

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

Vol. 18, No. 2

"Heirs Who Care"

August 1994

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More Strangers' Rest Markers Found

We had 10 to 20 people come out for each of the workdays in February, March and April, and located about 100 more Strangers' Rest markers, bringing the total to near 500. Since then, it's been too warm to work at the cemetery, but we'll be back out there again in October. We hope you'll join us!

Eddie Moy needs a couple of helpers to do the light setup work for a concrete pour in early October, so we can set up another group at the October 15 work day. Please call him at 497-2290 if you can help.

Solved (and Unsolved) Mysteries

Washington Cemetery has many mysteries -- "lost" graves, missing headstones, burial records without dates, creative spelling, etc. -- and our historian Gov Clements is doing a great job of sorting them out, one at a time. One of our success stories, that of Dr. Henry Leon Hutson, appears in Clements' Corner.

Gov has promised to regale us with more tales from Washington Cemetery at our regular meeting on September 11. But he hasn't said which families he'll be talking about -- might be yours! Whatever, it's sure to be interesting. Y'all come!

Project PATHH Phase II Completed

The promised drainage improvements were done in early April, and so far, the results are encouraging. However, we need a lot more rain than we've had lately to be sure we are proceeding correctly. The Road Committee is continuing to evaluate the situation and will make a recommendation for the next step at the September 11 meeting.

Maintenance Report

The cemetery continues to be well maintained, though at the expense of any growth in the Perpetual Care Fund. We'd like to be able to mow a bit more often, and do some more detailed trimming, but if our financial situation doesn't improve soon, we may have to scale back the mowing instead.

Treasurer's Report

First, many thanks to the 244 individuals, corporations, and foundations who have contributed to either CCWCC or WCHT since October 1, 1993. As of August 1, 1994, we have \$34,440 available for Project PATHH, and \$2,170 for the Strangers' Rest marking project. The CCWCC Perpetual Care Fund stands at \$357,214, up \$2,639 since February 1, 1994. Total value of CCWCC is \$370,747; total value of WCHT is \$38,610.

About 20% of the folks on our mailing list have made annual maintenance donations to CCWCC and WCHT totalling \$9,300. That's the good news. Unfortunately, total maintenance expenses for the year ended September 30, 1994 are expected to be nearly \$26,000, or a shortfall of \$16,700, which is slightly more than the total anticipated interest income for the year.

There's no cushion, folks. Unlike Uncle Sam, we can't spend more than we take in, but we're almost at that point. In short, we really need to hear from the other 80% of you. Please help us as much as you can -- every little bit helps. Maybe Mary Poppins could get the grass mowed instantly, but right now, we still have to rely on lawnmowers and manpower, and unfortunately, that takes money.

Clements' Corner

Strangers' Rest No. 511: Dr. Henry Leon Hutson

Submitted by Mrs. Sue Roberts, of Lufkin, Texas, reared as a granddaughter of Dr. Henry Leon Hutson. He was buried in one of the 30 unmarked Strangers' Rest graves discovered by David Gibbons in July 1992.

The name Hutson is English, and people by that name have lived in England for several hundred years. It is believed that the first Hutson who came to America settled in the state of Maryland.

Shortly after the Revolutionary War, people from the Atlantic seaboard crossed over the Allegheny Mountains and settled in the midwestern states. Among these was a Hutson family who established a home in southern Illinois. Their son, William Thomas Hutson, was born there about 1805.

For some reason, probably his adventurous spirit, this young man left his home at the age of 17 and went south. He soon reached the state of Mississippi and established a home in Simpson County, 2½ miles east of the village of Westerville.

After a short courtship with a neighbor girl named Rebecca Magee, they were married about 1824. To this couple were born the following twelve children: Aaron, Thomas E., Melisa, Lorahan Jane, John, William, Abram, Ruth, Rebecca, Wincie, Mary Louisa, and Zeolode.

The eldest son, Aaron, married Mary Francis Clark. They left Mississippi shortly after the Civil War and moved to East Texas. To this couple were born the following seven children: Mohena Jane, Mary Kizzie, Elijah, Joanna, Henry Leon, William Barlow, and Jane.

Henry Leon Hutson was born 20 January 1873 in Trinity County, Texas. He married Texana Ponder on 26 February 1893.



She was born 22 June 1873. Their five children were: a son who died at birth (26 Jan. 1894, buried in Centralia, Trinity Co.), B. C. "Buster" (10 Aug. 1895 – 4 Oct. 1964), Gladys Mae (9 Aug. 1898 – 2 July 1935), Effie Louise (26 Jan. 1900 – 1 June 1968),

and Clyde (4 May 1902 – 25 Sept. 1973).

Not much is known about Dr. Hutson by his grandchildren, only what was told by his children, Clyde and Effie Louise. Henry Leon was educated as a doctor of medicine in St. Louis, Missouri, and did his practice in Chita, Shepherd, Moscow, Garwood, and Houston, Texas. Clyde would go with him in a buggy on some of his house calls and Dr. Hutson's patients would often pay him with vegetables or chickens. Effie Louise lived with Dr. Hutson and his sister, Mary Kizzie, in Garwood, where Effie met her future husband, Rudolph Denk. Rudolph drove Dr. Hutson's buggy for him; later, when the Model T came out, Rudolph kept it in running condition and also drove it.

Effie Louise recalled an incident in Garwood where an elderly black man had been kicked in the head by a mule. Dr. Hutson went out in the country, operated on him on the porch, and put a silver dollar in his forehead. Years later, Effie saw this same man in downtown Houston. Dr. Hutson must have been a very good doctor, for he certainly didn't have all the modern technology of today.

On 29 November 1919, Effie Louise found her father dead of heart disease in his office at 215-1/2 Main Street in Houston. It's interesting that the doctor's death certificate is signed by a J.P., not an M.D.!

Dr. Hutson's four grandchildren, Marie Woodward, Bobbie Lea McBride, Janell Jones, and Sue Roberts, have recently located Dr. Hutson's unmarked grave and obtained a new headstone for him.

* * * * *

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

Our sincere thanks to the following donors to Project PATHH (Feb. 1, 1993 -- Aug. 1, 1994).

Gold (\$500 - \$999)

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

In Memoriam: Autrey Lewis Ballanfant

Autrey was born in Bay City, Texas on December 20, 1914 to Richard R. Lewis and Selma Autrey Lewis. The family soon moved to Houston, to be near Mrs. Lewis' family. Dick Lewis practiced law in Houston for many years, and at one time was the City Attorney. The Autrey family owned the Brazos Hotel as well as the Magnolia Brewery, which produced Southern Select Beer, before being sold to the Falstaff Brewing Company in the 1960's.

Autrey attended San Jacinto High School. She met Dick Ballanfant while both were students at Rice University, and they eloped during lunch break at Rice in 1934. (Their friends had wondered why Autrey wore a hat to class that day!) They graduated from Rice together in 1935. Later, she attended graduate school in Mexico City.

Dick Ballanfant served with the First Special Services Forces during W.W.II. In 1947, Autrey and Dick opened a Boys' Camp in Junction, Texas, where her family had a ranch. Although the camp was successful and all of the Ballanfant family enjoyed life in Junction, the terrible drought in the early 1950's forced them to leave the Hill Country and move to California for 5 years. In 1959, the family moved back to Houston, where both Autrey and Dick began teaching school in HISD. Autrey taught elementary school Spanish, then moved on

to McReynolds Junior High to teach Spanish and English. Dick taught Science at Furr High School. Both retired from teaching in the early 1970's.

One of Autrey Ballanfant's proudest achievements was hosting in her home the initial meeting of concerned descendants of people buried in Washington Cemetery. CCWCC was formed as a direct result of that January 1975 meeting.

Dick Ballanfant passed away in October 1981. Autrey died on July 3, 1994. Both are buried in the Autrey/Lewis family plot. Alongside them is their first grandchild, Christopher Louis Voss, son of Anne Ballanfant Voss and James George Voss.

Autrey touched many lives, and will be greatly missed. However, we are very grateful to her many friends and relatives who honored her memory by making donations totaling over \$1000 to WCHT.

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Upcoming Events

The **regular meeting** of the membership will be **Sunday, September 11**, at 2:30 p.m., at our usual meeting place, Central Congregational Church, 3410 Austin (at Holman).

The Washington Cemetery **Fall Work/Visitor Days** will be on **Saturdays, October 15 and October 22**. Hours are roughly 9-4. We want to encourage everyone to come out, whether or not you plan to engage in heavy manual labor. Come cheer on those who *are* laboring! There will be enough people there to put everyone at ease, and someone will have the record books to help in locating long-forgotten grave locations. We will be continuing our search for Strangers' Rest markers, plus cleaning and straightening headstones.

There will not be another newsletter before the workdays, so please put these dates on your calendar now! (If you need a reminder, call **Leona Zaboroski** now, and ask to be put on her list.) We look forward to seeing you there.

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Burial Spaces for Sale by CCWCC

CCWCC has been given several burial spaces in Lot A-74, which are now for sale. There are three spaces together in the northwest corner, two spaces together in the east half, and three individual infant/child spaces. The adult spaces are attractively priced at \$600 each; infant spaces are \$300. All proceeds from the sale of these spaces will be placed in our perpetual care endowment fund. For more information on these spaces, or any other spaces wanted to buy, sell, or donate, please contact Herman Lauhoff at (713) 683-8827.

Proofreaders Needed

Ruth Daulley has now entered over 2000 pre-1904 burial records into our computer, including nearly all Strangers' Rest burials during that time period, and some late as 1906. Many of these records are not in the "current" record book in the library, and are thus not in the index to that book. But she could still use some help with proofreading. Please call her at 442-0453 if you can help.

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