me the right answer. "When I was sworn in later by a judge from Phillipsburg, the entire Traer School came to watch. One of those children present was Vernon Ketterl. He and his brother Dave are now not only my renters, but my good friends and helpers when I'm in need."

She said that six years later they moved back to the Humes farm, where she still lives. Her husband's parents bought the little grocery in Traer and moved into a house there.

"I finally had my own home then, and greatly enjoyed living on the farm," she said. "I continued to learn how to do most things on the farm, including driving a tractor, mowing alfalfa with a sickle mower, raking it and eventually even baling it. I stacked many small alfalfa bales by hand over the years, cleaned chicken houses, butchered chickens and did some gardening.

"We bought some hogs and raised feeder pigs for many years. I learned to give shots and do some things with pigs which are better left to the imagination. I worked hard and enjoyed it. Over the years, we acquired many different outside animals and fowls, including peacocks, guinea fowl, a coyote, turkeys, ducks, geese and a goat."

The couple's family increased to three children, two girls, Evelyn and Karen, and a boy, Mike, all of whom graduated from Decatur Community High School.

"We were a very busy family," she said, "and then my dad came to make his home with us permanently. He enjoyed working outside in the yard and helped 'beautify the farm,' as he called it. He died in 1980 after living with us for the better part of 10 years.

"I do think that one of the main reasons I succeeded at life in America was that I had decided this would be my home for the rest of my life. It did not occur to me that I would ever move back to Germany for any reason.

"This little farm in far northwest Kansas has become not only my home, but this country of the United States of America has become my country as well. However, there will always be a special spot in my heart for Germany and that won't change."

Leon Miller is recuperating at home after suffering broken ribs, a broken shoulder and a punctured lung in a four-wheeler accident that happened on Sept. 26 west of Valentine, Neb., when he was helping Brendan Moore with cattle. He was hospitalized in Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, Neb., and returned home last Tuesday.

Lauren Waldron of Bangor, Pa., was a recent guest of her grandparents, Dennis and Judy Shirley. Sunday dinner guests were great-grandmothers Merle Shirley and Doris Sloan, Cindi Sauder, Oberlin, Patrick and Cindy Shirley, Norcutur; and Jaime, Shannon and Aden Metcalf, Danbury.

Gary and Mary Ann Erickson returned home Wednesday from a three-week tour, which took them to Mackinac City, Mich.; the upper peninsula of Michigan, into Canada, down the eastern side of Wisconsin, ending at the Wisconsin Dells.

Virginia Almquist and her daughter, Susan Meyer, of Smith Center spent Friday with Mrs. Almquist's sister, Cecilia Brown, and helped her move into the other duplex apartment, since she has sold her duplex and the new owners will be moving into her present apartment.

Crista Sauvage received word of the death of her grandfather, Wayne Rhoades, of Wichita on Sunday. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Church of the Brethren in Quinter.

Brad and Elaine Marcuson spent the weekend in Topeka with Ryan and Leslie Nelson. On Saturday, they all attended K-State-KU game in Manhattan and visited Jared Marcuson and Megan Witcher, both students at K-State. En route home Sunday, the Marcusons visited Sarah Marcuson, a student at Fort Hays State University.

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Darlene Ankle of Chandler, Ariz., spent from Thursday to Saturday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Wolters. On Saturday the following cousins enjoyed dinner together: Mr. and Mrs. Charley Holsman, Horton; Mr. and Mrs. Lou Crozier, Laramie, Wyo.; Darlene Ankle, Chandler; Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Worley, Atwood, and Mr. and Mrs. Gus Wolters.

Winning highs in pinochle at the Golden Age Center last week were Henry Edgett, Dorothy Moore, Norma Anderson, Ardis Roe, and Doris Fringer. Lows went to John Cederberg, Neil Marshall, Norma Anderson, Ivis Hanson, Max Carman, Veanna Carman and Kelva Dryden. Chicken Foot domino winners were Kay Marcuson and Gladys Geis. Pitch high winners were Henry Edgett and Neil Marshall with lows going to Max Carman and Elden Haas. Bridge highs went to Bernita Gawith, Marty Olson, Merle Shirley and Charlotte Meints.

Weekend guests of Marlin Bowen were his daughters, Christine Bowen, Denver; Kathryn Washington, Sioux Falls, S.D. and Mary Jacobs, Huron, S.D. Joining them to help Marlin and Christine celebrate their birthdays, which were Sunday, were Tim Bowen and Connie Barbier, Oberlin.

Junior Sauvage was honored on his second birthday with a party at Golden Age Center Sunday afternoon, hosted by his parents, Delane and Crista Sauvage and Austin. Others present were Ed and Melba Witt, Norton; Tammie Hawkins and Frank, Verl Sauvage, and Daniel Sauvage, Oberlin; Flossie Mowry, Hoxie; Rick Rhoades, Oakley, and Gene and Beverly Witt, Danbury.

Roger and Angie Wilson joined several couples from the Campin' Dancers from Thursday to Sunday for the Old West Days in Valentine, Neb.

Allen and Neta Jeffus of Topeka visited relatives and friends over the weekend, including her sister, Wilma May, at Cedar Living Center.

Marty and Nancy Brandt, Colorado Springs, visited from Sunday to Tuesday with their daughter and family, Kimberly and Tim Davis.

Arts and Humanities group to attend play

Oberlin Arts and Humanities will be attending the Southwest Nebraska Community Theater's production of "Send Me No Flowers" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 21, at the McCook High School auditorium.

The comedy may be most widely known as a movie with Rock Hudson and Doris Day.

This is a season ticket event but reservations are needed in advance. Others who want to attend will need to register and pay \$12 for each ticket by next Tuesday. Call Ella

Betts at (785) 475-3557 or Mary Henzel at (785) 470-0218. Some transportation will be available if arranged when making reservations. Car pooling is encouraged. The group will leave The Gateway parking lot at 1 p.m.

The story takes place in the George Kimball home, with the exception of a few dream scenes that fold out on each side of the stage. Bill Marshall directs with Cheryl Scott as assistant. The set was designed by Chuck and Dian Trail.

Family gathers for reunion

A reunion of the Jennings-Kathka families was held at the Golden Age Center on Sept. 2 with a potluck dinner. Hostess was Agnes Urban, assisted by her son, Danny Urban.

The afternoon was spent looking at scrapbooks, photo books and getting to know more about some of the family. Pictures were taken for next year's books.

Those present included Donnie and Christine Belknap, Garden City; Leo and Joyce Hilton, Weldona, Colo.; Dennis Kathke, Hope Kathka, Danbury; Danny Urban, Rocky, Cheryl and Andrew Urban, Marvin, Martina, Rachel and Tresta

Urban, Agnes Urban, all of Colby; Wes and Donna Stratman, Pueblo, Colo.; Bonnie Core, Tulsa; Lila Jennings, Jennings; Roger and Dolores Tupper, Naponee, Neb.; Connie Brown, the Rev. James and Delores Jennings, JoAnn Lerew, Curtis, Jessica, Alex and Sophia Richards, Fern Mosier, Nadean Stoney, Jerry and Waunita Stoney, Oberlin; and Katrina Heskett, Joyce Honeyman and Emery and Delores Kathka, McCook.

The next reunion will be at the same location the Sunday before Labor Day on Sept. 1. Agnes Urban again will be hostess.

Couple plans move to Dallas

John and Lisa Paulson of Oberlin plan to move to Dallas to attend Dallas Theological Seminary.

Mrs. Paulson said, "Seminary has been on John's heart since receiving his calling as an evangelist over 10 years ago. During that time he has served the church and the community in many capacities. He is an ordained Southern Baptist Pastor, Chaplain for the Kansas State Firefighters Association and founder of Ten Cent Evangelism but the call to preach the Word to the lost and hurting continues to burn in his heart."

He is pursuing a Master's of Theology Degree which will open more doors of service.

Mrs. Paulson has been employed at the Decatur Good Samaritan Society, County, for the past nine years and is currently the Activities Director.

"At seminary there are many opportunities for wives, designed to prepare them for ministry with their husbands," she said. "I am excited to become better equipped to serve in Women's Ministry or Missions."

Women enjoy luncheon

Prairie Chapel United Methodist Women met at the home of Cheryl Metcalf for a potluck on Wednesday, followed by a meeting.

President Metcalf opened the meeting with the group singing, "Blessed Assurance" and reciting the pledge, followed by prayer. Charissa Huff gave devotions taken from Guideposts.

Roll call was answered by seven members with a memory of UNICEF Night at the church when

children came dressed in costume then went around the neighborhood collecting money for the cause and also treats.

The district meeting will be held at Norton on Oct. 13. A soup and pie supper is planned at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 21.

Lucille Townsend gave an interesting program on the history of several hymns, which were sung, along with poems and prayer.

Church plans turkey supper

The Oberlin Covenant Church will hold its Fall Harvest Celebration with a roast turkey supper from 5 to 7 p.m. next Wednesday.

The meal will include homemade dressing, mashed potatoes and gra-

vy, green beans, salad, homemade rolls and dessert.

The church is at 810 W. Cedar, across the street south of the hospital. Chris and Sharon Nelson are pastors.

School conferences set

Parent-teacher conferences for Oberlin Elementary School will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 23, and 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 24. There will be no school on Friday, Oct. 25.

Letters were sent home with students on Tuesday, the school said, and parents should plan to meet with their teachers at the assigned times.

There are no assigned times for parents of fifth- and sixth-grade students, the school says. Those parents may meet with teachers Carol Dixon, Sandy Ketterl and April Farr at the elementary gym on Tuesday and Wednesday. The

school asks that conferences be limited to 10 minutes. Enter the gym at the west door and pick up your child's grade card.

Jennifer Tally, vocal music, and Mardi Lohofener, Carol Wasson and Sheila Jansonius will be available both days in their rooms during the same times. Daniel Conrad, physical education; Terri Woolsey, art; and Sarah Bricker, band, will hold conferences from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 24.

Parent-teacher conference for junior and senior high students are scheduled from 4 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 23, and from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 24.

New Arrival

Hudson Reid Tally

Paul and Lacy Tally of Oberlin are the parents of a son, Hudson Reid Tally, who was born at Sept. 6, 2012. He weighed 7 pounds, 3.9 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. He has a brother, Mason. Grandparents are Gerry and Theresa Tally, and Leo and Carrie Zodrow, Oberlin. Great-grandparents are Juanita Williby and Harold Nichols, Oberlin; Gene Bieker, Palco, and Nettie Griggs, Colby.



Hudson

Public Notice

to Residents of Oberlin

The City Water Department will be Flushing City Water Mains Thursday – October 4 and Thursday – October 11 after 10 p.m.

Please be aware that certain amounts of discoloration may appear in your domestic water supply.

Thank you for your cooperation
 Karen Larson, City Administrator

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 sun"

Immaculate Conception Fall Festival
Leoville Parish Center, Leoville, KS
October 14, 2012 2:30 p.m.

Come join the fun fellowship and friends. Bingo starts at 2:30 p.m. There will also be a roast beef and turkey dinner from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$7, kids 5-7 \$3, and kids 4 and under eat free. Come join all the other fun events we will be having.

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