

commentary

from other pens...

Special family house celebrates beginnings

By Lawrence L. Knutson

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Climbing the family tree is a pleasant necessity at Tudor Place, a Washington house so full of national and family history that it is practically a living time capsule.

A country estate in the middle of a city neighborhood, Tudor Place owes its existence to an \$8,000 bequest from George Washington to Martha Custis, his wife's granddaughter and namesake.

She married Thomas Peter, a son of Georgetown's first mayor, and the family tree began to grow. Each generation left a record of its passage and times.

For nearly 180 years, six generations called this place home.

Tudor Place is now operated as a private museum by the foundation established in the 1980s by its last family occupant, Armitage Peter III. He wrote a biography of the house, documenting every room and explaining the history of nearly every chair, table and ancestral portrait. The origins of the Tudor Place name, however, remain obscure.

Tudor Place entertained Washington society: President Andrew Jackson, Henry Clay and Secretary of State Daniel Webster were guests here. The marquis de Lafayette conversed under the drawing room's crystal chandelier during his 1824 visit. Robert E. Lee, a relative by marriage, spent one last night before heading south to join the Confederate army.

Britannia Peter, the formidable and long-lived family matriarch who owned the house during the Civil War, strongly sympathized with the South. But she took in Union officers as boarders to prevent Tudor Place from being confiscated for use as an army hospital.

She decreed that the war not be discussed in her presence.

Tudor Place was designed by Dr. William Thornton, the self-taught architect who won the competition to design the U.S. Capitol.

At Tudor Place, Thornton linked a pair of existing brick structures to a classically domed center section, finishing the entire house by 1816.

"You can document the history of technology from candlelight to gas light to electricity here at Tudor Place," says Melinda Linderer, curator.

"There is a flow of time you don't get in other historic houses," says executive director Leslie Buhler, guiding a visitor to the basement archive. On a work table is a miniature portrait on ivory of Washington in military uniform, its colors still brilliant. The general had it painted at the request of Martha Custis just before she married Thomas Peter. But he could not resist remarking it was hard to believe the first wish of a young woman about to be married was to have the likeness of an old man.

Nearby, removed from a box by a curator in white gloves, is a framed Washington letter, rare both for its content and because Martha Washington destroyed most of the letters her husband wrote her.

The letter was in a Mount Vernon desk at Tudor Place. It is dated from Philadelphia on June 18, 1775, and addressed to "My Dearest." Its contents would change their lives.

"It has been determined in Congress the whole army raised in defense of the American cause shall be put under my care, and it is necessary for me to proceed immediately to Boston to take command of it," Washington wrote.

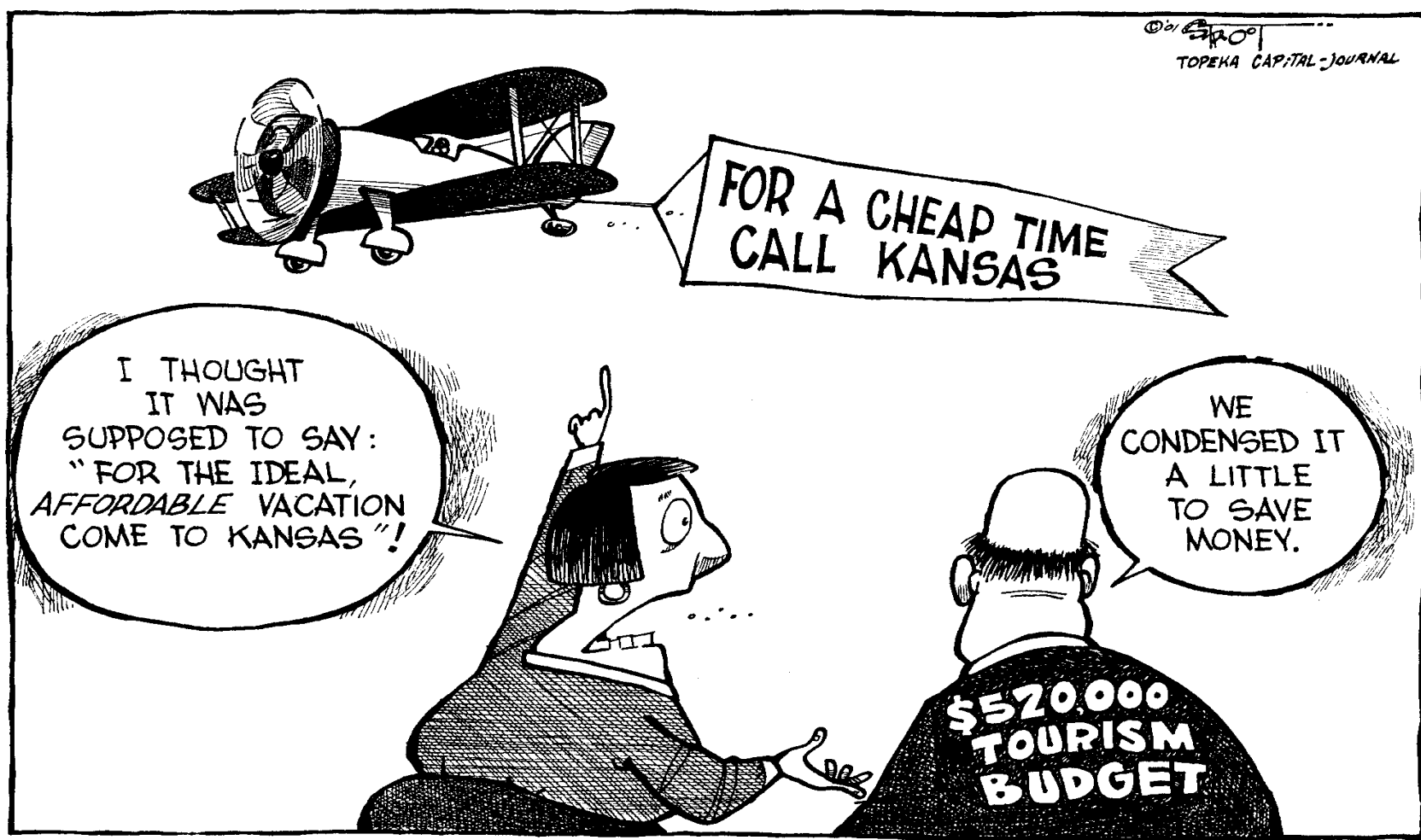
He assured his wife he had not sought the appointment.

"But as it has been a kind of destiny, that has thrown me upon this service, I shall hope my undertaking of it is designed to answer some good purpose," he wrote.

Elsewhere in the house are reminders of its generations: an upright typewriter; a 1914 model of an early biplane suspended from the ceiling of a bedroom, a case of 1928 vintage champagne in the pantry.

"The fact a family lived in a certain place and that members of that family could be found there generation after generation gave a stability to life for which no substitute will ever be found," Armistead Peter III wrote in his Tudor Place memoir.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Lawrence L. Knutson has covered the White House, Congress and Washington's history for more than 30 years.



GOP waiting for Moran in governor's race

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — He's serving his third term in Congress, representing a House district that's overwhelmingly rural and Republican, with no big urban center or media market.

Jerry Moran hasn't had a tough race yet in the 1st Congressional District, so his fellow Republicans can't be entirely certain how he'd fare in a combative statewide primary or general election campaign.

Yet, most Republicans are waiting for Moran to shape next year's politics with a decision that's all his: whether to run for governor. Many speak of him as the presumed front-runner for the GOP nomination.

"I think most people are going to turn to Jerry Moran and see what Jerry does," said state GOP Chairman Mark Parkinson. "If Jerry runs, the field will be small. If Jerry doesn't run, the field will be large."

Moran already has picked up one endorsement, from Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrer, who declared Friday that he wouldn't run for governor next year.

Parkinson, a gubernatorial hopeful himself, said last week that he wouldn't run if Moran makes the race. State Treasurer Tim Shallenburger said he's thinking about the race but added that Moran's decision will influence his thinking.

Gov. Bill Graves is serving his second four-year term and can't seek another under the Kansas Constitution.

Moran has said he's interested, but he hasn't made a decision yet.

"Here's a guy who almost expresses his ambition in the negative and is extra cautious," said

news analysis

Burdett Loomis, a University of Kansas political scientist. "The irony of it is kind of delicious."

To be sure, not every potential candidate for governor is waiting for Moran.

State House Speaker Kent Glasscock said he plans to announce whether he'll run for governor for a few weeks. He said he's leaning toward running, and most GOP insiders believe he's already preparing for the campaign.

Likewise, 4th District Congressman Todd Tiaht also is mulling over the race for the GOP nomination for governor and won't necessarily defer to Moran.

"He loves the job he's doing, but he's considering it," said Tiaht spokesman Chuck Knapp.

Finally, one GOP candidate, former Junction City Mayor Lloyd Parker, already has declared his candidacy and has started campaigning.

Yet even Glasscock concedes that Moran's decision looms large.

"There are some folks who are not sure, personally, what they want to do and would look at Jerry Moran as a formidable opponent," Glasscock said.

On the Democratic side, the presumed front-runner is Kathleen Sebelius. She's won two terms by comfortable margins.

Many Republicans view Moran as formidable for the same reason Loomis questions how strong a campaigner he is — his large margins of victory in the 1st District, which covers two-thirds of the state.

In his 1996, 1998 and 2000 races, Moran's margins of victory have averaged 81 percent. Last year,

Democrats didn't field a candidate, recognizing the race as futile.

"If you could talk about a candidate who's likely to come up with 75 percent-plus in the 1st District, it's very hard to come up with a scenario where he doesn't win," Parkinson said.

Other prominent Republicans say that Moran's rural base doesn't hurt him in urban areas. An attorney by training, Moran, from Hays, is receiving praise from urbanites like Parkinson, who is from Olathe.

"Moran's done a decent job in urban areas of looking urban and looking rural in the rural areas," Shallenburger said.

Finally, Republicans don't seem to identify Moran with either the party's moderate or conservative wing.

For example, Shallenburger, a conservative, said he's comfortable enough with Moran's views that he might not run if Moran jumps in.

"He is seen as somebody who would unify the party because he's liked by all factions of the party," said Parkinson, a moderate.

With the primary more than a year away in August 2002, it's too early, of course, to presume anything about the outcome, especially because Moran hasn't announced his intentions. He'd still have to prove himself by raising money and crossing the state.

Yet there's little doubt that most Kansas Republicans are watching him and already view him as their top candidate.

"It's pretty simple math," Loomis said. "He's a guy who runs huge in western Kansas huge and plays pretty darn well in Johnson County. He's a guy who looks like he puts together a winning coalition."

Correspondent John Hanna has covered Kansas politics and government since 1987.



Moran

Confessions of shameless promoters: A new book

A few months ago a respected colleague of mine invited me to participate in a new book project. The book would be titled, Confessions of Shameless Self Promoters.

At first I thought a book by this title would be a wild idea. However, since this colleague was Debbie Allen, a successful business owner and widely known professional speaker and author, I decided to take the bait and ask to hear the rest of the story.

Debbie's concept was to invite 60 or so successful people from around the world to write their thoughts on shameless self-promotion. The result would be a collection of marketing concepts, best ideas and success strategies of well-known authors, speakers and entrepreneurs.

Upon reflection, I decided maybe the concept wasn't so wild after all. In fact, I liked the idea. However, when she suggested I was a shameless self-promoter, I was just a little offended. I thought, "What would a nice guy like me be doing in a book like that?"

Then after more thought, I changed my mind. As I considered the lives and careers of people I respect and admire, I realized they all had a common thread. They have confidence in their skills and abilities, and they have become more successful by sharing their strengths with others consistently, subtly and professionally. They are self promoters.

Then I considered my own career. Conceiving and co-authoring the business bestseller, Up Against the Wal-Marts gave me both confidence and a national platform for promotion. Because that promotion was done professionally and ethically, I'm not ashamed of it. I guess that makes me



don taylor

- minding your own business

a shameless self-promoter.

Since four years and a little battle with cancer occurred since I last worked on a book, I decided to become a part of this one. The result is some of the best secrets and strategies of 67 genuine marketing pros...and me. My segment is titled, "Ten Power Principles of Shameless Self Promotion." You'll find it in the first chapter.

The entire book makes me think of the Chicken Soup series. It's a fun, easy read with many personal stories and even a few cartoons. It's a business and career-building book you can enjoy reading.

However, because it's an easy read, doesn't mean there isn't any solid and useful information. It's chock full of "news you can use." In fact Jay Conrad Levinson — author of the Guerrilla Marketing series — said the name of the book should be Confessions of Shameless, Sensible, Successful and Solid Self Promoters.

Some of the other contributors to "Confessions" include: Mark Victor Hansen (co-creator of Chicken Soup for the Soul(tm)), Rick Segel (entrepreneur and author of Laugh and Grow Rich), Don Cooper (partner in the Guerrilla Group, Inc) and the creator of this book Debbie Allen, (author of Trade Secrets of Retail Stars and the 1997 Blue Chip Entrepreneur Award winner.)

where to write

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U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521

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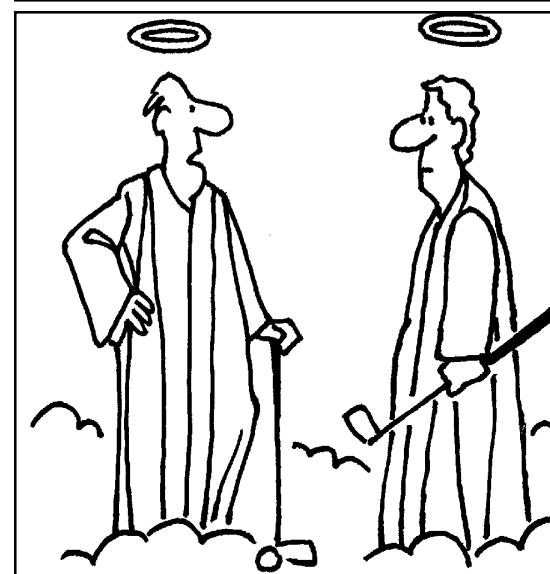
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What I like about this book is that it explains the science of effective self promotion and why it works. You'll get tips on branding your identity, creating a strong referral base and building your business.

Who should read this book? Anyone who wants to increase his or her earning power, grow their businesses, get better jobs and become more successful. And, those who are willing to work for those things.

If you would like more information about this new book, send a self-addressed, stamped (no postage meters) envelope to Don Taylor, PO Box 67, Amarillo, TX 79105. I'll see that you get the whole story complete with autograph at a very reasonable price. Or, you can call me at 806-374-9777, come by my office and save the postage. Column sponsored by Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce Business Development Committee

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