Greetings from the President

I hope this letter finds you and your family well.

We had a great year, with a fun time at the Vera Chandler Home for our Annual Meeting, followed by a tour of the well groomed cemetery.

The great year is due to the hand work of several of our members. I would especially like to thank Larry & Hazel, Don Holdway, Jean & Doug Rayl, Elaine Mott, and others for their help in making the cemetery what it is at this time. We will try to make more improvements next year.

We hope to see you all at our 2007 Annual Meeting.

God Bless You,

Robb

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Work Log Starting June 6, 2006

Phase Two. The brush killer does work. We used Kilz-all a product we purchased from Race Brothers. 2-1/2 gallons of concentrate makes about 150 gallons of spray. After Don’s first spray test, it shows that it works. We have discussed different ways to fill the fallen in grave sites.

Next we discussed how to proceed with the filling of the sunken graves.

1. Use spray on the whole grounds
2. Spray only the sunken graves.
3. Then take a weed burner and burn each sunken grave site.
4. Then we will need to probe each site for broken, fallen and covered head stones.
5. Next will be to put up a marker for each grave site. Betty has donated several steel posts. The markers won’t have to be that long. We could probably cut them in half and leave them above ground 3 feet.
6. After the markers are set we can start filling in the sunken grave sites.

10. June 6, 2006, Larry & Hazel met Don Holdway at 9:00 A.M. and tried burning some gravesites. It does work but will be slow and costly. Don has a Propane weed burner. It was also wet after about a 1/4 inch of rain during the night and again at about 8:00 a.m. Don sprayed some more grave sites. If we can get the undergrowth killed then it might burn easier. This is going to be expensive to do the burning.

11. Don and Larry were able to upright two stones, with the use of the tractor and front loader, that had been overturned by vandals or cattle that run through the cemetery for years.

First was the big stone of William Jefferys and the other was the stone that was upside down in the middle of the grave that is just south of the William Jefferys stone. It was Joseph Jefferys. It fits the base at the head of this grave, but there is another base 30-40 feet east that has Jefferys on the base and is also square. This is probably where this stone belongs. There could possibly be a sunken spot on the east side of this ditch. It is about the size of two graves.

Don left at 12:00 noon and Larry and Hazel left about 3:00 P.M.

12. June 8, 2006, Wednesday, while I was at Carpenter Saw Shop I visited with Walter about the job we were doing at the Cemetery. He showed me a used Swisher walk behind mower. He told me to take it and use it and see if it would work. I took the mower to the cemetery and used it for about 1-1/2 hours, 1 tank full of gasoline. I think this is the answer. It will get close to the ground and I found 2-foot stones in the bottom of one of the sunken graves. I did about 35 graves. I purchased the used mower.

13. June 11, 2006, Hazel and Larry went to the cemetery and worked from 2:30 to 5:30 P.M. using the string mower. We found several rocks that were in a line that had been used as head stones. The string mower seems to do the best job of getting down to the ground and cleaning the vine away so we can see the stones.

14. June 12, 2006, Monday, After talking to several on the board we contacted Phillip Landreth to bring his backhoe and do some work in the cemetery. Of course he had to widen the present chip path to get his machine into the cemetery. He cleaned on the outside so we can put in our new gates. He cleaned inside the new gate area back to the north so we can move the Campground sign to the southwest location. (9:15 A.M. to 11:45 A.M.) He moved some more brush inside the cemetery. He moved the big tree that was down in the north end of the cemetery. We also stood the McMurry stone up and put it back on its base. Phillip charged $75.00 per hour and worked 2-1/2 hours for $187.50. This is the cheapest money we have spent. We mowed some more and found a few more stones under the vine cover. Hazel & I worked from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

15. June 13, 2006, Tuesday. Hazel & I went back and took the tractor so we could smooth up where the backhoe had worked. We also hauled several loads of limbs and sticks. We reset the Joseph Jefferys stone on the base that has Jefferys on the bottom. Time 12:30 to 3:00 P.M.

16. I had an e-mail from Clarence about a lady that lives the first house east on the south side of the Valley Water mill road. She is interested in the Freeman family.

17. June 14, 2006, Wednesday. Larry & Hazel went out at about 5:45 p.m. and worked until about 8:00 P.M. Used string mower down around the George Gimlin graves. They’re probably more than 30 sunken graves in the area.

18. June 20, 2006, Tuesday. Larry & Hazel went out at 7:00 A.M. Larry used the string mower and Hazel worked at raking leaves out of some
of the graves. Also found some more field rocks that appear to be head stones. Mowed around the Freeman plots. Left at about 10:30 a.m.

19. June 21, 2006, Wednesday. Larry & Hazel went out at 7:00 A.M. We cleaned brush on the tractor path. We left at 11:30 A.M. We also need some chainsaw time on the east fence line and down the east ditch.

20. Jean has done some calling on Tombstone markers for the graves. She told me to contact Jim Atwell at the Riteway Concrete Products. 869-1441. I called him and told him what we had in mind and where they were to be used. He told me he knew all about the Union Campground Cemetery. Bernie Stiver is his father-in-law. He said he would donate some concrete markers. He said that a 100 wouldn't be a problem. We have to pick them up and set them. He wanted me to come by his business and he would show what he had in mind and for us to bring a print of what we wanted to do.

21. Jean reported that Wommack Monument had some stones that they usually sell for 199.00 and would let us have them for 100.00 each.

22. A Board Meeting was held on Sunday afternoon, June 25 at 3:00 P.M. at the Union Campground. Those present Jean Rayl, Elaine Mott, Clarence Stiver, Betty Jane Turner, Robb Chandler, Don & Dorothy Holdway and Larry & Hazel Voris. Tour of the cemetery and discussions about the different stones. Minutes were taken by Secy Elaine Mott.

23. Monday, June 26, 2006, Larry and Hazel went out at about 2:00 P.M. and used the chainsaw and rake. We worked until about 5:00 P.M.

24. Thursday, June 29, 2006, Larry & Hazel went out at about 1:30 P.M. with the tractor and pushed brush down to the north pile. Darrell Carter came and helped for about 2.0 hours. Darrell said he could burn the larger trees. I loaded them on his trailer. I cleaned all the trees that had been cut last week. I also worked on the west side some cleaning the already cut brush and moved it down to the north pile. As close as the west fence is to the ditch we thought we ought to clean this ditch and move all the brush down to the north end. This way we won't have a brush pile at the gate where we come in. I started working on this.

25. Darrell Carter mentioned that we might get some people from the court system that have to do community services. They did this at the Fair Grove Mill and it seemed to work.

26. Larry went out on Friday, July 7, 2006 and worked from 2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. using the string mower. This was the last work preformed until September.

27. Larry went out on Friday, Sep. 1, 2006, and sprayed the cemetery. I ran out of water and only used 45 gallons of mix. I had planned on having 60 gallons of mix. Ran out of time. The mixture I used on this spraying was 1-quart of Kilz-all to 15 gallons of water. I didn't spray anything on the west side of the road. Time spent 2:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.

Observation: Where I had used the string mower, the undergrowth was still down. The south end and extreme north end I had not mowed. The small sprouts were starting to grow again. Several limbs had fallen and need to be picked up again.

28. September 25, 2006, Larry & Hazel went out with the tractor and loader and moved brush from the Ditch at the south gate entrance. Worked from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. It will probably need another 4 hours to complete the clean up.

29. October 3, 2006, Larry & Hazel went out at 9:00 A.M. with tractor and loader and moved more brush from the west side of the road down to the north brush pile. We worked until 1:00 P.M. Most of the cleanup is complete. There are still some dead trees that need to be removed. This all comes to light when we can get in and see everything. There is still some small brush that needs to be picked up on the west side.

30. Just south of the Biddell graves Hazel observed some rose bushes that are planted in a pattern.

This has been a little lengthy, but only trying to keep you all updated on the cleaning progress.

Now would be a good time to take a walk down to the cemetery and look around. You might see some deer or turkeys. We have seen both this fall.

I would like to add telephone numbers to the officers and directors and anyone else that would like to be included.

Phone Numbers are All “417”

Rob Chandler 833-4501
Bettie Hickman 881-5424
Jean Rayl 881-4456
Elaine Mott 886-1296
Larry Voris 881-1587
Pansey Harvey 883-2023
Clarence Stiver 833-1419
Betty Jane Turner 862-6293
Joanna Coonrod 881-2501
Don Holdway 833-9684
Molly Faulkner 833-4503
Douglas Rayl 742-4967
Bernie Stiver 833-1044
Hazel Voris 881-1587
Vera Chandler 833-4503

A Moment in History

The Gollnick Family

During the early years of researching Union Campground Cemetery, a mystery surrounded a concrete enclosure in the southeast portion of the cemetery. It resembled a foundation for a building, although upon close inspection, it was determined the walls could not support any kind of structure. Was the purpose to enclose burials? If so, where was the entrance? No headstones or footstones were visible. Photographs were taken and then research continued in other sections of the graveyard.

Sometime later, while talking with Vera Chandler, a descendant of Fannie Sims, she mentioned that a teenage Gollnick girl by the name of Leona was buried in Union Campground Cemetery. Not to long after conversation, Beatrice Taylor, a descendant of W.W. & Elmira Jeffries, said that another daughter named Beulah was also buried in the cemetery.

Interest returned in the concrete enclosure. A little sleuthing turned up these facts:

E.M. Gollnick operated the Spring Valley Stock Farm situated to the north and east of Union Campground. It was a large operation involving some 286 plus acres. He purchased the farm
around 1897 and sold it in 1917. While operating the dairy farm, he built a large concrete barn and to concrete silos along with a concrete foundation to enclose the graves of his children. It is reported that he and his wife lost three children during the time they lived on the farm.

The Greene County, Missouri census of 1910 lists the following:

E.M. Gollmick age 44 born in Germany. Wife Annie age 38, married 19 years. She has had 10 children and 9 are still living. Leo, son age 18 born in Minnesota; Leonie, dau age 16 born in Minnesota; Lenard, son 14 born in Missouri; Buela, dau 12 born in Missouri; Blanche, dau 9 born in Missouri; Teddy, son age 7 born in Missouri; Mary, Dau age 5 born in Missouri; Lottie, dau age 4 born in Missouri; Eugene, son age 9/12 born in Missouri. A one year old son that died 4 Oct. 1900 would fit between the 12 and 9 year old.

The daughter named Beulah was born in Missouri and her birth year is c1894. The Greene County, Missouri census of 1910 lists the following:

A Gollmick infant died 4 Oct. 1900. The Springfield, MO Republican 5 Oct. 1900: "The one year old child of E.M. Gollmick died yesterday of inflammation of the bowels at the home of his parents, five miles northeast of Springfield, and will be buried in the neighborhood this morning."

The Gollmick family left Missouri in 1917. They became successful fruit farmers in the State of Florida, and would often return to Missouri to visit old acquaintances.

Prepared by: Jean Rayl

Headstones
Cleaning and Maintenance
This article taken from the Higginbotham Newsletter. May 01, 2006.

Until approx. 1930, monuments were often made of White Marble, sometimes of Limestone and sometimes a rock or concrete used. After 1930, most monuments have been made of Granite, a composite that appears to handle changing weather patterns a bit better. However, no matter what it is made of, weather takes it's toll. "Lichen" is one of the biggest problems, especially on granite but Marble tends to have an additional problem, it becomes somewhat grainy (like sand) on the surface from freezing and thawing over the years. The surface begins to feel more like Sandstone than Marble. The lettering also deteriorates, eventually to the point of not being able to read the inscriptions. One way to handle such a situation is to have the stone turned around to a side that has no inscription and have that side engraved. Another area of concern is that sometimes stones tend to sink into the ground and footings have to be replaced. In that instance a concrete skirting is usually placed around it to aid in keeping it from "sinking" again.

The Higginbotham Group consulted with two Monument Companies (Festus Monument Company in Imperial, MO and Wommack Monument Co in Bolivar, MO) regarding how to safely clean the stones. The following are some of the "recipes" and cautions they were given.

Marble or Limestone
One quart of bleach to one gallon of water. (Ratio: One to Four). Then rinse with clear water and dry the stone.
Granite
Two quarts of beach to two quarts of water. (Ratio: one to one). Then rinse stone with clear water and dry.
Cautions:
1. When using bleach water never use a brush with colored bristles as the color will leach into the stone and stain it. Unfortunately, white bristle brushes are extremely hard to find. However, bleach does kill lichen.
2. Never use anything like Thompson's Water Seal on the stones, it will cause black spots to appear on the stone, this is particularly true on granite.
3. When using artificial flowers that have hangers that can be bent onto the stone itself (usually on upright stones) be aware that even if the wire is coated, it will rust and stain the stone.
4. Some monument companies offer power washing. While this can be done, it is not recommended for Marble stones. If you contract with a company to do this, be certain they are using the widest spray setting their equipment has. It is recommended to use either a mild soapy water and brush or clear water and a brush. This requires a lot of elbow grease but works and does not harm the stone. Other items that can be used in removing lichen from headstones are wooden tooth picks and plastic ice scrapers. Tooth picks are good to use on lettering. A picket knife with small sharp blade can be used but with caution, it can scratch the stone. Whether you are cleaning a stone or trying to obtain the inscription on a stone, the hardness of the material the stone is made of is of importance.

In general terms, Granite is considered to be a hardness of 7.0, Marble 3.0 and Sandstone is approx. 6.5 in hardness. This is why it is recommended to stick with water and a bristle brush rather than using other chemicals or other types of brushes.

Another method of reading the weather worn stones is to use shaving -continued on page 4-
4. Wipe the excess cream off with a squeegee.
5. Read and/or photograph the stone.
6. Rinse the stone with water when finished.

You will only have approx. 5 minutes to take down the information.

The 2007 Annual Meeting will be on June 2, 2007, which is the first Saturday in June. This is a little early to be talking about the meeting, but you all need to be present. There are lots of exciting things going on with the cleaning and restoring of the cemetery. By this time next year we would like to have the sunken graves filled and started on setting head stones for the unmarked graves.

This may be the biggest job of the whole restoration project.

The 2006 annual meeting was probably the smallest group since the starting of the annual get together. Don Holdway used his golf cart to shuttle people down into the cemetery for a tour. I’m sure this can be arranged next year too. Thanks