

FAIRVIEW CEMETERY PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
P. O. BOX 5958 SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87502

December 2001

Editor: Marian Meyer

\$10,000 (TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS) TO FAIRVIEW FROM ANONYMOUS DONOR
THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

NEW HOUSE TENANT, BRETT PENN, WILL BE CARETAKER
(Also, a Little House History)

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT - PURCHASE OF MOWER ACUTE, NEED 42" DECK,
ZERO RADIUS TURNING AND MULCHER—NEED BY SPRING

BIG TREE STUMPS DRILLED, STUMP REMOVER INJECTED BY IGNACIO
GARCIA, ALSO LEVELS 30 GRAVES, READY FOR SEEDING IN SPRING

INTERMENTS: Olivia Martinez

WE THANK YOU FOR A TOTAL OF \$2855.00 IN DONATIONS
PLUS OUR \$10,000.00 GIFT

\$10,000.00 (TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS) TO FAIRVIEW
FROM AN ANONYMOUS DONOR WE'VE NAMED
SANTA CLAUS

Our Santa Claus telephoned us to say he/she wanted to give us \$10,000.00 in stock and did not wish to be identified. We were happy to oblige. Santa wants the money to be added to the "Trust Account" we've been building since we were given a bequest by Bess Thomas for that purpose back in 1986. She wanted it to remain in trust with only the interest to be used. That fund now totals about \$13,000.00 so with this gift of \$10,000.00 it will be about \$23,000.00 toward the future. We are building a nest egg that will probably be used by our successors on a Fairview board many years hence. Santa, thank you, thank you, thank you!

As many of you know, we still do not "own" the Woman's Club Perpetual Care Trust Fund trust which is worth about \$112,000.00. We get the interest on it, but you all know what has happened to interest rates. The Woman's Club wants it to be in our name, but the antiquated laws of that period have made it difficult. We think it will soon be resolved and we could then join the two funds, giving us a little more clout in dealing with the bank.



PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

Marian couldn't wait to call me with the news about our marvelous \$10,000.00 gift. I have talked to the donor and made arrangements for the transfer of the stock. It is so gratifying when something like this happens. It seems to validate our volunteer work. Thanks from our Board and myself to our wonderful donor.

We have another serious decision pending. The need for a good mower is acute. Through Ignacio we were dickering for a used one with National Cemetery because they are changing over to diesel. We didn't get it because of a bureaucratic snafu.

We will need a 42" deck, zero turn radius (that means it will turn on a dime) and a mulcher. It will probably cost \$5000.00 or more. If anyone is thinking about giving a Christmas donation to Fairview, we'd be pleased to have you mark it, "To Mower." Thank you for your gifts and continued support in the past and a Happy Holiday Season to you.

BRAD

Note from Editor Marian: I find myself in the position of eating a little crow. About four years ago I was rejoicing that we would never have to buy another mower. But people like Guy Gray with all their own equipment don't come along very often and we can't get away from the fact that when you have a cemetery, you simply HAVE to have a mower. When Guy Gray moved away, our easy days were over. When we were trying to get the one from National Cemetery, our president Brad gave us \$500.00 toward it, so we have that in the treasury. We have had some ups and downs in getting Fairview mowed the last two years, so we want to be ready to go when spring comes.

WELCOME, BRETT PENN, AS CARETAKER

Our treasurer, Joan Stotts, (also Caretaker House Chairman), found a caretaker for us. He was interviewed by the Board in October. We are fortunate to have a man who wishes to be the caretaker for Fairview and to live in the house. Brett moved in December 1 and has been doing a general clean-up of the grounds. The house has come full circle. Its original purpose was to house the caretaker. In return for cemetery care, he will get the house rent-free. He will also close the gate at dawn and dusk, and we will be free of the Akal Security cost each month. That is 365 days a year. If he goes on vacation, he will arrange to have it done. He is well acquainted with cemeteries, having been in a family that was involved with them. Brett's roommate, Scott, has an outside job.

One day recently a woman came and asked Brett where someone was buried. He went to our Kiosk directory,

looked up the name and section and walked right to it. That is unheard of in our experience with Fairview. The caretakers the County had avoided visitors like the plague. Brett is gregarious with people, loves history and old graveyards. We are confident that this will be a mutually advantageous arrangement. Another advantage is that Brett is quite computer literate and has offered to bring the records in our Kiosk directory up to date. That is, if we can find a disk with all the information on it. We are hoping it is in one of the boxes turned over to us by a former board member who did the original work, but we need to hunt through them.

IGNACIO DOES FALL WORK

The cutting down of those large box elders and other trees left us with some huge stumps. They promptly sprouted great branches, making each one look like a mammoth shrub. We bought a lot of stump killer and Ignacio drilled holes and injected it. The leaves started dying immediately. We hope the stumps will deteriorate swiftly, but Ignacio says it will take awhile. In October, he also leveled and raked about 30 graves (or bare areas) that are now ready for seeding in the spring.

CONTRIBUTIONS

As always, we appreciate your generous gifts, totaling \$2855—a goodly amount since our September-October newsletter. There were 12, in amounts ranging from \$10.00 to \$1000.00. There were two of those. Our friends Liz Keeshan and Jolie Blauvelt give us a grand check every year about this time. We are too grateful to them and to all of you.

Blauvelt, Ardath
Corbett, Nancy
Keeshan, Liz*
Kersting, Betty & Ray
Lindsey, Arden & Lois
Littleton, Richard & Judy
Seth, Jean
Kalangis, Ike
Zander, Virginia
Steele, William
Meyer, Marian*
Strawn, Dorothy

*MEMORIALS

To Harry and Betty Bigbee, parents of Liz Keeshan. To George Myers from Marian Meyer.

STORY OF A HOUSE

During the tenure of the last house tenant, we were beginning to call our old rental a "maintenance nightmare." After we took it over in 1998, the refrigerator, hot water heater and a regular heater had to be replaced. Plus every time we turned around, one of the old lines had to be rootered out.

We spent a lot of money on service calls. We think now it may have been mostly the tenant being demanding and we were just learning how to be a landlord. Then, just as Brett was settling in, the gas stove went out. We had seen it coming, though, so got a new one and we're hoping 2002 will be more maintenance free.

We can't count on it, though. The house is well over a hundred years old and we think a farmer named George Cann built it. We know that he was a truck farmer in another location and have guessed that he also farmed at Fairview in the 1880s, probably using water from the Acequia Madre, which runs through the School for the Deaf, but is covered. Before the Woman's Club sold the north piece of Fairview to NMSD in 1965, where their running track is now, the Acequia ran right by the cemetery property.

The first document in the abstract is a free translation from the Spanish. The owner was Juaquin T. Martin who sold the property to Quinto Martin for \$40 on July 16, 1856. The Special Deed of Conveyance was brought before Augustin Duran, Justice of the Peace and a man of note for the time. (Duran is buried at Rosario Cemetery under a large sandstone slab and is the oldest headstone there.)

The piece which the caretaker's house occupies was not in the first part bought by the men who started the cemetery in 1884, but was bought by the Woman's Board of Trade later. Corrine Sze is excellent at ferreting out all of this type of thing and lets hope she can find something interesting about our property as she works on our Historic Register nomination. One bit I hope is confirmed is that when the house was remodeled in 1948, the architect was John Gaw Meem! We have heard that, and why not? Meem designed the dairy barn at the School for the Deaf. In that early period architects were probably scrambling for any work they could get.

I had always thought the house was built of adobe, but a picture came to me from a descendant of an early caretaker, before it was plastered and it appears to be stone. We're pretty sure the 1948 addition was adobe. A corner was uncovered when the County owned it and we saw the adobe.

INTERMENT

Our only interment since the September-October newsletter was Olivia E. Martinez who was buried in Section F next to the School for the Deaf. Mrs. Martinez' mother and father-in-law are buried at Fairview, but they did not have any spaces left. Marian located an available grave as near to the senior Martinez' graves as possible. Mrs. Martinez, age 51, worked at the National Park Service for over a decade. Our condolences to the family.

Note: Ignacio dug the Martinez grave for a double interment. We learned that our decision last year to require vaults affects a double interment. The first vault needs to be cement to hold up the second casket, which can have a vinyl vault.

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VP Marian Meyer--982-5635
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Sec. Blair Cooper--820-2659

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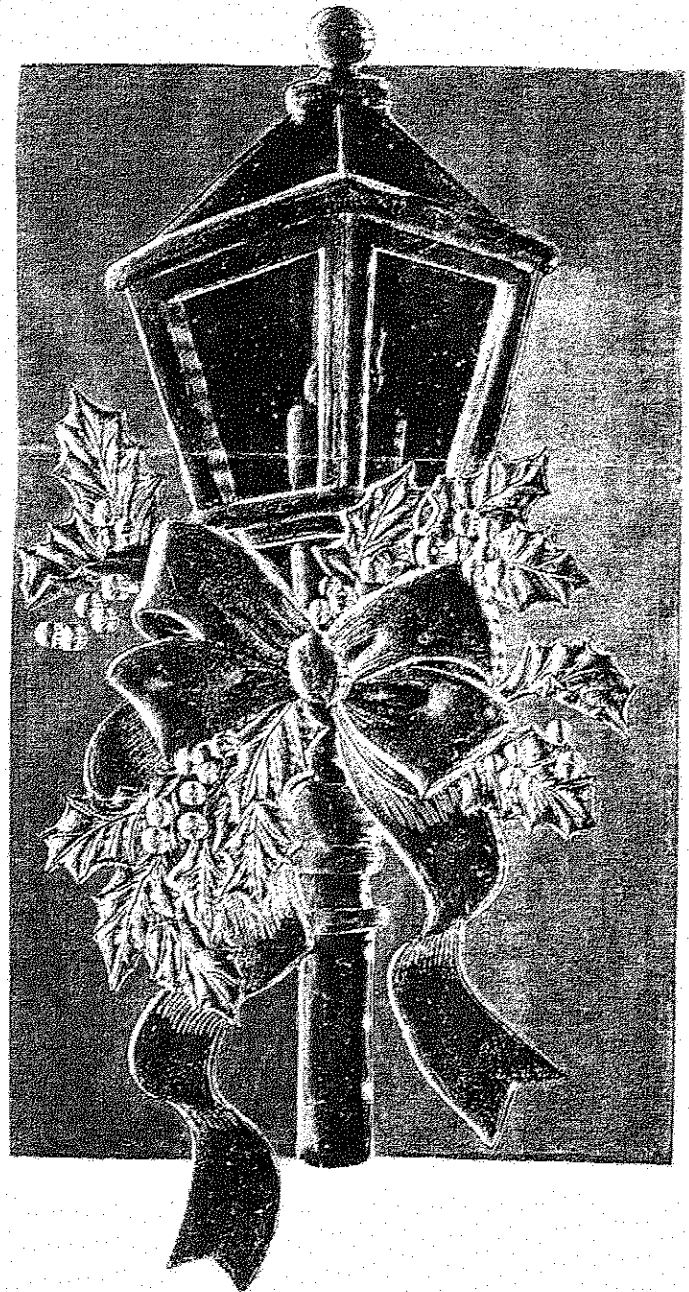
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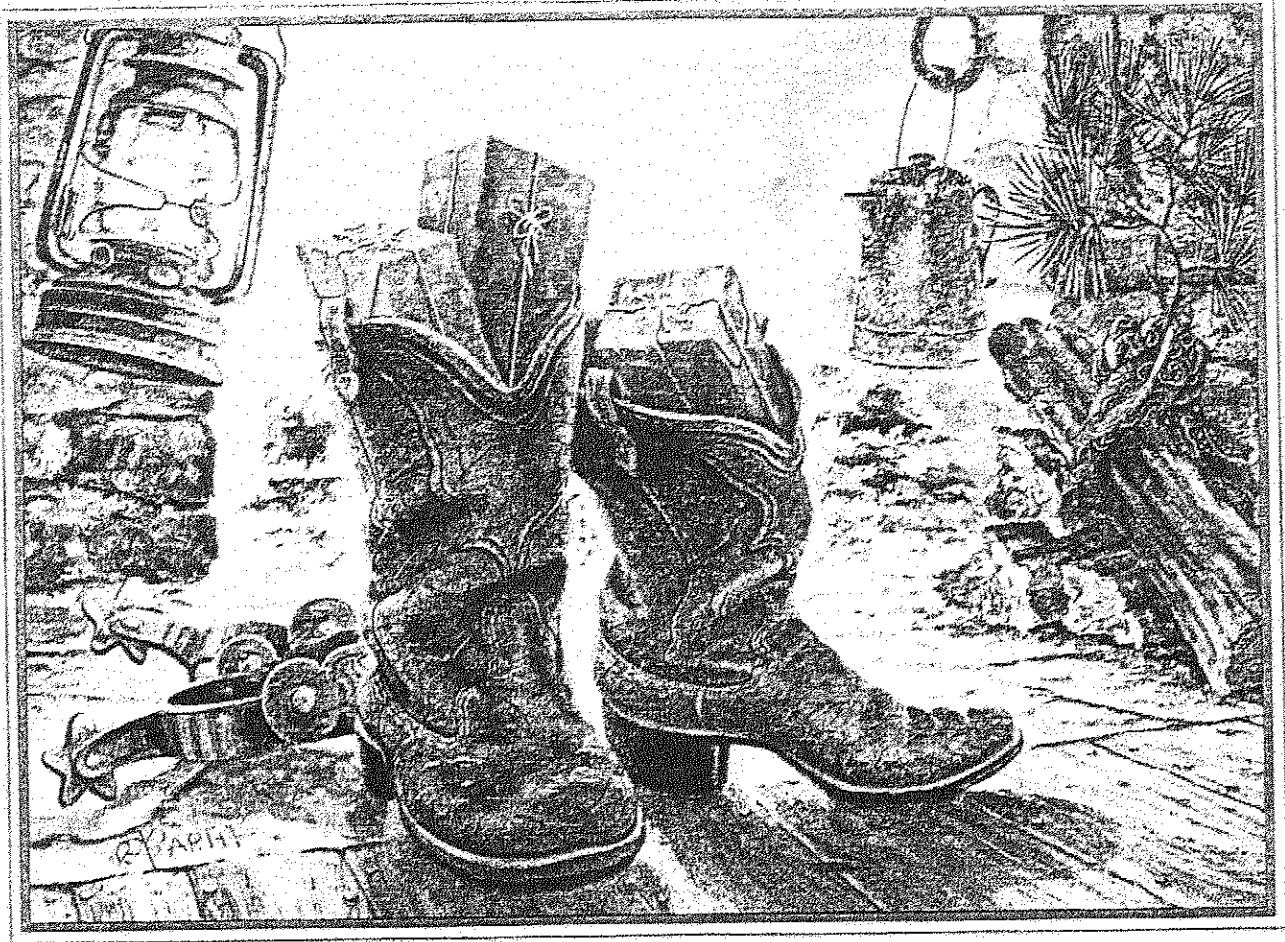
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HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL