



## Closed-door meetings shouldn't have happened

Leaders of the state Legislature and the Shawnee County prosecutor are snarling at each other over charges that legislators may have violated the state's Open Meetings Act when they gathered last month at Cedar Crest to mingle with the governor and his staff.

Many Republicans have charged that District Attorney Chad Taylor, a Democrat, has a political motive in pursuing the charge. In fact, it was the *Topeka Capital Journal* and the Kansas Press Association that filed the complaint. Mr. Taylor responded by opening an investigation, which is his duty.

House Speaker Mike O'Neal of Hutchinson barked that Mr. Taylor "should have gone through legislative leaders" to get information, rather than writing to all members of the House and Senate. The speaker, a lawyer, and a good one, should know better; a prosecutor has every right to look where he may for evidence of a violation.

Violation of the Open Meetings Act, while not a crime, is a serious matter. The law forbids public officials of all ranks from meeting behind closed doors to decide public business. Its basis is that the people have a right to know about state business.

The governor's office claims these meeting with legislators were strictly social affairs, and the members were cautioned not to discuss official business among themselves. The meeting involved Republican members of several key committees, who came together, presenting at

least the appearance that a majority may have been meeting behind closed doors.

The way things were set up, it's no wonder many were suspicious. Why, we wonder, were the press and public excluded from these "social" gatherings? If the purpose was to get together and get to know one another, why not invite a few of the statehouse reporters and others to come mingle as well?

The governor himself cannot be accused of violating the Open Meetings Act, since he is an elected individual state officer, and not a member of the Legislature. The appearance of undue secrecy cannot help him, however, and he and his staff must have anticipated that tongues would wag.

Inviting Democrats, now that's another manner....

How much smarter the governor's office – and the legislative leadership – would have been to simply have avoided this trap and kept the meetings open. They were not, after all, conducting any important business.

"Social gatherings" held at a state facility with state money and state officials – there's a smell to that, and it isn't good. We doubt the investigation will turn up any serious wrong. But it never should have been necessary.

The governor, the leadership, the Legislature as a whole should set an example of openness for all public officials. It's what the voters and taxpayers expect and deserve.

– Steve Haynes

## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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You never know what might be under that unturned rock.

My dad, the original Joe McCormick, was a member of what has become known as "The Greatest Generation" of Americans. Although he entered service late in World War II, being born in 1927, he was always proud of his time in the U.S. Navy.

Pop was on a couple different ships during the war, but the one I heard most of growing up was the destroyer, D.D. 729 Lyman K. Swenson. But there was a question I never got a chance to ask my old man. Who was the person the ship

was named after?

Through the power of the Internet I soon found an answer.

Like so many who have come to our nation's call, Lyman Knute Swenson grew up in a small community called Pleasant Grove, Utah. A clerical error upon entering the Naval Academy changed him forever from a "sen" to a "son." Graduating with the class of 1916, Swenson saw duty as an officer on both ships and submarines during the World War I, remaining with the Navy into the World War II.

When our men were trying to turn the tide in the Pacific Theater, using both land and sea attacks in conjunction, Captain Swenson was in command of the light cruiser, U.S.S. Juneau.

The ship earned distinction in several combat appearances, however she took heavy damage while protecting the Marines during the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal. As she and two other ships were limping back to friendly waters for re-

pairs she was struck by two torpedoes from the Japanese sub I-26. Before the crew had time to react the cruiser was below the surface.

Captain Swenson wasn't the only notable sailor to perish with the Juneau. Five boys from Waterloo, Iowa, were serving under him. The Sullivan brothers were among the 685 Americans who lost their lives with the sinking of the Juneau on Nov. 13, 1942.

A movie, *The Fighting Sullivans*, was made to honor the brother's sacrifice and the Sole Survivor Policy was implemented by the military to avoid families having to endure a similar loss in the future. A reference to the brothers was made in the movie *Saving Private Ryan*, also.

This goes to prove that as long as we keep turning over rocks, interesting things are out there to learn.

## Honor Roll

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**GOD SAYS**  
**He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth.**  
*Psalms 104:14*



## News From the Past

### April 1905

The Curry Brothers, dealers of coal, flour and feed, offered all grades of flour constantly on hand and the best Colorado coal. The ad noted that all kinds of grain were taken in exchange for flour.

The ad for J.F. Allen in Haigler said "Everything is cheaper at Allen's." "Why? Because we are selling for cash. The credit stores cannot meet our prices." They offered Paxton and Gallaghers Gas Roasted Coffee, 15 cents per pound. There was also a cut in pat-

ent medicines, Palne's Celery Compound, McElrees Wine of Cardui, Kilmers Swamp Root, Pierces Favorite Prescription and Golden Medical Discovery. All of the patents, which regularly sold for \$1 were not 79 cents.

In the column of the "Beaver:"

The cold nights have put the barley back to the ground but we hope it will start again.

Ed Weaver is farming on his homestead this week. How does batching go Ed?

John Stunkel met with a pain-

ful accident on last Saturday evening while moving a load of machinery from Thomas County to his new one in Cheyenne. In getting off the wagon, he slipped and one wheel ran over his right leg causing a fracture.

Henry Weaver is bringing his new horse to a finish and he sure has a nice one.

The City Restaurant, owned by J.J. and M.E. Jantzen, was serving warm meals at regular hours; short orders at all hours. They also sold sweet cider, confectionery, cigars, nuts, tobacco and fruits.

## Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



### West Coast

Last fall Kurt and I ventured out on a vacation. Once again we enjoyed the beautiful scenery and seeing some of our families.

Kurt and I like traveling together and it is amazing as on both East and West coast trips the radio is seldom on and we do a lot of talking. I don't even sleep while we travel and that is rare.

Kurt is so good and allows time for my genealogy along the way and he says he even enjoys seeing some of the places our families have lived.

Molly, our dog, is a good little traveler and it is nice having her with us. However one of the places I had my heart set on we couldn't

go as we didn't have a dog sitter. That was the island where the Alcatraz prison is. We could see it from the Golden Gate Bridge but we knew we couldn't leave Molly alone in the pickup for that long.

One night we stopped at a dog playground. When we sent a picture back to our kids with Kurt and Molly playing. It wasn't long until we got a response from one of the boys saying he couldn't remember when we took them on trips that we ever took them to a playground.

I reminded them of the way they acted on the trips. One of the worst trips was going through the state of Wyoming, with the kids,

when all of a sudden the people in the pickup ahead of us threw their dog out the window.

Yes, they were moving and the dog came sailing by our car and bounced off the highway. It got up and started chasing after the pickup that had thrown him out. At that point one of my dear sweet little boys told their sister that that was how we got her. Someone threw her out the window and Mom picked her up. Of course she cried and the boys laughed and the fight was on. Finally we stopped the car and told them they could either be quite or they could walk.

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 Morning Worship 10 a.m.  
 Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

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 Church 332-2254,  
 512 S. Scott  
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 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
 Worship 10:30 a.m.

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 Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

**Salem Lutheran Church**  
 332-3002  
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 Morning Worship 11 a.m.  
 Communion 3rd Sunday

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**Baptist Church**  
 412 S. Denison  
 Welcomes You!  
 Pastor Allen Coon  
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
 Worship 10:30  
 Prayer Meeting, Wed  
 7:30 p.m.

**First Christian Church**  
 Pastor Jeff Landers  
 332-2956 • 118 E. Webster  
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 Church Service 10:15 a.m.

**First Baptist Church**  
 2nd & Scott • 332-3921  
 J.W. Glidewell, Pastor  
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
 Worship 10:30 a.m.  
 Sunday Evening  
 Service 6:30 p.m.,  
 Wed. AWANA Club  
 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

**St. Francis**  
**Community Church**  
 332-3150  
 204 N. Quincy Street  
 www.sfccfamily.com  
 Pastor: David Butler  
 Sunday School 9:15 a.m.  
 Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
 Potluck & Communion -  
 Every 2nd Sunday  
 Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

**Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC**  
 202 N. College  
 Pastor Randy Nelson  
 Church 332-2928  
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 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
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# Welcome Back Marge!