

December 2004

Editor: Marian Meyer

**SUCCESS! FAIRVIEW IS ON HISTORIC STATE REGISTER WITH
A DO-PASS RECOMMENDATION TO NATIONAL REGISTER
CREDIT HISTORIAN CORINNE SZE, PH.D**

**FAIRVIEW PRAIRIE DOGS BRING US UNWANTED
NATIONAL PUBLICITY, BUT MAYBE ALSO SOME HELP**

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ERIK

**\$5,000.00 BEQUEST PLUS TWO BURIAL PLOTS FROM
ATTORNEY WALTER KEGEL**

DONATIONS TOTAL \$3870.00

**QUIET TITLE SUIT BY TOM CATRON GIVES 23 LOTS TO FAIRVIEW
NO INTERMENTS SINCE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER**

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ERIK

Marian said I couldn't leave for six weeks of language study in Nicaragua until I had written a letter for the winter Fairview newsletter so, here 'tis, a month early.

If they weren't such terribly destructive pests, the prairie dog issue would have been great fun this past month. After newspaper articles in both *The New Mexican* and *Journal North*, with photos showing bones brought up, I was called by two TV stations to give interviews on camera at the cemetery. Then I was called to give a telephone interview to Reuters News Service, which resulted in more telephone interviews with CBS Radio News Network out of New York and National Public Radio "All Things Considered". The story was even picked up by Paul Harvey, but most of us missed that. Marian and I have fielded telephone

calls from Connecticut to Oregon, ranging from pleas for mercy to offers to bring rifles!

On October 23, five men filled up and leveled between 200-300 prairie dog holes throughout the cemetery. Within a week, 50 or so had been reopened, so they're not fully in hibernation. One way or another, in the Spring, they gotta go!

Our 23 new trees were watered heavily on 16 Oct before having the outside meters turned off, then were watered again using our big plastic tank on 30 Oct. Depending on our winter moisture, we will water them at least monthly throughout the winter.

And speaking of trees, we currently have donations for only 3 new trees this Spring, and we're hoping for at least 10 more. Please, please give! Not only to the tree fund, but also to the general maintenance fund for which we desperately need your continued donations.

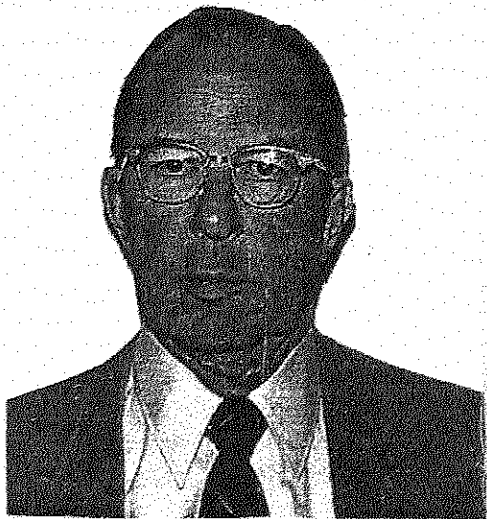
Because of the very high administrative costs, the Board has begun negotiations with the bank trustee of the Perpetual Care Trust Fund built up by the Cemetery Committee of the Woman's Club since 1930, until they gave the cemetery to the County in 1978. We are requesting that the court transfer the trustee duties from the bank to our Board. This would result in several thousands dollars of more income to the Association annually, which we greatly need. We'll keep you posted

Best wishes to all for the holiday seasons!
Erik

WALTER KEGEL MAKES BEQUEST OF \$5000.00 PLUS TWO LOTS

In his will, attorney Walter Kegel left us \$5,000.00 cash and two burial plots worth \$2,000.00 each. We have sent a thank you to his son Robert and daughter Virginia who are co-administrators of the estate. Robert knows Marian and when he called her in advance of the official notification, she immediately called Erik and said, "Can we use part of this to get the Cremation Remains Section going?" Erik said it was a good idea, but the board will make the final decision.

We are grateful to Mr. Kegel. He has been a supporter of the cemetery for years. Marian assumed he would be buried at Fairview with his grandfather and mother, but his wishes were to be cremated and his ashes scattered in an area where he loved to fish.



Thank you and Rest in Peace, Mr. Walter Kegel

CORINNE SZE PH.D, SUCCEEDS WITH HISTORIC REGISTER NOMINATION

In 1981 when we first founded the Association, getting the cemetery on the National Register of Historic Places was one of our earliest goals. One ill-advised and feeble attempt by Marian failed because Myra

Ellen Jenkins gave her a form and said to fill it out. Marian had not the vaguest idea of what was required. She cringes with embarrassment when she compares it with the wonderful document prepared by Corinne Sze which put Fairview on the State Register on October 1981. It also received a "Do Pass" recommendation from the Cultural Properties Review Committee, so we hope to hear in a few months that we are on the National Register.



Corinne Sze, working at a Fairview Clean-up a few years ago

Years later Marian learned that Corinne, new to Santa Fe at that time, had attended the meeting when the nomination was rejected. Little did they know that many years later, they would become friends and work together to get historic status for Fairview. By then, Marian had done considerable research on Fairview and made everything she had available to Corinne. But she is a most resourceful and talented lady. Marian was astonished at the wealth of information she compiled in the nomination.

Our Association is grateful to Corinne for the two or more year's work she did. She will soon be the owner of two lots at Fairview for her work. She and husband Bob plan to be interred there many, many years from now. Our deepest thanks, Corinne

PRAIRIE DOGS BRING UNWANTED NOTORIETY

The last thing our board wanted was to end up on the front page of *The New Mexican* with our prairie dog problem. It happened because a reporter was at the

cemetery looking at the indigent area on which she was planning to write a story. She saw the prairie dog holes and brought it to the attention of Tom Sharpe, a reporter who had just written a story that we might get in the Historic Register. He wrote another article with some graphic pictures of prairie dog holes and a bone they had brought up. The next thing the president knew, he was on two local TV news stories, and our message telephone service was inundated with calls from prairie dog lovers and people with "answers" to our problem. As Erik mentioned, it also made Reuters News, National Public Radio and Paul Harvey. Erik handled it all with aplomb.

A couple of weeks before that we had had a large funeral coming up and knew we had to do something quickly. It was a double interment (the husband had already been interred deeper in the same lot). There was a prairie dog hole going under the headstone and many, many, more all around. Some of us met at the cemetery with almost 200 pounds of dry ice (one of the methods prescribed in a SF County Extension Service pamphlet) and applied it to about 30 holes. About 5 opened up again, but we got through the burial without anyone tripping in a hole. One of the biggest concerns is liability.

Developers, etc., are required to relocate prairie dogs on open property, but as private owners, such as Fairview, the rules are not as stringent. Many of the "prairie dog lovers" have offered to help, so come spring, we have a list of people to call. We can't afford several thousand dollars in costs, but we simply can't have rodents crawling around in the ground and bringing up bones and casket handles. So we hope the offers of help will materialize to solve the problem.

QUIET TITLE SUIT GIVES FAIRVIEW OWNERSHIP OF 23 OLD LOTS

Several years ago Marian and a committee researched many old vacant lots, which were 70 to 110 years old. We looked up obituaries and Marian researched wills and other probate documents this past year. At the Spring Clean-up, she told Tom Catron what she had and he volunteered to file a quiet title suit, very generously doing it *pro bono*. We just received word that it is completed and the lots are ours. Several of them have already been spoken for. Our thanks to Tom Catron for his continuing help to us.

CONTRIBUTIONS SINCE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

- Brown, Mrs. Jack*
- Clancy, A. H.
- Karen Mason Hilgencamp*

- Hyer, Mrs. Wm. G.T.*
- Kaune, Julie
- Livingston, Jean*
- Livingston, Leona
- Maxwell, Irene
- Mench, Vera
- Mudd, France
- Myers, Helen C.
- Silver, Marian & Abe
- Simmons, Ron
- Peggy L. Schafranka*
- Thornburg, Ann*
- Walter, John K. S.
- Wilson, Gale & Martha
- Zinn, Frank

These eighteen donations total \$3870.00. Two of them were \$1,000 each, from Julie Kaune and Ann Thornburg. Mrs. William G. T. Hyer gave us \$500.00. From Peggy L. Schafranka to Robert Schafranka; We thank all the donors very much for their generosity. Combined with Walter Kegel's \$9,000 gift, we are indeed blessed.

MEMORIALS*

To Sally Hyer Kristen from her mother, Mrs. William G. T. Hyer; from Lois (Mrs. Jack) Brown, in memory of Dr. and Mrs. W. H. Livingston; from Jean Livingston to Dr. & Mrs. Wallace H. Livingston; from Ann Thornburg to her daughter, Cynthia Thornburg Johnson; from Karen Mason Hilgencamp to our President, Erik, as a birthday present!

IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION:

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