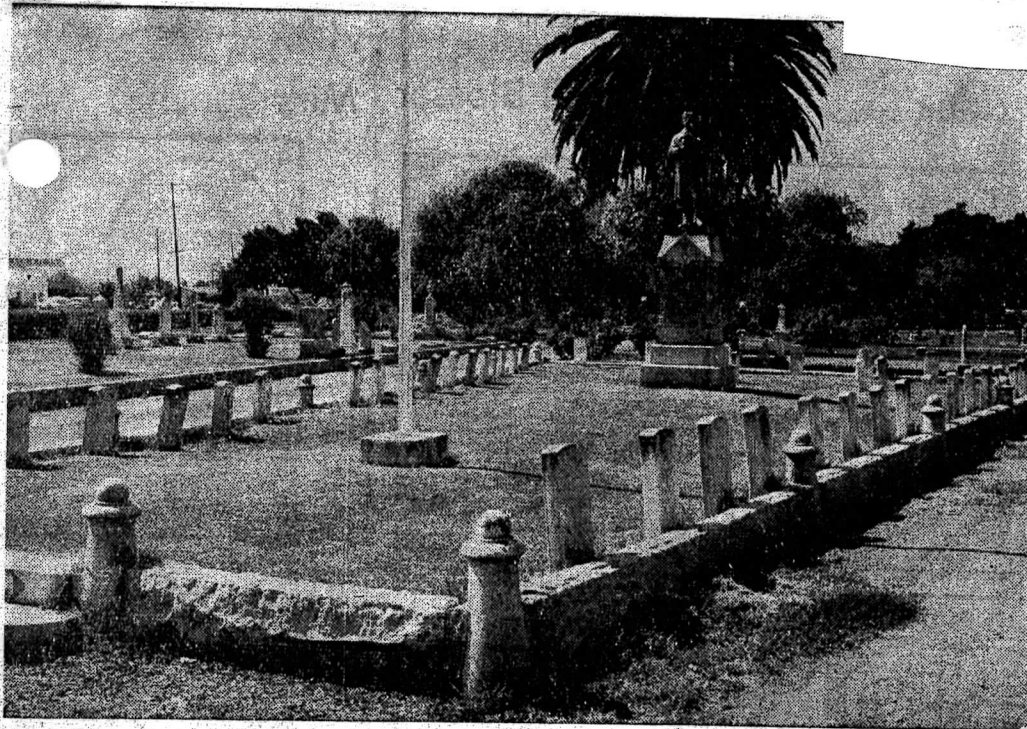




—Staff photos by Tom Bullock

5-26-1960
ic + pan
RC - cemetery



UNION CEMETERY AS IT APPEARS TODAY
... Revered names may be found among headstones

—Tribune Photo

Cemetery *5/26/60* Started In 1859

By MARIAN GOODMAN
Tribune Staff Writer

Union Cemetery, Redwood City's only burial ground, was 101 years old last February.

The Union Cemetery Association was organized Feb. 28, 1859 by six citizens; James Berry, Curtis and Rachael Baird, Soledad and Jose Arguello, and Sidney M. Mezes.

Apparently the land had been the property of Horace Hawes, who did not favor using this spot for a cemetery but did accept a small fee in payment for it. The boundary line as stated on the deed began, "Commencing at a point where Horace Hawes' fence intersects the western side of the county road from Redwood City to Oakley's Mill—"

The original deed was a trust of the Union Cemetery Association to the governor of California and his successors in office, and it was accepted in writing on March 30 by the then governor, John B. Weller. But his action never was ratified until 1947. When Governor Earl Warren took office in 1942 he was surprised to find that he had any duty connected with a six-acre cemetery in Redwood City. As far as is (See Cemetery, Pg. 22, Col. 6)

Cemetery Now 101 Years Old

(Continued from Page 17)

known, this is the only cemetery supervised by a governor.

After the last meeting of the Union Cemetery Association, in 1918, the place began to decay. It became a "foundling," a disgraceful place overgrown with weeds, many of its headstones toppled, broken and lost. Many monuments fell in 1906, some of which were restored.

The city was too shorthanded to give the cemetery full care, though it expended between \$700 and \$800 each year cleaning it up before Memorial Day.

In 1947 the state agreed to make Redwood City custodian, and since then the state has supplied the city with \$2,000 a year for upkeep. This is enough to keep the roads in repair, clip hedges, and clean the grounds.

Vandals frequently tip over old headstones, and nearly three years ago a bronze statue of a Civil War soldier was smashed. It was restored with state funds. City workmen can't do much about the personal plots, which are private property.

Councilman Floyd Granger remembers when on Memorial Day afternoon there were parades with two or three bands and drum corps, the flag was displayed, and children ran downtown for free ice cream. In the last few years such demonstrations have been discontinued, and only a short service is held for local veterans.

According to the old Burial Register, left in the hands of the Crowe Mortuary and now the property of their successors, Coehlo, Lind, Roller & Hapgood, the first burial in the cemetery was that of little Anna Augusta Douglas, aged 4, on March 6, 1869. The next was in April: One Jacob Wolf who was found dead in Canyon Diablo. Life was cheap in those days, and death often came early.

Buried in Union Cemetery are such pioneers as Sidney M. Mezes, in honor of whom Redwood City once was called Mezesville; John Greer, early Woodside pioneer; Theodore Finger; Herman Finger; Charles Livingston, first permanent resident of Redwood City.

The cemetery, roughly triangular, is divided into some 230 plots, besides sections set apart for Odd Fellows, GAR and the Masons. Access is provided by a smooth road around the cemetery and through the center of it.

Privately-owned graves are for the most part unkempt and forgotten from year to year. Some of the bodies have been disinterred for removal to other burial grounds. Recently a woman working on historical research fell through weakened soil into a former grave and injured her leg.

It is a pity that the last resting place of county pioneers who did so much toward shaping early county history should be subject to such neglect and indignity.

5 Points Park Suggested

By JAMES A. GALLAGHER
Tribune City Editor

Things aren't going too well these days at Union Cemetery.

But then, that's been the situation for the last century at the Woodside Road burial ground — a half-forgotten white elephant that has been shuttled back and forth between city and state and today is being maintained in self-defense by a private cemetery firm.

The city has title to the 6.13-acre plot, which it acquired from the state last spring in the latest ping-pong sequence. It has leased the cemetery to the organization that runs Skylawn Memorial Gardens, the new burial site on Half Moon Bay Road back of Belmont.

Skylawn paid \$1 per year to take charge of Union Cemetery when directors heard the state was dickering with a funeral group to reactivate the old Woodside Road graveyard. On the odd chance that the city might lift a long-standing moratorium on Union burials, the Skylawn folks concluded they didn't need any downtown competition.

So for almost a year now, Skylawn crews have been cutting the grass and trimming the hedges—and picking up the discarded Dixie cups and beer cans when they have time.

"It's costing us about \$1,500 to \$2,00 per year to keep the grass watered and maintain the place," said Frank Hannig, secretary and attorney for the Skylawn group. The lease requires Skylawn to keep the cemetery only in as good condition as they found it a year ago.

But weeds and beer cans aren't the main problems at Union Cemetery. The big trouble is vandalism — by thoughtless youngsters who don't know and don't care that the old graveyard holds the bodies of some of San Mateo County's most distinguished pioneers, and brave veterans of the Union Army who came west after Appomatox.

Headstones have been knocked over, monuments defaced, fences torn down.

Statues and flag poles have been ripped from their pedestals through the years. Replacements have been erected from time to time, but eventually they too have fallen before marauders.

One of the latest to take an interest in the state of Union is Mrs. Marie G. Albach of Palo Alto, who passes the cemetery often on the way to a Woodside Road savings and loan office where she has an account.

She has traveled to Sacramento to complain to Assemblyman Carl A. Britschgi, R-Redwood City, and Lt. Gov. Glenn M. Anderson, an old acquaintance. Anderson, she said, promised to investigate.

Mrs. Albach might perform an even greater service if she could help clear the way with relatives of those buried in Union Cemetery to disinter the remains, move them to another cemetery, and turn the grounds into a park. "Union Park," perhaps, with a suitable plaque to remind visitors of the parcel's role in history.

Nearly everyone agrees this would solve several problems. It would end vandalism trouble and would provide valuable recreation land in the Five Points area where it's badly needed.

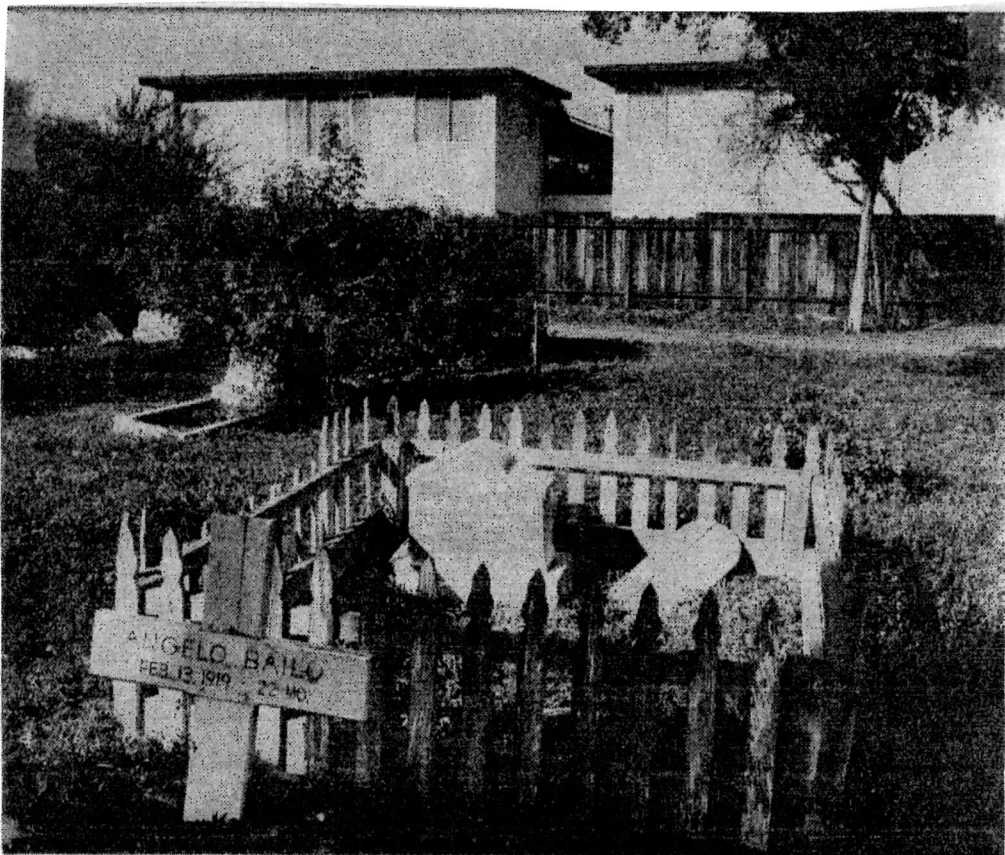
But cemetery transformation is a herculean task. Nobody knows for sure who's buried there. Harold Coehlo at Redwood Chapel has a map his firm inherited from the century-old Crowe Mortuary. There's no telling, however, whether it's accurate.

"Somebody might have bought three or four plots, and then moved away and died somewhere else," Coehlo observed. "But as far as the map is concerned, he'd be the one buried there."

Time and perverse humanity have shuffled the grave markers.

(See Half, Pg. 22, Col. 6)

The Tribune
RWC
1-24-1963



—Tribune Photo

The Old and the New

Squeezed by relatively recent apartment developments, Redwood City's century-old Union Cemetery remains an island from the past in the midst of the highly-developed Five Points area.

Half-Forgotten Union Cemetery Would Serve Better as a Park

(Continued from Page 13)

like decks of cards. Monuments that haven't crumbled or rotted away might be yards from their original sites.

A ghostly cloak of red tape and confusion, as a matter of fact, has shrouded Union Cemetery since 1859 when Gov. John B. Weller accepted it as a gift from the Union Cemetery Association.

But the association hadn't been properly incorporated, and it was ruled the state had no right to accept the gift. For 88 years the cemetery existed as a foundling. Each year the city spent some \$800 cleaning it up for Memorial Day. In between, it was left to the weeds.

In 1947 the State Legislature authorized \$1,500 per year for maintenance of the cemetery, and in 1954 the subsidy was raised to \$2,000. The city park department used the money to cut weeds and haul away fallen tombstones, but

residents still complained about the cemetery's condition.

Finally in 1959 the legislature passed another law which allowed the state to give the cemetery to the city, provided it would be kept as a burial place or park. For three years the city politely declined—until the state started talking about selling the parcel

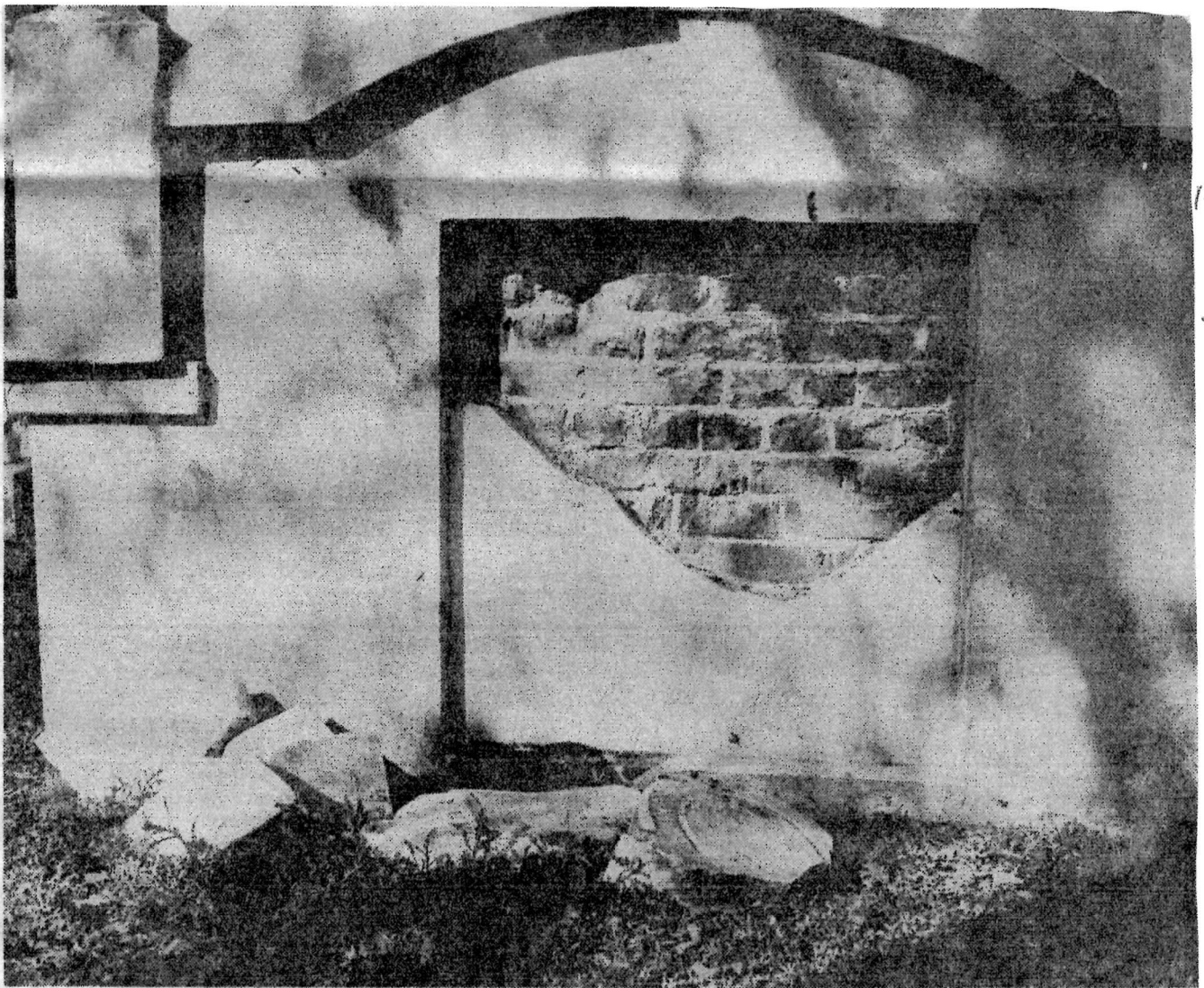
and Skylawn stepped into the breach.

What's ahead?

Well, the Five Points interchange is expected to clip some 15 feet from the Woodside Road frontage and push the main entrance around to Poplar Avenue.

Fences will continue to crumble, weeds will continue to grow, and people like Mrs. Albach will continue to register concern.

And recreation facilities will continue scarce at Five Points.



1-24-
196
RWC
Trib

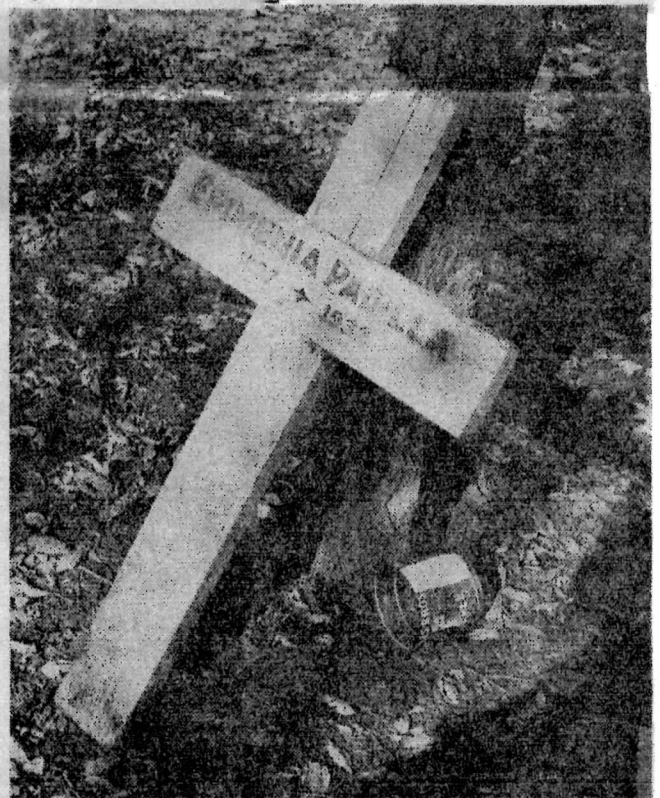
BRICK AND MORTAR HALTED GHOULISH VANDALS IN UNION CEMETERY VAULT
 . . . Senseless destruction has ravaged many gravesites at Redwood City landmark

—Tribune Photo



CENTURY-OLD WHITE ELEPHANT SHOWS ITS AGE

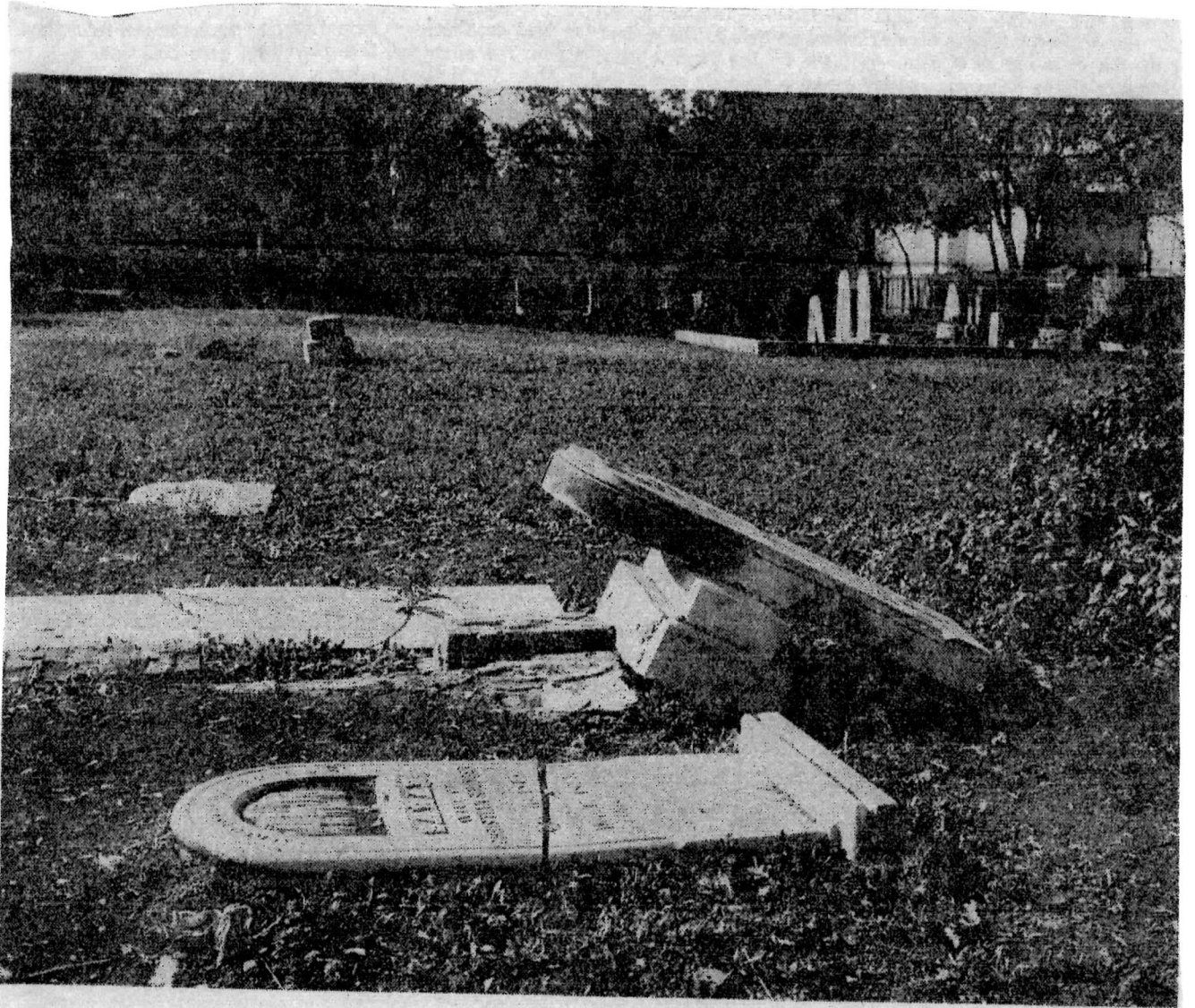
—Tribune Photo



RECLINING MARKER FROM MYSTERY GRAVE 3 of 4

—Tribune Photo

RWC Tribune
1-24-1963



A GRIEVING HUSBAND ERECTED THIS WEEPING WILLOW HEADSTONE (FOREGROUND) IN 1874
... Chronic vandalism has dogged Union Cemetery through the years

—Tribune Photo

Celebrating— Violent Way

Violence exploded along the Peninsula on Halloween night with these results:

—A Cupertino teenager was killed in front of DeAnza College when a pickup truck overturned.

—An historical Redwood City landmark, the bronze statue of a Civil War soldier at Union Cemetery, was pulled down and wrecked by vandals.

—Windshields of two Santa Clara County sheriff's cars, two Burlingame patrol cars and a Palo Alto fire rig were smashed

—Santa Clara County sheriff's deputies had to blockade an area of Los Altos Hills when a mob of rock-throwing youngsters went wild.

—Burlingame's Hillside Circle was engulfed by a throng of youngsters, estimated at almost 1,000, who hurled rocks and bricks. So many were brought to the police station that one officer commented, "This place looks like San Francisco's Juvenile Hall."

—San Jose police were unable to answer all calls for help. There were reports that teenagers were leaping from pickup trucks, assaulting women and knocking younger children to the ground.

—Pacifica police said vandals smashed the windows of "several" police vehicles, "slightly" injuring two policemen. The spokesman said "30 or more" youths were arrested on a variety of charges.

Redwood City Park Supt. Pascal Balzarini said the Union soldier statue was toppled from its pedestal, where it has kept watch over Union

Cemetery since the late 1880's.

It had been knocked down and smashed in 1966, and repaired. It has been a target for vandals and thieves for many years. The soldier's rifle has often been stolen, but Balzarini said the rifle "was the only thing left on the pedestal this time."

He said the statue had been decapitated, torn limb-from-limb and smashed in many pieces, but it could "probably" be repaired. A few

(See Halloween, Back Page)

Halloween Shows Its Violent Side

(Continued from Page 1)

tombstones were also toppled, Balzarini said.

One Redwood City woman said, "The little beasts pulled up my flowers and wrote dirty, filthy words all over my son's car. If this is future America, we can forget it."

A Sunnyvale police dispatcher said, "They're throwing everything but cars at houses."

The accident victim on Stevens Creek Boulevard, in front of DeAnza College, was identified as Gary Shreve, 16, of 992 Cranberry Drive, Cupertino.

Sheriff's Dep. Dean Medeira said the boy suffered head injuries and was dead on arrival at El Camino Hospital.

The truck driver was identified as John Signorino, 16.

Medeira said it was believed seven teenagers were riding in the back of the truck when it flipped over.

The Shreve boy was the only one hurt.

About 300 youths made it rough for Palo Alto police and firemen in the area of Eleanor Park, Newell Road and Channing Avenue.

A false fire alarm was turned in at Newell Road.

A fire department pumper, answering the alarm, had its

windshield splintered by rocks. No one was hurt. The rig was also pelted by numerous eggs.

Stop signs in the area were torn up and oil spilled across the street made driving dangerous.

Palo Alto police finally stormed the area and halted the activity by threatening to haul in youngsters because they were violating the city's 10 p.m. curfew.

Some youngsters were brought to the police station, however, and later released to parents.

The scene was duplicated in numerous Peninsula cities, particularly Burlingame.

San Mateo County sheriff's units were sent to Burlingame's Hillside Circle to assist local police in ending the mob scene.

Almost every Peninsula area had its share of thrown missiles — ranging from pumpkins and eggs to tomatoes and rocks.

There were some exploding firecrackers.

In San Jose, a pregnant woman was cut when a large rock was flung through her home's glass door.

11-1

Fallen Hero

Union Cemetery



— Tribune Photo

BATTERED MONUMENT
... May be salvageable

2 of 2

2-19-1963

REF. - RC - CEMETERIES
PAM

16—Redwood City (Calif.) Tribune, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 1963

Tribune's Opinion Page

Cemetery Vandals Can Be Punished

Recently the Tribune carried articles and pictures telling about the problems that are being encountered in keeping Union Cemetery free from vandalism and litterbugs.

Despite the efforts of those responsible for its upkeep, the cemetery at Woodside Road and El Camino Real continues to serve as a dumping place.

Because there appear to be some in our community who have no respect for the property of others, we feel it advisable to publish the law as supplied by the California Department of Professional and Vocational Standards relating to vandalism in cemeteries.

Chapter 2, Section 8101, reads as follows: "Every person is guilty of a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine of \$25 to \$500, or by imprisonment for as much as six months, or by both, who unlawfully or without right wilfully does any of the following:

"(a) Destroys, cuts, mutilates, effaces, or otherwise injures, tears down, or removes any tomb, monument, memorial, or marker in a cemetery, or any gate, door, fence, wall post or railing or any inclosure for the protection of a cemetery or any property in a cemetery.

"(b) Obliterates any grave, vault, niche or crypt.

"(c) Destroys, cuts, breaks or injures any building, statuary, ornamentation, tree, shrub, or plant within the limits of a cemetery.

"(d) Disturbs, obstructs, detains or interferes with any person carrying or accompanying human remains to a cemetery or funeral establishment . . ."

The law concludes with the warning that persons violating these provisions are liable for the cost of repairs.

1081

REF. - RC - CEMETERIES
PAM

2-27-63

Union Cemetery

It's Amazing:

Proposals To Abandon Cemetery Bring No Outcry

By RAY SPANGLER

With the advent of the Five Points overpass, there is considerable discussion in town about the old Union Cemetery.

Someone would make it over into a park, or develop it for apartments, and there is little protest.

Let me give you a little history of the cemetery, derived from the pages of "The Illustrated History of San Mateo County, California," by Moore and De Pue, 1878.



SPANGLER

A copy of this valuable book has come to me from Mrs. Roy Cloud Jr.

The piece on the cemetery association: "Redwood City had been settled for six or seven years before the throng of those that journeyed to the realms of shade had sufficiently increased to attract attention of the citizens to the necessity of a permanent burial place. Until 1859, a plot of ground on the farm of Horace Hawes had been occupied for the purpose, and the few that had died in this vicinity were buried there with the understanding that the ground was dedicated to the public. This opinion originated from the fact that William Carey Jones, former owner of the land, had not only permitted burials there but had orally agreed to dedicate the ground to the public. When the Jones property fell into the hands of Mr. Hawes, the latter was decidedly opposed to continuing burials there.

"It is needless to state what is still fresh in the minds of many citizens of Redwood, as a consequence of this determination of Mr. Hawes. Affection clings to that spot of earth where loved ones sleep in the windowless mansion of the dead, and great indignation was felt toward Mr. Hawes for the stand he had taken in the matter. It is but just, however, to state that his subsequent active and generous contribution in aid of

the Union Cemetery was such as to entitle him to the thanks of the community.

"In the early part of 1859, a public meeting was called at the Court House in Redwood City, to find out what right or title the public had in the grounds that were supposed to be dedicated. A committee . . . at a subsequent meeting reported that in their opinion it was advisable to abandon the ground, both on account of want of title and impracticability of location.

"At a meeting, held Feb. 7, 1859, a committee, consisting of C. N. Fox, J. W. Turner and C. Ayres, was appointed 'to report a plan of organization for cemetery association.' The terms of purchase were agreed upon with Messrs. Baird and Berry for six acres of land, and subscriptions opened for funds with which to complete the purchase and fence the grounds. The necessary funds were raised and articles of association reported and adopted. Each subscriber to the amount of \$10 became a member of the association and entitled to a vote. The first election was held Feb. 28, 1859, and J. V. Diller was elected president; C. N. Fox, secretary and treasurer; and J. W. Turner, superintendent.

"A contract to build the fence was let to George E. Erskine, and subsequently the tract was surveyed and plotted. Improvements have, year by year, been made, until this city of the dead has become not only sacred to many families of Redwood and vicinity, but a source of commendable pride to every citizen. . . ."

The account continues to detail the superintendent's register, showing 345 interments, of which 100 of the deceased were born in California.

The original minutes of the Union Cemetery Association fell into my hands by an odd circumstance several years ago, and I have transmitted them to the San Mateo County Historical Association.

It amazes me that there is no outcry whatever against abandonment of the cemetery.

REF. - RC - CEMETERIES
PAM.

Union Cemetery

18—Redwood City (Calif.) Tribune, Thursday, June 6, 1963



Special Service for a Veteran

Councilman Floyd D. Granger spruces up the Union soldier who guards Redwood City's Union Cemetery after it was noted at recent Memorial Day services that the statue was getting a bit battle-worn. Granger, county veterans service officer, said he does not offer this service to just any veteran.

1-7-1964

Union Cemetery

REF. - RC - CEMETERIES
PAM

1-7-64

Cemetery Rubbish Dump

Residents of a new apartment house in back of Union Cemetery are disposing of rubbish in the cemetery, Redwood City Councilman Floyd D. Granger told his colleagues last night.

Granger wanted the council to authorize posting of a warning sign on the edge of the cemetery, but no immediate action was taken.

The charge came after a report from Assistant City Manager Howard C. Ullrich that he was negotiating with owners of an adjacent vacant lot about putting up a fence on that lot line, which also borders the cemetery.

Witnesses said this morning that the rubbish appeared to have been cleared up, at least partially.

The area in question is bounded by Hess Road, Woodside Road and Poplar Avenue.

The council bounced the cemetery issue around at the end of its meeting and when it stopped the problem was back where it had started, waiting for a staff report.

Granger, who is the San Mateo County Veterans Service Officer and an American Legion leader, has pushed for action in upgrading the cemetery. A statue of a Civil War soldier stands in the resting place, but it is not highly visible.

A line of new hedges borders the cemetery in back of the new building. Encroachment by vehicles on the graves would be possible.

Ullrich said an existing fence near the empty lot had been pushed over.

1-14-66

Tribune

Redwood City Checks Forgotten Cemetery

1-14-66

REF - RC - CEMETERIES
PAM

By **BRUCE B. BRUGMANN**
Tribune Staff Writer

Councilman **Floyd Granger** and a task force of city officials walked by the statue of a disarmed Union soldier at Union Cemetery yesterday.

The pedestal had these words: "To the memory of California's patriotic dead who served during the war of the union."

Thieves long since have stolen his weapon.

The war of the Union? It's a forgotten phrase and stands in memoriam now to a forgotten cemetery. Union Cemetery has been "mustered out," as they used to say among the Blue and the Gray, and Granger and Co. found it neglected, unkempt and sprinkled with trash and debris.

The cemetery, a 6.13-acre plot near the Five Points Intersection, has been shrouded with a

ghostly cloak of red tape, confusion and rumor since 1859 when Gov. John B. Weller accepted it as a gift from the Union Cemetery Association.

But the association hadn't been properly incorporated and the state, it was ruled, had no legal right to accept the gift. For 88 years, the cemetery was

DEADLINE SPECIAL

a founding, existing in the no-man's-land between the state and the city and relatives of the war dead. The city each year spent \$800 or so cleaning it up for Memorial Day, then abandoned it to the weeds.

In 1947, the state put up \$1,500 a year for maintenance, raised the token gift to \$2,000 in 1954,

then tried to give the plot to the city to be perpetuated either as burial or park ground. The city politely declined until the state started talking about selling the property, and a funeral director started talking about buying it. The city and Skylawn Memorial Gardens quickly came to terms.

Skylawn, a cemetery on Half Moon Bay Road behind Belmont, maintains the Union Cemetery in self-defense, on a 10-year lease, at a cost of \$1 a year. Nobody else can be buried in Union, no more Memorial Day parades come to its gates, nobody pays much attention to the resting place of the Redwood City pioneers and the veterans who came west after Appomattox.

The cemetery slipped back into the news when Mrs. Bar-

(See City, Pg. 11, Col. 1)

1-14-66

City Checks Its Forgotten Cemetery

(Continued from Page 1)

bara Menard, 486 Buena Vista Drive, wrote the Tribune that she was "saddened, chagrined and conscience-stricken when I look at the condition" of the cemetery. Councilman **Floyd Granger**, retired veterans' service officer for San Mateo County, brought the issue up at Monday night's council meeting and Mayor **John Rosselli** promptly appointed him a committee of one to look into the matter.

Apprised of the complaints yesterday, Ray Slate, Skylawn sales manager, said that he would send a crew immediately to Union to tidy up. He said a crew cleans up once a month at Union, but that lack of money and time prohibited his crews from going more often or doing more than a "rough job."

In a change of ownership about a year ago, Skylawn was sold by its local owners to three Southern California businessmen: Mason Letteau, director of Inglewood Memorial Park in Los Angeles; Paul Trousdale, a Los Angeles builder, and Clarence E. Martin, a Santa Monica builder. Slate said he knew of no plans, as rumored, for a building project or a crematorium for the site.

What about a park for this recreation and park-impooverished area? This, it has been suggested, would be the most fitting memorial of all—a Union Park, with the statue and its pedestal, and grounds that could be beautiful, trim and used by everybody.

1-17-66

REF - RC - CEMETERIES
PAM

1-17-66

Council To Study City Manager Report On Union Cemetery

Howard Ullrich, city manager, will report to the council tonight that the Skylawn Memorial Gardens has not complied "with the terms of our agreement" in maintaining Union Cemetery near the Five Points Intersection.

Skylawn, a cemetery on Half Moon Bay Road behind Belmont, is supposed to maintain Union Cemetery and keep it in the same shape as it was, un-

der a 10-year contract, at the cost of \$1 a year.

Councilman Floyd Granger and city officials last week inspected the grounds of the 6.13-acre plot and found that it was neglected, unkept and cluttered with trash and debris. Many headstones were down or had been defaced.

Skylawn quickly put a work crew on the grounds last week and began cleaning up the premises.

However, both city officials and Ray Slate, Skylawn sales manager, told the Tribune that any cleanup operation would be only minimal and that some sort of large scale operation, with some financing, would be necessary to get the grounds up to trim.

Ullrich said the staff would contact Skylawn and arrange a meeting sometime this week.

Granger said today that the families of those buried would be contacted to see what they would be willing to do (in terms of financial help) or what they would be willing to approve (in terms of making the area a Union Memorial Park.) The city's deed from the state stipulates it must be used for park or burial purposes.

On possibility, Granger said, would be to fence the area. He said a park would be another, but that the difficulties of getting permission from all the relatives would be an enormous undertaking.

City planning and park officials favor a park of some kind, perhaps with a plaque with the names of the interred. Headstones could be removed and the interred left underground, with the park above ground.

Slate said that Skylawn was seriously interested in the park possibility, adding that the bodies could be put in Skylawn if the costs were kept to a minimum.

Cemeteries

RC Council Roundup:

Cemetery Cleanup Sought by Granger

Union Cemetery is in "a deplorable state" and ought to be cleaned up promptly, Councilman Floyd Granger reported to the City Council last night. in Aerial Truck II. Due to the unique nature of the motor, Lodi examined available engines and received informal bids that include installation, furnishing of the engine and automatic transmission. Lodi recommended a motor costing \$7,914.11, to be paid from the equipment replacement fund.

The condition of the cemetery, a six-acre parcel near the Five Points Intersection, results from a combination of vandalism and lack of maintenance," Granger said.

Park Supt. Pasco Balzarini has estimated that it would cost about \$3,700 to clean up the cemetery and that this total could be cut in half if the cleanup campaign is held up until Easter vacations when seasonal help, from high school and college students, could be used, Granger said.

The council unanimously accepted Granger's report and Howard Ullrich, city manager, recommended that the money for the cleanup come from the park department budget. If more money is needed, Ullrich said, the council can appropriate it later. Time of the cleanup will be decided later.

Granger said he and the staff had discussed the possibility of using Union Cemetery as a park area, as in Ventura and in several other cities. The staff is obtaining information on the conversion program in Ventura.

Skylawn Cemetery, which has a \$1 a year agreement with the city to maintain the premises, will comply with the maintenance agreement, Granger said.

In other action, the council:

—Approved a resolution of intention to amend the zoning ordinance with a flurry of amendments designed to clarify definitions and add sections, most minor, relating to height, parking lot and other regulations.

—Introduced a corrected salary ordinance covering recent raises for city employees.

—Referred to the Planning Commission, with a request for a density report, the request of Larry Schwab for the annexation of four lots on Laurel Way contiguous to Redwood City. The four lot annexation was approved by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) on Feb. 18, 1965. Schwab's previous request for a 21 lot annexation was previously voted down by a majority of the property holders in the steep, hilly area.

—Held over, in the study meeting, an amendment to the sign ordinance so that it could be incorporated with other sign ordinance amendments and be introduced as a total package. The ordinance, prompted a request for a change from the Jerome Draper real estate firm in Burlingame, would change the minimum vertical clearance of a sign hanging from a merque from 10 feet to 8 feet from the sign to the ground.

—Adopted an ordinance rezoning from interim study to tidal plain the "Piombo Annexation" property. The Piombo property has been purchased by the Leslie Salt Co. for Redwood Shores.

—Adopted an ordinance rezoning from R-2 to R-2 property at 1612 Gordon St. to allow the expansion of the Woodside Acres Hospital.

—Gave permission to Fire Chief Joseph Lodi to purchase by informal bids a diesel engine and automatic transmission to replace a 13-year-old motor

1-27-1966

Ref - RC -
Pan Cemeteries

The Redwood City City Council has shown new interest in doing something to make Union Cemetery a more attractive place. Inasmuch as it is located at one of the entrances to the community most folks would agree that a beautification project is in order.

Union Cemetery jurisdiction has been tossed back and forth between the city and the state for more than 100 years. Under the present agreement Skylawn Cemetery has the contract to maintain the property. This, it is doing to the best of its ability.

Actually, Skylawn got into the picture about six years ago when there was talk of establishing a crematorium on the Union Cemetery site. To avoid this prospect, the city quickly entered into an agreement whereby Skylawn, for \$1 a year, agreed to keep the property looking as nice as possible.

But at best this is an unsatisfactory arrangement. The cemetery is not attractive.

We believe the time has come to plot a strong campaign to turn Union Cemetery into a city park. The State Legislature in 1959 adopted a proposal (Statute 1940) authorizing the conveyance of Union Cemetery to a governmental agency, or any other nonprofit organization, for cemetery or park purposes.

The city has the title to the property. Skylawn, which holds a 10-year lease for maintaining the cemetery, has indicated it would be delighted to ease its way out of the agreement for such a worthwhile purpose.

Because the relatives of many persons still living in Redwood City are buried in Union Cemetery there must be some legal agreement for dealing with that matter.

But there are several precedents for handling this item. It is not an insurmountable problem.

A "Get-Ready Committee" for next year's Redwood City Centennial Celebration already is grappling with park development plans. This seems to be a logical starting point for the city in determining how to turn Union Cemetery into an attractive, useful part of the community.

We would suggest that the city undertake immediately the task of determining how this can be done with an eye toward completing the job sometime during Centennial Year.

26—Redwood City (Calif.) Tribune, Thursday, Jan. 27, 1966

Tribune's Opinion Page

Turn Cemetery Into a Park^s

3-26-66 Cemeteries
Boy Scouts

REF.- RC- CEMETERIES
PAM

2—Redwood City (Cal.) Tribune, Saturday, March 26, 1966



—Tribune Photo by Art Elwing

Scouts Spruce Up Cemetery

Boy Scout Troop 67, led by Scoutmaster Sam Samansky, today set about tidying up the Union Cemetery, located off Woodside Road in Redwood City. Taking a paint brush to the flag pole are John Rogers and Martin Smale while George Otte, Max Hoberg along with Senior Patrol Leader John King (not pictured) work at raking and dragging away the accumulation of debris.

A Backward Look:

Dismal Future for Union Cemetery?

responsible for defacement, torn fences, and the breakage and removal of headstones.

The first person to propose in writing the conversion of Union

Cemetery into a park was Mrs. Jessica Knauer of Menlo Park in 1962.

Her suggestion was shelved, and drew no cries of outrage un-

til mentioned again this year when a park was again suggested in Tribune articles as the most fitting memorial of all for these distinguished pioneers and heroes.

The remains could be removed and reverently reinterred in a quieter, more beautiful retreat, where they could be assured of really loving care instead of the present unattractive environment of rusty cans, dried weeds and beer bottles that cover them now between cleaning periods.

Settling ground has also knocked heavy old monuments askew, and broken markers are hauled away.

The Five Points Overpass played havoc with the cemetery, by cutting off entirely the original pleasant entrance from Woodside Road. Now the only way one can enter the area is by walking across a dusty vacant lot on Poplar Ave., or driving off the busy overpass to a meandering dirt road at the rear of the cemetery—if one can locate it and make the turn without losing a fender.

Our heroes should be left to rest in peace, but is this the tranquility they deserve, a few feet from thundering trucks and the screech of brakes? To say nothing of the hopeless struggle to keep these forlorn memorials in condition.



About Face, Soldier

Union Cemetery's bronze Civil War figure will have to be turned around if it is to face the proposed western entrance to the cemetery.

By MARIAN GOODMAN
Tribune Staff Writer

In Redwood City's old Union Cemetery on Woodside Road near Five Points, 45 headstones fringe a little plot centered with a granite-based Civil War figure in bronze. Previously maintained in a red-brown color, last week the veteran figure was covered with gilt paint.

On the night of Friday May 12, 1957, this priceless monument was pulled down and mutilated by ghoulish vandals. Redwood City Police figured it had required an automobile and tow rope to complete this vicious act.

Though the city and fraternal organizations offered rewards for information leading to the arrest of the vandals, the awards never had to be paid, and the perpetrators were never apprehended.

The bronze soldier's antique rifle had been stolen years before, and the thief caught and sentenced to San Quentin.

Fortunately the statue could be restored. Repairs were made by Robert Levy, an antique repair and restoration specialist in Burlingame, for \$370. By Feb. 1958 the statue once more stood guard over the graves of Civil War heroes. Police officers on night duty in the area were instructed to keep strict watch over the cemetery.

The Union Cemetery Association, organized Feb. 28, 1859 by six citizens, bought 6.13 acres of property from Horace Hawes (who did not favor using this spot for a cemetery) for a small fee.

The original deed was a trust of the Union Cemetery Association to the governor of California, and his successors in office, and was accepted in writing by the then governor, John B. Weller, but his action was not ratified by the state until 1947, 88 years later.

However, the burden of ownership rested on each governor in turn, and each accepted the responsibility with surprise, for few governors, American or otherwise, expect to take over a six-acre cemetery along with their other duties.

The state finally said it had no business running a cemetery, and passed a law in 1959 to give the cemetery to Redwood City. But the city politely refused it "until further studies were made." Meantime local citizens periodically complained that the grounds were unsightly.

In 1962 the city got title to the cemetery, but when there was talk of establishing a crematorium on the site, the city leased the cemetery for 10 years to Skylawn Memorial Gardens for \$1 a year, and gratefully turned over to them the work and responsibility of keeping the grounds decent.

Skylawn, who operate the burial site on Half Moon Bay Road

back of Belmont, spend about \$2,000 a year to keep the grass watered, the hedges trimmed, and the beer cans and weeds un-

8-3-66

REF. - RC - CEMETERIES
PAM



—Tribune Photo

Old Soldier Rearmed

Union Cemetery's Civil War soldier got a gun yesterday, after 10 weaponless years. It's a World War II model drill gun supplied by Redwood City Parks chief Pasco Balzarini. The gun was stolen by vandals 10 years ago, Balzarini says. Recently he got an old unshootable practice gun and repainted it up fresh. He's still searching for a weapon more historically appropriate. Park employee Raymond Adams admires the new, if unfireable, firearm.

A woman's fight to save

by Laura Del Rosso

Like many who have driven down Woodside Road, Janet Acevedo's imagination has been captivated by Union Cemetery.

She sees the occasional scattered wine bottle, the toppled tombstones and the graffiti-covered graves, but, still, the six acres are special.

"I just love this place, I don't know why. I've cleaned a lot of it up and the vandals come by the next day." She signs and reflects. "It's such a pretty, peaceful place."

Acevedo admits she's probably the umpteenth crusader to attempt to clean up the old cemetery, long the target of vandals who have destroyed much of the city's first and only burial ground.

"Every city manager on down has passed it around. It has been quibbled about for years, nothing has been done. I'm afraid eventually they'll come in and bulldoze it."

Acevedo isn't a joiner. She doesn't belong to the Redwood City Heritage Association, the Archives Committee or any other group except for the Selby Lane P.T.A. The mother of two children works as a billing clerk for a Menlo Park firm.

Yet one day, fed up with driving by and wishing someone would clean it up, "I got all hot about it." She called some neighbors and friends to join her and her husband for a weekend clean-up.

Acevedo received the blessing of Parks and Recreation Director Peter Griffiths, who admits that the department's weekly attempts to keep the cemetery clean don't do the job.

"We try to go in there once a week, but we can't maintain it on the same level as the other parks," Griffiths said, because the City Council has not made the commitment to the cemetery. Out of a parks maintenance budget of \$700,000, about \$3,000 was spent on the Union



REF - RC - CEMETERIES
PAM

Union Cemetery

Cemetery last year.

Acevedo and her group of about 20 spent five weekends this year picking up trash, replacing tombstones, pruning and weeding family plots.

School children given tours

The clean-up task sparked Acevedo to delve a little deeper into local history and this spring she gave Selby Lane school children tours of the cemetery.

"I would like all school kids to go through here and see that death isn't morbid and that Redwood City does have a history."

Among the 2,000 known dead buried here are: the Finger family, Redwood City pioneers; S.M. Mezes, founder of Mezesville, the first name for Redwood City; William Littlejohn, who built the first bridge across Redwood Creek in about 1854; Capt. John Greer, a founder of Woodside; and John Sears, a founder of Searsville and La Honda.

At the easterly tip of the cemetery are graves of 40 Civil War soldiers; hence the name Union Cemetery. Burials no longer take place.

During the last year and a half, graduate students in archaeology from the University of California at Berkeley surveyed the graves and contacted nearly 100 relatives of the dead. Their report is due Oct. 1 and will be forwarded as background material in the application for listings on the state and national historical registries.

Jean Cloud, a member of the city's Archives Committee, says that though the Reagan Administration has vowed to cut historical preservation programs, "We're thinking positive." If the Union Cemetery is added to the registry, "We'll be in the position to ask for funds. It could not be torn down and a building put there."

The first step, Cloud said, is to preserve the cemetery and then find out how to restore it. Many of the tombstones have been moved around and statues and vases broken. Perhaps the most dramatic instance of vandalism was the destruction of the statue of the Union Soldier which stood on the base at the front of the cemetery for many years. After a group of citizens raised money and erected another statue to take its place, vandals attacked within days and toppled the second statue. No attempts have been made to replace it since.

"You stop and think about Redwood City," says Acevedo, pausing while giving a tour of the cemetery. "You think, what is here and what is left. Redwood City has a lot of history and there's nothing left for the kids."

She spots a large, floral couch which has been dumped by a fence in the middle of the cemetery and says with resignation, "Even if you did repairs what's going to stop vandals from coming in again."

From the interest she's gotten from passersby she believes that if the cemetery was restored people would take an active interest in its maintenance.

Despite the success of her clean-up efforts, Acevedo doesn't remain particularly optimistic.

"There's too many groups fighting over it. Too much red tape and hassles. The one with the most bucks will win at the end."

As she nears the chain at the exit to the cemetery she adds, "I'm not really interested in getting involved. I just want to make it nicer to look at as I drive by during my

6-13-67

6-13-67

A 'Landmark' Cemetery

The 108-year-old Union Cemetery has become Redwood City's first designated California Historical Landmark.

The venerable old burial ground is a triangular tract of about six acres, bounded by Woodside Road, Poplar Avenue and a row of apartment houses facing on Hess Road.

Approval of the designation was given by the state Division of Beaches and Parks,

upon an application sent in by the city.

Many pioneers in the settlement of San Mateo County lie under the weathered headstones of the cemetery.

Among the persons buried there were Simon Monserrate Mezes, whose map shaped downtown Redwood City in the 19th century, John Sears, a founder of Searsville and La Honda, and George H. Buck, for many years the dominant

figure in county government. Allen W. Wells, official state park historian, credited Dr. Frank Stranger of Burlingame with submitting a persuasive report on the history of the cemetery.

Dr. Stranger, former head of the San Mateo County Historical Museum, is now the official county historian.

He noted in his brief to the state that proposals had been made to turn Union Cemetery into a memorial park in honor

of the historical figures buried there.

He suggested a study to come up with alternative plans for restoration of the area. The grounds are now being maintained by the Sky-lawn company as a public service.

The state action means that the cemetery will be listed as Landmark No. 816 in tourists' booklets. However, it will not mean state maintenance of the site.

Re-cri- the- ni- tic- on- ni- cl- '4

Union Cemetery A Dying Graveyard?

By BILL SHILSTONE
Tribune Staff Writer

Redwood City's Union Cemetery is a dying graveyard.

Once elaborate gray and brown stone monuments have become ruins, gouged and toppled, some by age, some by vandals. Simpler wooden markers have simply disintegrated.

Graves are decorated with wild vegetation, some choked with weeds, some splashed with bright but disorganized flowers.

Inscriptions on 100-year-old tombstones have been weathered so that they can hardly be read.

If you get close, you can just make out the writing on the oldest grave in the cemetery.

"In memory of Anne M., daughter of W. H. and S. P. Douglass, died Mar. 5, 1859. Age 4 years."

Next to Anne lies her brother Nathaniel, who died Nov. 11, 1869, age 4 years.

There is a bottle-strewn, enclosed plot which contains seven members of three generations of a family called Durham.

Buried are William (1867) and Letta (1872), their son W. W. (1911) and his wife Josephine (1909) and their three children, Hanna (1873), Frederick (1937) and Charles (1950). Charles was probably one of the last if not the last person to be buried in the graveyard.

The little six-acre cemetery, off Woodside Road near El Camino Real, is guarded by a bronze statue of a union soldier which stands in the front of the wedge-shaped graveyard.

He stands in the middle of a plot fringed with 45 headstones which mark graves of Civil War dead.

In May of 1966 he was yanked off his pedestal by vandals, drawing public attention to the sad state of the cemetery.

Wild weeds and beer cans, monuments knocked askew by settling ground, isolation by the Five Points Overpass and the vandalism raised demands that the cemetery be turned into a memorial park and restored.

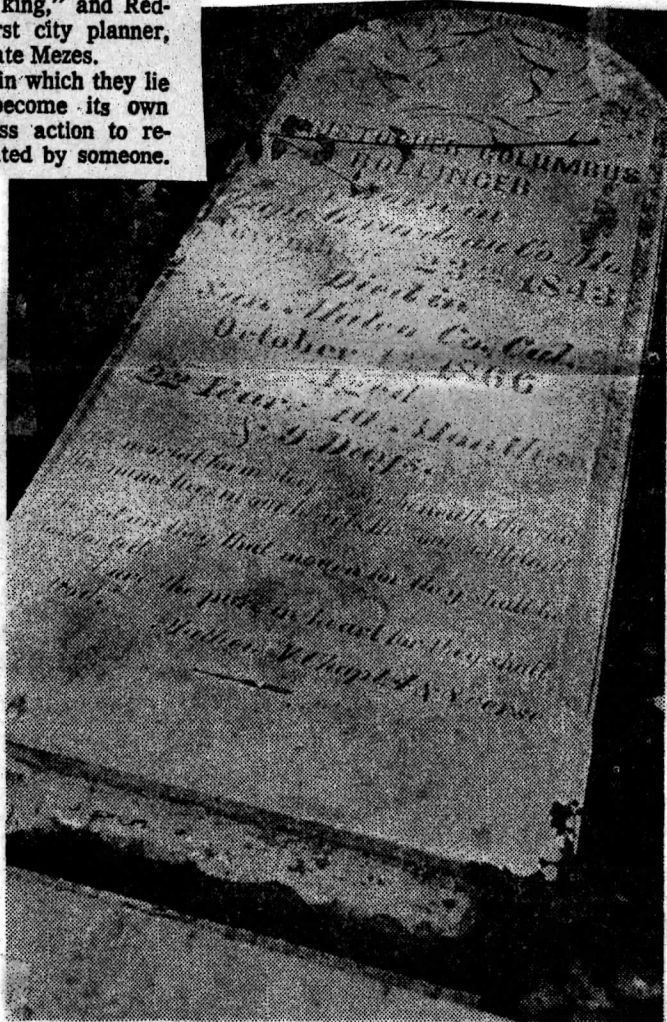
A year later, last June 13, the 108-year-old cemetery became a California Historical Landmark, but state maintenance of the site is not in the bargain.

Isolated by an Overpass:

The state action was taken after a persuasive report on the historical significance of the cemetery by Dr. Frank Stanger of Burlingame, San Mateo County historian.

He pointed out that many county pioneers are buried in the cemetery, among them Captain John Greer, founder of Woodside; Sheldon Purdy Pharis, known as the Peninsula's "shingle king," and Redwood City's first city planner, Simon Monserrate Mezes.

The cemetery in which they lie is bound to become its own graveyard unless action to restore it is initiated by someone.



Handsome marker lies fallen 1 of 4

8-1-1967

8-1-1967
Tribune



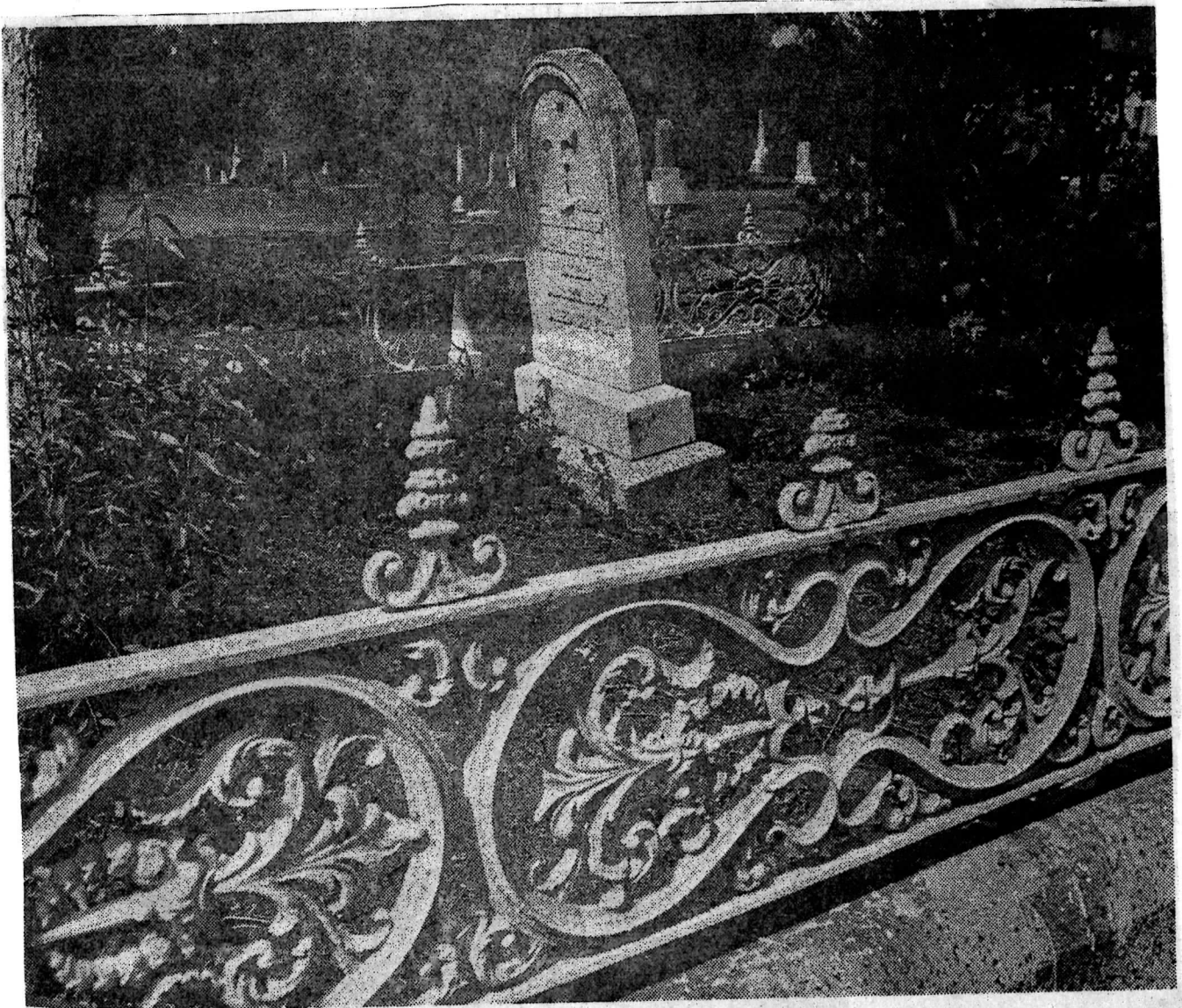
Union soldier,

target of vandals,

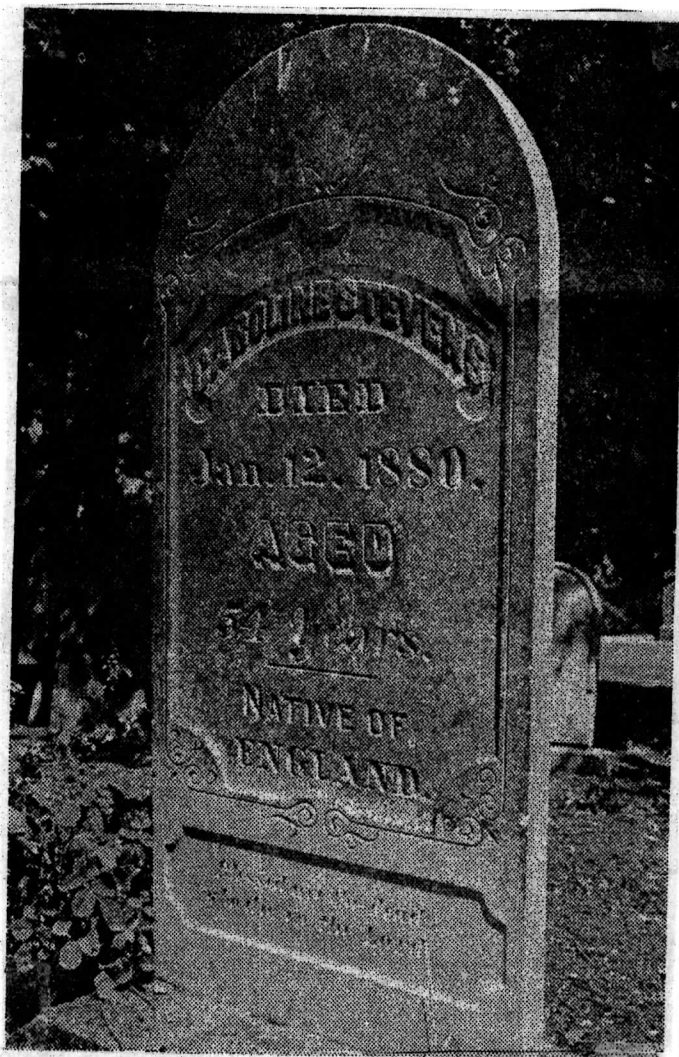
on sentinel duty

Tribune Photos by Reynolds Crutchfield

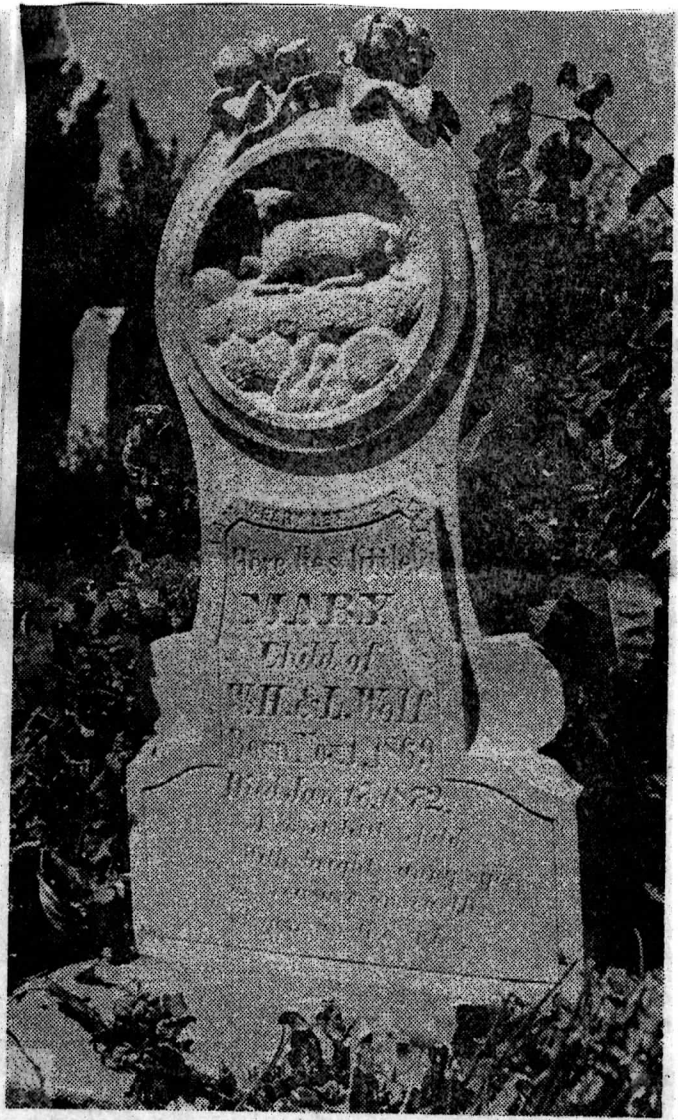
Tribune 8-1-1967



Many monuments tilted, weeds and wild vegetation choke flowers



Upright, but in need of care

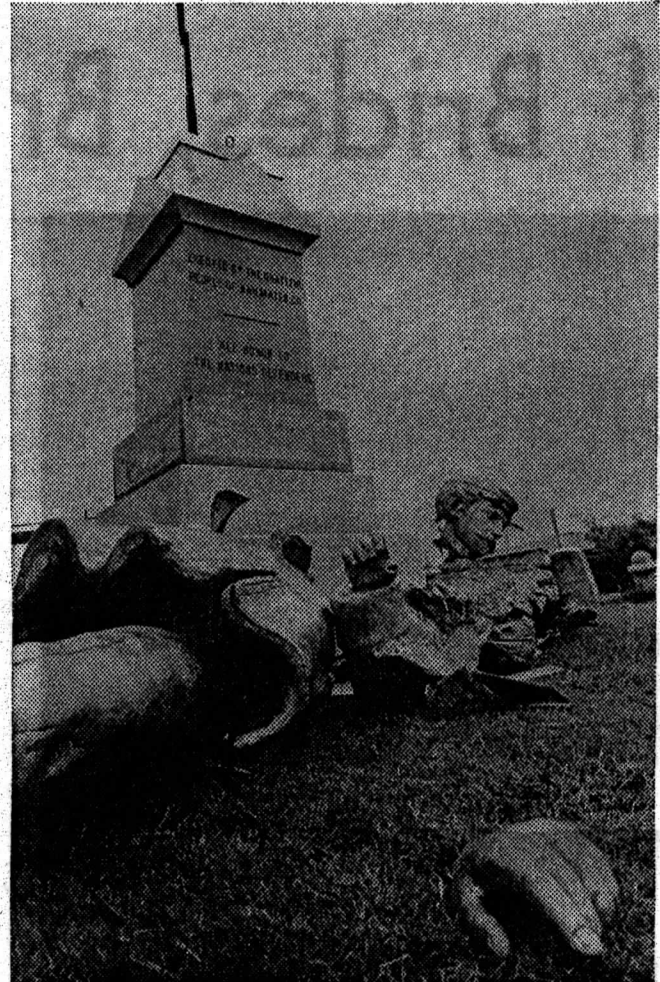


Monument to Mary still stands

1-21-69



— Tribune Photo



— Tribune Photo

ONCE PROUD AND TALL, UNION CEMETERY SENTRY FELL BEFORE AN ONSLAUGHT

Fallen Soldier Needs Repairs

Old soldiers never die. Not if Pasco Balzarini can help it.

He's determined to mend the wounds and make whole again an old trooper who has steadfastly stood sentry duty for more than 80 years.

The old soldier suffered near-fatal injuries during a night ambush last Oct. 31. His attackers left him in a crumpled, shattered heap — a pile, you could say — at the foot of his sentry post.

It is on that post, a pedestal, that the soldier has stood since

the late 1880s, watching over the silent populace of Union Cemetery, on Woodside Road just west of El Camino Real in Redwood City.

Balzarini, Redwood City park superintendent, wants to return the six-foot, bronze veteran to his pedestal. But the soldier's wounds, while mendable, require an intricate, costly operation.

No firms on the Peninsula have been willing to estimate the cost of repairing the soldier, Balzarini said. The Bur-

lingame company which gathered the smashed pieces together after Halloween attacks of earlier years has gone out of business.

The statue, Balzarini said, has been the target of vandals and thieves for many years. Usually, the soldier's rifle is stolen, but last time the rifle was the only thing left on the pedestal.

Balzarini is searching for someone who can fix the statue, or someone who can make

a new one at a "reasonable" cost. An Italian firm has offered to replace the old soldier for \$2,724, a price the city had to reject, Balzarini said.

"If I don't find someone to fix it soon, I'll just have to try it myself," he said. One year, he replaced the soldier's stolen rifle with a converted World War I model.

Balzarini said persons who can help him solve his problem may call him at the Park Dept., 368-2894.

1-24-1969

Union Cemetery's Fallen Hero Will Soon Be Back 'On Guard'

Union Cemetery's shattered statue of a Civil War infantryman is as good as fixed, according to Pasco Balzarini, Redwood City park superintendent, who's been flooded with offers to help.

Balzarini issued a call Tuesday for ideas on how to piece the six-foot bronze statue together after it appeared Peninsula firms were unwilling to take on the job.

The statue, which has stood guard over the cemetery on Woodside Road just west of El Camino Real for more than 80

years, was smashed into several pieces by vandals last Halloween.

Since his plea, more than 15 persons have called.

Meanwhile, the Tribune has received \$1 from Mrs. Myrtle Strong of Redwood City, who said she is starting a fund to aid the cause.

When Balzarini heard of the donation, he said such a fund drive is needed, to buy paint for the statue once it's back in one piece.

He said it will cost about

\$300 to gold-leaf the statue.

Donations may be sent to The Editor, the Tribune, 901 Marshall St., or to the Park Department, 1455 Madison Ave., Redwood City.

Finished in May:

Union Cemetery

RC's Fallen Soldier

F. - RC - CEMETERIES

Receiving Repairs

By KEN BRYANT
Tribune Staff Writer

Redwood City's fallen soldier, the Civil War statue which has, between injuries, stood guard at Union Cemetery for 80 years, is recuperating in San Carlos.

Edward Morra, owner of Morra Specialized Machining, Inc., was chosen by Redwood City officials from among 30 volunteers to mend the old sentry's wounds.

Repair work, which entails jig-saw puzzling the statues pieces together and making new parts, should be done in May, Morra told officials.

The statue was crashed to the ground from his pedestal in the Woodside Road cemetery last Oct. 31, by Halloween night-riders. It was the umpteenth time it had happened, and very nearly the last.

After the attack, the city officials were unable to find anyone to fix the statue until Park Supt. Pasco Balzarini issued a plead for help.

In addition to the volunteer repairmen, others sent in money to cover costs of placing night lights around the statue once it is fixed. The total collected was \$55.

Balzarini said the statue will be placed back on its pedestal, fully lighted, but missing a left hand. The hand was given to the San Mateo County Historical Association museum at College of San Mateo.

In case somebody runs off with the statue the city will at least have a left hand left.

The city parks and recreation commission also is studying the possibility of converting the cemetery site into a park.

2/21/69

Tribune

2-21-69

that the battered old soldier at Union Cemetery in Redwood City will become the basis on which two major projects will get underway.

The soldier, who stood at the entrance to the cemetery on Woodside Road, was torn a s u n d e r by vandals who smashed the metal body into many small pieces.

The park department issued a call for the public's assistance in rehabilitating the statue. This brought several cash contributions, 23 offers to fix the statue and some concrete suggestions for permanent solutions to the periodic problem of repairing the dismembered structure.

Park Supt. Pasco Balzarini said today he has received a

director of the San Mateo County Historical Association, suggesting that the soldier be housed permanently in the association's facilities at the College Heights campus in San Mateo.

Meanwhile, the following additional cash contributions for the restoration project were received at the Tribune: E. F. Gomes \$1; anonymous "for the fallen hero," \$2; Mrs. Isabel Camacho, \$5; Henry A. Beeger, \$10; anonymous for the Civil War infantryman \$1; Mrs. C. M. White, \$1; Ken Meyer, \$1; Mr. and Mrs. Kay Goff, \$2.

Gomes, who lives at 1005 Palm Ave., suggested the statue be lighted, 1-29-69

2-4-69

A Public Park

REF. - RC - CEMETERIES

At Union Cemetery

PAM

As a trickle of dollars comes into the office to help save the old soldier at Union Cemetery the need for restoring the landmark and developing the cemetery into something usable becomes more apparent.

San Mateo County Historical Association has volunteered to care for the soldier — who was decapitated by vandals several months ago — until Redwood City finds a safe, permanent location. This seems like a sensible offer, and the city might well consider turning the statue, including all of the broken pieces, over to the historical association for display at its museum until this city has a master plan for its preservation.

Additionally, the time has come to make of Union Cemetery an attractive public park which will not only beautify the focal point at Five Points, but give the area some much-needed facilities for people who might want to picnic or sit on a bench in a flower garden.

We urge the city to meet with the historical association for the purpose of mapping a permanent solution. Otherwise, we fear the old soldier will be battered again and again by thoughtless people. 2-4-69

Back on Duty Next Week:

RC's Old Soldier Gets a New Glow

The old soldier of Redwood City's Union Cemetery not only refuses to fade away, he's shining as brightly as he did in his youth.

And next week he is scheduled to resume his vigil atop a pedestal in the 110-year-old burial ground.

It looked like the end of the trail for the aging Union trooper last year, after Halloween raiders toppled him from his perch and shattered him into an uncounted number of pieces.

But now he is standing in a workroom at the city's main fire station with a glittering new coat of gold leaf.

The brilliant finishing touch in reconstruction of the statue is being painstakingly applied by two brothers, fireman James Werby and Norman Werby, owner of the New Signs Co. at 1164 Truman St.

The extremely thin sheets of gold come in 3-inch squares with a paper backing. The leaf is peeled off then put on by hand with an adhesive.

The finish should remain in good condition for at least 20 years, Jim Werby explained.

City Park Supt. Pasco Balzarini, who has spearheaded the effort to restore the soldier, said he hoped it could be put back in place by the end of next week.

The statue, 6½ feet tall, has been damaged numerous times by vandals since being erected more than 80 years ago.

Balzarini said that a light would be installed in the cemetery, on Woodside Road near El Camino Real, to keep the soldier lit up all night.

That way, he hopes, would-be vandals will be discouraged from going near the statue, and those that do will be quickly spotted.



—Tribune photo by Dave Walker

A NEW COAT OF GOLD LEAF Firemen James, Norman Werby at work

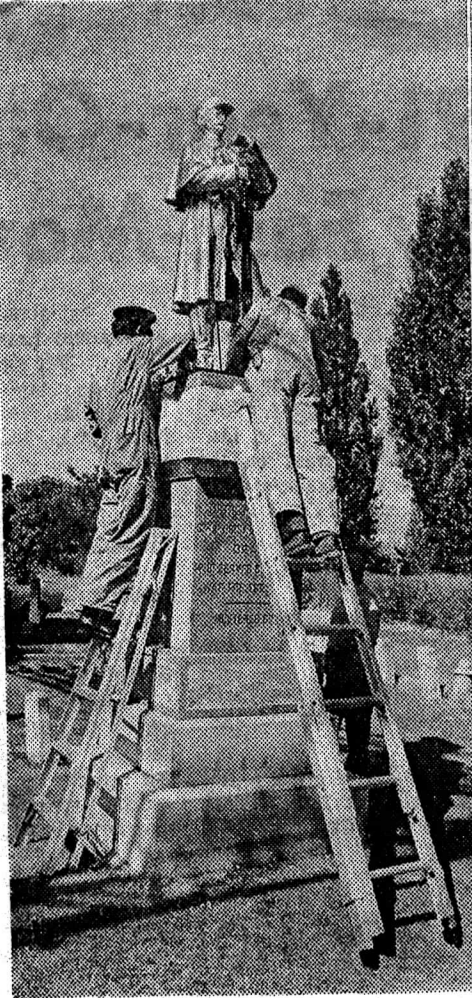
The soldier has been rehabilitated entirely through volunteer efforts.

Edward Morra, owner of a San Carlos machine shop, used epoxy glue to put together the jigsaw-puzzle of pieces that remained after the October bushwacking. He also made some new parts for the

statue, modled out of a brittle material called "pot metal."

Then Fire Chief Joseph Lodi allowed the station facilities to be used for the refinishing. The \$52 cost of the gold leaf is being paid from donations which came in following an appeal by Balzarini.

6/24/69



—Tribune Photos

OLD SOLDIER WAS PUT UP LAST THURSDAY (LEFT)
and smashed into pieces again last night (right)

6/3/69
5/24/69

Vandals Again Wreck Union Soldier Statue

Volunteer labor worth several thousand dollars went down the drain in the latest attack on the statue, Park Supt. Pasco Balzarini said this morning.

Balzarini spearheaded the effort to piece the soldier together again after it was smashed in a Halloween foray last year.

In last night's ambush, the statue was broken into many pieces and its head and arms were taken.

Unless the missing parts are recovered, said Balzarini, it may be impossible to rebuild the soldier.

The veteran campaigner has stood vigil in the cemetery, at Woodside and Hess roads, for the past 80 years — when not being repaired.

The statue, according to Balzarini, is made of brittle "pot metal," like that used for youngsters' toy soldiers.

The raid last night occurred some time between 10 o'clock and midnight, according to Police Officer William L. Pratt.

He said the vandals apparently were attempting to take the wooden mock rifle in the soldier's hands but instead pulled the entire 6½-foot-tall statue off its pedestal. Only small pieces of the rifle were found.

The soldier remained largely intact from the waist down, but the remainder was either shattered or missing.

Vandals last night once again toppled Redwood City's old Union soldier statue, perhaps for the last time.

The gilded trooper was put back on his pedestal in Union Cemetery only last Thursday, in time for Memorial Day services.

After last fall's incident, Balzarini started a fund-raising campaign which raised \$52.

Edward Morra, owner of a San Carlos machine shop, put the fragments together with epoxy glue — and fabricated some parts — at no charge.

Then fireman James Weby and his brother, Norman, own-

er of the New Signs Co. at 1164 Trumen St., painstakingly applied gold leaf to the rebuilt figure. The donations were used to purchase the thin sheets of gold.

The soldier stood guard Friday and the Rev. John Ulig of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Redwood City conducted Memorial Day services.

5-29-69

REF. - RC - CEMETERIES
PAM



Old Iron Soldier Set for Services

5/29/69

Redwood City's oldest war veteran, fully recovered from wounds suffered in a near-fatal skirmish last year, resumed his sentry post today at Union Cemetery on Woodside Road.

His return, the result of an enthusiastic effort by numerous Redwood City area residents, comes just one day before the annual tribute to the nation's war dead, Memorial Day.

Holiday activities include graveside services in Redwood City and San Bruno, a horse show in Woodside and a parade, kite festival and regatta in San Mateo.

Services in Redwood City will be held at Union Cemetery at 10 a.m., conducted by Boy Scout Troop No. 67. The

weather bureau predicts fair weather.

The old cast-iron veteran, who for more than 80 years has stood at rigid attention atop his pedestal, was smashed to pieces last Halloween night by vandals. His condition was considered terminal by park officials.

A plea for help in restoring the statue by Park Director Pasco Balzarini, however, was answered by nearly 100 persons. Many sent money; others offered to piece the soldier back together.

City officials chose Edward Mora of San Carlos to mend the statue, and used the donated funds to purchase gold-leaf. Redwood City Fireman

(Please Turn to Pg. 13, Col. 1)

Union Cemetery
— Tribune Photo
THE OLD SOLDIER RETURNS
Fire Dept. snorkel ladder drops him in place

Union Cemetery 6-7-69
Community Wrath

REF. - RC - CEMETERIES
PAM

And Desecration

A community's wrath is quickly ignited when atrocities occur. Redwood City has illustrated this in the past when vandals tore down the Easter Cross. Within days a committee was in action collecting funds to restore the Cross.

A comparable situation exists now with the news that the Old Soldier statue at Union Cemetery had been smashed by vandals a mere five days after he had been restored to his place of honor.

Within hours there were hundreds of dollars being contributed to restore the statue and additional funds offered as reward for the capture of the responsible parties.

Investigating officers made two arrests relatively soon after the desecration at Union Cemetery occurred. Whether these suspects are guilty will be for a court to decide.

But in a case of this kind it doesn't seem practical that guilty parties should be fined or put behind bars. They should be sentenced to a constructive work project . . . possibly the rebuilding of the statue . . . as a means of paying off their debt.

Meanwhile, the city had better plan for something more permanent than a plaster-of-paris sentinel.