

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

NEWSLETTER

September 1991

*Editors: Marian Meyer
Catherine (Sherry) Thayer*

ANNUAL MEETING AT JONESES SEPTEMBER 17, 5 PM

UPS AND DOWNS AT FAIRVIEW THIS SUMMER—WE NEED YOUR OPINION

ANOTHER SPRINKLER SYSTEM ADDITION

WILL YOU "ADOPT A TREE?"

MORE OLD HEADSTONES INSTALLED

\$1510 RECEIVED FROM 24 CONTRIBUTORS

HISTORICAL SKETCHES FROM 1984 CENTENNIAL

ANNUAL MEETING SEPT. 17 AT JONES - 5 P.M.

Margaret and Warren Jones will host the Annual Meeting of the association at their home, 1817 Calle De Sebastian, 5 p.m., September 17. Turn on the street opposite the Woman's Club. New officers and directors will be elected. Anyone with an interest in Fairview Cemetery is urged to attend. If you have suggestions, improvement ideas, complaints or compliments, please come and express them. (See article below)

FAIRVIEW HAS ITS UPS AND DOWNS THIS SUMMER

The season started out badly as some of you know. We always try to have the the cemetery looking its best for Memorial Day, but this was the worst year we've ever had. There were several factors which contributed. There was unusually warm weather in May, no rain, and the caretaker was called away from the cemetery to work where the County said he was needed more. The grass was burning up and was not mowed or trimmed. On Friday of Memorial Day weekend, our president was so disturbed by the conditions at Fairview that he posted a sign telling visitors that if they didn't like it either, to call one of two numbers at Santa Fe County. Within an hour the sign was taken down and nothing was done. After a couple of irate letters were written to county officials by our president and one board member, we sat down with them to discuss the problems. We have to admit the situation is still at somewhat of an impasse.

The County's new position is that the state's anti-donation clause makes it impossible for them to spend any money on Fairview beyond what the Woman's Club trust fund earns. That is around \$8000 or \$9000 per

year. They say the plots owned by individuals are private property and therefore no county money can be used on them. Our president, attorney Joe Roberts, totally disagrees, and researched a couple of cases showing the opposite. His research shows the County owns the cemetery in fee simple; the lot owners have what is called an easement. Since those cases are in a different jurisdiction, the County does not feel they apply here. None of us, our association or the County, wishes to try to prove any of this by going to court—we'd rather spend our money on maintenance. So we will continue to try to mediate the differences and keep up the cemetery at the same time.

We had another meeting with County officials at Fairview in Mid-July and things finally began to improve. With the abundance of rain the latter part of July and early August, the grass greened up and the County placed some Summer Youth at Fairview to help the caretaker. They trimmed around headstones, cut low growth off trees and just did the general maintenance that makes the difference between the cemetery looking good or bad.

The County also made some pronouncements. From now on, no one from the Association is to approach the caretaker directly on cemetery work. We are to go through his supervisor. Whether this will improve the situation remains to be seen. However, since our maintenance money is crucial to the operations at Fairview, our assistance must be taken seriously by the County. We take care of the expensive tree trimming, spraying, lawn fertilizing; we own the mowing tractor and weed eater and pay for gas for both, in addition to the telephone bill and other expenses we incur every summer. The current tentative plan by the County is

that Tim Espinoza will no longer work at the cemetery; he will go to some other County job and will move out of the caretaker's house. They are going to advertise for a retiree who will do only what work is absolutely necessary at Fairview in return for housing at the cemetery. We will watch these developments closely.

Partly through our suggestions (and admonitions from a couple of members of our association who wrote indignantly that they had observed sprinklers running six hours straight in one spot at Fairview, with never a caretaker in sight) the County is now setting things up to water either at night or early in the morning. Even in the sections with no sprinkler system, large areas will be watered heavily for a limited time--an amount sufficient to do the job, but no overwatering. This is a move in the right direction. One other suggestion made by the County is that we start planting Buffalo grass instead of regular grass when we have to resod a grave. We need to investigate this to see if we would end up with a checkerboard effect. Even if the Buffalo grass is more drought resistant, if it is surrounded by blue grass which must be watered, there won't be much benefit.

We would like some feedback from you, the contributors, on these questions. Please come to the Annual Meeting and tell us, or call one of the board members: Joe Roberts, Pres., 982-4605; Amado Summers, V.P., 983-3933; Catherine Thayer (Sherry), Sec., 982-4611; Board Members: Marian Meyer, 982-5635; Bob Clifford, 473-9153; Margaret and Warren Jones, 982-4855; Janice Matthews, 983-4208; Laura and K. K. Miller, 471-1025; Abe Silver, 982-1303; James Vandersys, 982-5966. If you prefer to go straight to the County with your written concerns, the P. O. Box is 276, Santa Fe, zip 87501. The County Manager is Gil Tercero; the County Commissioners are: Nancy Rodriguez, Linda Grill, Betty Platt, Raymond Chavez and Richard D. Anaya.

MOST OF REMAINDER OF BEQUEST MONEY TO BE SPENT ON THIRD SECTION OF SPRINKLER SYSTEM.

Warren Jones has been working most of the summer on plans, bids, etc. for the third section of sprinkler system we will install. The project was put on hold for over a month during our discussions with Santa Fe County, but is now back on track. By the time you read this, the work may be finished. It will encompass the entire Front B section between the entrance road and past the caretaker's house, as well as one row of the high tech sprinklers across the road in regular B Section, (north of the Catron Mausoleum).

FRONT FLOWER BEDS, TREES AND GRASS

If you have been by the cemetery this summer, you know the front flower beds have looked just awful. We told you in the May newsletter that they would not be planted this year because the valve box for the new

section of sprinklers is just outside the fence at the south planter box. The main line for the sprinkler system will go right under it. However, we had expected the work to be done long before this, but the delay occurred during our discussions with the County, so we've had a weed patch instead. We did take advantage of the delay to have both planter boxes sprayed with a weed killer which is supposed to inhibit the bind weed. When the sprinkler system is finished, the Santa Fe Garden Club hopes to plant Katoniaster in both planter boxes. It is a handsome shrub with a small spring bloom and bright red berries in the fall. **SOD** - Finally, the graves which have needed sodding got done. We had hoped to do them early this spring, but we weren't even able to get the cemetery mowed, much less put in sod. There were two which had been bare since late last summer. We also filled in several sunken ones and sodded them. Altogether, about 20 were done. They seem to be doing well. **TREES** - Amado Summers got the trees put in that we mentioned in the May letter. Two of them are gorgeous Ponderosa pines. If you drive by, look for the one to the left near the front entrance. Both are very impressive. Thanks, Amado.

CONTRIBUTIONS SINCE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

When we started compiling the contribution list, we found that a couple of people were not on it. This means that you may not have received an acknowledgement after you sent your check. We apologize and hope this thank you is sufficient for this time. Donations of \$1510 were received in amounts ranging from \$5 to \$250. The board thanks each of you. They are as follows:

Bentley, Verda R.	Johnson, Mrs. Maurice E.*
Beecroft, Mrs. Zetta	Kalangis, M/M Ike
Churchill, Mrs. Vivian	Karlson, M/M Earnest
Brown, Jack	Miller, Vera
DuVal, Elise	Montezuma Lodge
Fairchild, M/M G. T. (2)*	Nusbaum, Mrs. John
Garrand, Josephine Zucal	Padilla, Jean
Ham, Mabel G.	Pick, M/M Henry
Harvey, Mrs. Gladys	Scott, Frank
Harvey, John	Sleeper, Lewis
Hillyer, Mrs. John	Wright, Walter*

***MEMORIALS**

To Harvey C. May and Helen Barker from M/M G. T. Fairchild; to Wendall and Bessie Hall from Mrs. Maurice Johnson; Marie Packard from Walter Wright. The donation from Frank Scott was given after he wrote looking for relatives at Fairview. They are not buried there, but we did a little research for him and checked with other cemeteries. He appreciated it and sent a check.

HEADSTONES FOR UNMARKED GRAVES INSTALLED

By the time you read this, three new headstones for unmarked graves will have been installed. Zetta Beecroft wanted one on the grave of her Baby Beecroft, date 1929. Emily Gaskin's 1968 grave is marked and another is for Betsy Zinn Fiske Bennet, whose ashes will be placed at the cemetery at a future date. We make this offer every summer. The price is virtually at cost because we are anxious to have as many of the old graves marked as possible. If you have an old unmarked grave in your family plot you may want to plan to mark it in the future. Watch for the information next spring in the newsletter.

INTERMENTS

Five interments since the May newsletter were all from old Santa Fe families. The ashes of June Marie Pulliam were buried in the Alex Jordan plot; those of Electa McConvery were placed with her little son who died almost 50 years ago. Ruth Parks, who, with her late husband Wade, founded Parks Nursery, was buried beside him. Nina May Kinsell lived 46 years beyond her husband Ralph Clinton. The family came down from Colorado to bury her. Mae Sellgman's ashes and those of her husband William Sellgman, who died in 1986, were buried together. Many of you will remember Willie's store for men's clothing on San Francisco Street in the 1950s.

WILL YOU "ADOPT A TREE?"

At the spring board meeting, Ruth Summers 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 proof of this is in looking at the tree on the Thornton lot belonging to Marian Karlson. Her crabapple was planted at the same time as the others and it is the largest of any. She "adopted" it at the beginning and her TLC (tender loving care) shows. At the potluck luncheon following the Spring Clean-up, Ruth succeeded in signing up several people. Laura and K. K. Miller adopted two trees, Ruth and Amado themselves already had taken the responsibility for the three new ones they put in; Marian Meyer took the two near the entrance beds; June and Taylor McConnell took on one as did Joe Roberts. There are still a number of small struggling flowering crabs, and Tree Chairman Amado Summers will be putting in six new trees this fall. If you adopt a tree, you might want to keep a lightweight hose in the trunk of your car, so you won't have to hunt up a cemetery hose and drag it around. (Most of those are heavy rubber ones). This is one small way people could help us and we would

certainly appreciate it. If you are interested, call Ruth Summers, 983-3933.

CENTENNIAL BIOGRAPHIES

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 to 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. The editors hope you will enjoy the stories. (Note from Marian--all the centennial story work is being done by Sherry (oops, Catherine. I'll never get used to that new name!))

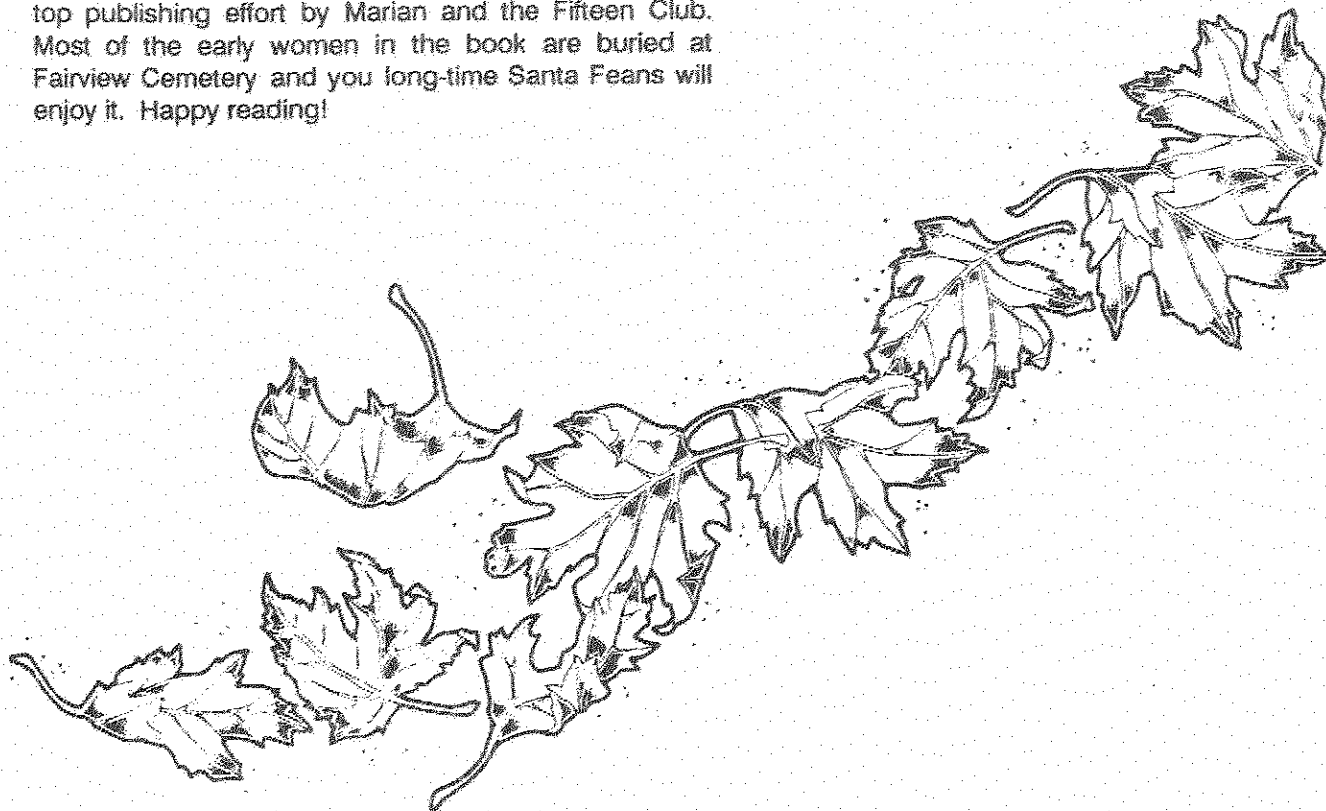
AMADO CHAVES 1851 - 1930

A native of Santa Fe born 16 April 1851, Amado's early education was at St. Michael's College and later at a business college in Washington, D.C., he also attended Georgetown University at the National University Law School, graduating in 1876. Following graduation he worked for the Department of the Interior. Returning to New Mexico in 1882 he was elected a member of the Territorial House of Representatives, and chosen speaker of the house. He continued his law practice devoting himself largely to matters connected with land grants. In 1892 Chaves was appointed superintendent of public instruction for the Territory and appointed to that position for a second time in 1904. He was later employed by the State of New Mexico in litigation relative to the boundary survey between New Mexico and Texas. He married Kate Nichols Foster on October 4, 1892. Three children were born to this marriage: Katherine Chaves Page, Consuelo and Amado Jr. Current update: Consuelo, who died last year, was the mother of our Amado Summers. He and his family are sixth generation communicants of Holy Faith Church, which is a rather rare occurrence.

MARIAN MEYER HAS WRITTEN TWO NEW BOOKS

Enclosed is a flyer telling you about both of Marian's new books which should be out within a month. There will probably be book signings on both later this fall, so if you want a copy of either you can wait til then. If you wish to order the book by mail, an order form is included. Marian's *Mary Donoho* has been underway for four years. It will be a significant addition to Santa Fe

Trail history. Marian has been working on the second book for a year. It is a modest volume--a sort of desk-top publishing effort by Marian and the Fifteen Club. Most of the early women in the book are buried at Fairview Cemetery and you long-time Santa Feans will enjoy it. Happy reading!



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P. O. BOX 5958
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87502**

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