

# FAIRVIEW CEMETERY PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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

September 1999

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President-John Adams  
1<sup>st</sup> VP-Peter Bickley  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP-Marian Meyer  
Treasurer-Doug Thayer  
Secretary-Catherine Thayer

Directors: Ronald R. Ball  
Margaret Brunk  
Bob Clifford  
Marian Karlson  
Bob Lawrence

Kathy Roberts  
Bradley Morris Thomas  
Joan Stotts

FV Phone - 989-1623

## WE MADE IT! A LOOK AT OUR FIRST YEAR

NEW OFFICERS AND PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM JOHN ADAMS

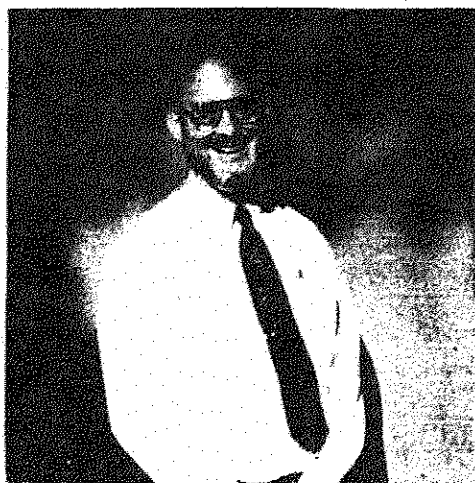
NEED NEW TENANT FOR CARETAKER'S HOUSE  
NEWSLETTER TO CARRY ADS

ANNUAL OFFER TO INSTALL HEADSTONES AT CLOSE TO COST  
SANTA FE HIGH SCHOOL CENTENNIAL HISTORY AVAILABLE FROM MARIAN MEYER

MEMBERS ASKED TO HELP ASSOCIATION

INTERMENTS: HARRY LONG BIGBEE, SAM THORNBURG, ALTAGRACIA ORTIZ, CAMELLIA  
BOWLDS, SIMON PETER BICKLEY III,

TOTAL OF \$ 2420 IN DONATIONS--THANK YOU



JOHN ADAMS, NEW PRESIDENT

In our last newsletter we told you how pleased we were to have the newly dedicated information pavilion finished. All that remained was to have a map display installed and a directory of burial locations. Those of you who went to the Spring Clean-up saw the finished project and it has served us well in our first full

summer season. We want to thank NM Office Solutions and Technigraph for their contributions.

Doesn't Fairview look better than it has in years? Guy Gray, our contract caretaker, has done a great job of getting things up to par. This level of maintenance still leaves some things to be desired but it goes to show what can be accomplished by people who are performing a labor of love.

Our first full year of operation has had some challenges, though. We have had difficulties with collecting rent and with water bills, indicating a need to conserve. We are now in the process of looking for a tenant for the former caretaker's house. It is 1300 sq. ft. with two bedrooms and one bath. Someone who enjoys the quiet and security of the location may want the house as a residence or it could be used as a professional or small organization office. For full information contact Joan Stotts, 471-8014 or 982-3610, or Brad Thomas, 984-1188.

We asked Sangre de Cristo Water Company to do an audit of our water usage so that we could see how we

compared to similar facilities. We learned that parts of the first system we installed about 15 years ago need to be updated and improved. We also are watching the meter readings to compare with our bills after reports in the press of inconsistencies.

Another challenge facing us is the decline in donations. I have asked the treasurer, Doug Thayer, to put regular reports of our financial condition in the newsletter. We are also taking steps to look for more ways of raising money.

Advertising in the newsletter is one way—we hope to partially offset the 50 cent per person cost so that we may communicate with our supporters more frequently. We also have begun to explore sources of grants and other forms of corporate support.

Your Board of Directors is working to find ways of cutting expenses. We have begun a revision of our bylaws to bring them into line with our position as owners of the cemetery. We have established an internet community

[http://comm.excite.com/comm/area/pw/welcome/main.asp?cid=zZhsOu-GC\\_R](http://comm.excite.com/comm/area/pw/welcome/main.asp?cid=zZhsOu-GC_R)

to let the world know of this significant historical resource and the challenges we face. A telephone answer service provides consistent communication facilities. (505-989-1623).

But much work remains to be done. We need to look at long range solutions to the way we are organized. If we cannot develop committees with people with strong business experience to guide us into the future we need to look for ways in which we can assist some organization in filling this function for us.

Volunteers are needed to develop our business plan and to put together a major fund-raising project. My estimate is that we need to establish a \$1 million endowment fund to be able to preserve Fairview indefinitely. If our resources keep declining we will just have to do the best we can. I am afraid that much of the progress made this year will be lost.

I know that some methods of raising money are distasteful to some of our supporters. If you have concerns or suggestions as to things we might try please share your thoughts with me—982-1904.

Your President, John Adams

#### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ELECTED

At the Spring Clean-up and luncheon, John Adams was elected our new president. John's late aunt and uncle, Mamie and Burton Dwyre, are buried at Fairview. But another link for John to Fairview is the Masonic Order. John probably is familiar with the name of every Mason who is buried there, and there are a lot.

First Vice President is Simon Peter Bickley, whose parents and son are buried at Fairview. His grandfather, B. F. Young, is also there. Young donated the land on which B. F. Young was built some thirty years ago. Reelected were Marian Meyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Catherine Thayer, Secretary, and Doug Thayer, Treasurer. Directors who still have a year to serve on their terms are: Ronald Ball, Bob Lawrence, and Kathy Roberts. Re-elected was Marian Karlson. New Directors are Margaret Brunk, Bob Clifford, Bradley Morris Thomas, and Joan Stotts. Margaret's husband and other family members are tenants of Fairview, as are Brad's parents and grandparents. Bob Clifford and Joan Stotts both served stints on the board over a decade ago. Joni's two Fiske children are sixth generation Santa Feans. They have 16 relatives at Fairview. Thanks to all of the directors for accepting this responsibility.

#### A LOOK AT OUR FIRST YEAR

We knew this going in, but owning the cemetery is far more difficult than just helping to maintain it. However, we now have full say in *how* we manage it, which makes for less frustration. Our biggest single concern is paying the bills. We now have a great deal more we are responsible for, including the sometimes-staggering water bill. In an attempt to keep the cost down, in the spring our caretaker was instructed to keep the cemetery green, but *not* lush. Fortunately, we have had a good deal of rain and that has kept the grass beautiful most of the summer. We are less than a month away from turning the water off, so that bill will go down.

A new but important expense is SECURITY. We have AKAL to open the gates at dawn, close them at dusk, and check from time to time. Guy Gray, our contract caretaker, is paid by the month, and is probably the most important expense we have, but worth every cent of it. The best part is that we no longer have to buy tractors, weed whackers, and the many things which keep Fairview beautiful. Guy has a really fine tractor mower, similar to our old Grasshopper, which will turn on a dime, and takes the uneven terrain so much better than some of our old inexpensive mowers (remember when our Association had a special fund drive to buy the Grasshopper? It cost \$6000 and was President Gil Fincke's pride and joy. When our fund drive reached \$3000, generous Sunwest Bank pitched in the other \$3000!). Another really wonderful thing is not having to worry about repairs to the mower. Sometimes the mower would be down for weeks at a time, waiting for parts and repair.

Renting out the caretaker's house for income is not one of our favorite aspects of ownership of Fairview. The year lease has just run out and we will be looking for a reliable tenant as soon as we get the house fixed up. That will cost us a good deal more than the deposit we got. Live and learn. The house is more

than a century old, but is in surprisingly good condition, structurally. It is 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, large living room, kitchen and small laundry room. The rent is \$700 per month, first and last month's rent and a damage deposit, plus utilities. If you know of a possible renter, call Brad Thomas, 984-1188 or Joan Stotts, 471-8014.

#### HEADSTONES AVAILABLE AT NEAR COST

We have been making this offer for years, and each summer a few markers get done. Marian forgot to put it in the May newsletter. We have one order already and if you need a marker, call Marian, 982-5635, as soon as possible. The stones are plain gray granite: Small size, 8"x16" is \$200; standard size, 12"x24" is \$350.00. Includes 3 lines of text, installation and mileage from Albuquerque.

#### NEWSLETTER TO CARRY ADS

The Board decided to solicit advertisements from anyone who is interested. A 1/8 page ad is \$15; 1/4 page \$30 (like the one below) 1/2 page, \$60 and a full page, \$100. The ad must be camera ready, but we can reduce or enlarge it on the scanner. We hope to have a December newsletter, so if you want to run an ad, get the copy to Marian by November 18.



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#### MEMBERS CAN HELP

We need all the help we can get, so the board asked that we put a plea in the newsletter. Because of the continuing rise in postage and printing cost, we ask that each of our supporters send \$10 each year to help finance the newsletter. Of course, those who contribute regularly need not be concerned with this. If you prefer to be taken off our mailing list, please send us a note. A \$10 donation now would last until January 2001.

Some of our stalwart supporters send us \$25 to \$1000 every year, and that has been the life-blood of our Association. Believe me, we appreciate every penny of it.

Another suggestion is that if you have a bereavement in your family, it is a great windfall to Fairview if we are named as a charity to be given memorials in lieu of flowers. Give it some thought if you don't already have your own favorite charity.

Along that same line, if you are thinking of renewing your will, Fairview would love to be in it. In the past 15 years we have had several bequests, ranging in size from \$500 to \$10,000. That one knocked us off our feet. It paid for lot of sprinkler system.

President John Adams has written before about giving stock instead of money. We had two members who decided to do that. To get questions answered, call John 982-1904.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS WERE \$2420

20 checks ranged from \$10 to \$1500 (Montezuma Lodge is very generous). We appreciate your gift, no matter what the size and we thank you.. Donations were as follows:

Barth, Alfred	Naranjo, Maria
Bentley Verda*	Petranto, Joseph
Churchill, Warren	Sanchez, Lucy
Corbett, Nancy (3)	Shehee, Mary Ellen
Fairchild, Marguerite*	Simpson, Christine
Fitzgerald, Melvin	Stoekel, Brigit*
Livingston, Jean*	Thomas, B.M
Lopez, Conchita	Wiley, Tom and June
Miller, Vera	Wright, Barbara

#### \*MEMORIALS

From Verda Bentley in memory of her mother Ela Redman; from Jean Livingston to Dr. and Mrs. W. H. Livingston; from M/M Gale T. Fairchild to Gail Hill Freeman; from Brigit Stoekel to Katie Zook.

We did not have many burials last year and all of them were ashes except one. This year starting in June, there four full burials in a row. **HARRY LONG BIGBEE**, longtime local attorney, former judge and a prominent Santa Fe citizen, was buried next to his wife, Betty.\*\*\*\***ALTAGRACIA Ortiz**, who would have turned 108 in September, was buried with a good deal of fanfare. Her family released 108 balloons—it was joyous and colorful indeed.\*\*\*\***SAM THORNBURG** died following an extended illness. His work took him and his family to many countries over the years, but he and his wife Ann came back to Santa Fe to retire. He is buried just down the road from the rest of the Thornburg family.\*\*\*\***CAMELLIA BOWLDS**, a dear sweet lady and a friend of Marian's for 20 years, would not have been surprised that we couldn't find room for her in the family plot. She and Marian met more than once at Fairview to ponder the problem because it just didn't look like there was enough space. We were right. When the Woman's Club buried two other relatives, they encroached on the third grave. There was not even half a space left. It was necessary to dis-inter Clarence and do a double interment for the two of them. Rest in Peace, Camellia.\*\*\*\*The ashes of **SIMON PETER BICKLEY III**, who died a few years ago, were interred in the grave of his grandparents. Our condolences to all the families.

### **SANTA FE HIGH SCHOOL CENTENNIAL HISTORY AVAILABLE FROM MARIAN MEYER**

In the May newsletter, Marian told you she was disappointed in the poor pictures produced by the high school print shop. She decided it was unacceptable and had the book reprinted at her own expense. The pictures are well done now and she is happy to have her name on the book. If you want a book, call her, 982-5635 or write her, 2327 Old Arroyo Chamisa, Santa Fe, NM 87505. The book is \$12.50 here in Santa Fe, if mailed add \$2, making a total of \$14.50.

### **FCPA Finances by Doug Thayer, Treasurer**

It has been over a year since the Association assumed ownership of Fairview Cemetery and made the transition from a support organization to full management of the cemetery. In the past 14 months the Board has learned a lot about the fiscal realities of operation as we have proceeded with daily upkeep as well as needed improvements. In the next few paragraphs I will relate some of the information we have gained, and the challenges we face as we proceed into our second year of ownership of this unique cemetery.

Our total operating expenses for the 14-month period were \$46,500 (including the construction of the much needed information pavilion, \$9,900). As expected, the cemetery grounds were our largest expense category during this time, for a total of almost \$27,000 (water, \$13,600, maintenance, \$13,400).

Our income for the period was approximately \$63,200, including \$18,000 as a one-time contribution from Santa Fe County and \$18,000 in grave plot sales. Other items included \$7,600 from rental of the caretaker's house, \$5,400 from the Woman's Club Trust, and \$12,000 in contributions. As you can see, your contributions are extremely important to the continued operation of the cemetery!

While the above figures show a rough balance between income and expenditures over the past 14 months, they do not really show the challenges facing the Board. Removing the cost of the information pavilion shows an annualized operating expense of approximately \$32,000. Removing the grave plot sales and the County's one-time contribution shows an annual income of \$27,200 — a shortfall of \$4,800 per year, assuming that contributions continue as in the past!

One of the Board's challenges (in addition to meeting annual expenses) is to increase the Cemetery's endowment in order to decrease dependence on annual contributions in the future. Allocating proceeds of grave plot sales to the endowment will help, but more needs to be done. Please consider additional gifts earmarked for this purpose, as well as continuing the vital contributions so necessary for annual expenses!





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## AN EARLY SANTA FE BRIDE: ESTHER THOMAS

Esther Thomas came west on her wedding trip, following a three year engagement. Her courtship by Dr. Benjamin Morris Thomas is partially revealed in two Victorian-era letters, part of the Thomas Collection at the Fra Angelico History Library. The year was 1868 when the young dentist sent a formal note to the Honorable James Bradley, father, of "Hetty," and a prominent judge in La Porte, Indiana. The message contained an earnest request:

"As I have formed an attachment for your daughter Hetty which I would be very sorry to have broken off, and as I have assurance from her that it need not be broken off, I ask for your permission to strengthen that attachment ad infinitum with the hope

of receiving your full and free consent.

He did not wait long for an answer. That very day Judge Bradley replied in a favorable but somewhat stiffer tone:

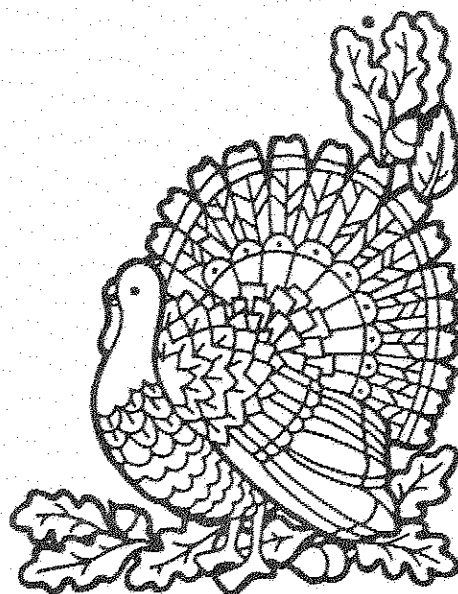
"Dear Sir: I have received yours of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. The acquaintance I have hitherto had with you has enabled me to form a very favorable opinion of you as a Gentleman, and hence if the matter to which you allude has been well and maturely considered on both sides, I have no hesitation in giving it my full and free approval.."

Originally scheduled for June of 1870, the wedding had to be postponed when Thomas' health failed. He spent a healing year in Arizona, found employment with the Indian agency and returned to claim his bride in 1871. A half-century later, Esther's obituary would note that she "braved all the hardships of the western life, became acquainted with the character of the Indian, and was of great assistance to her husband in making friends with their puzzling wards of the United States Government."

By 1874 Esther had set up housekeeping in Santa Fe where Thomas was agent to the Pueblo Indians. In 1889 he was appointed Territorial Secretary by President Benjamin Harrison. With Governor L. Bradford Prince out of the territory much of the time attending to his business and political connections in the East, Thomas frequently served as acting governor. He died 3 years later, leaving Esther to raise their only child, Bradley Morris, born in 1882. Young Thomas was a member of the first graduating class of Santa Fe High School in May 1900. Of those

first five graduates, descendants of only two remain in Santa Fe. Bradley Morris Thomas, Jr. and his sister, Virginia Thomas Nydes, are both active in business here.

The Woman's Board of Trade was founded in 1892, the same year Esther's husband died, but it wasn't until 1898 that she became a member—possibly because the group was actively seeking to acquire operation of Fairview Cemetery where her husband was buried.



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