From the President:

It certainly seems odd that six months have already come and gone since our annual meeting at Vera Chandler’s home. It was great to see several of you then, and I hope several of you are able to join us at our December meeting at Panera Bread (adjacent to the Library Station on N Kansas). We plan to eat at 5:30pm, and have the meeting immediately following at 6pm in the restaurant’s meeting room. (If you don’t want to eat, just come and visit with us...)

Larry and Hazel (and perhaps others that I am unaware of, please excuse me if that is the case) have done several more hours of volunteer work in the cemetery. The efforts of many over this past year have made it possible to use a riding mower in most of the cemetery. The project of placement of stones for the unknown / unmarked graves and the filling of the graves (once marked) continues to be a top priority of our group. Doug Rayl is leading a project regarding the upgrade of our website, and it’s further upkeep. The work on the trail that was done last year has continued to be good at this time, but we will have several limbs and dead trees to deal with in the near future. (We have done some burning already, but there will need to be more done in the near future.)

As usual, we can always use more volunteers, and more members. If you know of anyone with an interest in our cause, perhaps family or friends, please direct them our way.

Please let us know if you are aware of anyone interested in a visit to the cemetery. We will do all we can to accommodate any request and make it as comfortable an experience as possible. Again, I hope to see several of you at the Fall meeting on December 3rd. If not, have a great holiday season (Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years). We will be looking forward to a chance to see you at our next annual meeting, in June of 2011.

Take care, and God bless you,
Robb Chandler

A Moment in History
Ida Johnson
B: 18 Jul 1891 D: 4 Aug 1911

The tombstone for Ida Johnson is easily read and is in fairly good condition, although it has a crack across above her name. At the bottom of the stone are the words “At Rest”.

Death Certificate #26072 gives her mother’s name as Nettie ** Looney, Polk County, Missouri and her father’s name as Ed Johnson, Greene County Missouri.

Ida was listed as female, single, colored, and housework as her occupation.

Dr. Sumner of Strafford, Mo was the attending physician and certified cause of death as “pulmonary tuberculosis following measles”. Death certificate also verifies burial in Union Campground Cemetery.

On the death certificate, date of death is 4 Aug 1912: however, on her tombstone the inscription reads 4 Aug 1911. Her date of birth also differs: on the certificate it is recorded 18 Jul 1892 but on the tombstone the lettering has 18 Jul 1891.

A tombstone for her father is nearby; no stone can be found for her mother.

Jean Gaffga Rayl

**Note: In the 1900 census of Greene Co. MO. In the household of Edward Johnson and wife Nellie (not Nettie) and listed is 2 daughters, Ida & Ollie.
Cemetery Location:
US Hwy 65 North of I-44 at Valley Water Mill Road, Springfield, MO.

Address all inquiries to:
Robb Chandler, President
Union Campground Cemetery Assn.
4875 E. Cimarron Lane
Springfield, MO 65803
417-833-4501

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Jean Rayl 881-4456
Elaine Mott 886-1296
Larry Voris 881-1587
Pansy Harvey 833-2023
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Betty Jane Turner 862-6293
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Cemetery Log for 2010
This was a busy year for us. I did get the cemetery sprayed in early May. On October 19 & 20, Hazel & I went to the cemetery. We mowed and picked up sticks and trash. I was able to mow the cemetery with a riding mower. It was rough in places that need to be filled. The design of the mower I use has several rollers on the underneath side that prevents scalping when going across the sunken graves. We spent about 6 hours each and I need another hour to finish the mowing. We need to use the chainsaw for a couple of hours too and we need to burn the brush in the pitt to finish off the year. Give me a call if you can help. Larry

Did You Know
The first mule-driven streetcars made their appearance in Springfield, MO during the year 1881? They traveled from the public square to Commercial Street and the Frisco Depot. Electric trolleys replaced the mule driven cars in 1887. They were in continuous use until phased out in 1937. Jean Gaffga Rayl

Andrew Vanzyll our webmaster called Doug and asked if he could camp out at the cemetery some time. Doug and I told him that would be fine as long as he picked up sticks and brush for his camp fire. He was there a couple of days and on Thursday night Oct 28 a couple of his friends came out late and told him it was going to get down to about 25 degrees that night. He said he turned chicken and went home. Thanks to Andrew for his work.

Web Site
unioncampgroundcemetery.org

Doug and Andrew are working on updating the web site. Bettie, Hazel, Doug and Jean got together and made corrections to the data listed in the cemetery book. Doug will now make the corrections on the website.
The Rope Bed

Early arrivals deciding to homestead on the Kickapoo Prairie in Greene County, Missouri, had to quickly set to work providing shelter for growing families. Very simple one-room log cabins were erected containing a minimum of furniture. A table with perhaps a chair or two to use at mealtimes plus rustic, handmade beds. The beds usually had low, wooden frames, long enough and the wide enough to be accessible. Since most ceilings were rather low, the bed posts were short. These beds had lacings or ropes to hold a mattress in place. The term "mattress" in ca 1829/1830s meant a fabric called "ticking" stuffed with straw or cornhusks.

The rope was woven between the bed rails on a series of turned knobs (see sketch below).

Sketch copied from The Gray/Campbell Farmstead News June 2007 containing an article by Phyllis T. Ballinger; also printed in the April 1975 issue of Spinning Wheel magazine.

The rope had to be tightened periodically. This chore was usually done by older boys in the household. A handmade bed key was used. They worked on opposite sides of the bed frame, using the bed key to tighten the ropes around the knobs, and when the job was finished, the ropes were taut and made sleeping more comfortable. If the ropes became slack, occupants would tend to sink into the middle of the straw mattress. (rope beds are on display locally at the Gray/Campbell Farmstead at Nathaniel Greene Park, Springfield, MO.)

About 1860, slats became popular to support a mattress, although lacings continued to be used as late as 1909.

Beds with pegs and beds with holes in the rails were roped in basically the same way.

Note: Some Shaker communities still manufacture rope beds.

Prepared by:
Jean Gaffga Rayl

IN MEMORIUM
Herley Arthel Bedell, Jr.
B: 5 Apr 1928  D: 25 Aug 2010
Herley was born in Springfield, Missouri to Herley Arthel Bedell, Sr. and his wife, Gertrude "Lorene" Wilks Bedell. He was a member of Pitts Chapel United Methodist Church. For 38 years he worked for the Colonial Bread Company, Springfield, Missouri, and retired 1 Jun 1990.
He is survived by his wife, Velma, and five children, and a host of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held 31 Aug 2010 in Gorman Scharpf Brentwood Chapel, Springfield, Missouri, with burial in Hazelwood Cemetery, Springfield, Missouri.

Herley and Velma had visited Union Campground Cemetery some years ago and looked at the Bedell tombstones. They confirmed the fact that the burials were those of Herley’s ancestors.

Our sympathy is extended to the Bedell Family.

Directions to get into the Cemetery
The Union Campground Cemetery is located 500 ft north of Valley Water Mill Road at the northeast corner of U.S. Highway 65 and Valley Water Mill Road. If you follow Highway 65 North from Springfield and go past (over) I-44, you need to take the first exit which is Valley Water Mill Road. You need to turn right and turn around, then you can park on the north side of Valley Water Mill Road headed west. Walk west down the ditch on the north side of Valley Water Mill Road. You will come to a cable across the path. You then follow the path down the hill (North) and up to the Southwest corner to enter the cemetery.

The Missouri State Highway Department says that it to dangerous to park along side of US 65. US 65 is now a 4-lane highway to Fair Grove and they are working on the next section which will take us to Foose or Hwy EE south of Buffalo.

DO NOT ENTER OFF HWY 65
Pumpkin History

Native American Indians used pumpkins as a staple in their diets centuries before the pilgrims landed. They also dried strips of pumpkin and wove them into mats. Indians would also roast long strips of pumpkin on the open fire and eat them. When white settlers arrived, they saw the pumpkins grown by the Indians and pumpkin soon became a staple in their diets. Early settlers used them in a wide variety of recipes from deserts to stews and soups. The origin of pumpkin pie is thought to have occurred when the colonists sliced off the pumpkin top, removed the seeds, and then filled it with milk spices and honey. The pumpkin was then baked in the hot ashes of a dying fire.

Pumpkins are hard to grow because of the diseases, insects, root rot, poor pollination, over crowding of plants, prolonged periods of cold cloudy, rainy or dry weather and poor crops. Pumpkin plants grow a lot of flowers throughout the life of the plant. However, about 2 pumpkins per vine is all that can be expected to grow. All plants produce separate male and female flowers on the same plant for natural pollination. Pumpkins were also use as decorations for the fall holidays with Jack-O-Lanterns being at the top of the list. There is also quite a story about when and where the Jack-o-Lanterns started.

A few facts about the Pumpkin:

- The Pumpkin is a member of the squash family.
- They are healthy containing potassium and vitamin A & fiber.
- Pumpkin flowers are edible
- Pumpkins are about 90% water.
- Pumpkins were once recommended for removing freckles and curing snake bites.
- Native Americans used pumpkin seeds for food and medicine
  (Source for information is the internet History Channel.)

Editors Note: We had a good pumpkin crop this year and I have been having pumpkin cookies, pumpkin bars, pumpkin bread and yes some pumpkin soup. There is a pumpkin cheese cake in the refrigerator right now and Hazel won't let me cut it. I know it must be healthy because it is heavy.

Moist Pumpkin Bread

2/3 cup shortening
2 cups sugar
4 eggs
2 cups mashed pumpkin
2/3 cup water
3 1/3 cups all purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
3/4 teaspoons salt
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon cloves
2/3 cup pecan/walnuts, chopped
2/3 cup raisins

Cream shortening, gradually add sugar, beating well at medium speed of an electric mixer. Add eggs, one at a time, beating after each addition. Stir in pumpkin and water. Combine flour, and next 5 ingredients; add to creamed mixture, mixing well. Fold in pecans and raisins. Spoon into 2 greased and floured loaf pans. Bake at 350 for 1 hour or until done. Cool. This will make 2 loaves.