

# Crowd learns about gravestones at Chamber dinner

Around 70 people learned a little about grave markers in Kansas Thursday night at the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce annual banquet at The Gateway.

Randall Thies, a cultural resource specialist and archeologist with the Kansas State Historical Society, showed slides and described some of the more interesting grave markers in the state.



R. Thies

Mr. Thies said when you walk through a graveyard, you can always see something different in the markers.

One of the largest burial complexes in the state is the Davis Memorial in Hiawatha. It was put together by Mr. Davis after his wife died. Instead of giving the money he had to the community or letting her family inherit it after his death, he took the money and built the memorial out of mostly imported stone with whole scenes of statues of him and his wife and their life together.

Another complex is the Garden of Eden in Lucas, which was built after the Civil War. It started with a cabin in the middle of it and then concrete statues were built all the way around it.

Mr. Thies said markers are a way

for the people buried under them to speak to people still living.

"One good thing about cemeteries is it makes you take another look at your life," he said.

One of his favorites, he said, is on the marker of Orpha Davis, which says "I have always been so fond of peace, it may be a long one now."

Most gravestones are not written by the deceased, but by the family, he said. A popular saying

is "Gone but not forgotten." One reason for that, said Mr. Thies, is because the saying doesn't have a lot of letters, and the writing often was charged by the letter.

Soldiers who have been killed in battle normally have very noticeable markers. Mr. Thies said people killed in action in World War II normally have a large upright granite stone with flags or other symbols on it. In Kansas, said Mr. Thies, there are also five Canadian Armed Forces markers. They are for people who went to sign up to fight in either World War I or World War II before American had entered the war.

Children also don't have a choice of the stones put up, he said. Many have the faces of children on them, but another common item is a lamb



AT THE BUFFET table during the Chamber of Commerce annual banquet Thursday, Sid Metcalf (above) filled his plate. The dinner and presentation brought about 70 people to The Gateway.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

or sometimes a dove.

In Lawrence, he said, there is a monument set up next to graves of people who died in the Lawrence Raid. Most people think it is only a monument, said Mr. Thies, but it is actually a mass grave for 100 people

who were not identified.

Mr. Thies ended his talk by showing markers that are shaped like trees. Often the bark is peeled back and the name is written there. The cut at the top of the tree symbolizes that the person's life is done, he said.

The banquet also featured the DCHS Singers, who performed several songs including "Home on the Range."

Dan Rasure from Goodland, who is planning on running for the state Senate, was at the dinner.

# Explosive breaks window

Someone set off a firecracker or other explosive on the door of an Oberlin home early last Sunday, Jan. 11, breaking a double-pane window nearby and knocking several pictures off the living room wall.

Police Chief Wade Lockhart said the house, at 1006 E. Ash, is the home of Judy Scott. He said window is in the living room which was close to the door where the explosive was detonated around 2:15 a.m. The glass broke inward.

Sometime between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 8, someone entered Rusty Montgomery's home at 508 E. Commercial and took a VCR remote and video tape.

Around 10:03 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 9, Jared Mace, 27, of Mace Trucking out of Nebraska was parked on the wrong side of Rodehaver outside Raye's Grocery. After unloading the truck, he turned left onto Commercial and the truck ran into a 1999 Buick Le Sabre driven by Albert Unger, 91.

There was damage to the driver's side front fender and windshield on the car.

Mr. Mace was cited for an improper turn.

On Saturday, Jan. 10., around 11:20 a.m. at the intersection of Maple and Cass, Bernard Corcoran, 64, of Oberlin backed his 1987 Ford pickup into the 1992 Cadillac driven by Pamela May, 43, of Oberlin.

Mr. Corcoran was stopped at the sign on Maple and started to back up so he could talk to someone. He received a ticket for improper backing.

# Several win prizes

The Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce handed out three awards to for outstanding service at its annual meeting last Thursday.

The Chamber selected Cynthia Matson, a title teacher at Oberlin Elementary School, as outstanding educator. She has served 35 years in the schools here.

Former Mayor Idella Frickey was named outstanding community builder of the year. Ms. Frickey was unable to make it, so

her daughter accepted it.

Bryan Farms, owned by Rod and Ron, received the award for outstanding agriculture builder of the year.

The Chamber gave door prizes to Ann Anderson, Ralph Unger, Chuck Frickey and Kay Gaskill. Kimberly Brandt won the vacation to a ranch in Arizona.

During the business meeting at the banquet, Derek Riner, Judy Scott, Sue Glodt, Peg Smith and Jesse Carter were elected to serve on the board for the next year.

# Council to discuss sewer line

The Oberlin City Council will discuss a sewer line extension and details of financing for a new sewage treatment plant when it meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday night at The Gateway.

The first will be to establish a special improvement district, said City Administrator Gary Shike, for the sewer extension to serve a house that is being built on the north side of Chautauqua Park.

The second is to authorize a recording officer for the state revolving fund for a loan to finance a new waste water treatment plant. That person will be in charge of signing all the paperwork. Mr. Shike's name will be recommended.

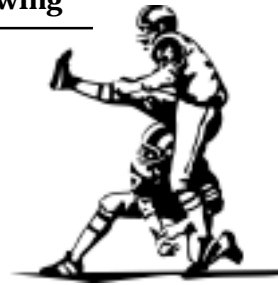
Mr. Shike said the council may look at renewing the maintenance contract for sewer cleaning. Every year, said Mr. Shike, the city has 20 percent of the sewer system in the

city cleaned by Utility Maintenance Contractors out of Wichita. This is a five-year cycle.

The meeting is open to the public and will be on local access channel 7 on the Oberlin cable system.

**Lamb Fry & Beans**  
Saturday, January 31 - 5:30 p.m.  
Karaoke Following

**Big Game Party**  
Sunday, February 1  
Potluck - Open at Noon



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BETTER CARE FOR THE GOOD LIFE...

## Heart Care Seminars

**Take Heart: A Life-changing Approach to Heart Health for Women**

Thursday, January 29  
8:00 p.m.

Community Hospital Meeting Rooms

This no charge vhatv Satellite video program will cover risk factors and symptoms of women's heart disease along with ways to reduce or eliminate those risks. Sharon Conroy, R.N. will be available to answer questions.

**Treatment of Heart Dysfunction: The Future is Now**

Tuesday, February 10  
Noon Luncheon

Community Hospital Multi-Purpose Room

Dr. Steven Krueger, a cardiologist with BryanLGH Heart Institute, will be speaking about the condition of congestive heart failure and will help people understand the overall condition and different treatments available. Please call the 55PLUS INFO line at 308-345-8255 to make reservations.

There is no charge for lunch, but a free will donation will help purchase an item for the Cardiac Rehab Department.

The BryanLGH Heart Improvement Program Support Group will follow from 1-2 p.m.



For more information call (308)345-8550

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