

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

Vol. 17, No. 1

"Heirs Who Care"

February 1993

## OFFICERS

President-----Herman Lauhoff  
 Vice President-----Burt Ballanfant  
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 Corresponding Secretary-----Bernice Mistrot  
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-----1993-----	-----1994-----	-----1995-----
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## Thank You, Rockwell Fund!

GOOD NEWS!! Just before Christmas, the Washington Cemetery Historic Trust received \$10,000 for Project "PATHH" (Promoting Access To Houston's Heritage) from the **Rockwell Fund, Inc.** If you have been to the cemetery recently, especially just after a heavy rain, you know how much improvement the access to our heritage, i.e., our road system, needs. Adding in your donations and those from other foundations (see list on page 2), we now have about \$4,600 in the CCWCC road fund and \$12,600 in the Trust road fund (as of Feb. 15, 1993). This amount is almost enough to pay for the first phase of our road repair project.

*Late-Breaking News:* Just as this newsletter was going to press, we received notice of a \$10,000 matching grant from **The Brown Foundation, Inc.** We must raise \$10,000 for Project PATHH from you and other corporations and foundations between February 15, 1993 and February 15, 1994 before we can receive this \$10,000. Please help us meet this goal by designating as much as possible of your donations for Project PATHH.

Phase I will do two things: (1) fix the potholes in the entrance road and blacktop it, and (2) repair the potholes in the three parallel roads to give us good gravel roads. This work will be professionally engineered and constructed to arrest the deterioration and give us a smooth surface that should last several years. It's a long way from the roads we would like to have, however, and may not fully address all the drainage problems. Taking this first step will enable us to clearly locate any remaining problems so they can be corrected. We plan to start construction in late April, weather permitting.

Meanwhile, we are continuing to raise money to finish the job. Estimates for just blacktopping the remaining roads exceed \$25,000 (at today's prices); if further reshaping is required to correct drainage, it could go to \$100,000. Details of the work to be done in Phase I will be available at the general membership meeting on March 28. Y'all come!

## Maintenance Report

The cemetery continues to be well maintained. Due to the mild winter, we will probably need to start mowing earlier than last year. The Board also decided late last year to cut twice a month during the growing season rather than every three weeks, resulting in two or three extra cuttings per year. The difference between just barely keeping ahead of the weeds and being able to keep the grass trimmed neatly around each marker is very visible.

Unfortunately, the difference is also very visible on our bottom line. This is an area where the foundations cannot help us, because only CCWCC can pay for routine maintenance of the grounds, and they cannot donate to CCWCC. We are now covering some of our current expenses with interest generated by the Perpetual Care Fund, thus delaying our goal of true "perpetual care".

## Status of New Fence Project

Our board member **Bill Scott** reports that clearing of the brush in the area along the new fence line will begin in early March, weather permitting. The fence construction is planned for April. So far, we have received \$500 in donations for materials, but will need about \$1,000 more to finish the job. Bill is looking for volunteers to help him with this project. If you can help with labor or materials, please call him.

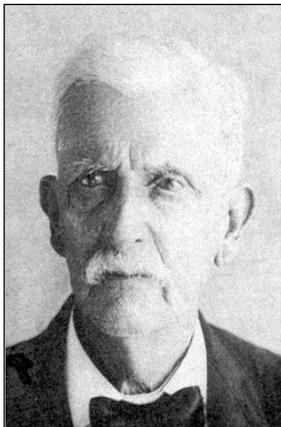
## Clements' Corner

### Lot F-33: Captain William H. Fleig, C.S.N.

Harriet Lane, an orphan, was reared by her bachelor uncle, James Buchanan, who became the 15th President of the United States (1857-61). Harriet was his official hostess in the White House.

In November 1867, the first engine-driven revenue cutter of the U.S. Navy was launched -- the *Harriet Lane*. She was a fast ship, a sidewheel steamer, but only carried enough coal to last six days. Named for the mistress of the White House, she was to have an eventful career.

She was outside the harbor at Fort Sumter at the outbreak of war in April 1861. She became Commander David Porter's flagship, and the formal surrender of New Orleans took place on her deck in April 1862. Later that same year she participated in the capture of Galveston.



William H. Fleig was born 23 February 1823 in Charleston, S.C. Early in life he took to the sea and spent some thirty years in ships. In 1860-62, he fought with Giuseppe Garibaldi, the revolutionary leader in the Italian war of independence. Returning to this country, he was soon involved in the South's war for independence.

In one of the most extraordinary actions of that war, on 1 January 1863, Confederate forces in cotton-bale-protected boats came out into Galveston Bay and captured the *U.S.S. Harriet Lane*. Command of the newly-captured vessel was given to W. H. Fleig, an officer with naval experience in the Coast Defense.

The ship needed repairs if the Confederate Navy was to make good use of the prize. For months, the Union Navy made plans to recapture *Harriet Lane*, but could never quite locate her due to conflicting intelligence reports. In early 1865 she slipped out of Galveston harbor in heavy fog and pushed for the open sea. She was chased and fired upon by one of the federal blockade ships but easily escaped. She was Captain Fleig's last naval command. After the war, the ship was recovered by the U.S. Navy in Havana, Cuba.

Captain Fleig returned to Houston, married (1866) and fathered ten children. He took a job in the auditing department of the Kirby Lumber Company. Fleig joined Dick Dowling Camp No. 197 of the United Confederate Veterans and was an active member. He was present at the famous gathering of the Blue and Gray veterans at Gettysburg, PA in 1913. *Confederate Veteran* magazine reported:

One of the oldest veterans in the big Camp was Captain W. H. Fleig of Houston, Texas who was 90 years of age last February 23. During the war he served with distinction in the Confederate Navy. Captain Fleig was one of the Best-preserved men in Camp, and is more active than many of the other veterans a score of years younger.

In October 1922, Fleig, then 99, retired from the Kirby Lumber Company. A year later, on 14 September, he died quietly at his home at 320 East Sixth Avenue in the Heights. At 100 years, 6 months, and 21 days, he was easily, as the *Houston Chronicle* bannered, "Houston's Oldest Citizen," and certainly lived a rich, full, and interesting life.

\* \* \* \* \*

Nine members of the Fleig family are buried here. Brief biographies of all of them are given in the Washington Cemetery Centennial Book.

\* \* \* \* \*

Your family history can appear here in May. Please send such histories to our **Historian, Gov Clements.**

Our sincere thanks to the following donors to Project PATHH (Nov. 1, 1992 -- Feb. 15, 1993).

*Diamond* (\$1000 and up)

The Harry and Isabel Cameron Foundation  
Mr. Andrew M. Gruy  
Marian and Speros Martel Foundation, Inc.  
Rockwell Fund, Inc.

*Gold* (\$500 - \$999)

Exxon Corporation

*Silver* (\$250 - \$499)

The Linbeck Foundation

*Bronze* (\$100 - \$249)

The Currie Foundation  
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Mistrot  
Mr. Russell H. Neel, Jr.

Matching gifts from employers are included in determining your donation level.

## 1992 Burials in Washington Cemetery

The following persons were laid to rest in Washington Cemetery in 1992.

	<u>Burial Date</u>
Mrs. Martha Holloway Fischer	8 February 1992
Miss Alma Detering	14 August 1992
Mrs. Margaret Alice Bell	16 December 1992

## Accounting Funds Explained

CCWCC has three Funds: **Maintenance** provides the money to keep the grass cut, **Special Projects** provides money for the roads and fence, and **Perpetual Care** is strictly an endowment fund. Bequests and memorial donations are generally credited to the Perpetual Care Fund. We use only *part of the interest* from the Perpetual Care Fund for current maintenance. At this time, the greatest CCWCC financial need is for the road repairs, second priority is for maintenance and the fence, and third priority is the Perpetual Care Fund.

The **Trust** has four Funds: **Annual** provides for the newsletter and security, **History** provides for our computer database and research costs, **Gravesite Restoration** provides for the work being done in Stranger's Rest and elsewhere of cleaning, straightening, and resetting loose monuments (but *not* routine mowing and trimming), and **Project PATHH** provides for the engineering and construction of our improved roads. Project PATHH and the Annual Fund are the Trust's most urgent needs.

\* \* \* \* \*

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)
____ PERPETUAL CARE Donation	____ HISTORY/RESEARCH Donation
____ PROJECT "PATHH" Donation (Promoting Access To Houston's Heritage)	____ GRAVESITE RESTORATION Donation
Phone Number (optional) _____	____ PROJECT "PATHH" Donation
	Matching Funds from : _____

The first \$40 you donate in any fiscal year is normally credited to the Maintenance or Annual Funds. However, due to the Brown Foundation challenge grant described on page 1, this rule is temporarily suspended. **Until we meet the \$10,000 goal, please allocate as much as possible of your donation for the road repairs (Project PATHH).** Any amount is welcome. Project PATHH donations may be made to either CCWCC or the Washington Cemetery Historic Trust.

## Membership Roster Revisions

This is the first mailing using the new roster and mailing list. A few errors probably got past us, as usually happens. Please check with your friends and relatives who are supposed to be receiving the newsletter to be sure they received theirs. If there are errors in your name or address, please let us know; that's the only way we'll find out. And if we have inadvertently put a deceased person back on the list, we apologize in advance and ask you to just gently let us know so we can make the correction.

Please help us by mentioning the lot number or family name you are interested in when you correspond with us. We will add this information to our database, so that when we get letters and phone calls searching for some long-lost relative, we can identify other family members and ask them whether they wish to be contacted. *We do not* sell or exchange mailing lists. You will never receive junk mail as a result of being on our mailing list.

## Treasurer's Report

Donations for maintenance are down significantly -- \$2,700 in the three months ending December 31, compared to almost \$5,000 for the same period a year ago and \$7,100 for the same period two years ago. Folks, we need your help. Total maintenance donations over the last 12 months were less than \$12,000 while routine expenses were about \$17,000. If even half of the households receiving this newsletter sent \$40 per year (that's less than 77 cents a week), we'd have over \$20,000 to cover our maintenance.

We are very grateful to the 120 members who have already made their 1993 maintenance donations, and to those members (about one-quarter of our active donors) who give twice a year (or more). We'd never make it without your loyal support. We know times are tough, but even \$5 or \$10 or \$20 from some of the rest of you would be a big help. The grass doesn't understand about low interest rates; it just keeps right on growing.

## Upcoming Events

The **regular meeting** of the membership will be **Sunday, March 28**, at 2:30 p.m., at our usual meeting place, Central Congregational Church.

**Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25** will be our **annual spring workdays** at Washington Cemetery this year. Hours are roughly 10-5 Saturday and 1-5 Sunday. We will be continuing to work on both the new fence and the Stranger's Rest section during these workdays. Please call **Leona Zaboroski** if you can help, even if just for a couple of hours. Put these dates on your calendar now! We look forward to seeing you there.

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

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## Newsletter Schedule Revised

The newsletter is now published by the Washington Cemetery Historic Trust, which is partly funded by foundations and corporations. For many years, we have done four mailings per year -- two postcard meeting notices (to local addresses only) and two newsletters. It costs more to mail the newsletter than to print it, and mailing cost is the same for the postcards as it is for the newsletters. So for very little more per year, we can send four newsletters instead of two, bringing you twice as much news. **We will no longer send meeting notices.**

The complete financial reports will be given twice a year, in Spring and Fall, as before, while the Winter and Summer newsletters will devote more space to family history. Of course, all issues will keep you updated on news items -- progress on the road and fence projects, maintenance report, etc.

Deadlines for family history material to be printed in each issue are February 1, May 1, July 15, and October 15. This schedule allows enough time to edit and type the information, and send it back to you for proofreading and correction before printing.

If you have any suggestions or material to be included in the next newsletter, including lots for sale or lots wanted to buy, please direct them to the editor at the address below.

**Please note:** This change is NOT an attempt to get you to send money four times a year -- once is all we ask, though of course, we are most appreciative of the many members who are able to donate more than once. This is simply providing better service, in keeping with our historic preservation mission, at almost no additional cost.

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