

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

Vol. 17, No. 2

"Heirs Who Care"

July 1993

## OFFICERS

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

## DIRECTORS

-----1993-----	-----1994-----	-----1995-----
Vic Gehring	Mike Gruy	Sam Belinoski
Russell Neel, Jr.	Bill Scott	Edgar Moy
Bill Waters	Anne Wheeler	Leona Zaboroski

## Project PATHH Progresses Proudly

Phase I is substantially complete, and the improvement is impressive! The entrance road has been completely regraded and paved, the two roads south of the crossroad that used to have deep eroded gullies now have a very smooth and solid surface of asphalt black base material, and nearly all the potholes in the three parallel roads have been repaired with cement-stabilized limestone.

There are just a few minor items left, and we are working with the contractor to resolve those quickly. The next several months will be a period of continuing evaluation of the drainage, to determine whether any further reshaping is required before we pave the remainder of the roads in Phase II. During this time, we will also be actively working to raise the money to complete the Phase II construction.

## Houston Endowment Matches The Brown Foundation Challenge Grant!

Since February 15, 1993, 52 individuals and two companies have donated a total of \$7,485 for Project PATHH, all of which counts towards the \$10,000 matching grant from **The Brown Foundation, Inc.**

And now even more good news -- on July 21, 1993, we learned that **Houston Endowment Inc.**, will give us a grant of \$10,000 in early October, thus covering the remaining \$2,515 we needed to qualify for the Brown Foundation grant, plus a lot more.

A great big *THANK YOU!* to all who have helped us meet this goal. The funds actually collected so far have just about equaled the cost of Phase I, so all of the \$20,000 that is promised to us from The Brown Foundation and Houston Endowment will be used for Phase II of Project PATHH.

## Highlights of Recent W.C. Events

Washington Cemetery has been a busy place the last few months. Since the last newsletter, we have also:

- Completed the final 300 feet of fence around the cemetery, as announced in November.
- Located 47 more grave markers in Strangers' Rest, set 18 markers in concrete, and prepared permanent plastic markers with full names and dates for 20 people buried in some unmarked Strangers' Rest graves discovered last Fall.
- Given tours of the cemetery to 120 school children and their teachers and parents.
- Been featured in the February 1993 issue of *For Preservation* (Greater Houston Preservation Alliance) and the July 1993 issue of *Sixth Ward News* (Old Sixth Ward Neighborhood Association).
- Provided a location for the upcoming movie "Cultivating Charlie" and an anti-drug video.

Details of these and other events are given elsewhere in this newsletter. Many thanks to all who have participated in these projects!

## Project PATHH Fund-Raising Report

The total cost of Phase I, including all engineering and road surveying, will be just over \$32,000 (we still owe the contractor about \$1200). We are very pleased to report that we have already received donations to Project PATHH in excess of that amount! However, Phase II is expected to cost in the range of \$30,000 to \$100,000, depending on the results of the drainage evaluation. The two foundations have given us a big boost in the right direction, but we still need your help, especially in writing letters and locating additional sources of support.

## Clements' Corner

### School Field Trip To Washington Cemetery

On April 27, 1993, a bright, beautiful Spring day, your Historian played host to some 120 students of the Frazier Elementary School, located at 8300 Little River, Houston 77064, in Cypress-Fairbanks I.S.D. There were two busloads of kids, along with Assistant Principal Lynn McDonald, all the fifth grade teachers, and an assortment of parents.

Mrs. Shirley Dugas was the teacher who contacted me with the idea of bringing the students on a field trip. She was already familiar with the surroundings of Washington Cemetery, and there was a reason for choosing a cemetery.

Due to the death of the father of one popular teacher, and the serious illness of another's, the students' attention had been focused on the fragility of life and what happens after a person dies. In class discussion and conversations about these topics, it became clear that many of the children knew nothing about what happens after a death. Many had never attended a funeral, witnessed a burial, or been to a cemetery, and the same was true of some of the teachers. Aside from jokes about, and ghoulish references to, cemeteries or graveyards, many of these people had been sheltered from reality. So Mrs. Dugas and her colleagues decided on a cemetery visit for the last field trip of the year.

Why Washington Cemetery? I asked that same question myself. The answer: In the Spring when the students study about the Civil War, they have additional reading material. One of the books was a historical novel, *Behind Enemy Lines*, by a Mrs. Seymour. It is based on some of the espionage exploits of Mrs. Emma Seeyle (aka Frank Thompson). According to the teachers, it is the most popular of the extra readings, with both boys and girls. So they wanted to come to Washington Cemetery, and they came prepared!

I laid out a short walking tour to highlight some of our most interesting features. They brought their own mobile public address system (a cordless mike and a portable speaker). While the first bus load did the tour, the second busload did rubbings of grave monuments. Then it was turnabout time.

The tour began with a short history of the cemetery, the variety of nationalities, some of the more prominent family names, military connections, lodges, associations, and interesting biographical information on persons buried here. Explanations regarding

funerals, digging of graves, legal questions, layout of the cemetery, sections, lots, grave plots, Strangers' Rest, curbs and cradles -- they got it all. They were also informed about CCWCC's part in the restoration and maintenance of Washington Cemetery (which had recently been mowed and was in a superb condition).

Then they were shown some monument desecrations and sternly warned about what a heinous crime it was. After some two hours, the two tours ended. Expressions of grateful appreciation were received from students and teachers alike. I was gifted with a school spirit T-shirt. Photos were taken, and amidst cries of "Thank You" shouted from bus windows, as well a group of school children as you ever hoped to see bounced out of the cemetery and went to Memorial Park for a picnic. Subsequent reports by the teachers indicate that it was a very positive experience for the children, and they hope to do it again in 1994.

Our sincere thanks to the following donors to Project PATHH (Feb. 16, 1993 -- July 20, 1993).

*Diamond (\$1,000 and up)*

Anonymous  
Mr. Max Garrett  
Maverick Engineering Company  
Miss Mary Jane Pollock (bequest)

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

Exxon Corporation

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

Mrs. Margaret Hoval Wilson

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

Mrs. Roger L. Beebe  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl P. Curry  
Miss Elise Daulley  
Mrs. Ruth Walther Daulley  
Miss Mary L. Fischer  
Mrs. Nancy Pollock Gillis  
Mr. Michael A. Gruy  
Half Day Video  
Mr. Jack Hillman  
Mrs. Helen Finn Huff  
Mr. & Mrs. Russell S. King  
Mr. John F. Kleemeier  
Mr. William C. Lipscomb  
Mr. Thomas J. Urquhart  
Mr. William K.. Waters  
Mrs. Agnes L. Whitson  
Mrs. Leona Zaboroski

Exxon and Southwestern Bell will match employee and annuitant donations to Washington Cemetery Historic Trust, but these donors need to send us the necessary forms with their donations.

**INCOME and EXPENSES October 1, 1992 through June 30, 1993**

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

<b>Net Assets -- October 1, 1992</b>	<b>\$365,804.41</b>	EXPENSES:	Maintenance	\$9,278.85
			Water Bills	139.90
INCOME: Maintenance	\$7,300.00		Postage & Printing	310.20
Perpetual Care	1,055.00		Other Administrative	379.00
Improvement Projects	5,640.00		New Fence	704.79
Educational Projects	10.00		Boundary Survey	2,950.00
Book Sales	41.50		Donations to WCHT	15,750.00
Investment Interest	13,001.72	<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$29,512.74</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$24,048.22</b>	<b>Net Assets -- June 30, 1993</b>		<b>\$363,339.89</b>
FUNDS: Maintenance/Operations	\$9,993.10	Improvement Projects	\$19.28	
Perpetual Care	\$353,078.34	Educational Projects	\$249.17	

**WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST**

<b>Net Assets -- October 1, 1992</b>	<b>\$5,608.81</b>	EXPENSES:	Security	1,600.00
			Newsletter	502.98
INCOME: Operations/Administration	\$645.00		Postage	127.20
" Donation from CCWCC	2,000.00		Historical Research	46.11
Project "PATHH"	17,000.00		Strangers' Rest Markers	159.40
" Donation from CCWCC	13,750.00		Project PATHH	30,921.04
Gravesite Restoration	55.00	<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$33,356.73</b>
Interest	221.00	<b>Net Assets -- June 30, 1993</b>		<b>\$5,923.08</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$33,671.00</b>	Project "PATHH"	\$2,928.96	
FUNDS: Operations/Administration	\$2,194.13	Special Projects	\$415.60	
Historical Projects	\$384.39			

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
____ PERPETUAL CARE Donation	____ GRAVESITE RESTORATION Donation
Phone Number (optional) _____	____ HISTORY/RESEARCH Donation
	Matching Funds from : _____

## Treasurer's Report

To the 215 people who have donated to CCWCC and/or WCHT this year, we say **Thank You!** Your help is greatly appreciated. However, routine maintenance expenses have exceeded maintenance donations by over \$10,500 in the last two years, so we have had to use most of our investment interest this year for current expenses instead of adding it to the perpetual care fund.. At current rates, our interest alone is not enough to cover even routine expenses.

This is a plea to the *other* 80% of our readers. If you would like to see Washington Cemetery continue to look nice, we really need your help, especially for routine maintenance and Project PATHH. Please join the "Old Two Hundred" in making your annual maintenance donation today.

## Upcoming Events

The **annual meeting** of the membership, including election of all officers and three directors, will be **Sunday, September 26**, at 2:30 p.m., at our usual meeting place, Central Congregational Church. Please let us know if you'd like to serve on the Board -- new faces and new ideas are always welcome.

Due to the low turnout on recent Sunday workdays, our **annual Fall workdays** will be two **Saturdays, October 16 and October 23**, from about 10 to 5. We especially need teams of three to five to work on the Strangers' Rest marker project. We'd like some volunteers to work on these during the week also, while the weather cooperates, so we can keep those already discovered from disappearing again. Please call **Leona Zaboroski** if you can help.

Workdays are also visitor days, so don't feel that you have to do heavy physical labor. Just come out, meet some of your fellow Concerned Citizens, and enjoy the beautiful area you've helped (re)create.

Although we had twice the normal rainfall in the first six months of this year, our mowing contractor never missed a cutting. Everything is lovely and green and neat. The roads are much better than they've been in many a year, and the entire cemetery is completely fenced. If you haven't been to the cemetery in some time, treat yourself to a visit soon. We look forward to seeing you there!

\* \* \* \* \*

We have received a nice bequest from **Miss Mary Jane Pollock**, granddaughter of **Hugh Hamilton**, and at least eight donations in memory of our long-time supporter, **Maurice B. Holdgraf**, who asked that friends make donations to CCWCC in lieu of flowers. How very thoughtful of both of them to have remembered us in this way.

## Washington Cemetery Finally Fenced In

Thanks to our director Bill Scott and several Linbeck employees, the cemetery is now completely fenced, which is essential to its long-term preservation. Our only cost was about \$700 for materials, all of which has been covered by donations.

\* \* \* \* \*

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**.

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
<b>PAID</b>
HOUSTON, TX
PERMIT 2512