

# CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR WASHINGTON CEMETERY CARE, INC. and WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

Vol. 16, No. 3

*"Heirs Who Care"*

November 1992

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### Successful Fall Work Weekend

Nearly forty people turned out on Saturday to work in the cemetery and socialize. Volunteers filled in some of the holes in the roads, set some of the newly-located Strangers' Rest markers in concrete, and discovered nearly 100 more grave markers, all buried between two and eight inches below the surface of the ground! Other subterranean finds included two complete headstones, some headstone fragments, and a horseshoe.

### Strangers' Rest Research Project

There are nearly 2000 "single grave spaces" in Washington Cemetery. Most of them are either unmarked or marked only with a number that has been buried for many years. These are not usually charity cases, but simply spaces purchased one (or two) at a time, generally at the time of need.

They are numbered chronologically, but the record book gives no indication of *where* they are. As an example, during the work weekend, we discovered that 510, 511, and 512 are right together, but 508 is nearly 50 feet away and 509 still hasn't been found. But we're making headway. The more we find, the closer we come to finding the graves that our members have been asking about for years.

One goal of the Historic Trust is to find and mark these "missing" graves. If you are related to anyone buried in this area, whether or not the grave is marked, please help us to help you. Send us a postcard (or 3"x5" card) with the following information: full name, dates of birth and death (or give approximate years if exact dates are unknown), whether there is a headstone, and any

recollection you may have about the location of the grave. Include your own name, address, and telephone number. We can't promise to find your relative's grave, but at least we can concentrate our searching on those areas that are most likely to include the graves our members are seeking.

After we locate the markers, the next step is to discover the full names (checking spelling) and dates through obituaries, city directories, birth and death certificates, etc. Some of you who are not up to toiling in the sun may wish to help us with this library research. Finally, we will engrave the names and dates on small plastic markers and affix them to the original concrete markers. They won't be fancy, but they'll be affordable and functional.

### Project PATHH Moves Forward

Progress *is* being made, though you may not see it. We now have drawings showing the elevation and slope of all the roads and surrounding area, so that we can correct our drainage problems and keep potholes from developing. We also have a preliminary road design; however, we are not happy with the price. We are continuing to look at several alternatives, determine the consequences of cutting corners here and there, and decide how good a road we need and how long we want it to last.

The final decision is going to depend a lot on how successful we are at collecting donations -- of cash, labor, and materials. We have applied for grants from a number of foundations and corporations, but it will be several months before we will know how successful that effort is. If you can help in any way, it will be much appreciated.

## Clements' Corner

### Strangers' Rest - Section H

The numbering system and the spelling in the record books are, to say the least, creative. For example, Nicholas Flores (as on his headstone) is listed in the book as Nichelos Lorenz. Numbers over 1000 were written with an X for the "10", so 1056 is marked X56. By the time they reached X409 (i.e., 1409), they often dropped the "X", and just wrote 409, creating confusion with the *other* 409, which is 30 years earlier. And right after 409 come 4010, 4011, etc.! Order on the ground is no better. In one straight line without gaps, we have the following sequence: 141, 143, 144, 145, 146, 177, 182, 184, 345, 214, 215, 220, 350, 355, 357, 368.

Here is a brief listing of the newly-discovered Strangers' Rest graves in Section H. This covers *only* those sections of Section H where we dug up new information -- there are many more that are now known and, we hope, several times that number that will be discovered in the future.

The following 12 numbered concrete markers are lying loose on the ground, and may or may not belong near where they were found: 150, 232, 411, 430, 431, 457, 542, 641, 685, X32, X83, X113.

The following 191 graves have been clearly located, by either headstones or the small concrete markers: 125, 141, 143, 144, 145, 146, 160, 169, 177, 182, 184, 214, 215, 219, 220, 228, 345, 350, 352, 353, 355, 357, 360, 361, 366, 368, 399, 403, 405, 406, 408, 409, 410, 416, 436, 444, 463, 473, 491, 498, 499, 503, 505, 508, 510, 511, 512, 515, 516, 519, 520, 522, 528, 533, 534, 535, 538, 541, 547, 549, 551, 552, 555, 564, 565, 566, 568, 585, 587, 591, 596, 598, 603, 605, 606, 612, 620, 621, 625, 626, 627, 628, 631, 634, 636, 639, 640, 642, 645, 650, 654, 657, 659, 661, 662, 663, 670, 672, 696, 699, 702, 703, 705, 706, 707, 711, 715, 721, 723, 729, 732, 734, 737, 746, 756, 758, 759, 766, 772, 793, 799, 801, 803, 812, 816, 818, 833, 836, 839, 858, 861, 880, 882, 886, 892, 897, 904, 908, 911, 919, 920, 921, 936, 938, 940, 949, 953, 953, 959, 979, 994, 995, X15, X35, X38, X42, X49, X54, X57, X59, X61, X63, X68, X70, X78, X123, X124, X147, X149, X186, X188, X208, X232, X234, X239, X240, X245, X248, X251, X291, X294, X295, X298, X299, X300, X301, X314, X410, X415, X416, X449.

Surnames and burial years of 44 people in the northeastern area of Section H who are identified *only* by the numbered markers are: Aron (1923), Bodry (1931), Busch (1914), Castro (1924), Castello (1924), Cobb (1928), Dinehart (1911), Dvorak (1923), Elerbrook (1910), Evins (1922), Flores (1912), Foster (1914), Gerlach (1923), Haleck (1911),

Hancock (1929), Hernandez (1915), Howard (1910), Juarez (1912), Kneupple (1922), Kolan (1911), Krimminger (1923), Lantz (1914), Linder (1922), McGehee (1915), O'Brien (1922), Reese (1929), Riney (1910), Robertson (1922), Rosass (1922), Sabin (1919), Seifert (1928), Seiffert (1928), Smith (1915 & 1923), Smitzniger (1911), Soto (1912), Teed (1922), Tempest (1923), Venega (1915), Voebel (1915), Webb (1924), Wheeler (1912), Winkelman (1912), Yates (1922).

Also 68 more in the southern area of Section H: Argo (1920), Battison (1921), Bryan (1920), Buckner (1921), Bunfers (1917), Carlisle (1916), Castaro (1921), Chires (1919), Colunga (1920), Contreras (1948), Costello (1921), Cotta (1934), Cox (1916), Curtis (1926), Eberhard (1935), Gilmore (1928), Gonzales (1948), Gooday (1942), Heinze (1919), Heitman (1928), Hutson (1919), Jones (1920), Kabaduex (1920), Kellerman (1917), Kelley (1939), Kennedy (1935), Kloine (1919), Kopp (1916), Kuthart (1920), Larbavera (1920), Lauranan (1920), Lee (1939), Lewis (1926), Malk (1926), McGinty (1921), Merales (1919), Mercer (1920), Mesa (1917), Moelk (1921), Mohere (1926), Monter (1937), Paretta (1926), Patoska (1920), Pickard (1935), Read (1922), Roberts (1927), Rorerx (1935), Rogers (1920), Rosass (1949), Ruffer (1920 & 1927), Ryan (1943), Sanford (1920), Slaughter (1921), Smiley (1919), Soape (1932), Sonchen (1941), Stanley (1920), Statler (1916), Steber (1921), Sterwitz (1922), Swingle (1925), Travis (1921), Treppke (1926), Webich (1936), Willman (1916), Wilson (1920), Wise (1939).

If you are related to any of these people, or know anyone who is, please contact our Historian, Gov Clements, 1360 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 2400, Houston, Texas 77056. We'd love to include their stories in our next newsletter!

Our sincere thanks to the following donors to Project PATHH (through November 1, 1992).

#### *Diamond*

Anonymous  
Mr. Andrew M. Gruy

#### *Gold*

Mr. Ed H. Harris  
Mr. John Morgan Lloyd, Jr.

#### *Silver*

Mrs. Jane Stuart

#### *Bronze*

Mrs. Maxine Krohn Culbertson-Ozmun  
Mr. H. Vic Gehring, Jr.  
Mrs. Helen Finn Huff

We have also received four donations (totalling \$780) that qualify for matching gifts from Exxon.

**INCOME and EXPENSES April 1, 1991 through September 30, 1992**

**CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR WASHINGTON CEMETERY CARE, INC.**

<b>Net Assets -- April 1, 1992</b>	<b>\$363,722.77</b>	<b>EXPENSES:</b>	Maintenance	\$9,879.26
			Security	600.00
<b>INCOME:</b>			Water Bills	190.08
Maintenance	\$5,549.18		Postage & Printing	481.63
Perpetual Care	785.00		Computer & Access.	1751.00
Improvement Projects	2,615.00		Historic Trust IRS Fee	150.00
Educational Projects	60.00		Loan to Historic Trust	5,000.00
Book Sales	62.00			
Investment Interest	11,062.43	<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$18,051.97</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$20,133.61</b>	<b>Net Assets -- September 30, 1992</b>		<b>\$365,804.41</b>
<b>FUNDS:</b>		Improvement Projects	\$8,834.07	
Maintenance/Operations	\$9,884.05	Educational Projects	\$197.67	
Perpetual Care	\$346,888.62			

**WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST**

<b>Net Assets -- April 10, 1992</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>			
<b>INCOME:</b>		<b>EXPENSES:</b>	Security	600.00
Operations/Admin.	\$40.00		Newsletter	314.00
Historical Projects	0.00		Postage	82.28
Project "PATHH"	1,600.00		Historical Research	69.50
Gravesite Restoration	20.00			
Interest	14.59	<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$1,065.78</b>
Loan from CCWCC	5,000.00	<b>Net Assets -- September 30, 1992</b>		<b>\$5,608.81</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$6,674.59</b>	Project "PATHH"	\$3,100.00	
<b>FUNDS:</b>		Special Projects	\$520.00	
Operations/Admin.	\$1,558.31			
Historical Projects	\$430.50			

Please return the *entire form* below with your check and mail to **Gus Mistrot, Treasurer**. All donations are deductible on Form 1040 (Schedule A). If your company (e.g., Exxon, Southwestern Bell) will match your donation, please make your donation to the WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST; otherwise, please make your annual donation to CCWCC, INC., as usual. **PLEASE NOTE!!** CCWCC and the Historic Trust are separate organizations with separate bank accounts. *Please do not* combine donations to both organizations in one check!

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_ Plot Name/No. (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR WASHINGTON CEMETERY CARE, INC.	WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST
____ 1993 MAINTENANCE Donation (\$40.00)	____ 1993 ANNUAL Donation (\$40.00)
____ PROJECT "PATHH" Donation (Promoting Access To Houston's Heritage)	____ PROJECT "PATHH" Donation
____ SPECIAL PROJECTS Donation (Fence)	____ HISTORY/RESEARCH Donation
____ PERPETUAL CARE Donation	____ GRAVESITE PRESERVATION Donation
	Matching Funds from : _____

## Second Fall Work Weekend Scheduled

We had such a good turnout for the workdays on October 24 and 25, and accomplished so much, that we're doing it again on Saturday and Sunday, November 21 and 22. Volunteers will be present to assist visitors from 9-4 Saturday and 12-4 Sunday.

There will be three major work projects going on -- clearing brush along the fence line, doing some interim pothole patching, and continuing our very successful search for graves in the Strangers' Rest section. Further details on all three projects are given in separate articles.

We urge you to come out and visit the cemetery, meet some of your fellow Concerned Citizens, and perhaps give your plot a little tender loving care. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Fencing Project Announced

Since we have started locking the gate at night to prevent unauthorized entry, we must also ensure that there are no breaks in the fence. Through the efforts of CCWCC, the side along Memorial Drive was fenced several years ago, leaving only about 300 feet in the far northeast corner unfenced.

To be sure this new fence will be in the right place, we have had the whole cemetery surveyed. It has taken considerable research by CCWCC and Trust volunteers, plus field work by the surveyors. The end result of the survey is that the existing fences are in agreement with the deeds. The surveyor has also marked the line where the new fence belongs.

The Board has agreed to do this fencing on a volunteer basis, beginning with clearing the brush along the fence line on November 21-22. Chain

saws, pruning shears, axes, shovels, and rakes will be required. Please call **Sam Belinoski** if you can help. The material cost is estimated to be \$1500-\$2000.

## Treasurer's Report

We're happy to report that our bank balance keeps growing; however, it isn't growing nearly as fast as it once did. For the first time ever, we are using some perpetual care interest for current expenses. Of course, that is our eventual goal -- to be able to pay all expenses from the interest alone. But we are a long ways from having a large enough fund to do that, especially at 3% interest.

Our operating expenses exceeded donations for that purpose by almost \$5,000 this year, due to adding security and two extra cuttings. Further, we feel that these are necessary expenses that will continue for the foreseeable future. At this time, our two most pressing financial needs are for current maintenance and the road improvements. Of course, we'd never turn down a donation to the perpetual care fund, but we'd sure appreciate it if you would designate any extra donation above the basic \$40 per year for either maintenance or for the road or fence projects.

## Maintenance Report

All who came out for the work weekend agreed that the cemetery has never looked better. We have started spending a little bit more for detailed edging around all headstones, cradles, and curbs, and it really shows. If you haven't been to the cemetery in some time, treat yourself to a visit soon. You'll be glad you did.

**CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR  
WASHINGTON CEMETERY CARE, INC.**

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