

NEWSLETTER
CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR WASHINGTON CEMETERY CARE, INC.
APRIL, 1987

OFFICERS

President Herman Lauhoff
Vice President . . . Burt Ballanfant
SecretaryElise Daulley
TreasurerGus Mistrot
Corr. Secretary . . . Lois King
Parliamentarian . . Jim McConnell

DIRECTORS

Sam Belinoski Calista Larimore Bob Sharman
Joe Clarke Rick McDuffee Bill Waters
Larry Dickson Bernice Mistrot Leona Zaboroski

All officers and directors elected March 15, 1987
Officers serve 2 years; directors 3 years (staggered)

MARCH 20 PROCLAIMED WASHINGTON CEMETERY
CENTENNIAL DAY

Mayor Kathy Whitmire proclaimed March 20, 1987 as Washington Cemetery Centennial Day in recognition of the cemetery's 100th anniversary.

The earliest burials after the founding of the cemetery occurred on March 20, 1887, when J. Turner was buried in Section B, and Annie Fraser, a child of 22 months, was buried in Section C.

We thank Burt Ballanfant for making this recognition happen.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION PLANNED

Big plans are underway for our centennial celebration to be held Sunday, October 25, 1987 at 2 PM on the cemetery grounds.

We look forward to presenting a most interesting and enjoyable program and hope to hold an auction as a fund-raiser. Anyone wishing to donate an item for the auction please contact Leona Zaboroski.

More information about this in the October newsletter. In the meantime, mark your calendar to attend. We'll gladly welcome suggestions and offers of assistance in making this an "event to remember"!

Committee chairmen for this event are:
General Lois King (409)992-3647
Publicity Carl Curry (713)681-7171
History Book Burt Ballanfant
Auction Leona Zaboroski 591-6262
Coordination Bernice Mistrot

(more on page 2)

GIFT FROM ESTATE OF MRS. EMILIE B. DWYER

We have received a gift of \$831.94 from the estate of Mrs. Emilie B. Dwyer. Mrs. Dwyer and her husband, Frank Dwyer, are both buried in Washington Cemetery.

We are most grateful to the heirs of Mrs. Dwyer's estate for their generous gift.

UPDATE ON TREE PLANTING

We again express our appreciation to those of you who donated money to plant new trees in the cemetery. Thirty-eight trees and five shrubs have been planted through this program, replacing more than half of the trees cut since 1979. Unfortunately, the total cost of each tree, including planting and proper initial nurturing, was higher than we expected, so we were not able to replace all of the trees at this time.

It was reported in our April '86 newsletter that a 3'-6' tree would be \$20 and a 6'-10' tree would cost \$40, both figures including planting. However, at planting time, we discovered that these prices were for purchase of the trees only, and did not include planting—an additional \$20 or \$40 per tree.

The project was placed on "hold" while we checked competitive prices. Wolfe's Nursery informed us that Gene Burks' prices of \$40 for small trees and \$80 for large ones, both including planting, were reasonable, so we proceeded with the project.

Although we still need to add trees towards the back of the cemetery, and would welcome additional donations, we plan to wait until next year, so that we can concentrate our efforts at this time on making sure these young trees get a good healthy start.

In fact, we have been told that each tree will require 10 gallons of water per week during the next three years. This will require considerable expense for installation of a new water system (the existing water lines are not functional), and several dedicated volunteers to do the watering.

(more on page 3)

GIFTS FROM EXXON CORPORATION

Thanks also to the Exxon Corporation for their gifts totalling \$1019.00 during 1986. Since we are a historic preservation organization, Exxon will match gifts from their employees and retirees. Eligible donors are requested to obtain the matching gift form from Exxon and send it to CCHCC with their donations. Does anyone know of other companies that have similar programs?

BURIALS IN WASHINGTON CEMETERY IN 1986

The following persons were laid to rest in W.C. in 1986 (dates are burial dates):

Annie Kennedy	17 Jan 1986
Harry Ernest Menn	23 Jan 1986
Adela Falk	31 Jan 1986
Millie I. Hauptmann	14 Mar 1986
J. C. Cutting	2 Apr 1986
Daisy Urquhart	14 Apr 1986
Minnie Gerlach Elliott	5 May 1986
Mamie Hablitzel	8 May 1986
John Head	31 May 1986
Irene Borgstrom	1 Jul 1986
Harriet Bruder	8 Jul 1986
Henry Herbert Anderson	12 Jul 1986
John Henry Arechiga	2 Aug 1986
Frank G. Phillips	10 Nov 1986

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

We are always interested in the views of our members, but never more than in this important centennial year. In order to plan the celebration, and organize the Centennial History book, we need some idea of the numbers involved. There are also several ongoing and anticipated special projects for the improvement of the cemetery, all of which require both time and money.

We ask that each of you take a moment to fill out the survey, and let us know:

1. Your connection to the cemetery;
2. Amount of your support for 1987;
3. The degree to which you expect to participate in the centennial celebration on October 25, 1987 (no obligation);
4. Your suggestions and/or opinions; and
5. Any other ways you can help.

Thank you for caring!

Remember to call LEONA ZABOROSKI (591-6262) for information from Washington Cemetery records. Additional names for the mailing list may be submitted with your membership survey, or given to any committee member.

WASHINGTON CEMETERY CENTENNIAL HISTORY

As part of the Centennial celebration on October 25, it has been decided to compile an illustrated history of the cemetery, including a history of CCWCC, maps, and short biographies of those whose memory we preserve through our caring. The goal of the book is two-fold; to preserve the memory of our loved ones, and to generate interest among other families and organizations.

Your Input Needed!

This is an ambitious undertaking, to be accomplished in only six months. Obviously the committee cannot write biographies on each of 6500 people. Therefore, we turn to you, the Concerned Citizens for Washington Cemetery Care, to provide us with short, readable biographies of your loved ones. Burt Ballanfant, Committee Chairman, has supplied some examples (much abbreviated here in the interests of space).

Since the committee will have plenty to do compiling this information, we will not be able to do any research. Therefore only that information which you supply will be included. Any information which is family legend but as yet unsubstantiated should be so identified in the printed book. We do reserve the right to edit for reasons of space and consistency, however, any significant changes will be discussed with contributors prior to publication.

Format and Content

The present plan is to organize this by lot number, considering each lot as a family group, and including as much of the following information as possible:

1. Name and address of submitter (specify if either to be omitted from final book);
2. Plot number and owner;
3. Relationship of persons buried in each family plot to one another;
4. Dates of birth and death, especially if not on headstone; place of birth; date of immigration (if applicable);
5. Occupation of deceased, and whether a veteran (which war? which army?); maiden name for married women;
6. Cause of death, if known or unusual;
7. Any other information that will help to "color the picture" of Houston's early history and describe who we are and how the people of Washington Cemetery influenced our city in its development.

Example from AUTREY Plot (F-34)

Nettie Steubenrach Autrey (5 Dec. 1866 - 5 June 1941) was a daughter-in-law of Adolpho Autrey (first burial in this plot). Her father emigrated to Texas during the Republic, and was a prominent bootmaker here. Her husband (buried in Glenwood) founded the Magnolia Brewery and Magnolia Creamery.

Max Autrey (18 Sep. 1892-30 Sep. 1918) was a son of Nettie Autrey. He is memorialized on the Autrey plot because of his service in the U.S. Army in WWI—his boat was torpedoed in the North Atlantic, only a month before the war ended. A local American Legion post was named in his honor after the war.

Alonzo Autrey—brother of Adolpho Autrey and conductor on the I&GN Railway. A noted hunter in his time, he was reported to have once fed 50 guests at dinner with quail, venison, and dove provided by his kills.

Who, When, Where

We hope to collect enough material to fill a book costing about \$10-\$15. To help us determine the approximate size of the book and how many to print, please indicate your degree of interest on the enclosed membership survey form and return it to Bernice Mistrot as soon as possible.

In order to give the committee sufficient time to compile, type, proofread, etc., we must request that information for the book be submitted by June 15. Exceptions may be negotiated with the committee. Please send your information to either of the following:

- B. Ballanfant,
- B. Mistrot,

HELP WANTED!

As you all know, CCWCC is composed of many concerned volunteers, dedicated to the primary goal of assuring perpetual care for Washington Cemetery. Due to lower interest rates, it appears we won't reach perpetual care as soon as we had hoped. But even at today's low rates, we are more than halfway there, which is something to be proud of. Congratulations and thanks to all who have helped us get this far in just ten years!

Clearly, the war is not yet won. Money is still needed, both for current maintenance and for the endowment to cover future expenses. There are two ways to build our treasury—generate more receipts, or spend less. You mostly hear about the former, but your board of directors has been diligent in pursuing the latter also, by using volunteer labor and personal contacts to obtain lower prices for goods and services necessary to maintain the cemetery.

In an organization as large as ours, there must be many unknown, untapped talents among the membership. The board is only 15 people, less than 2% of the total. We need your help. We urge anyone with expertise or contacts relating to any of the following to contact Bernice Mistrot at

Landscaping:

Selecting and planting trees and shrubs
Regularly watering newly planted trees

Water System, Road Maintenance, Drainage:

Engineering knowledge
Equipment and materials

Fund-Raising:

Matching gifts from corporations
Grants from foundations, etc.
Any other ideas welcomed!

Legal Advice:

Jurisdiction and authority of CCWCC
Contracts, and articles of incorporation
IRS status in regard to charter & gifts
from corporations and foundations

Centennial Celebration & History Committees:

Typing and Proofreading
Editing and Assembly
Art or Calligraphy

Printing and Publishing:

Newsletter
Centennial History Book

TREES AS MEMORIALS

It was reported in our October 1986 newsletter that we planned to erect a plaque near the historical marker inscribed with names of persons memorialized by the planting of trees. But after learning that the installed cost of the plaque will be about \$8-\$10 per name (maximum of 18 letters and spaces), we are having second thoughts.

Since the trees cost twice what we expected, and some donors gave a single tree in memory of two or more people, several members of the board feel that erecting this plaque would not be the best use of our money. With just the names we have now, cost of the plaque would be about the same as buying and planting 8-10 large trees.

As an alternative to the plaque, it has been proposed that we make written recognition, such as in the Centennial History Book. This would have several advantages:

1. It would be placed in selected libraries and historical societies around the country, and thus be available to many more people than a plaque at the cemetery;
2. There would not be the space limitations as on a plaque, so perhaps both donors and the honored persons could be listed;
3. It would be available to all who wish to purchase a copy for themselves, to have as a family keepsake.

Most of the board members consulted believe that this will be a more permanent and more flexible way to recognize the many individuals who have made significant contributions to our organization. However, a final decision has not been made. Please use the membership survey form to give us your thoughts and suggestions on this.

If we decide to go ahead with the plaque, the following rules should apply:

1. We must request a minimum of \$40.00 for each name, as it will take nearly three such donations to cover the cost of one large tree plus the cost of the plaque.
2. Donors may specify any name or combination of names containing a maximum of 18 letters and spaces for each \$40 donation.
3. To be fair to all, money donated for trees must be in addition to the basic \$36.00 dues/maintenance for the year.

INCOME and EXPENSES 10-1-86 THRU 3-31-87

Bank Balance 10-1-86	\$8,006.33		
INCOME:		EXPENSES:	
Maintenance	\$7,742.50	Maintenance	\$2,825.00
Perpetual Care	3,699.94	Postage & Printing	536.37
Tree Fund	320.00	Bank Charges	34.24
Interest	6,029.92	Meeting Expense	20.00
Total Income	<u>\$17,792.36</u>	Tree Planting	1,970.00
		Total Expenses	<u>\$5,385.61</u>
ASSETS		Funds added to CD	4,087.80
Money Management Acct.	\$16,325.28	Total Disbursements	<u>\$9,473.41</u>
3 CD's	144,761.64	Bank Balance 3-31-87	<u>\$16,325.28</u>
4 Investment Funds*	66,000.00		
Total Assets	<u>\$227,086.92</u>		

*Investment Funds reported at lesser of cost or market value. Approximate market value as of 3-31-87 was \$72,901 (reinvested dividends of \$6,901.00).

