

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

12800 Briar Forest Drive, Suite 83, Houston, Texas 77077-2206 Phone (713) 591-6262 or (713) 531-1956

Vol. 18, No. 3

"Heirs Who Care"

December 1994

CCWCC OFFICERS

President----- Herman Lauhoff
 Vice President-----Burt Ballanfant
 Rec. Secretary----- Elise Daulley
 Treasurer -----Gus Mistrot
 Corres. Secretary - Bernice Mistrot
 Historian-----Gov Clements

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 Rita Davis (97) Bill Scott (97)
 Vic Gehring (96) Bill Waters (96)
 Julie Itz (96) (vacancy) (97)
 Leona Zaboroski (95)
 *Three year terms, ending in year shown

WCHT TRUSTEES

Burt Ballanfant (President)
 Bernice Mistrot (Sec.-Treas.)
 Gov Clements
 Herman Lauhoff
 Penny Milheim

Happy Birthday, CCWCC!

Thursday, January 26, 1995, will mark 20 years since the initial group of 29 concerned citizens met in the home of **Dick and Autrey Ballanfant** to develop a plan to restore and preserve Washington Cemetery.

We haven't made plans for a formal celebration of the event, but hope you will find time to come out the next **Saturday, January 28**, and see for yourself just how far we've come in the last 20 years. If the weather cooperates, we'll have our scrapbook there with pictures, so those who weren't here then can appreciate the difference.

Vandals Hit Washington Cemetery

For the first time since we began locking the gate at night, we have suffered serious vandalism. During the first week of August, 116 of our largest monuments were knocked down, probably in the early evening, while the gate was still open. Most were simply toppled and most of these have been set upright again, through the dedicated efforts of Sam Belinoski, Eddie Moy, and Bill Scott. A small number were broken or chipped, and we are still trying to figure out how best to patch them. It will probably require some professional restoration.

A Board committee is looking at several ways to reduce the chances of this happening again, such as changing the hours the cemetery is open, adding lighting, etc. However, as usual, money is a problem. If we want more service than we are getting now, it's going to cost more than the \$2,400 per year we pay now. Further, not even a 24-hour guard (\$110,000 per year!) can guarantee protection from highly motivated punks.

Project PATHH Phase III Progresses

It has now been about 18 months since completion of the major pothole repairs in Phase I and 8 months since completion of the drainage improvements in Phase II. We have been able to observe the results during periods of both drought and deluge, and are now ready to proceed with Phase III, the long-awaited asphalt surfacing of all roads.

The specifications for Phase III have been completed and sent out for bids, which are due before Christmas. Weather and scheduling permitting, we expect the work to be completed in the first quarter of 1995.

Although we do not yet have a firm price on the project, we hope that it can be accomplished with the funds presently in hand. Many thanks to all who have contributed to this project over the years. Your generosity and patience will be rewarded.

Treasurer's Report

Combined net operations for CCWCC and WCHT for the last three fiscal years are summarized below:

<u>Income</u>	<u>Fiscal 1994</u>	<u>Fiscal 1993</u>	<u>Fiscal 1992</u>
Members	19,628.00	21,710.00	22,265.32
Corp./Found.	23,668.00	24,973.00	0.00
Book Sales	64.50	41.50	267.00
Interest	<u>17,985.88</u>	<u>16,291.25</u>	<u>22,563.69</u>
	\$61,346.38	\$63,015.75	\$45,096.01
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Fiscal 1994</u>	<u>Fiscal 1993</u>	<u>Fiscal 1992</u>
Maint., Security	19,760.50	20,162.41	18,288.79
Newsletter, Admin.	1,576.11	1,757.52	1,793.28
PATHH, SR, Hist.	<u>5,364.22</u>	<u>31,126.55</u>	<u>2,021.76</u>
	\$26,700.83	\$53,046.48	22,103.83

(continued on page 4)

Clements' Corner

The next time you are feeling rather unimportant, try a little arithmetic. Start with the undebatable fact that it took two people (your parents) to get you here. Each of your parents has two parents, so in the generation prior to your mother and father, there were four people whose pairing off and sharing love contributed to your existence.

You are the product of eight great-grandparents, sixteen great-great-grandparents, thirty-two great-great-great-grandparents, etc. Keep on multiplying the number by two. If you figure an average of about 25 years per generation, you will discover that when Columbus first set foot on this continent a scant 500 years ago, there were one million, fifty-eight thousand, five hundred and seventy six people on this planet beginning the production of **you!**

Persons who can trace their family ancestry back in a direct line 400-500 years to when surnames began to be required are exceptional; to track all your ancestors is impossible. But unfortunately, many people do not know even their grandparents. It is also true that genealogy is not everyone's cup of tea. However, over the years in talks with individuals and groups, I have often heard these sad comments: "If only I had listened to Aunt Mathilda..." "I was too young and didn't pay attention..." "I wish I had asked Grandma (or Granddad) or Mama about the family ..." Now these relatives are gone, and most often the only link with real people in the past is forever broken.

The cold bare vital statistics (birth, marriage, and death records) and census returns provide only a blank silhouette of a person. To really bring out the colorful details of a person's profile you need the warm facts of size, shape, taste, schooling, religion, political leanings, likes and dislikes, romance, military service, residence, adventures, etc.

To those of you who are older -- *talk* to the younger folks in the family, about all you can remember about yourself, and of those who have gone on before. Or, if you can, jot down some notes to get started and then tell your story to your tape recorder or camcorder. If you don't do it now, who will? You probably have shoeboxes of photographs without pertinent information on the back. Or maybe they *are* marked (sort of). *You* may know what "Susie and me, at camp" means, but thirty years hence, your grandchildren will be baffled. Add some last names, dates, places, ages, etc. Also note whether Susie is a relative or a friend.

To those who are younger, don't wait until it's too late. Ask the questions -- do it now -- and do it again and again. Be persistent. Memories need to be jogged, and frequently after a session of remembering the past, other things come to mind -- names, humorous events, or things of human interest. Here is an example of a letter CCWCC and its Historian receive every year.

Dear Mr. Clements,

We have been receiving the Washington Cemetery Bulletin addressed to our Grandmother _____. She passed away last year and I have been intending to write to have the mailing discontinued. I would like to make one request. Is it possible to let me know if she was receiving this because of donations made, or do we have relatives buried there? Her maiden name was _____. I would appreciate any help you could give me on this.

Thank you,

The writer of the letter is a very lucky person. Unknown to her at the time she wrote this letter, is that present Washington Cemetery files (and the collecting and storing of information by Mrs. Mistrot and Mrs. Daulley) are a link to the distant past.

It turns out that the writer is a sixth generation descendant of an immigrant couple who came to this country from Germany about 150 years ago. These two people were the writer's great-great-grandparents. They are buried here, as are her great-great-grandparents, great-grandmother, and other family members.

We are a vital source of information for thousands of people scattered all over the nation (our newsletter is mailed to 35 states.) Write to us -- keep in touch -- remember the free, voluntary work CCWCC and WCHT do to maintain this historic cemetery and preserve the links to the past.

Your liberal annual contributions are what keep CCWCC and WCHT healthy and progressively more important as the years go by. We keep the graves clean and green. We can help to do the same with Washington Cemetery family memories.

* * * * *

We need historical material for the next newsletter. Please send any historical tidbits, anecdotes, etc. pertaining to Washington Cemetery to or your loved ones buried here to our **Historian, Gov Clements,**

INCOME and EXPENSES – Fiscal Year 1994

CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR WASHINGTON CEMETERY CARE, INC.

Net Assets -- October 1, 1993	\$365,562.54	EXPENSES: Maintenance	\$17,015.00
		Water Bills	212.82
INCOME: Maintenance	\$10,661.00	Security	200.00
Perpetual Care	3,305.00	Postage & Printing	69.40
Improvement Projects	680.00	Bond & Safe Deposit	279.00
Book Sales	64.50	Gate & Shed Repairs	132.68
Investment Interest	17,368.81	Donations to WCHT	4,200.00
WCHT Loan Repayment	5,000.00	Total Expenses	\$22,108.90
Total Income	\$37,079.31	Net Assets -- September 30, 1994	\$380,532.95
FUNDS: Maintenance/Operations	\$11,923.47	Improvement Projects	\$2,334.28
Perpetual Care	\$366,151.53	Educational Projects	\$113.67

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

Net Assets -- October 1, 1993	\$15,819.95	EXPENSES: Security	2,200.00
		Newsletter	1,151.99
INCOME: Operations/Administration	\$1,195.00	Postage & Check Printing	75.72
" Donation from CCWCC	4,000.00	Project PATHH	4,158.05
Project "PATHH"	24,440.00	Historical Research	6.24
History	60.00	Strangers' Rest Markers	1,199.93
" Donation from CCWCC	200.00	CCWCC Loan Repayment	5,000.00
Gravesite Restoration	2,955.00	Total Expenses	\$13,791.93
Interest	617.07	Net Assets -- September 30, 1994	\$35,495.09
Total Income	\$33,467.27	Project "PATHH"	\$32,410.91
FUNDS: Operations/Administration	\$1,275.36	Gravesite Restoration	\$1,670.67
Historical Projects	\$138.15		

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
____ 1995 MAINTENANCE Donation (\$40.00)	____ 1995 ANNUAL Donation (\$40.00)
____ PERPETUAL CARE (Endowment Fund)	____ GRAVESITE RESTORATION (Strangers' Rest)
____ IMPROVEMENTS & REPAIRS	____ HISTORY/RESEARCH
Phone Number (optional) _____	Matching Funds from : _____

Treasurer's Report (continued)

	<u>Fiscal 1994</u>	<u>Fiscal 1993</u>	<u>Fiscal 1992</u>
Net Cash Flow	24,645.55	9,969.27	22,992.18
Net Assets	\$416,028.04	\$381,382.49	\$371,413.22

The net cash flows for the last two fiscal years are somewhat misleading, as they strongly reflect foundation donations to and expenses for Project PATHH, including funds collected for Phase III and not yet paid. For the second consecutive year, *total* member donations failed to offset just the *routine* maintenance and administrative costs.

Workdays Rescheduled

As most of you are aware, we had a bit of a flood in Houston during mid-October. The good news is that there was no flooding at the cemetery, but both of our Fall Workdays were rained out. So to take advantage of our (usually) mild winter, we have designated the fourth Saturdays of January through April as workdays, that is, **January 28, February 25, March 25, and April 22**. We'll be continuing our work on the Strangers' Rest section, straightening headstones and curbing, and trimming the shrubbery, plus visiting and swapping stories. We hope to see you there.

New Board Members

We welcome **Rita Davis** to our Board, and say thank you to retiring members **Mike Gruy** and **Anne Wheeler** for their fine service to Washington Cemetery. We have one opening, which will be filled at our next meeting (March 1995). If you are interesting in serving on our Board (requires two Thursday evening meetings and two Sunday afternoon meetings per year), please let us know.

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Computerized Burial Records

Ruth Daulley has nearly completed the computer entry of the first book of records, primarily covering the years 1887-1906, but including a few burials as late as 1925. There are over 3000 records, including lot owners. Many of these names were not copied into the most recent record book and therefore are not in the surname index prepared by **Carl Curry** several years ago. If you are "missing" someone in this time period, or if you can assist with proof-reading, please contact Ruth.

Bequest Received

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of a bequest to our Perpetual Care fund from **Autrey Ballanfant**. What a lovely way to help us preserve Washington Cemetery in perpetuity. Should you wish to remember us in your will, please contact our **Vice President, Burt Ballanfant**, for assistance with the proper wording.

Personal Notes

Several of our board members have lost family members recently. We offer condolences to **Burt Ballanfant**, on the death of his mother, **Autrey Lewis Ballanfant**, on July 3 and **Herman Lauhoff**, on the death of his brother, **Wayne Charles Lauhoff**, on August 26. Also to **Sam Belinoski** on the passing of his father-in-law, **Macedonio Herrera**, on September 7, and to **Bernice Mistrot** on the loss of her mother, **Maxine Wilma Bell**, on October 15.

Former CCWCC President **Carl P. Curry** is recovering at home from a serious stroke on November 8. He would appreciate your cards and letters.

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