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CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR WASHINGTON CEMETERY CARE, INC.
12800-83 Briar Forest, Houston, Texas 77077 Phone: (713) 591-6262

"HEIRS WHO CARE"

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 1991

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ORIGINAL BURIAL REGISTERS FOUND!

An alert young man, Mark Karger, who was not previously associated with W.C., was browsing through a local book store last spring and discovered two of our original burial registers for sale for \$15.00. He bought them on the spot, called the phone number on our cemetery sign, then brought the two books to our Spring Workday and donated them to us. We are very grateful for his thoughtfulness.

Book 1 covers 1887-1906, including lot sales, annual fees paid (\$2.00 per year for a 12-space plot), and burials, including Stranger's Rest; Book 2 covers 1903 to the 1940's. Both are on microfilm in the Houston Public Library (Texas Room), but it is truly wonderful to know that the originals are back where they belong.

Our Historian, Governor Clements, is now indexing hundreds of Stranger's Rest names that were not copied into the "current" book (which is available in both Clayton Library and the Texas Room).

Since we were unable to obtain information about all W.C. families before printing our history book, we plan to print some of those stories in the newsletter from time to time. Please send us your family stories for use in future issues. This month we feature James Dickson, Lot C-119.

FALL WORKDAYS SCHEDULED

Let's get together the weekend of October 26-27 for our annual Fall Workdays. Board members will be present to assist visitors from 10-5 Saturday and 1-5 Sunday; however, the cemetery will be open all day both days.

W.C. is looking better than ever these days (except for maybe after days of rain or just prior to a cutting) but perhaps it would give you a nice warm feeling to do a little extra trimming while recalling pleasant memories of your loved ones. We look forward to seeing YOU there!

ROAD IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

We reported in April that the Board was in the process of obtaining bids to repair our roads. The bids ranged from less than \$15,000 to well over \$50,000, no two alike in the amount of work they proposed to do. So we are now working with engineers to decide just how good a job we need to do in order to ensure lasting results.

This will be the single largest expenditure we expect to make, and we don't want to do it more than once. As you can see from the above numbers, donations to this cause are sorely needed. Any help you can give will be much appreciated.

Lot C-119: James Lawrence Dickson, Sr. James L. Dickson (1850-1906), his wife Clara, and six of their nine children are buried on this lot. He served as the District Clerk in Anderson, Texas.

His father, David Catchings Dickson, born 25 Feb. 1815, graduated medical school in Lexington, KY and emigrated to Montgomery, TX in 1841. He became a personal friend and physician of Sam Houston, eventually accepting an appointment as Surgeon to the Texas Army. He interrupted his private practice to serve six terms as a representative in the Texas Legislature. During the 4th Legislature (1851-53), he was Speaker of the House; he then served as Lt. Gov. under Elisha M. Pease in 1853-55. In 1855, Dickson, backed by Sam Houston, ran against Pease for Governor but lost by only 4000 votes. During the Civil War he also saw service as a Captain of the Texas Militia. Later, he was the financial agent of the Huntsville Prison, also caring for the convicts during the yellow fever epidemic of 1867. His Confederate service ended his political career, but he continued in private medical practice until his death in 1880.

The last surviving child of James L. and Clara Dickson, and the grandson of the Hon. David C. Dickson, is Mr. Melvin Erle Dickson of Anderson, TX. He will celebrate his 95th birthday Nov. 9. The writer of this piece had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Dickson and his family, Earle and Shirley Dickson Patrick, of Spring, TX at the cemetery in June 1989. Best wishes to "Mr. Erle"!

We have good news and bad news. Our new grass-cutting contractor is doing a great job, and the cemetery is really looking nice. However, the crime situation in Houston is beginning to touch us in the form of damage to a few isolated monuments, both here and at other cemeteries in Houston. The families affected have already been notified, and we are working with the Houston Police Department to investigate these crimes; however, there is not really much that can be done.

Having had no response to our request for gatekeepers, we have, reluctantly, hired a security guard, spending money we would have rather spent on maintenance, roads, etc., to be sure that the gate is locked every night. We have also added wrought iron fencing across the sidewalks by the front gate, so that those walkways are permanently closed. Cemetery hours are now 8 am to 6 pm daily.

Having a security guard is no guarantee that problems will not occur; we can only hope to make it more difficult for the criminals. This will increase our annual costs significantly. The suggested annual donation is still \$40, but we will gladly accept any amount. We urge you to send your 1992 donation now, so we will have the funds on hand as needed.

We still have a few Centennial History Books (\$22.00 postpaid). Write to 7546 Brushwood Drive, Houston, TX 77088, or call (713) 531-1956.

INCOME and EXPENSES 3-31-91 THRU 9-30-91

Table with financial data including Net Assets 3-31-91 (\$340,175.57), INCOME: Maintenance (\$5,336.55), EXPENSES: Maintenance (\$7,732.98), Total Income (\$17,193.44), Net Assets 9-30-91 (\$348,421.04), FUNDS: Maintenance (\$7,985.83), Perpetual Care (\$333,298.21), Improvement Projects (\$5,380.33), Educational Projects (\$1,756.67).

TAX EXEMPT NO. FOR DONORS: AUS:E078-3110

Make check payable to: CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR WASHINGTON CEMETERY CARE, INC. or CCWCC, INC., and mail to: Gus Mistrot, Treasurer,

Donor Name _____ Plot Name/Number _____ (if known)
_____ 1992 MAINTENANCE Donation (\$40.00)
_____ PERPETUAL CARE Donation
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