Work in Progress
It has been a slow year for work at the cemetery. I did spray a couple of times and this seems to help keep the weeds down and some of the unwanted under growth and with less grass. I haven’t noticed any washing of the soil after heavy rains.
We had a burn leaves day Nov 3 and got a lot of work done. Michael a neighbor fellow helped us. Hazel and I went out about 10:30 and started with the leaf blower and started making rows and burning. The leaves were dry and things went well. Michael came about noon and took over the leaf blower. We only had one little hic-up that day. Just North of the burn pit there was a dead tree that had been cut off about 15 foot up. A spark blew over and somewhere on the tail stump it caught on fire. I had already made contact with the Strafford Fire Department and we were legal as far as our burn permit was concerned. But I hadn’t planned on burning any dead trees. Hazel asked me if there was supposed to be smoke coming out the top of that dead tree. I called them and told them the situation. I said you don’t need to send a truck with the horn and sirens blowing. They showed up in about 30 minutes and actually got a 3/4 ton pickup down into the cemetery. They decided to let it burn and they would check back at about 3:30 PM. I also had a call from 911 asking if everything was under control. They had had several calls about smoke in the area.
Doug came a little after 3:00 PM and helped and I was ready for him.
Hazel & I went back out on Friday afternoon to check things after the rain. The tree was gone and there was a hole where the stump was. I put my hand down in the hole and it was still hot.

Leaf Blower
I may have mentioned this before but will say it again. I believe the leaf blower is the best thing that we have come up with to clean the ground.

You can actually see the ground. Now we can tell where the ground has been disturbed and can better tell if there was a grave in a certain spot. Leaves are a big problem for us. Raking by hand is a lot of work.
A year ago I went to Race Bros and told Butch what I wanted to do. He called his warehouse man and told him to bring him a new leaf blower with gas in it. He sat it down and Butch said, there it is, go try it. I did and it worked. I went back and paid him. He just grinned and said, “I haven’t lost one yet”.

What I would like to do Next
Professor Billie Follensbee from MSU has had her class out and helped repair broken grave head stones. This is her second session in the graveyard. She said she will be teaching the same class again in fall of 2015.
We already have the grid markers in place in the graveyard. They are in 50 foot square lots. With help I would like to blow the ground clean and inspect and measure where we think graves are located in each lot. We have markers we could set at the head of the graves. Bettie & Hazel did a grave dousing a few years ago. We put flags where we thought a grave was located. Most of the flags didn’t last the winter. I have used wooden stakes and after the burning some of them disappeared. The next thing I have thought of is using a rebar metal marker for a temporary marker until we can set a concrete stone.
This may not be the proper etiquette for restoring a cemetery. Some say leave the stones laying flat on the ground. But, we have different problem. We have a 100 trees that shed about 6 inches of leaves each year. The field stones and flat rocks get lost. You can’t mow with a hidden stone on top of the ground covered with leaves and grass. I would appreciate your thoughts. Larry
OFFICERS 2013-2014
Robb Chandler, President 2015
Bettie Hickman, 1st V-Pres 2015
Jean Rayl, 2nd V-Pres 2015
Elaine Mott, Secretary 2015
Larry Voris, Corresponding Sec’y 2015
Doug Rayl, Treasurer 2015

Linda Appleby 2015
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Don Harvey 2015
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Hazel Voris 2016
Jackie Warfel 2016
Jackie Warfel 2016
Clarence Stiver 2017
Betty Jane Turner 2017
Ben Gravely 2017
Jean Rayl 2017

Josh Dilsaver, Webmaster
www.unioncampgroundcemetery.org

Cemetery Location:
US Hwy 65 North of I-44 at Valley Water Mill Road, Springfield, MO.

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

Member Information
Phone numbers are all “417”
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Bettie Hickman 881-5424
Jean Rayl 881-4456
Elaine Mott 886-1296
Larry Voris 840-4418
Pansy Harvey 350-8089
Clarence Stiver 833-1419
Betty Jane Turner 234-4584
Joanna Coonrod 881-2501
Don Holdway 838-3080
Molly Faulkner 833-4503
Doug Rayl 830-2371
Jackie Warfel 742-3848
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Jim Appleby: jleappleby@msn.com

Dues will be payable at the meeting or mail a check to:
Doug Rayl, Treasurer
Union Campground Cemetery Assn
252 Hightower Street
Nixa, MO 65714

Your support will help pay for the newsletter.

Pansy Harvey, retires as treasurer. She has been faithful in the handling of our financial needs for several years. A big THANKS to Pansy.

An Apology
In last spring’s newsletter, a photograph of an old time spring house was included. Credit should have been given to “Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield” for permitting us to use a photograph from their files. We sincerely regret this omission.

Beginning Balance: (Nov. 15, 2013) $3911.87
Deposits:
Dues $295.00
Donations: $80.00
Fantastic Caverns Sign $350.00

TOTAL DEPOSITS: $725.00

DISBURSEMENTS:
Josh Dilsaver web site $10.00
Safe Deposit Box $30.00
Burn day Labor $40.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: $80.00

NEW BALANCE: $4556.87

Report of Treasurer 11-15-2014
Doug Rayl

Mary Sage Stone repaired
IN MEMORIUM
Charles Lynn Coonrod
B: Nov. 21, 1929
D: July 28, 2014
Charles was a member of the Union Campground Cemetery Association. He, along with his wife, Joanna, faithfully attended our annual meetings until his health began to fail. Throughout his retirement years he enjoyed working around the house, traveling and fishing in the nearby lakes.
He is survived by his wife, Joanna Appleby Coonrod (married 61 years), two sons, David and Tim; and a brother, Jim. His church affiliation was with the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Springfield, MO.
Visitation at Gorman-Scharpf Funeral Home, Springfield, MO. Was held at 5:00 P.M. on Monday, August 4, 2014. A celebration of life memorial followed at 6:00 P.M.”
We will miss Charles and his friendly, warm smile.

Editors stories:
Back in the late 1960’s Charles & Joanna and Hazel & I were members of the “James River Roamers Camping Club”. We were camped at the Compton Ridge Campground where the Sims’ who owned the campground were also members of the camping club. Dean Sims came around and told us guys to start a fire under a big cast iron kettle like the one we used to render lard in. We got the fire started and Charles came around and poured some cooking oil in kettle to fry the fish that he had caught that morning. Yes he had enough to feed us all. He came around later and threw a kitchen match in on top of the oil and told us when the match lit it would be time to start cooking. We had lots of fish and they were good. The same night along about 9:00 P.M. we had an unwanted visitor. Now it hadn’t been 30 minutes since Dean had told us not to leave any food or trash around on the ground. Well Mr. Skunk just trotted right between

A MOMENT IN HISTORY
The Life of R. Campbell
B: ______________________
D: 27 Aug 1909, 21 days old.

Lawn chairs where we were sitting and started nosing around. Charles and Mr. Sims told us to be quite and not to disturb Mr. Skunk. Yes, he dug around in a sack of trash and made a mess and all we could was watch. After about 15 minutes the Skunk moved on. They told us that at about 9:00 P.M. every night the skunks would appear looking for food. Lesson well learned. We camped for about 30 years after that and we would occasionally have a visitor. You didn’t want 2 or more showing up at the same time. They would have a little spat now and then, but we never did get sprayed.
Charles was a lineman for the Springfield City Utilities for several years. In later years when David was Greene County Commissioner, they would move a big camper in and sit up a tent and booth to welcome the residents of Greene Co. so they could stop and visit. Charles spent a lot of time manning the booth.

Web Site Updates
Jean is still finding new information for the Union Campground Cemetery. She has added some new information to the burial listings on the web site.

Robert L. Piper stone repair

Rebecca Roper grave site

This is what I was talking a about on the lot markers. Can’t keep paint on them. Someone mentioned painting and then putting a sealer coat on top.
This will be another project. It is part of the Freeman lot. I think all the parts are here for both graves. They need to be cleaned and moved around and re-set. This will require some lifting equipment and hand labor. This is the smaller of the 2 plots.

Jane C Caldwell
This stone is in the middle of the cemetery. The MSU class has it glued back together. There is a base for the stone to sit on. Next spring hopefully we can get the base repaired, cleaned, re-leveled and re-set the stone. It is about 36' tall. It will be a project.

John A. M. Freeman
You can see what the “D-2” cleaning solution has done to clean the grave stones.
Note: Pictures were all taken 11-7-2014 after the leaf burn.