

Fairview Cemetery Preservation Association
P.O. Box 5958 Santa Fe, N.M. 87502

NEWSLETTER

December 1991

Editors: Marian Meyer
Catherine Thayer

AMADO SUMMERS NEW PRESIDENT; TINA LAWRENCE & MILLARD HOLLIDAY ON BOARD

ANOTHER SPRINKLER SYSTEM ADDITION COMPLETED

"ADOPT A TREE" CAMPAIGN WORKING

SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB REPLANTS ENTRANCE FLOWER BEDS

\$1955 RECEIVED FROM 28 CONTRIBUTORS

BIGBEE, EGENHOFER, YASHVIN, KOOMOA, & LEWIS INTERMENTS

MORE HISTORICAL SKETCHES FROM 1984 CENTENNIAL

AMADO SUMMERS NEW PRESIDENT, NEW BOARD MEMBERS TINA LAWRENCE, MILLARD HOLLIDAY

At the annual meeting held on September 17 at the home of Margaret and Warren Jones, Amado Summers was elected the new president. Abe Silver is the new vice-president and re-elected were Catherine Thayer, secretary, and Marian Meyer, treasurer. Two new board members are Tina Lawrence and Millard Holliday. Re-elected to a two-year term is Warren Jones. Remaining on the board with one year to serve are Bob Clifford, Janice Matthews, Laura Miller and K. K. Miller. As immediate past president Joe Roberts automatically serves this year as a board member.

As always, we try to give you a bit of information about our new board members. Tina Lawrence is a fourth-generation Santa Fean, whose great grandparents, W. J. and Mary Slaughter, settled in Santa Fe in 1886. You can read more about the family in our Centennial Biography section in this newsletter. Our second new board member is a Santa Fe native, Millard Holliday. He has family members buried at Fairview including his grandfather, Gordon Stevenson.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Your Fairview Cemetery Preservation Association has had a very successful 1991! A large section of the cemetery has received a new sprinkler system, new trees have been planted, front flower beds have been re-done, small tree care has been provided by many volunteers, and all in all, the cemetery goes into our winter months in quite good condition.

All of this has been possible because of your generous gifts to our association. Our only funding is from donations and we will appreciate your help once again. Our best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season!

Amado Summers, President

\$10,571 SPENT ON THIRD SECTION OF SPRINKLER SYSTEM.

Warren Jones reports that the third section of sprinkler system was completed by Enchantment Tree and Sprinkler Service on September 4. It encompasses the entire Front B section between the entrance road and past the caretaker's house, as well as having one row of the high tech sprinklers across the road in Center B Section, (north of the Catron Mausoleum). The new system was working very well before the water was turned off on October 15. We did have to trim a couple of big old forsythia bushes down severely so the sprinklers could do their work efficiently. This leaves the west half of Center B Section and all of Section A (the northwest quadrant of Fairview) to have sprinklers installed when we can afford it. Eventually, we would also like to improve Section E, just west of Section F, which is next to the School for the Deaf. Section E and the west half of Section A have never even had faucets, much less sprinklers.

PRESENT FINANCIAL CONDITION AND \$1,000 GIVEN TOWARD NEXT SPRINKLERS BY BRAD THOMAS

Bradley Morris Thomas, who served on our first board of directors, has given us \$1,000 toward our next segment

of sprinklers. At the present time, we have about \$5,000 in our savings account and \$4,000 in the checking account. The \$4,000 is to start the cemetery work up again next spring--fertilizing, tree work, etc. We like to keep some money in reserve in the savings in case of an emergency, so we wouldn't want to spend more than half of the \$5000 on sprinklers. This means we must build up the sprinkler fund before we proceed again. But Brad's check will help and may encourage others to do the same. Thanks, Brad.

SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB PLANTS LOVELY PERMANENT SHRUBS IN FRONT ENTRANCE BEDS

As we told you in the September newsletter, the front flower beds were not planted this year because the main line for the sprinkler system went right under them. When the sprinkler system was finished, the Santa Fe Garden Club made preparations to put permanent shrubs in both planter boxes. Char Owen, who is a garden club member, suggested that our association install drip irrigation in the two planter boxes before the shrubs were planted. Warren Jones had had the foresight to provide a faucet in each of the boxes, so it was a simple matter. Several Katoniaster shrubs were placed in each planter box, with a barrier of plastic over the soil and covered with bark. It looks wonderful and is very easy to water. Katoniaster is a handsome shrub with a small spring bloom and bright red berries in the fall. Again, we thank you very much, Ladies of the garden club.

CONTRIBUTIONS SINCE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Heartfelt thanks to each of the 28 donors who gave a total of \$1955, in amounts ranging from \$5 to \$500. They are as follows:

Abrahams, M/M Henry*	Miles, Jeanne Y.*
Benedetti, Julie A.*	Milford, Mrs. Stanley*
Bentley, Verda R.*	Miller, Vera
Bloom, Mrs. John P.	Milligan, Harold F.
Catron, M/M Thomas B.*	Naranjo, Juana & Maria
Chambers, Jean*	Parker, M/M John*
DuVal, Elsie	Prenalta Corp.*
Groff, Naomi	Shehee, Mrs. Stewart
Livingston, Dr. Wallace	Smith, Carolyn
Lynch, La Ru Barker	Thomas, M/M John
Macey, Jean Mullins*	Walter, J.K.S., Jr.
MacGillivray, W.I.	Wheeler, Helen June*
Meyer, Marian*	White, Gladys
Michaelsen, Rachel	Zinn, M/M Frank*

***MEMORIALS**

To Richard Abrahams from M/M Henry Abrahams; to Modena and Max Goodman from Julia A. Benedetti; to Dr. A. W. Egenhofer from Verda R. Bentley and Marian Meyer; to Betty Bigbee from Jean Chambers and Marian Meyer; to Stephen Ellis Catron from M/M Thomas B.

Catron III; Dorothy Walton from Naomi Groff; to Nettie R. Mullins from Jean M. Macey; to Morry Yashvin from Jeanne Yashvin Miles and Marian Meyer; to W. F. Watt and Jennie Cantelou from Jeanne C. Milford; Judge A. J. Abbott from Carolyn Smith; to Milton J. and Laura Smith from Helen June Wheeler; to Betsy Bennet from M/M Frank Zinn. The donation from Prenalta Corporation in Wyoming was in appreciation of some research done for them by Marian Meyer. The person they were searching for was not buried at Fairview Cemetery, but a cremation record for her was found at McGee Memorial Chapel and it settled a legal matter which was important.

INTERMENTS

Interments since the September newsletter include several Santa Fe old-timers from way back. The ashes of Dorothy Lewis were placed in the grave of her mother and father, Emma and Fred Lewis. The ashes of Morry Yashvin, whom many of us remember as Santa Fe's "Mr. March of Dimes," were buried with lola Yashvin, his wife who died in 1947. Infant Kellil Paul Gulfan-Koomoa was buried with his great-grandmother Eunice Wright. Dr. Albert W. Egenhofer, who retired several years ago, was a well-known ophthalmologist here since 1938. Betty Roe Bigbee had lived in Santa Fe since 1942, when her husband Harry L. Bigbee began his law practice here. She was the daughter-in-law of Allene and Dade Bigbee. As you may remember, a bequest from Allene Bigbee's estate helped make our last sprinkler system possible.

***ADOPTING A TREE* IS SUCCESS SO FAR**

Six more trees were planted at Fairview in the fall by Amado and Ruth Summers, including 3 mountain ash of different varieties; two silver maples and a seedless mulberry. Some of these will be particularly beautiful in the fall. At the spring board meeting, Ruth suggested we start asking people if they would be willing to "adopt a tree" (or two) at the cemetery. This would be to assure that new young trees got watered heavily at least twice a month during the growing season. If they are watered enough when the water is on in the cemetery April 15 through October 15, they would then have a better chance of making it through the winter, when the water is off.

The "Adopt A Tree," campaign was quite successful this summer, but the six new trees will definitely need "parents" next summer. If you are physically able and can devote a couple of hours a month at the cemetery, call Ruth Summers and *make her day*, 983-3933. The trees adopted by the Summers include their regular 3, plus the unadopted ones until someone else takes them on. Other board members who have taken on the task are: Millard Holliday, 2 trees; Janice Matthews, 2; Laura and K. K. Miller, 2; and Marian Meyer, 2 plus the shrubs in the entrance beds. Members of the

association who have adopted trees are: M/M Tom Catron, 2; Marian and Ernest Karlson, 3; and Taylor and June McConnell, 3. Sincere thanks to everyone of you.

SUMMER VISITORS TO FAIRVIEW

During the summer we had some interesting calls and visits from people who have family buried at Fairview. Carolyn Smith from New Jersey was in Santa Fe researching Judge A. J. Abbott, her great-grandfather (I think that is correct). You old-timers will know that Judge Abbott and his wife were in charge of Bandelier for many years. Smith called Marian to learn the location of his grave. Marian then sent some Abbott obits, etc., to her. In her thank you note she wrote that the cemetery looked *great!* We always like to hear that because sometimes it *doesn't*.

Two other interesting visitors were "Skip" Talbot and Jolie Blauvelt, now the adult children of Nonie Bingham. That will mean something to those of you who were here in the early 1950s. Marian was familiar with the sad story of Nonie, heiress to a large fortune, whom the newspapers called a "poor little rich girl." Nonie's first husband, Lt. Rutherford Bingham, went down in his fighter plane over the English Channel during World War II. When Nonie died at age 30 in 1953, some of his personal effects were buried next to her in a bronze casket which matched hers. It was a touching end to a story filled with sadness. After Bingham's death Nonie married several times, each time unhappily. She was killed by her last husband and there was a lot of notoriety in the newspapers. Skip and Jolie were children when their mother died and knew only the bare facts of her death. Marian warned them in advance before taking them to the State Library to get microfilm copies of the story. Seeing those emblazoned headlines was difficult, but their mission was partly a sentimental journey and partly a therapeutic exercise. Perhaps a ghost is now laid to rest.

There may be more to the story. Knowing there were two empty plots belonging to the family, Marian explained this to Skip and Jolie, who were happy to sign a quitclaim deed on them to our association. It appears there are two other relatives who will also have to sign before we can claim the plots. We will pursue that. Thanks, Skip and Jolie, it was good to meet you.

PROGRESS REPORT--MARIAN MEYER'S TWO NEW BOOKS--POSSIBLE GOOF ON ONE

There have been two exciting months for Marian Meyer's new book *Mary Donoho: New First Lady of the Santa Fe Trail*. Following a booksigning at the Santa Fe Trail Association Symposium in Missouri and another in Clarksville, Texas, Marian was pleased to have Sunwest Bank in Santa Fe sponsor a signing. It was a festive and very successful occasion. The cloth edition of the book

is sold out, but the paperback is still available at your bookseller or Ancient City Press for \$10. Or call Marian.

Marian's second book *Santa Fe's Fifteen Club: A Century of Literary Women*, was one of the highlights of the 100th anniversary observance of the Fifteen Club on November 23 at Palen Hall. It is a modest volume--a sort of desk-top publishing effort containing 88 pages, 2 appendices, an index and bibliography. It contains sketches on 80 of the 164 members in the past century. Many of the early women in the book are buried at Fairview Cemetery and you long-time Santa Feans will be familiar with them. For those of you who ordered the book from the flyer in the last newsletter, we found after they had been mailed that the printer goofed on some--there was an extra page in some and a page missing in others. If there was any kind of a problem with yours, return it to Marian, 2327 Old Arroyo Chamisa, Santa Fe, 87505, she will replace it and pay your postage. If anyone wishes to have the book, it is \$7. Call Marian, 982-5635.

CENTENNIAL BIOGRAPHIES By Catherine Thayer

Part of the 1984 Fairview Cemetery Centennial celebration included an R.I.P. tour (Revisiting Important People). The tour included approximately 100 biographical sketches posted on the family plots. When these sketches were originally compiled, Marian Meyer and Catherine Thayer were still working on typewriters--we had not yet acquired computers. Recently we have begun a project to transcribe the biographies from the original placards onto computer disks. We thought it would be nice to share some of the biographies, as space allowed, in the newsletter. So for those of you who were unable to attend the Centennial Celebration in 1984, you can enjoy the interesting stories of some of the folks buried at Fairview Cemetery. Should you find errors they are ours, as with any project of this type it is possible that a few bits of misinformation have been repeated. We have chosen a governor and Tina Lawrence's forebears for this newsletter.

MIGUEL A. OTERO II - 1859-1944

Son of Miguel Antonio and Mary Josephine Blackwood, Miguel was born on October 17, 1859. Otero was educated at the University of Notre Dame at South Bend, Indiana. Following graduation he was a bookkeeper for Otero, Seller and Company, of which his father was the senior partner. Later he was cashier for San Miguel National Bank at Las Vegas, New Mexico.

Elected probate clerk of San Miguel County in 1886, this was the start of Otero's political career. He later was the court clerk of the Fourth Judicial District during the incumbency of Chief Justice James O'Brien. Otero represented New Mexico at the Republican National Convention in 1888. This same year he married Caroline Emmett.

Otero was appointed as Territorial Governor by President McKinley. He served from 1886 to 1906. In *My Nine Years as Governor* Otero writes about the office and activities of the time.

THE SLAUGHTER FAMILY *By Marian Meyer*

A new addition has been made to the Slaughter story which Marian Meyer wrote in time for the Fairview Cemetery Centennial in 1984. Tina Lawrence, great-granddaughter of William J. Slaughter has "returned to her roots." The story was one of a series on pioneer women who are buried at Fairview Cemetery. Slaughter was one of Santa Fe's early barbers who set up shop on the Plaza in 1886 and prospered. He also was the agent for the first area steam laundry. Located in Las Vegas, it took Santa Fe's dirty laundry by train one day and brought it back clean the next--quite an innovation in those days. William J. Slaughter may well have been the most prominent Black man in Santa Fe and possibly in New Mexico during the Territorial period. He was a member of the Fraternities of Colored Free Masonry, Colored Oddfellows, Mystic Shrine and the Republican Central Committee. In 1900 he was appointed by Governor Miguel Otero to serve as the New Mexico member of the national committee to erect a monument to Charles Sumner, early advocate of freedom for Blacks. Mary Slaughter was a graduate of Fisk University

and was a school teacher in Tennessee until her marriage. Mary and William reared a family of eight children in Santa Fe and it is an unusual story of achievement because it was done despite the color barrier. In addition to being affluent and prominent in the Black community, the Slaughters were unquestionably people of high integrity and strong moral fiber--just some of the reasons their children were achievers. At least half of them were among the earliest graduates of Santa Fe High School, some with high honors, at a time when just getting through the eighth grade was considered a mark of accomplishment. Three of the sons and one daughter were the first Black graduates of Santa Fe High School, with one of the sons being valedictorian of the class of 1905. Tina Lawrence's grandmother, Valdera Elvira, was one of four young women who were the entire graduating class of 1902. Valdera's oration on graduation night was highly praised by *The New Mexican*. In the Slaughter plot of 12 lots in Fairview Cemetery are buried Tina's great-great grandmother, her great-grandparents, her grandmother and several great uncles.

Tina has spent much of her life in California, but a couple of years ago she and her husband Bob retired to a lovely Santa Fe home in Sol y Lomas. We are pleased she has agreed to work with us.

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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND
GOD BLESS US, EVERYONE!**