

Osage News

January, 2011

www.osagecob.org



A Blessing to Her Family and to US

~by Doris Crumpacker

Cleo Neal was born July 31, 1913, at Brumley, Missouri. At seven months old, she, her parents, and older brother moved to a farm near Walnut, Kansas where her father's parents lived. After moving to Kansas, four younger brothers were born. Cleo's mother told her "you got to help me raise these boys." Cleo still has that memory of her exact words.

Her family moved several times during her grade school years. Cleo recalls going to five different rural schools. One was called Science Hill. She never went to high school. Her father had never gone to school, but her mother could read and write. She walked to school most of the time but remembers a horse named Daisy she would ride. One day Daisy stopped suddenly and Cleo went flying over her head.

She described the places she lived such as "down a long lane with lots of trees." That was because there were not many roads at the time. "What roads we had," she said, "were only grated by a board pulled behind a team of horses." Sometimes the way to school was just across the section, not down a road. One farm she lived on was on the Gooding Road (290 Avenue) between 80th and 90th streets.

Cleo Neal and Francis McElwain were

married on October 2, 1930. Francis was born on September 3 and died on September 3, 30 days before he and Cleo would have celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

Their family included two sons and three daughters: William (Bill), Anna, Marion, Mervin, and Carol. Cleo has 16 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren, and 8 great-great grandchildren.

Cleo was introduced to Francis by her uncle, Gail Hickman. She and Francis farmed all their lives. It wasn't an easy life. Francis cut



all the wood needed for heat and cooking. Once he had been cutting wood for several days in the timber. He left his car on the side of the road. One day the police came to her door and asked her if she knew whose car was parked on the road giving the license number and description. This really scared Cleo. She told them she and her husband owned the car and why it was parked there. They left saying they just wanted to know who owned the car.

During the thrashing season one year things went very wrong. The Slaper family owned the thrashing equipment and were running it. Francis was hauling the thrashed grain to the barn with a team of horses and a wagon. The straw pile

January 2
Aunt B & Friends
The Heritage
Girard - 2:30 p.m.

January 5
Church Board
At the Church - 7:00

January 9
Church Council
At the Church - 7:00

January 12
Study Group
Earl & Marsha Hartman
Home
7:00 p.m.

Every Sunday
Women's Bible Study
At the Church - 5:30 p.m.

Every Tuesday
Community Lunch
At the Church
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Every Sunday
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
Staffed Nursery
Children's Church

Last Sunday of the Month
Stay and eat after church
with the "Lunch Bunch"

Visit the church
website at
www.osagecob.org

caught fire spooking the horses causing them to run through two fences and were headed for the pig pen. Francis jumped from the wagon landing in a cow paddy. His leg was broken and the bone had pierced the skin. He was carried to the house on a board. Dr. McKee came out and called for an ambulance which took him to the old Mt. Carmel Hospital in Pittsburg. Gangrene set in. Francis spent ten weeks in the hospital. After Francis came home, the wound drained and had to be dressed daily until after several years the leg was amputated and replaced with a wooden leg. This caused wear on the hip which was replaced at Mayo Clinic. Cleo stayed with him the two weeks he was there.



While Francis was in the hospital for 10 weeks, Cleo had three children to care for, milking to do, chickens and eggs to handle, and household duties, and all the things that come up on the



farm to do. The chickens were fed and watered daily. The eggs were gathered, washed and boxed in 30 dozen crates for marketing. The money from the eggs was used to buy groceries.



Cleo's first washing machine was a washboard in the bottom of a tub. The operator had to pull back and forth to work the clothes across the washboard. Her first automatic was a Maytag which lasted 40 years.



Wood was used to heat the house and the cook stove. The cook stove had a reservoir for heating water. There was always gardening, canning, sewing, and mending. Working ground on a tractor was also something Cleo did.

Cleo has done quilting and did come to Ladies Aid some. But she didn't have much time for those activities. Cleo still cares for her home, cooks and cans. She is doing more freezing now. Cleo's family and friends are blessed because of her life, and her cherry pies.



You Are Invited To

Come – N – Dine
Where?
Osage Church of the Brethren
896 S 80th St
Phone 632-5248
When?
Every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m.
until 1:00 p.m.
(or the food is gone)

Come - N-Dine Menu*

<p>January 4 Ham Sweet Potatoes Peas Homemade Rolls</p>	<p>January 25 Southern Baked Chicken Baked Potatoes Green Beans Salad Rolls</p>
<p>January 11 Chicken Cordon Blue Candied Carrots Broccoli Salad Homemade Rolls</p>	<p>February 1 Taco Soup Cornbread Broccoli Salad</p>
<p>January 18 Meat Loaf Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Corn Salas Hot Rolls</p>	<p>February 8 B-B-Q Beef Sandwiches Baked Beans Cheesy Tater Tots Salad</p>

Dessert included with meal.
Freewill offering accepted.
*Menu subject to change.

Deck the Halls

~by Marsha Hartman

Louise and Carl Bronson had decked the halls for the December 14th meeting of the Prairie Gardeners. Their home was a warm and wonderful place to be for our Christmas party. There was a bountiful table of wonderful food for the members. We were blessed to have Carl and Louise's son and friend join us along with Will Davidson, Jim and Nancy Mechling.

President Martha Price handed out the 2011 meeting schedule, there will be no meetings in January and February. It will be a time to rest and day dream about the spring plantings and what our summer gardens will look like.

Gifts for gardening were under the tree along with a laughing puppy and a mewling kitten, and a angel to watch over us. We were lucky there was not a cat and dog fight. We all enjoyed playing bingo so much at the last meet that we did it again. The winners of the games were Jerry Kirby, Doris Crumpacker, Jim Mechling, and Diane Hiller won a black out.

The next meeting will be at the home of Paul and Carol Troop in Frontenac on March 15th.

Paul's Corner (Continued from page 4)

I decided that I just had to go back to that cemetery and just forget about the sights in and around St. Louis. Jerry and I could take a hoe or something and a broom and try to clean off those grave stones that had been mostly covered up with grass for all these years, and maybe we could read some of the inscriptions on the stones.



After all this time, they were approximately three or four inches below the surface of the ground. So we went back with our tools and started our cleaning up process. He would do the easy part such as, cut, chop, pull the grass away and I'd do the hard part; sweeping off the stones. Before we left, we had found fifteen of the seventeen grave stones but they were so weathered that it was difficult to make out a lot of the writings. One marker was made from a different kind of stone. It was in three pieces

but after all of these years, the writing was still in pretty good shape. From all of this, we were able to piece together a story as to what might have happened. This must have been the burial place for the family of James and Cathrine Lemen. It appeared that some of their children had died at a very early age probably from a disease and they buried them near their home. So when the parents died, they were buried with their children in their own family cemetery. Some other relatives might also have been buried there with them to account for the seventeen graves.

This cemetery and the house are on the National Register of "something" and I found out that some of the descendants of this family were there when they put up that marker in 2004. I found this to be so fascinating; sorta like a living museum. It was certainly a trip to be remembered for a very long time.

January Birthdays

Judy Jo Allen	1
Cody Crumpacker	2
Crista Wagner	5
Jim Michael	10
Jerod Alexander	11
Carolyn Barr	11
Janet Bourbina	13
Ralph Ulery	15
Shawna Crumpacker	17
Margaret Huff	17
Daniel Cheney	18
Taylor Michael	22
Adam Martinie	24
Cherlyn Ingram	28
Paul Troop	30
Kathy Schneider	31

January Anniversaries

David & Cherlyn Ingram	2
Mike & Sherri Wine	6
Merle & Juanita Clawson	13

February Birthdays

Isabella Crumpacker	1
Connie Cheney	4
Mark Crumpacker	4
Paula SurrIDGE	4
Colleen Huff	7
Sylvia Billington	19
Toby Ulery	24

February Anniversaries

Dick & Paula SurrIDGE	4
Danny & Connie Egbert	16

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The Osage Church of the Brethren
Sharon Leonard, editor
aleonard@ckt.net
620.632.5248
896 S 80th Street
McCune, Kansas, 66753

Paul's Corner

~by Paul Troop

Recently we went on a trip to Waterloo, IL, just outside of St. Louis, to visit Carol's brother, Jerry and his family. I had never heard of that town before, except maybe something about Napoleon "Met his Waterloo" somewhere and this might have been that place. While there, we were going to see some sights in and around St. Louis, but first we had to see where his two sons lived.

Jerry, his wife Azan, and Carol and I got in his car and away we went. This one son in particular lived in an old house that he rented and this house was built in 1787! Wow! We had to take a tour of that house and it was quite fascinating!

The son was at work so we had our own self-directed tour. The walls were quite thick and appeared to be mostly made of brick and then covered over; some of the rafters that we could see were nearly the size of logs and you could see the holes where many of them were held together by wooden pins.

This house had been added on to over the years and it had been used as a home, a church, and then probably a home and a church at the same time, and then back into a home once again. We had to go upstairs to look around; the stairs were quite narrow and it made me wonder how in the world did they ever get any furniture upstairs. You stepped into the starway and immediately made a right angle on the very first two or three steps. And like many of the old houses, the upstairs was not quite finished and it was very interesting to just look around.

Jerry said, "Let's go back outside as I want to show you something else that is quite interesting". We left the house and walked down an access road for a hundred feet or so and there was a cemetery and, it was fairly well kept. When the son (I'm sure his Dad would do this for him at



times) would mow the lawn, he would mow the cemetery as well, and that is why it looked so well kept. There was no fence around it, so it was easy to mow as well as to farm around it, or to just simply drive over it. I'm sure they did that many times while farming with horses as the stones were all flat.

Six years ago, a rather large monument, probably eight feet tall, was erected by some well-known organization and it told who was buried there. As I recall it was James Lemen, a Revolutionary War Soldier, Indian Fighter, Anti-Slavery advocate, Preacher, and he organized the first Baptist Church in Illinois. His wife, Cathrine was buried beside him. We were told that seventeen graves were there.

We finally pulled ourselves away from this and decided to go into town for something to eat. Each couple had a foot long sandwich at the Subway,

and, of course, each couple shared it.



Afterwards we saw a bakery and we just had to stop in and get something, even though none of us were a bit hungry. There were four of us in this party and three of them acted like little kids in a candy store. The fourth one, that would be me, just stood back and laughed.. We each picked out what we wanted and hurried home to try them out. I suggested that we cut the first one in four pieces so we could all have a taste of it. It wasn't long until we had done the same thing to three more; boy, were they delicious.

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OSAGE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
896 S 80TH STREET
McCUNE, KS 66753

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