

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

NEWSLETTER

February 2006

Editor: Erik Mason

SEVENTY-ONE PRAIRIE DOGS "REMOVED"

ANNUAL WORK DAY SATURDAY MAY 13TH

Marian Meyer moves to Retirement Community

As your president sits here "composing" this newsletter this cold and gray Friday afternoon, Marian Meyer and husband Leland are supervising their furniture movers. She and Lee are, very regretfully, having to leave their home on Old Arroyo Chamiso—a traumatic and sad milestone after 42 years in their beautiful and spacious home. They are moving to the Ponce de Leon Retirement Community, 640 Alta Vista, Santa Fe NM 87505. They are squeezing themselves into a one-bedroom unit but are on the waiting list for a two-bedroom so that, in Marian's words, "Lee and I don't murder each other!"

May 13th, the Saturday before Mother's Day, will be our 25th Annual Spring Cleanup and Annual Meeting. We'll put more information in the spring newsletter, but put the date on you calendars now. Even if you are not physically able to do the yardwork, we want you there for the fellowship, the potluck luncheon, and the Annual Meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I apologize for the length of time between newsletters--I'm just not as assiduous as was Marian! My disgraceful failure to get out a December newsletter was apparent in the drop in year-end donations in December, which usually are much higher than they were this year. Thank you, however, to all who donated without being reminded!

The \$10,500 contract for removal of all of the large and medium-sized dead trees, made possible by a wonderful anonymous donation, was completed before the onslaught of cold weather. Unfortunately, the cold weather has not been accompanied by even one drop of moisture! We can only hope that this catastrophic drought will not result in more dead trees in the spring. The caretaker is continuing to water the 33 new trees, not an easy task since the outside water meters have been turned off for the winter and hoses have to be extended from the faucet on the caretaker's house.

Kathy Clark and her **Wildlife Relocaters** were able to trap and relocate 71 of the very destructive prairie dogs this fall before they went into hibernation. We are all very grateful that they did this free of charge as a public service, in recognition of Fairview's status as both a State and a National Historic Site. We won't know until the spring how many more will need to be disposed of, but we are considering blocking their view along the west chainlink fence--we've been told they will not tunnel into areas they cannot see.

A "President's Message" wouldn't be complete without a plea for donations! We haven't yet had to dip into our investment fund to maintain the cemetery at the current (unsatisfactory to all) level, but neither have we been able to improve matters much. We were able to invest another, very wonderful, anonymous donation of \$10,000 in stock rather than use it for maintenance, but we continue to need your donations. So, **please consider beginning the year with a significant donation to make ends meet!!!**

Have a family story of a relative buried at Fairview? Connie Hesch shares a story of her uncle, Nathan Howard "**Jack**" Thorp, who was also the feature of a recent *Santa Fe New Mexican* article by Marc Simmons.

"Jack" Thorp was born in 1867 into New York City high society, but he had a romantic streak and, at age 19, set out for New Mexico to become, first, a superintendent of a silver mine at Kingston, and then a cowboy in Lincoln County. One evening, around a campfire near the Pecos River, he heard the cowhands singing some of the old-time cowboy tunes, and for the rest of his life he traveled the southwest collecting the songs he heard. In 1908 he decided to put the best songs, along with some he wrote himself, into a book which he titled "Songs of the Cowboys," and he paid the News Print Shop in Estancia to print 2,000 copies at six cents a copy. He sold the books for fifty cents; copies of the original book are rare and a clean copy today might bring \$2,000. Late last year, writer Mark L. Gardner wrote a book entitled "Jack Thorp's Songs of the Cowboys," published by the Museum of New Mexico Press, together with a CD of 17 of his songs.

Jack died in 1940. Both he and his wife, Annette Hesch, are buried in Section D of Fairview Cemetery. Connie remembers visiting them as a child and "being impressed with the very tall man with a wonderful smile and a cowboy hat."

Board of Directors Meeting In a recent, marathon-long meeting of over three hours, your Board of Directors discussed the future of Fairview Cemetery. Among the many subjects discussed:

- Our investment counselor at Quinn reported on the status of our investments, which led to lengthy discussions of how to invest funds to insure the largest possible return for insuring the future financial viability of the cemetery;

- Purchase of permanent (and expensive) bronze-cast plaques recognizing the designation of Fairview Cemetery as State and National Historical Sites.

- Creation of a cremains burial site in the long, narrow area between Sections B & C just north of the Catron mausoleum.

- Creation of a long-term, well-thought-out landscaping plan for improvement of the cemetery, including but not limited to the raising of sunken markers, leveling of the depressions, road improvements, irrigation systems, new trees, etc. We welcome your suggestions in this endeavor.

Whether or not we should go to a membership system, with minimal dues to be paid on an annual basis. We currently have, for example, an updated mailing list of 439 addresses, but only 79 persons contributed to the upkeep of the cemetery last year, and as a completely volunteer organization we need to reach persons who are truly interested in the cemetery. We welcome your comments on this issue as well.

Nominations for new board members and officers to be elected at the Annual Meeting in May. Would you be willing to serve? If interested, contact David Mason or Jean Ball!

Contributions Since September Newsletter (thru Dec 2005)

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas B. Catron III in memory of Stephen Ellis Catron
Virginia Jordan in memory of Pauline Adair
Erik J Mason in memory of his parents and brother
Stephen E. Watkins in honor of Marian Meyer and her efforts on behalf of the cemetery
Patricia L. Witthauer in memory of Caroline Berleth
Virginia M. Zander in memory of A.V. & Dorothy Gnagey
Lola R. Abrahams in memory of Richard Abrahams
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight A. Brown in memory of Dwight Allen Brown, Jr.
Dorothy L. Compton in memory of her grandparents Elizabeth & Walter Wagner
Helen C. Myers in memory of Carl & Ella Comstock
Carolyn Smith in memory of her great-grandparents
Betty Swanson in memory of Olive Swanson, Debra Swanson, and Gunner Swanson
Karen Mason Hilgenkamp as a birthday gift to brother Erik Mason
Jean Livingston in memory of Dr. W.H. Livingston
Liz & Ron Keeshan in memory of parents Harry & Betty Bigbee
Rachel Michaelsen in honor of Marian Meyer
George Broome in memory of his parents Tom K. & Edith Broome
Burton Kahn in memory of Benedict Kahn
Ann Thornburg in memory of David & Molete Thornburg, Sam Thornburg and Cynthia Johnson

Dorothy Brylinski
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Gans
Ernest & Marian Karlson
LouAnn C. Jordan
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald R. Ball
George Donoho Bayles
C.B. Romero
Wilmer F. Easley
Leona Livingston
Mr. & Mrs. Gale T. Fairchild
Ruth Hall
Stephen R. Wassner
Cerrillos Lodge No. 19 AF&AM
Tom Moore

Tim Burch
Barbara Fix
Francis M. Lockie
Richard Kristin
Bob & Tina Lawrence
Morford A. McCrary
A.H. Clancy
France Mudd
Mr. & Mrs. Laughlin Barker
Julie Kaune
Kitty Jones Nesbit
Mr. & Mrs. John Brinckerhoff
Martha Maxwell

New Headstones: Stephanie Heall purchased a headstone for her sister, Christine Frances Richard, who was born and died in August 1951. Lawrence Ortiz has had a marker placed on the grave of his mother, Lori S. Ortiz, who died in 1988 at age 48.

And Herbert L. & Lee Davidson have purchased a double plot in Section A for themselves and have already had a handsome upright marker placed on the site.

UNMARKED GRAVE? We will coordinate marking graves with flat granite headstones with a text including name, dates of birth and death, and a short sentiment of 2-3 words. The larger standard size of 12" x 24" costs \$350; the smaller 8" x 16" stone costs \$250, including installation. Call Erik Mason (505) 982-1258 to make arrangements for these stones. And remember, Fairview now again permits installation of upright headstones, one of the great visual delights of the cemetery. Although Albuquerque Monument has increased the cost of their stones for 2006, we will continue to coordinate the placing of the stones for the same prices quoted above.

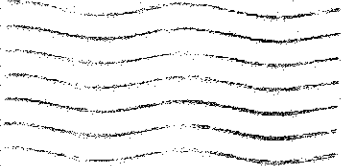
IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION:

Officers:

Pres. Erik Mason 982-1258
VP Bob Clifford 984-8600
Treas. Joanne Legits 424-3855
Sec. Blaire Cooper 820-2659

Directors:

Jo Bloom 505-382-0722
Stephen Hughes 827-1261
Ron & Jean Ball 471-3628
David Mason 988-2551
Lucy Dix 466-6622
Honorary Member Marian Meyer



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