

September 2003

Editors: Marian Meyer/Gene Valdes

**ANNUAL MEETING HELD AFTER MAY 19<sup>th</sup> CLEAN-UP  
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ELECTED  
BOARD MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 2**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: MONEY, TREES, WATER**

**SIXTY TREES CUT DOWN, MORE TO GO PLUS TRIMMING &  
TOPPING**

**INTERMENTS: KALANGIS, VISARRAGA, HAYMES, HYER/KRISTIN, HUNTER**

**HEADSTONES SET FOR OLD/NEW GRAVES: BOICE, HATHAWAY, L. KARLSON**

**WE THANK YOU FOR A TOTAL OF \$3,215 IN DONATIONS**

**OFFICERS ELECTED**

**BRAD THOMAS IS RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT, New directors are Stephen Hughes, John and Jo Bloom, and Erik Mason. Re-elected are are Vice-Presidents Gene Valdes and Marian Meyer, Treasurer Joan Stotts and Secretary Blair Cooper. Continuing as a director is Bob Clifford.**

We are very pleased that Brad is willing to accept another term. This will be his third year and he is dealing with all our difficulties very well. New director Stephen Hughes is an attorney with the New Mexico Land Office and his parents are buried at Fairview. John and Jo Bloom moved back to New Mexico several years ago after distinguished careers in California. They are pursuing their love of history by serving on boards of several organizations. John Bloom's father was Lansing Bloom, well-known historian, writer, and minister. The Bloom Family is at Fairview. Erik Mason was on our board several years ago

and we are very glad to have him back. His parents and brother are interred at Fairview.

We will miss the members who chose not to continue on the board: S. Peter Bickley, Marian Karlson and Margaret Brunk. We thank them for their many years of service. Peter has said he is available if we get in a crunch and Marian K. and Margaret will still be here to stamp, label and put the newsletter in the mail.

*Note: I was about halfway finished with the newsletter when I broke my ankle. Surgery will be done by the time you receive it. Gene Valdes generously agreed to finish it, and our "mailing team" (Margaret Brunk, Marian Karlson and her husband Ernest) will label, stamp and get the letters in the mail. Lots of thanks to Gene and the others.*

*Marian*

## RECENT INTERMENTS

The following interments took place since the last newsletter that was issued in May 2003:

- **Efterpi Kalangis** (Yia Yia—which means Grandmother in Greek) was one of the founders of Orthodox Greek Church and the first one to die;
- The **Haymes** ashes were buried in the grave of his father in section B Front;
- **Angeline Hunter** was interred in the Hunter plot next to her husband in Front Section B. The family is an old prominent one from Espanola;
- **Sally Hyer-Kristin**

Our sincere condolences go out to the families whose loved ones were recently interred at Fairview Cemetery.

In addition to the interments:

- The family of **Paul Visarraga** purchased a plot in the B Front section between the Catron Mausoleum and the caretaker's house

We will tell you about some new headstones on old, old graves in the next newsletter and also introduce you to our new caretaker, **Chuck Loeser**.

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT BRAD: "MONEY, TREES AND WATER"

*I wish I had better news to give you, but these three items have given us a great deal of difficulty this year. They are intertwined, of course. The drought last summer combined with the city's edict to water only once a week was the direct cause of the death of most of the trees.*

**MONEY.** Money is our primary concern. We have almost wiped out our checking account to pay the costs of tree removal. The loss of the trees, esthetically, is heartbreaking. Fairview was once known as the most beautiful "God's Acre" in New Mexico. That claim is no longer valid. And we will have to invade the savings before any other major expense is met. Some of that money is restricted, of course.

**TREES.** When I first talked to the tree removal man, he planned to do the work in two sessions, each at a

cost of about \$6000. In the meantime, trees that were severely stressed continued to die, even though we were finally able to give them some water. The tree man tagged more for removal, some for topping and a good number for trimming. We will pay an additional \$11,000.00 for this last phase of the work.

**WATER.** Our Board of Directors met with a representative of the water company during the summer. They offered some concessions such as removing some surcharges, but not nearly what we wanted. I have since talked to a couple of people (never the same ones) and all we can say is that negotiations are still under way, though not progressing much.

*I have tried numerous times to talk to Mayor Delgado as I have been told he will do all he can to help us. But do you think he will call me back? NO! He has asked Dave Schenidike of the Water Finance Department to see if he can help us but said he cannot do anything. He did say Mayor Delgado just dumped this in his lap. I told him I personally made a large donation of property/money to the Trust For Public Lands, hoping that would warrant some consideration on behalf of the city toward our water bill, (which, incidentally, is up from the horrific original \$26,000.00 to \$33,000.00.) We are paying only the house water bill until we get the problem resolved. I faxed the papers pertaining to the donation to Dave Schenidike on 9/12/03, but have not heard back from him. We have just received a bill with a credit of \$2522.00, which is only a sixth of what the city representative suggested this summer.*

One of our main arguments is that we have never gotten a detailed accounting of the water charges during the three years we did not receive water bills. During that three years we asked for bills numerous times without response.

We have kept the option of going to the newspapers a latent one, knowing that it may be our last line of defense. I am interested in knowing if any of you have an inside track to make this the most effective action. If any of you have any suggestions that would give us more clout, I would like to hear from you. Call me at the office, 984-1188 or home, 988-3075.

Brad

## THANKS TO ALL WHO DONATED IN MEMORY OF MRS KALANGIS

Upon Mrs. Kalangis' death, her son Ike requested that donations in her memory be made to Fairview, where Mrs. Kalangis is buried next to her husband Alex.. The donors include:

- Barker, Laughlin
- Carrellas, Mrs. Edith
- Catron, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas B.
- Duncan, James
- Eddy, John & Jean
- Hiatt, Bobbie & Steve
- Kalangis, Ike
- Keros, Thee & Mertz, Kay
- Lang, T.H.
- Livingston, Leona
- Meyer, Larry
- Meyer, Marian & Lee
- Matthews, David
- Moore, Tom & Diana
- Peck, Vae & James
- Pick, William S.
- Rounseville, Dr. Matthew

## THANKS TO ALL OUR DONORS

In addition to the above donations given in memory of Mrs. Kalangis, other donations were received as follows since the last newsletter:

- Bickley, S. Peter
- Brown, Lois
- Carrellas, Mrs. Edith
- Catron, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas B.
- Ley, Delfina
- Lindsey, Lois & Arden
- Littleton, Judi
- Lopez, Conchita
- Miller, Vera
- Mudd, France
- Naranjo, Maria (2)
- Mesbit, Kittie R.
- Rounseville, Dr. Matthew
- Sze, Corrine
- Watkins, Stephen
- Zinn Frank

Our thanks go out to all the above who donated funds to the Cemetery. The total of these two lists of contributions is \$3215. Your generosity is very much appreciated. If your name was left out, please call Marian Meyer so that we can include you in the next newsletter.

## MEMORIALS

In addition to the donations given as memorials to Mrs. Kalangis, the following donations were made as memorials:

- from Lois Brown in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Wallace Livingston;
- from Mrs. Edith Carrellas in memory of Victoria Rounseville;
- from Dr. Matthew Rounseville in memory of Victoria Rounseville; and
- from Corrine Sze to be used to plant a tree in memory of Sally Hyer.

## NEW TREES WHEN POSSIBLE

At the Board meeting on September 2, all of the concerns Brad discussed in the letter printed in this issue were discussed and much more. One heartening note is that, as soon as possible, we want to plant trees to replace some of those removed. We will choose carefully for drought resistance, shade and beauty. Finally, please note that we will be most happy to receive donations to plant new trees in memory of a dearly departed person interred at Fairview. If you so desire, arrangements can be made for a plaque identifying the tree as a memorial gift in honor of a loved one. There will be more on the planting of new trees as time goes on.

## MISTAKE IN PAULINE POLLOCK STORY

Marian goofed in the story on Pauline Pollock. Johanna Uhlfelder was widowed and married Morris Blatt. Sorry about that.

## QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

If you have a question, concern or comment, please feel free to contact an Association officer or director:

### Officers:

Pres. Brad Thomas—O 984-1188, H 988-3075  
VP Gene Valdes—986-2010  
VP Marian Meyer—982-5635  
Treas. Joan Stotts—O 982-3610, H 471-2758  
Sec. Blair Cooper—820-2659

### Directors:

Margaret Brunk—471-1571  
Bob Clifford—984-8600  
John & Jo Bloom  
Stephen Hughes  
Erik Mason

## THE PRESERVATION OF CEMETERIES

Several people recently have remarked to me that Fairview Cemetery is not looking too good these days. As Brad noted in his letter, they are right. The extended drought and resulting water restrictions have taken a heavy toll on the vegetation—certainly the grass but, more unfortunately, the lovely old trees as well. Yet, despite the drought's effects, Fairview remains the best maintained, privately owned, historic cemetery in Santa Fe. This is something we should never take for granted.

Do any readers remember the old San Miguel Cemetery? This historic cemetery was located immediately east of the present-day Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) building, which sits in the middle of the city block bounded by Paseo de Peralta, Old Santa Fe Trail, De Vargas Street, and Orchard Drive. This block was once the campus of St. Michael's High School. The old cemetery occupied, approximately, the eastern half of the block. By the early 1900's, the old San Miguel Cemetery had become full. Over the ensuing years, the cemetery, because of lack of interest, maintenance and security, fell victim to disrepair and vandalism. Our own Marian Meyer, writing in a June 8, 1985 article for the *Journal North*, spoke with Johnnie Valdes, who lived on Orchard Drive across the street from the cemetery (and who was also my uncle). Johnnie, commenting on the vandalism, had witnessed headstones being carted off. He later learned that some were used to form a walkway in the yard of a Santa Fe home. By the 1950's, there wasn't a single headstone remaining. In fact, the area occupied by the cemetery had become the baseball field for St. Michael's High School.

In the mid-1960's, the land on which San Miguel cemetery was located was sold and St. Michael's High School moved to its current location on Siringo Road. When the ground was excavated for the PERA Building (which has two of its five floors below ground level), dozens and dozens of burial sites were unearthed. The bones of the departed were collected and reburied in a common grave at Rosario Cemetery. However, the graves under the parking lot to the east were simply paved over. If you park today in the east lot of the PERA Building, you are parking on the remains of hundreds of Santa Fe's sons and daughters.

The Fairview Cemetery Preservation Association exists to ensure against what happened to the San Miguel Cemetery. Fairview remains secure, well-maintained and preserved as a memorial to this community's citizens who are interred there. We want Fairview to be taken care of, even after we are gone, to ensure that our descendants will be able to visit the historic grounds to discover their own history and heritage. This is why we need and highly appreciate your continued generous support. Thanks!

*Gene Valdes*

**FAIRVIEW CEMETERY PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION  
PO BOX 5958  
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**FIRST CLASS**