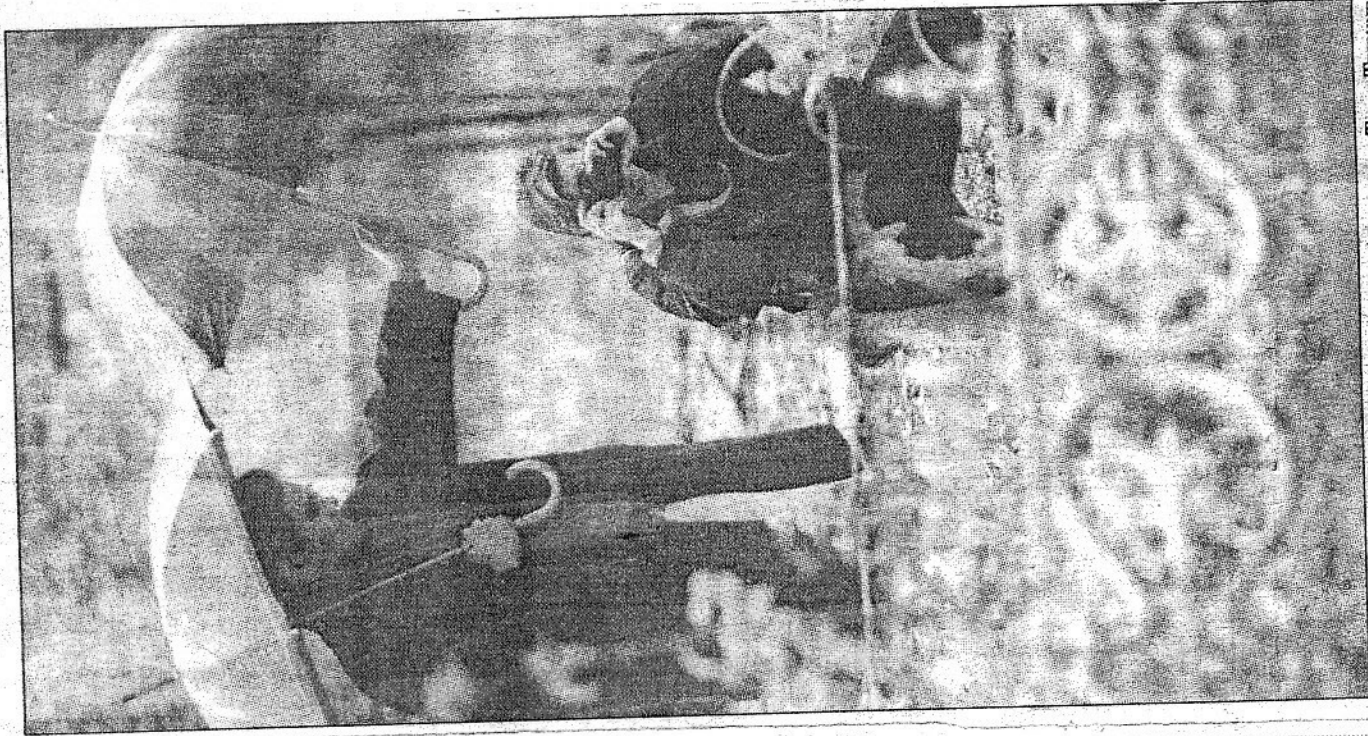
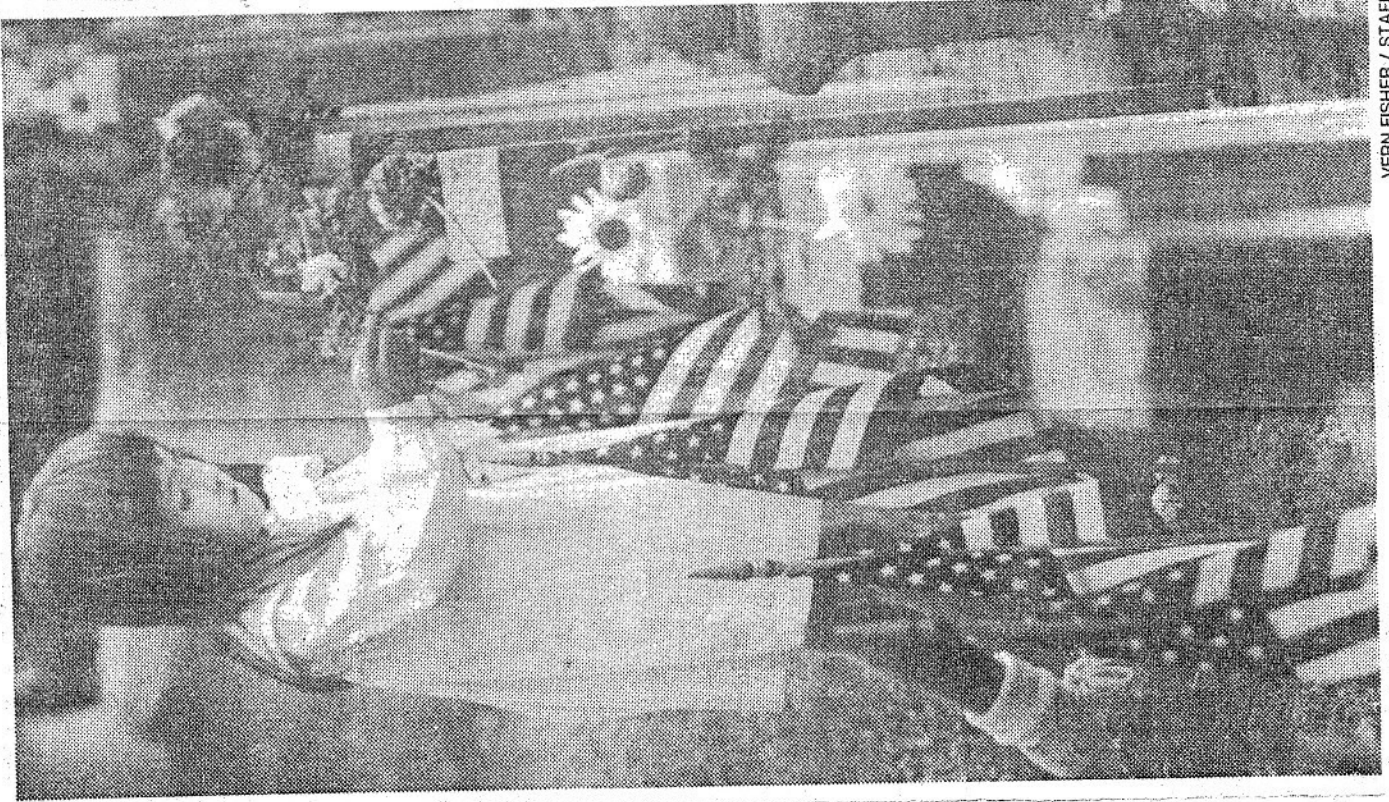


Redwood City Tribune
May 29, 1990



MOLLY McALLISTER / PENINSULA TIMES TRIBUNE

Rain can't stop homework, as Jennifer Mahoney (with camera) gets a hand from Manny Chagnalaf at Redwood City's Union Cemetery during her Notre Dame assignment.



VERN FISHER / STAFF

Eight-year-old Lottie Coulston of Redwood City places flowers on gravestones following ceremonies at Union Cemetery Sunday morning.

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HOLIDAY

Continued from A-1

loved ones. Some 135 flags donated by the families of veterans who have died blew in the wind in the cemetery's alleys.

Post 375 Finance Officer Ed Pittelkow has attended the Memorial Day ceremony for 15 years. "Once a year you really think about your fellow servicemen," Pittelkow said. "During Memorial Day it really hits you. I hope we won't have another war," he added after a pause. "No more dead, no more destruction."

In Redwood City, school children took an active part in the Memorial Day ceremony.

With their polished shoes covered with mud, students from Henry Ford School in Redwood City sang "America" and other patriotic songs and a few Roy Cloud School students from Redwood City recited Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Standing straight in front of the audience of about 250, Central Middle School student Chas Chesire of San Carlos played "Taps" to end the hour-long ceremony. Afterward, school children in Sunday clothes laid flowers on graves.

"It's heart-warming to see the youngsters here today," said Redwood City Mayor Georgi La Berge in her keynote address. "It's important for them to be here today in this historic place and learn about the past of Redwood City."

Girl Scouts Angela Edwards and Andrea Pierce listened intently to the mayor's words. They came to the cemetery, they said, "to think

about all the people that died in the war and tried to save America."

Thirteen organizations, including the Bonita Chapter of Native Daughters of the Golden West, the Redwood City School District, the American Legion Post 105 and the Redwood City Heritage Association, participated in the ceremony.

"It seems we have more people every year," said Park and Recreation Department Director Peter Griffiths.

Stephanie Lera came with her sister and children to listen to her daughter singing in the student chorus. "I'm so grateful she's in the chorus," she said. "It exposes her to a sense of patriotism. There is not a lot of that these days."

Holiday solemnly observed

VERONIQUE MISTIAEN / STAFF
REDWOOD CITY

After a weekend of heavy rain, the sun dried up the Peninsula Monday morning, allowing war veterans and residents to commemorate those who have died for the country.

The turnout was larger than usual at Memorial Day celebrations at the historic Union Cemetery in Redwood City and at the scenic Alta Mesa Cemetery in Palo Alto.

"This has been the best ceremony ever," said Palo Alto American Legion Post 375 Commander Leon Przybyla, concluding the 40-minute ceremony at Alta Mesa.

The audience of about 50 — mostly veterans and their families gathered under a canopy — listened with emotion as Veterans Affairs Hospital Chaplain De Laughter spoke about all the "boys who gave so much for their country." Some wept quietly during a taped rendition of "Taps" at the end of the ceremony.

Elsewhere in the cemetery, families laid flowers on the graves of

Please see HOLIDAY, A-8

Restoration for cemetery more likely

Sept. 19, 1990

HOLLY A. HEYSER / STAFF
REDWOOD CITY

To those resting at historic Union Cemetery, what goes on above doesn't mean much.

But advocates of the cemetery say a recent move by the City Council represents a significant step forward in restoring the heavily vandalized site and preserving its historic integrity.

The council allocated \$15,000 for developing a management plan for the cemetery — essentially a road map of its historic features and a guidebook on maintaining and restoring those features.

The plan could take six to eight months to complete, and the city currently has no money to act on

Please see CEMETERY, A-8



TIM BERGER / STAFF

Project Tombstone MAY 21 1991

Hoover School third-grader Carlos Rodriguez makes an image from a Union Cemetery tombstone in Redwood City as part of a class project in community awareness.

CEMETERY

SEP 19 1990

Continued from A-1

anything it might suggest doing. But proponents say it is still a crucial step.

"We're headed toward a good, scholarly, professional management plan," said Nita Spangler, a member of the city's Union Cemetery Historic Site Committee.

Spangler is one of the dedicated local residents who have been trying to transform the 130-year-old site from a playground for vandals into a respected

historic and recreational resource for the city.

Seven years ago, cemetery supporters secured a spot for Union Cemetery on the National Register of Historic Places. It is one of only five cemeteries in the state to have earned that distinction.

And three years ago, the city invested \$200,000 in fencing, lighting and other improvements designed to keep out vandals and mischief-makers.

The management plan is expected to guide the city through restoration and maintenance without costly errors. Something as simple as repairing a broken tombstone, for example, can cause more damage than it corrects if done wrong.

It also should give the city ample information to use when seeking grants for restoration projects.

Good graveyard restorers are hard to find

JAN 4 1991

ROSANNE SPECTOR / STAFF
REDWOOD CITY

The deadline for applying for the job of crafting a plan to preserve historic Union Cemetery is fast approaching, but so far the city has no takers. The application deadline is Jan. 18.

Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director Peter Griffiths has received three responses from contractors, all saying, "Thanks, but no thanks. We've got too much work already," said Griffiths. Department staff sent out job notices to the roughly 40 qualified historical archaeologists two weeks ago.

Applications might be slow coming in because of the recent holidays, said Griffiths. Simple procrastination also could be involved.

There also is the possibility that the contractors are in such high demand that none is free to take the job. Historical archaeologists are a highly specialized breed of contractor — only about 40 are approved by the state.

"A lot of people care about the cemetery," said Councilwoman Judy Buchan. "The plan will help us make sure there's some sort of concerted effort — we don't want people just working willy nilly."

The requests for applications went out following the City Council's decision last month to go ahead with the project. The city allocated \$15,000 to draw up the management plan and nothing to



Historic cemetery waits for someone to bring it back to life.

implement it. The city is counting on a volunteer force — to be organized by Griffiths — to help the archaeologist prepare the plan and to carry out its recommendations.

The final report will include a discussion of the cemetery's historical significance; a complete inventory of all monuments and crypts; suggestions for programs that will boost community use; and a work plan for needed preservation projects, such as fixing cracked gravestones and removing graffiti.

According to Nita Spangler, the city will be more attractive to granting agencies that give money for historical rehabilitations. Spangler is a member of an ad-hoc

Please see **HARD, B-3**

s committee that was formed several years ago to rehabilitate the cemetery.

s Griffiths is putting together a four- or five-member committee to review the applicants. The committee will consist of Griffiths, Councilwoman Buchan, Park and Recreation Commissioner Susan Swope and Thad Van Buren from the state office of Historical Archaeology. Griffiths said he might appoint one more member from the community at large.

r If all goes according to plan, work at the cemetery will begin

Redwood City Tribune
Jan. 4, 1991

within the month and should be concluded by the end of August.

If no applications come in before the deadline, the city will readvertise the position, Griffiths said, possibly expanding the pool to outside the state.

The city-owned cemetery, established in 1859, is one of the oldest cemeteries in the Bay Area. The graveyard, located at Woodside Road near the intersection of El Camino Real, is both a California Historic Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"A professional historical archaeologist will help figure out how to preserve the site, but still keep its air of venerability," Spangler said.

Old-fashioned cemetery cleanup will precede sophisticated

JAN 22 1992

Janet McGovern

PENNSIELLA TIMES TRIBUNE

A laser survey at Redwood City's Civil War-era Union Cemetery will be preceded this weekend by something quite old-fashioned — a cleanup day.

Volunteers are invited to prepare the cemetery for the study Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. under direction of the Redwood City Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department. Gravesites need to be swept and shrubs pruned so as many features as

possible are visible when an aerial photo is taken.

The Union Cemetery Historic Site is on Woodside Road, near El Camino Real. The city began a restoration plan after the property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

Union Cemetery was established early in 1859 by residents of the Redwood City area who had been denied use of a "squatter" burial ground.

Title to the cemetery changed twice before Redwood City became the owner in 1962, when the

Woodside Road overpass was built.

The first phase of the preservation plan included new fencing, water lines, lighting and a new entrance off Woodside Road. Landscape plans were deleted from the project due to the drought and lack of sufficient funds. However, the park division planted 220 trees in 1990 and is watering them with reclaimed water.

Brian Kangas Foulk & Associates of Redwood City is doing the survey, which involves an aerial photo of the 6-acre site. The photo

will provide an accurate scale map of the cemetery features, including gravestones, curbs and trees.

"We will want the aerial photo to include as many features as possible," said BKF's Tom Cave, who is directing the survey.

With a map in hand, an archaeological consultant with expertise on graveyard studies will work with volunteers to gather information from the field survey, the Union Cemetery burial register, newspapers, local histories and information provided by families.

Volunteers are also asked to

help organize the data base. Peter Griffiths, director of the city's Parks Department, said he would like to hear from anyone who can provide information about the burials or who would like to volunteer to do survey/inventory work.

An estimated 2,000 burials began in 1859, with the organization of the Union Cemetery Association. Redwood City stopped further burials in the 1950s.

Griffiths said the survey is necessary because initial steps to rehabilitate the long-neglected and vandalized site had resulted in a

SURVEY

high number of persons who wanted to "fix up" the site. The National Register designation carries with it guidelines for cultural resource management from the Department of the Interior, and the information must be to available to make correct management decisions.

Anyone who has information about the burials can write to Union Cemetery Historic Site, Redwood City Parks and Recreation Department, 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City 94061, or telephone (415) 780-7250 weekdays during business hours.

*Penninsula Times-Tribune
(Redwood City)
Tribune*

Jan. 22, 1992

Laser to probe historic cemetery

Dana Byfield JAN 2 1992
PENINSULA NEWS SERVICE

A laser survey is being taken of a historic Redwood City cemetery as part of a plan for preservation of the site.

The survey and inventory will be carried out by the firm of Brian, Kangas, Foulk of Redwood City. It will identify all of the monuments in the Union Cemetery Historic Site, which was built in 1859 and contains the graves of some of Redwood City's founding families.

"The inventory is really essential for any grant-writing that we may want to do, for restoration or

preservation of the site," said Peter Griffiths, director of the Redwood City Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department.

The laser will be used to shoot beams of light pinpointing exactly where each monument in the cemetery is and how far the boundaries of each grave extend.

"I'm dying to go out there and see how they do it," Griffiths said.

The measurements will be fed into a computer, which will produce a mylar map of the cemetery.

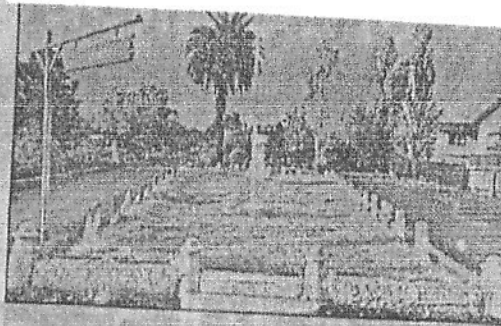
Brian, Kangas, Foulk has volunteered to do the survey at a cost reduced from \$6,400 to \$5,000.

"Our company has been here for over 75 years, and we feel that the community has done a lot for us," said Vicki Vickers, marketing manager for the firm.

Peninsula News Service

Jan. 2, 1992

Redwood City Tribune



Bring out your brooms and shears

JAN 2 5 1992

Redwood City's historic Union Cemetery needs to be cleaned before the city begins a detailed survey of the 6-acre property. Grave sites need to be swept and shrubs pruned so as many features as possible are visible when an aerial photo is taken. The cleanup is scheduled for today from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the cemetery, on Woodside Road near El Camino Real.