

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

NEWSLETTER

September 2005

Editor: Erik Mason

WOMEN'S CLUB TRUST IS NOW FAIRVIEW'S

DONATIONS DOWN RADICALLY FOR 2005

NO INTERMENTS YET THIS YEAR

HEALTH UPDATE to MY FAIRVIEW FRIENDS from MARIAN MEYER

To each of you who sent a get-well card, email or letter, I thank you very much. They will go with me to Ponce De Leon retirement center (if a 2-bedroom apartment ever becomes available!). Lee also has some health concerns, so we know it is for the best, but selling our home of 41 years is an emotional, though necessary, wrench.

Healing from my March stroke is maddeningly slow, but the neurologist says I should be well in a year. An aggravating complication is pain in both shoulder rotator cuffs. Last October, surgery could not repair the left one. A stationary bike has replaced my swimming, and I will soon start additional therapy for the shoulders. I thank you for your support, and for your donations and your kind words over the last 24 years. I regret that I will no longer be touching your lives with the Fairview newsletter, but it is in excellent hands.

Fondly, Marian

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE-*Trees, Rodents, Trust Funds & Donations*

Of our 33 new trees, all have survived the summer although one, planted last fall, struggled mightily during the spring but finally gave up the ghost and had to be replaced by Payne's Nursery. We were **greatly** blessed by a large, anonymous donation designated for removal of dead trees, which allowed us to sign a \$10,500 contract for removal of all the large and medium-sized dead trees, and topping and trimming of others. The work is almost completed and Oh! how it does improve Fairview's appearance!

The plague of prairie dogs, however, continues. We have been trying to work with "removers" since before 15 June, the end of the 2-month period when they're having babies and, by law, cannot be disturbed, but the process has been slow. They began the actual removal the week of 17 September, and as of September 20 had trapped 35 in Sections C and D, but we have yet to see how effective they will be.

An effort of many years to have the Trust Fund, given originally to the County by the Women's Club and administered by the First National Bank as trustees, released to us has finally been successful! The Women's Club has relinquished its ownership, the bank has relinquished its role as trustee, and the funds are now completely ours. This action is very

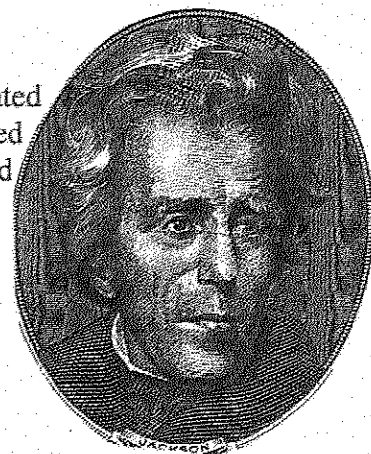
important to us because it will save us about \$2,000 annually in trustee fees! We hope, however, to be able to retain both this and our other trust fund as "endowment" funds, retaining them as capital-investment funds and using the income only as necessary or for specific improvements designated by the Board of Directors.

Protection of this capital, however, cannot be maintained unless donations improve! Undesignated donations, upon which we rely for maintenance costs, the caretaker's salary, and the water and other utility bills, have been a catastrophic 1/5th of what they were during the first eight months of last year. At the current rate, our previously healthy checking account will have to be replenished from capital, an action we hope to avoid. **So, please consider significant year-end donations to make ends meet!!!**

We have three new headstones at Fairview. The VanderSys family has installed a handsome upright stone on the family plot, and we have coordinated installation of flat headstones donated by friends and families of both Mildred Wright, who died at age 16 in 1937, and for a baby Seidel daughter who died in 1916.

I tried to talk Marian out of the following editorial, but she was most insistent not only that it be published but also that I was **not** to edit it! I finally saluted smartly!

Erik



EDITORIAL from MARION

Some of you may not know that President Erik Mason is no stranger to our Board. Eight or more years ago he served as volunteer Grounds Chairman for quite some time and the cemetery never looked better. We wanted him to take the presidency then, but he had too many commitments, the most serious being as primary caregiver for his mother. They were visiting Erik's sister in Nebraska when his mother became quite ill and required constant care. He helped to nurse her in Nebraska for almost a year until her death.

To go back in history, when 25-year cemetery president Ellen Palen died in 1927, Fairview was called "*the Most Beautiful God's Acre in New Mexico.*" When our Association started helping Santa Fe County with money and work in 1981, it again became a beautiful, green, serene place. The drought's encroachment became severe before President Brad Thomas' death, and about the same time we got hit with the \$35,000 water bill (for two years we had begged them for an accounting). The Board realized we could no longer afford to water four acres of grass. We were the only active cemetery in Santa Fe without a well, and our efforts to dig one were thwarted by several misguided members of the Board.

By the time Erik took over, most of the trees were dead or dying. It is now a sad and mournful place. Erik knew exactly what he was getting into but felt he could weather the storm. He continues to send me the emails that are sent to board members. To give you an idea of his worry, despair, humor and an occasional good report, the following are quotes from some of those emails.

"There's the bad news, the bad news, and one item of rather good news that I'll mention first. The First National Bank Trust is completely ours! It has taken lots of work by Tom Catron, many meetings, telephone calls and signatures, but completion of the transfer of the securities should be finished next week. [Note from Marian: We started

working toward this the day we started the organization in 1981—it took Erik to accomplish it]

*"The bad news. 1. Prairie dogs. They are completely **destroying** the cemetery—no other word fits. 2. Dead Trees. The ones covered by the contract are still not all gone. 3. Tree Suckers. I plan to hire a couple of migrant workers to dig up hundreds of sucker locust trees that are growing everywhere."* [This was done]

Later – *"Our 'removers' did nothing this past week. I'm giving them the rest of the month and then we'll consider eradication...I'm at my wit's end. I'm meeting at the cemetery Monday with someone who wants to buy two lots, but I've felt it necessary to warn him how bad the cemetery looks....I think the only way I'm going to get through this is to start drinking heavily...."*

This is a microcosm of the problems Erik has faced from the beginning. **Please** realize that no one could have dealt with everything more squarely. He has gotten a great deal of flak because of the condition of the cemetery. If I had not had the stroke, I would be right there with him on the wrong end of the firing line. **Our donations are down badly.** This is an impassioned plea from one who invested 24 years in Fairview—PLEASE HAVE FAITH. We have over 30 beautiful young trees which are a thriving beacon for the future. I hope someday, God willing, we can have green grass again and our historic old cemetery will once again be beautiful. Thank you.

Marian Meyer



Contributions Since April Newsletter

Lois W. Burns in memory of Dr. Dudley B. Williams and Vesta Maran Williams.

Karen Mason Hilgenkamp, Erik Mason, Sharon VanderSys Mason, Pamela VanderSys

Adams, Rick VanderSys, Ila Hewitt, Frank Thomas, and Charles & Lessie Larson for trees in memory of Ethyl VanderSys.

Wilmer F. Easley for tree removal in memory of Charles Franklin and Anna McBroom Easley.

Mrs. William G.T. Hyer & the Hyer Family in honor of Corinne Sze and the historical designation of the cemetery.

Naomi Groff in memory of Asa Blaine and Dorothy Gnagey.

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Brown in memory of Dr. and Mrs. W.H. Livingston.

Marc Simmons in honor of Marian Meyer.

Anonymous, for removal of dead trees.

George D. Bayless

Albert H. Clancy

Ann Littleton

Vera Miller

Paula Odor

Mr & Mrs Abe Silver

Christine G. Simpson

Conchita Lopez

Richard G. & Judi Littleton

Mrs. Venus Stafford

Wesley F. Swope

Martha L. Maxwell

Maria E. Naranjo

Thomas B. Catron III

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.

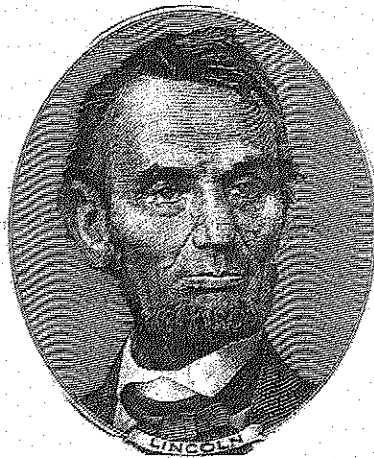
IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION:

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



**PICTURES
OF OUR
PRESIDENTS
BADLY
NEEDED!!!**

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