

Dear Concerned Citizen for Washington Cemetery Care:

We have some good news to pass along to you. Through the efforts of our group, Washington Cemetery has been cleaned of weeds and underbrush, thanks to City Council and the Health Department. We regret to say the City has not yet agreed to accept full responsibility for maintaining the cemetery as was our goal, but we will continue to seek avenues of maintaining a beautiful, well-kept resting place for our ancestors.

Now that the cemetery is cleaned, we must act fast before the growth situation becomes uncontrollable again. Those who are able are urged to maintain their own plots. Those who wish to pay to have their plots cleaned, please call Lois King, 682-3375, for names and telephone numbers of young men wanting to do this work. We feel the prices the young men are asking are reasonable - \$5.00 for small plots, \$6.50 for medium-size plots and \$7.50 for large plots.

H.A.L.T. (Houston Anti-Litter Team), a non-profit organization, has offered to assist us through modern technology in getting the cemetery in an even better condition than the City was able to leave it. They plan to begin work about May 15 and complete the job about July 15. This work will give us better control of weeds and underbrush. This organization asks no specific amount for their service. Their value received for the work they will do to help us improve the cemetery appearance will be the publicity they receive from the news media for their efforts plus possibly a contribution from us if we so desire. We ask you do not make donations directly to H.A.L.T. The donation will be made in the name of Concerned Citizens for Washington Cemetery Care, Inc. Your Board feels we must take advantage of this opportunity offered us and we have asked them to proceed.

No one can be expected to pay to have someone else's plot cleaned, but if you are fortunate enough to be able to mow your own plot and an adjoining plot is not being cared for, it would be a nice gesture to mow the plot while you have a mower on the site if it does not entail too much time and personal effort on your part. There are some members in our group who are now mowing two or three plots adjoining their own.

There are approximately 300 plots for which we have no record of any living descendant at this time; however, we plan to examine the microfilm of cemetery records which we recently paid to have copied, with the permission of Mr. Noland, in an attempt to locate interested descendants for as many plots as possible. In the meantime, if any of you know names of any descendants which you have reason to believe we do not have, please contact Sue Wilson, at 465-0616, or Betty Hansen, at 686-3104, and give one of these ladies this information.

We plan to begin action shortly to have Washington Cemetery declared a historical shrine. As you probably know, Washington Cemetery was founded in 1875. Your Board of Directors would like to hear from anyone who has ideas or is acquainted with the "right people" who can assist us in this undertaking. We need all the help we can get.

Your Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to thank the Telephone Committee ladies who have worked so faithfully and diligently this past year dialing many telephone numbers and repeating many messages. These ladies are our means of communication and without communication, we go nowhere. Our special thanks to Ms. Margaret Bell, Ms. Irene Bergstrom, Ms. J. C. Cutting, Ms. J. L. Daily, Ms. E. J. Daly, Ms. Elna Davis, Ms. P.A. Ferguson, Ms. Berneice Heitman, Ms. L. N. McMahon, Ms. H. E. Morris, Ms. Lois Paterson, Ms. Frank Phillips, Ms. Winnie Rohde, Ms. Blanche Upchurch and Ms. Vivian Vilven.

And now to the last but not least. At this time any and all donations will be most welcome. Our treasury is not very flush. Besides our normal expenses, there will be expense involved in trying to accomplish the task of having the cemetery accepted as a historical shrine and various other expenses that we are beginning to encounter in trying to find a solution for the continued care of our cemetery and also for a possible contribution to H.A.L.T. for their help. If you wish to make a contribution, please make your check payable to CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR WASHINGTON CEMETERY CARE, INC., and mail to our president -

Mr. Sam McLelland
2108 Sul Ross
Houston, Texas 77098

We are now in the process of filing papers with Internal Revenue Service to qualify for a tax-deductible status for donors. When this is finalized, we hope to be able to notify you before the end of the year that your donation is tax-deductible.