

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

Vol. 19, No. 2

"Heirs Who Care"

August 1995

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 Vice President-----Burt Ballanfant  
 Rec. Secretary----- Elise Daulley  
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## WCHT TRUSTEES

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## Rockwell Fund Helps Us Fix Headstones

We are delighted to announce a grant of \$10,000 from Rockwell Fund, Inc. for use on our Monument Repair project. **THANK YOU!** The first phase of this multi-year project includes 20 broken and fallen monuments, which will cost over \$9,000 to clean, repair, and set upright on new foundations. John Schlitzberger, of The Monument Company, expects to complete his work by late summer. Natural Stone, Inc. will begin repairing about a dozen more headstones in the Fall. But that's just the beginning.

When you consider what the cemetery looked like 20 years ago, and what it looks like today, it looks good. But you only have to go next door to Glenwood to see what "great" looks like. Everywhere you look, there is work to be done. Many headstones, cradles, copings, etc. throughout the cemetery have suffered from time and weather and are now damaged or leaning or simply in need of cleaning. We've been fixing things up here and there on the workdays, but there simply haven't been enough volunteers to do all that needs doing.

We believe that, with about \$100,000 or so worth of repairing, straightening, cleaning, etc. (spread over several years), the cemetery would really sparkle. We have several grant requests pending, but we must raise a large part of the funds from our own members. We'll gratefully accept any assistance -- cash donations, corporate matching funds, letter writing, volunteer labor in the cemetery, in-kind contributions of materials and/or equipment -- whatever it takes to restore the historic monuments in Washington Cemetery to their pre-abandonment grandeur.

## Project PATHH Final Report

Total cost of the road improvements was \$60,423.10: \$9,006.62 for engineering, and \$51,416.48 for construction. CCWCC raised \$16,219.28 and WCHT raised 53,740.00, for a total of \$69,959.28, leaving \$9,536.18 in the fund for future maintenance and repairs. Major funding sources were: (a) charitable foundations (\$43,100), (b) our members (\$23,554.28), and (c) corporations (\$3,305). Thanks to all who contributed to the success of this project.

## Bequests and Memorials Received

It is with great sadness that we report the recent passing of several long-time friends of Washington Cemetery: Lou Ella (Mrs. Alvin) Riess, Libby (Mrs. Eddie) Kovar, Joe C. Filips (great-grandson of Rev. Caspar Braun), and Marion (Mrs. W. G.) Martin. We are, however, most grateful that they and their families chose to honor Washington Cemetery with lasting memorials.

Mrs. Riess very kindly left a nice bequest to CCWCC that will provide a significant boost to our Perpetual Care Fund, and also assist with our current beautification efforts in the cemetery.

CCWCC has also received 34 memorial gifts from the friends and relatives of Mrs. Kovar, Mr. Filips, and Mrs. Martin, all of which will be added to our Perpetual Care Fund.

*Should you wish to remember us in your will, please contact our Vice President, Burt Ballanfant, for assistance with the proper wording.*

## Clements' Corner

**Lot G-31: Marie La Rose / J. R. O'Rillion**

**Lot G-32: Strangers' Rest**

*Compiled by Bernice Mistrot, with assistance from Irene Carstens of Galveston, Texas, great-great-granddaughter of Sybella Bader and Celestine La Rose.*

Four generations of the **Bader, La Rose, and O'Rillion** families are represented at Washington Cemetery. One of the earliest burials here, barely a year after the cemetery was established, was that of Sybella Bader, born 11 Oct. 1811 in Baden-Baden, Germany, and died on 19 June 1888 in Houston. She has a lovely headstone on lot G-32, but is not listed in the cemetery burial records. Her death certificate shows that she died of "old age" at 77 (or "in her 77th year", as Germans typically say).

Sybella Bader and her daughter Marie immigrated to New Orleans, where, about 1879, Marie married John Joseph La Rose, son of Frank and Celestine La Rose. The La Rose family had come from France many years earlier (a La Rose Brewery on Bourbon Street in the late 1700's may belong to this family). Joseph started a bakery in New Orleans, then moved his growing family to Houston about 1883.

At first, he worked as a baker for Alphonse **Stude** on Preston between Travis and Milam. By 1892, he had his own bakery at 2017 Washington (his widowed mother lived at 2020 Washington). Later addresses include: 1601 Washington at Trinity, 1715 Shearn, and 1601 Houston Ave, most of which were occupied by other bakeries before or after La Rose.

In 1900, Marie and Joseph La Rose shared their home at 1601 Washington with nine children, employees Otto **Seager** and John Paul **Little**, and boarders Jim and Maggie Little. The twelve La Rose children were: Sybella Celestine **O'Rillion** (1880-1968), Agnes Antoinette **Hanson** (1882-1971), Alphonse Oscar (1884-1930), Emma Eugenie **Herman** (1887-1925), a son who died at age 5, listed in the burial book only as "F.", (ca.1889-ca.1895), Sydney (1891), Eugene (1892), Marie Louise **Caradine** (1894), Florence Josephine **Bachmann** (1896), Leon (1897), an unnamed infant (1899-1899), and Irene (ca. 1902-1902). The girls were all given the names of French queens, except for the eldest, named for her two grandmothers.

The name **O'Rillion** is not Irish, as it appears, but French, having been corrupted from the original spelling, **Orillion**, by a nameless bureaucrat. The family in Louisiana still uses the French spelling.

The O'Rillions had two children, Irene Clemence (1909-1991), wife of Richard Adam **Carstens** (1906-1973), and the Very Rev. Joseph La Rose O'Rillion (1914-1974). He served several Presbyterian churches in Texas before becoming an Army Chaplain in Europe during W.W.II. He later served Holy Trinity Cathedral in Paris, France, and was Dean of St. Stephen Cathedral (Episcopal) in Portland, Oregon from 1950 to 1970.

Thirteen members of this family are buried on these two lots. The son who died about 1895 was buried near his grandmother in Lot G-32. In 1899, Marie La Rose purchased the adjacent Lot G-31, where her two youngest children are buried side by side. Also in G-31 are Marie La Rose (1856-1930), her husband Joseph (1849-1916), his mother Celestine La Rose (1821-1909), three adult daughters: "Bella" O'Rillion and her husband, J. R. O'Rillion (1874-1924), "Aggie" Hanson and her husband, Nelson B. Hanson (d. 1912), and Emma, wife of William Herman; and a grandson, Rev. Joseph La Rose O'Rillion. The "infant of Wm. **Wilson**" buried in 1907 is probably the child of their next-door neighbor on Shearn, an employee of the H&TC railway. Irene and Richard Carstens are buried in Hollywood Cemetery (100 years old this year).

### **Lot C-97, East 1/2: William Henry Koenig**

CORRECTIONS: A bit of detective work comparing the headstones on the Hoyt lot (Glenwood C-114) with the record books reveals that both John C. **Hoyt** and his wife Susanna J. Hoyt are buried there, as are their adult son, John C. Hoyt Jr. (1862-1882) and daughter, Lula Mae **Anderson** ("Aunt Kutzy"?). But there are only these four -- the "infant" marked in the record book turned out to be the 20-year-old son John, and "Mrs. F. J. Hoyt" is really Susanna.

Census records show that Fannie Koenig's brother Charles C. Hoyt was 23 in 1880 (in Mobile, AL) and 53 in 1910, at which time he lived in Beaumont, TX near his brother Thomas. So he is not likely to be the person buried in Glenwood at age 72 in 1914.

Jim Hoyt is still a bit of a mystery. The City of Houston death certificate shows that he died 2 Jan. 1897, at age 6, while Washington Cemetery records show that he was buried on 30 Dec. (probably 1896), at age 5. They can't both be correct!

\* \* \* \* \*

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

## In Memoriam: Libby Kovar

Washington Cemetery has lost a friend -- one of the best! Libby Kovar passed to her eternal rest on May 16, 1995. Libby and her husband, Eddie, were constant volunteer caretakers at the cemetery for many years. Eddie once commented that Libby acted as though she owned Washington Cemetery, ... and that's the way it was.

The Kovars could be seen in their white pickup truck driving through the cemetery several times every week, stopping to do whatever needed to be done, or just checking to see that all was well. If problems arose they were unable to handle, they alerted other members and we all knew it was time to go into action.

The loves of Libby's life, other than Eddie of course, were animals, plants, and Washington Cemetery. For years before water was connected in the cemetery, Libby and Eddie carried water from home in jugs to water any plants placed on graves, no matter how many. Grass cutters often got in trouble with Libby for mowing down flowers along with the weeds. No one would believe the countless numbers of loads of brush, limbs, and trash that little pickup hauled away.

Yes, Libby was our friend. All who knew her will miss her. She was Washington Cemetery's guardian angel!

-- Lois King

\* \* \* \* \*

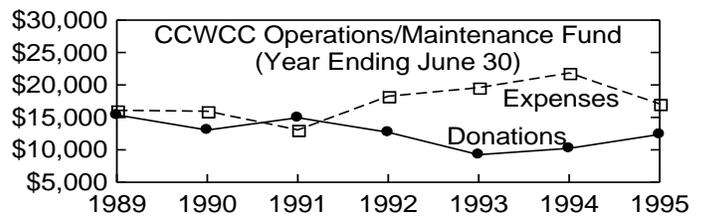
Please return the entire form below with your check and mail to Gus Mistrot, Treasurer. All donations from individuals are deductible on Form 1040 (Schedule A). If your company (e.g., Exxon, Southwestern Bell, Tenneco) will match your donation, please make your donation to the WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC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

## Treasurer's Report

First, a big Thank You to the 224 individuals, corporations, and foundations who have donated to CCWCC and/or WCHT since October 1, 1994. Your steady support is much appreciated. As of August 1, 1995, the CCWCC Perpetual Care Fund stands at \$403,515, and we have \$23,860 available for the Monument Repair and Strangers' Rest Marking projects. The total value of CCWCC is \$432,340 and the total value of WCHT is \$22,318.

These figures show that our finances are on a sound footing. Expenses are being met by a combination of donations and interest on our endowment fund, and total assets keep increasing. But since donations for operations and maintenance have fallen well below maintenance expenses in the last four years (see below), our perpetual care fund is not growing as much as it could, given that our donor base is probably at its largest ever.

We would ask each of you, especially our non-donors, to reflect upon the wonders that have been achieved at Washington Cemetery and try to increase your donation to the Maintenance Fund to ensure that these wonders do not cease.



Donor Name _____	Surname(s) of Deceased _____
Please send acknowledgment <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Plot Number (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 _____	Matching Gift from _____

## First Burial Space Sold by CCWCC

Eighteen burial spaces have been sold recently, at prices up to \$600 each. Most were private sales, in which CCWCC assisted persons wanting to buy spaces by contacting the out-of-town owners and preparing transfer documents, as a public service.

In June, CCWCC sold one space that was donated to us in February. It was purchased on a pre-need basis by a lady whose parents and two brothers are buried in Strangers' Rest, and is located only a few feet from where her father rests eternally. The entire purchase price of \$600 has been added to our perpetual care endowment fund.

For more information on any spaces wanted to buy, sell, or donate, please contact Herman Lauhoff.

## Upcoming Events

The **Annual Meeting** of the membership will be **Sunday, September 24, at 3:00 p.m.** (note new time) at our usual meeting place, Central Congregational Church, 3410 Austin (at Holman). Officers and Directors will be elected for the coming year.

The Washington Cemetery **Fall Visitor/Work Days** will be on **Saturdays, October 14 and October 28.** Hours are roughly 9-4. If you haven't seen our new roads yet, this would be a good time. There will be enough people there to put everyone at ease, and we'll bring the record books to help in locating long-forgotten grave locations.

This is the last newsletter before the workdays, so please put these dates on your calendar now. (If you need a reminder, ask to be put on the phone list.) See you there!

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WASHINGTON CEMETERY CARE, INC.**

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## The Women's Memorial

New member Joy Woodard saw a TV clip about Washington Cemetery on Veterans Day and asked us to pass the word on the Women in Military Service Memorial Foundation, which is presently building a memorial in Arlington National Cemetery to honor all servicewomen. The Foundation is seeking to register all women who have served their country in any capacity: veterans, active duty, or reserves; all branches of the service, USO, Red Cross, Special Services, and all women who had a supportive role in our war efforts. The Register will be computerized and available at the site, much like the immigration records at Ellis Island. To register yourself or any friend or relative who qualifies, call 1-800-222-2294 for a registration form.

## Burial Records Now at Clayton Library

Friends and relatives of Maxine Bell have donated microfilms of all W.C. burial records to the Clayton Library. Center for Genealogical Research. They include the 1887-1903 record book with age and gender, the original 1903-1977 chronological burial list, and many obituaries (1932-1977). Also on microfilm are the records of the First Evangelical Lutheran church and the Texas death certificate index (1903-1973+). The library also has the record books of Annunciation and Christ Church Cathedral and typed, indexed Houston death certificates for the years 1874-1894, 1896, and part of 1900.

The library is located at 5300 Caroline, Houston, TX 77004, phone (713) 524-0101. Hours are Mon-Wed 9-9, Thu-Sat 9-5. Xerox copies are 10¢; 11x17 copies from microfilm are 25¢. No research will be done by phone. Parking is free.

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