

An old cemetery gets some respect

By Janet Reinka
Times Tribune staff

REDWOOD CITY — An application will be made to place Union Cemetery on the National Register of Historic Places, a first step toward seeking funds to repair and clean it up.

The City Council Monday night unanimously endorsed the request made by the Archives Committee of the Redwood City Library. The old cemetery, where 1,700 to 2,000 persons were buried, is already listed as a California state historical landmark.

The cemetery, located next to the Woodside Road overpass, has been badly vandalized over the years, and, ironically, that has been the impetus for getting the cemetery onto the federal

listing, according to Mrs. Roy Cloud, leader of the archives committee.

Cloud said more than 100 persons from all over the country, some with relatives in the cemetery, responded to newspaper and television stories about the vandalized cemetery.

Subsequently, a nationally recognized authority on American cemeteries, Dr. James Deetz of the department of archaeology at the University of California at Berkeley, selected two students to develop necessary information and prepare the application.

Founders of the towns of Woodside and Searsville are buried at Union Cemetery, along with the "first white child born in Redwood City," the students, James Morrison and Pamela Biaufarb, found.

Individuals referred to in county records as

"Chinaman" and "unknown man found hung" also are interred in the cemetery. At the original entrance, a plot of 460 square feet was established for the Union Civil War veterans. It is the site of the annual Memorial Day ceremony, one of San Mateo County's oldest, ongoing traditions.

Another 1,400-square-foot section was established for the International Order of Freemasons and an 840-square foot plot for the Masonic Order. In the 1880s, a life-sized pot-metal statue of a Civil War soldier was erected. After being restored and vandalized three times, the remaining pieces were taken to the San Mateo County Historical Museum for safekeeping.

Six acres for the cemetery were purchased in

Please see CEMETERY, B-3

1859 for \$500 after a local citizen, who wanted the community's burying ground for the impoverished moved off his property, agreed to contribute matching funds.

The Union Cemetery Association deeded the cemetery in trust to the governor. In 1947, it was transferred to the state and in 1962 to the city of Redwood City.

From 1859 to 1919, plots cost \$10, \$15 or \$25. While no prominent citizens were buried at the cemetery, many pioneers, rich and poor, are interred there.

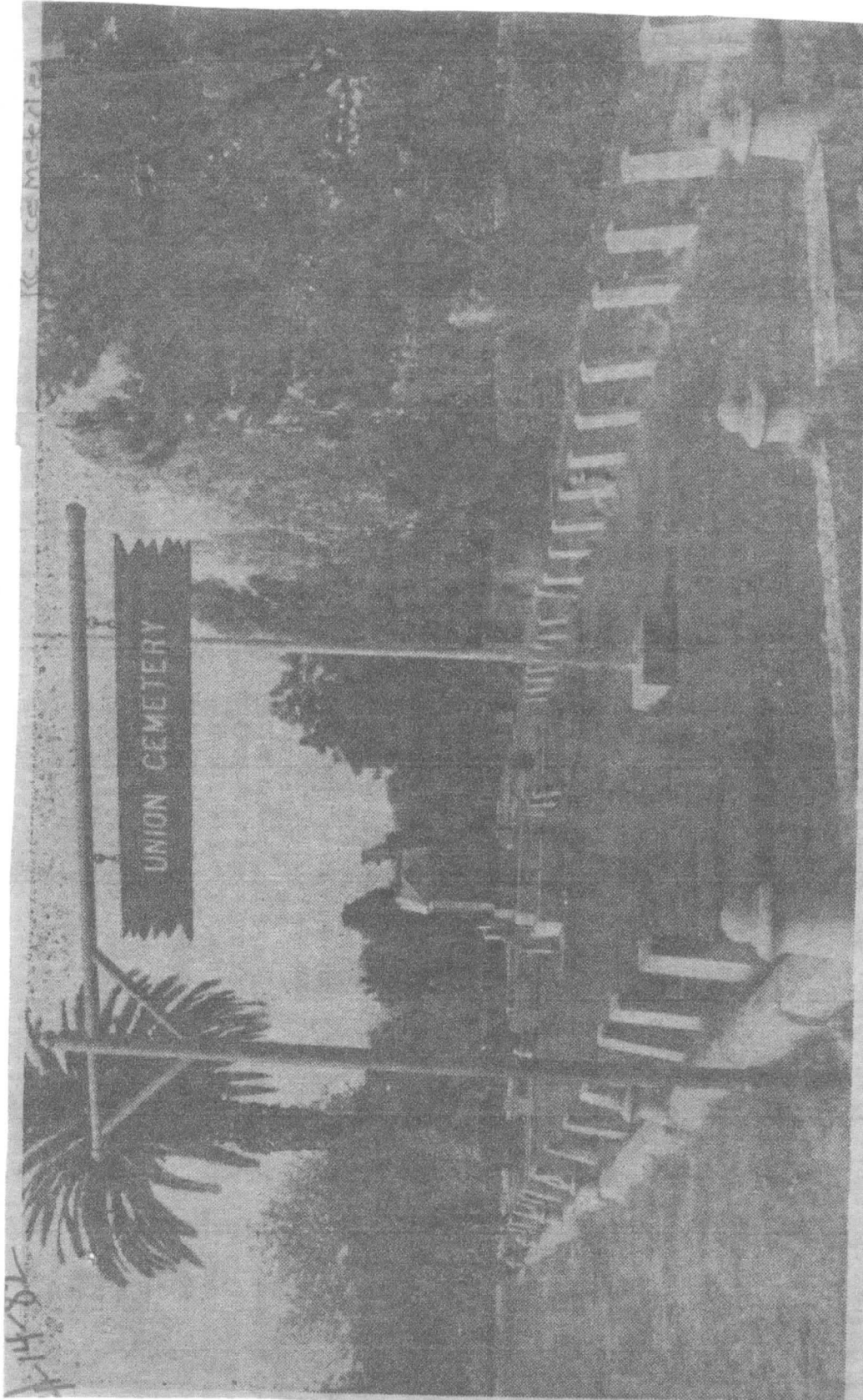
The last meeting of the Union Cemetery Association was in 1918, and the cemetery slid into neglect thereafter. There have only been scattered burials in the past 40 years, the last one in 1959.

Cloud said a listing on the National Register will allow those interested in the museum to seek private or federal funding for its restoration.

"It brings prestige to Redwood City and is part of the history of Redwood City," she said.

Cloud said that with the publicity over the last two years about the attempt to obtain the listing, the cemetery's maintenance has improved, as groups have volunteered to clean it up.

4-14-1982



The Union Cemetery has been badly vandalized over the years, but it finally may get some respect — a federal archives listing. Times Tribune file photo

may win honors

Times Tribune staff

*Ref. RC
Pan Cemetery*

REDWOOD CITY — The state Historical Resources Commission will consider whether to recommend that Union Cemetery be put on the federal register of historic places when it meets Friday in Oakland.

The city-owned cemetery on Woodside Road was started in 1852 and is the final resting place for many Civil War veterans.

Union Cemetery already is an official state historic landmark, but its inclusion on the national list will grant it a bit more prestige, according to community activist Nita Spangler.

A place on the national list also will mean extra protection for the cemetery, she said. If the cemetery is on the national list, an environmental impact study will have to be done before any federal money may be used for construction work involving the six-acre cemetery.

Spangler plans to attend Friday's meeting at 9 a.m. at Oakland City Hall on behalf of the Archives Committee of the Redwood City Library, of which she is a member. The library group is championing the cemetery's addition to the federal list.

The state commission makes its recommendation to the U.S. Department of the Interior. If the state commission decides to recom-

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mend that Union Cemetery be added to the national list, "it's almost automatic, but not quite" that the federal department will go along, Spangler said. But final approval from the Interior Department could take as long as a year, she said.

The state commission considered Union Cemetery's addition to the federal historic register last year. But the commission postponed action until it received some additional information on the cemetery's background, which Spangler said she has provided.

Landmark cemetery gets vote

By Anne Houghteling

Times Tribune staff

REDWOOD CITY — The chances now look promising that Union Cemetery on Woodside Road will obtain a place on the national register of historic places.

The state's Historical Resource Commission Friday voted to recommend its addition to the national list, and such recommendations generally are followed, according to Redwood City resident Nita Spangler, a member of the city library's Archives Committee. Spangler and other committee members have been campaigning to get the cemetery on the national list for some time. It already is on the state list of landmarks.

The cemetery dates from 1859, and many Civil War veterans are buried there.

Its particular historical significance comes from the fact that it figures in the passage of California's first cemetery law, according to Spangler, who appeared at Friday's meeting of the state Historical Resource Commission in Oakland.

In the 1850s, an area landowner wanted squatters to stop burying their dead on his property and agreed to contribute funds for land to be used for a new cemetery. On March 15, 1859, the six acres now known as Union Cemetery were purchased for \$500 by the newly formed Union Cemetery Association.

The recommendation of the state Historical Resources Commission now goes to the U.S. Department of the Interior.

5-28-85

Nita Spangler tells story

RC
Almanac

6/8/83



By Ray Spangler

Memorial Day in Redwood City, 1983, found between 50 and 100 members of the American Legion Post 105 assembled at Union Cemetery, Redwood City.

Gino Wedgewood, wearing the uniform of a Union infantry corporal, was a living statue, standing at attention with a Civil War musket, on the granite base that once carried the pot-metal statue of a Civil War soldier that was twice toppled from the base.

Its remains rest in a heavy wooden box in the storage area of the historical museum at the College of San Mateo.

The statue was provided by the General George S. Evan Post, Grand Army of the Republic, in 1889.

The post was organized on Dec. 13, 1884.

Wedgewood was secured to his post with the help of an iron pipe bolted to the monument base. He tucked it under the back of his uniform belt. He said it did not bother him to stand at attention for a long period—but the wind threatened his balance.

Nita Spangler, representing the Archives Committee of the Redwood City Public Library, Inc., was introduced by Councilman Bob Bury after Troop

149, Boy Scouts of America, raised the colors on the cemetery staff.

The Rev. Dennis Logie, pastor of First Christian Church, delivered the invocation.

Mrs. Spangler gave a history of Union Cemetery and expressed the hope that one day a book would be written about the cemetery and the people buried there, together with some of the community traditions associated with it.

Union Cemetery is a California Historical Landmark, No. 816. The Archives Committee has an application pending in the U.S. Interior Department to place it upon the National Register of Historic Places.

Congressman Tom Lantos was the second speaker. He praised the historical presentation by remarking that a community without knowing its history is like a cork bobbling aimlessly at sea, not knowing where it came from or where it is going.

Redwood City Mayor Bill Stangel made a brief presentation and the groups adjourned to American Legion Hall for breakfast and the dedication of a new hall to the memory of the late Edmund J. McDonald, past commander of Post 105. Commander Charles Hady performed the ceremony.

In Mrs. Spangler's discussion of the cemetery's history, she noted that the cemetery lies near the center of Rancho de las Pulgas which once stretched from San Mateo Creek to San Francisco Creek and from the bay to the ridgeline.

In 1852, she declared, while the Arguellos were still defending title to this large grant, squatters moved to the embarcadero at Redwood Creek to engage in the lumber trade, to build boats, and to keep sa- loons.

"They appropriated nearby land for a cemetery—it is not known just where—but the ownership of that land went from the widow Arguello to an American absentee owner who lost his title through foreclosure in 1859 to Horace Hawes, author of the legislation that created San Mateo County.

Hawes gave notice to his new neighbors that he did not want them using his land for burials.

"This caused a great outcry among the locals, who organized a committee and by early 1859, had purchased six acres for the Union Cemetery Association. Hawes contributed toward the \$500 purchase price," Mrs. Spangler said.

"Howe also inspired friends in the State Legislature to introduce a bill to authorize rural cemetery associations for cemeteries of six acres or less, thereby setting up the first legislation on cemeteries in the State of California," she said.

"The first burial in the cemetery, even before the ink was dry on the purchase, was on March 3, 1859, when four-year-old Anna Douglas was laid to rest by her family and friends. The grave is almost in the center of the graveyard.

"A month later, the Cemetery Association built a wooden fence around the property with 'three excellent gates'.

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The city was a postoffice on the Butterfield Stage line that stopped service when Confederate troops advanced from Texas into New Mexico on the southern overland. California recruits joined General Patrick Edward Connor on the Central Overland to guard the Pony Express.

History of Union Cemetery

RC
Almanac
6/8/83

General Connor later lived in Redwood City (in Lathrop House). And then there was the Jefferson Cavalry, a home guard organized in January 1864.

"By war's end, there was little enthusiasm for the military, certainly in Redwood City. The Jefferson Cavalry had a show of only about 20 at its last muster," Mrs. Spangler reported.

"But in Decatur, Illinois, where Lincoln was remembered as a neighbor, two officers of 14th Illinois Infantry organized the Grand Army of the Republic, stating objectives of fraternity, commemoration and assistance to its members.

"Two years later, in 1868, under leadership of General John A. Logan, the GAR was effective in getting Congress to declare Decoration Day a national holiday.

Southerners have chosen other dates to memorialize their war dead.

"The GAR became a politically as well as a socially important organization and greatly expanded in the 1880s to a peak membership of about a half million men," she said.

"That is when on December 13, 1884, General George S. Evans Post was organized in Redwood City. It soon had a women's Relief Corps as an auxiliary.

"Six months after the post was organized, the editor of the San Mateo County Times and Gazette reported: 'Today is Memorial Day, and as there are no deceased members of the GAR in the cemetery here, the Post will not turn out. The Post Commander will turn out, with the officers of Lincoln Post No. 1 in San Francisco. There is but one grave of a soldier in Union Cemetery. It will be decorated.'

Two years later in 1886, the grave of the late Will Frisbie, who served as a lieutenant in the 19th Infantry of the Wisconsin volunteers, was decorated by members of George S. Evans post. Two others, Frederick Koch who served with the 15th New York Infantry and Robert McEwain whose service record was then unknown, also were honored in their graves.

"By 1887, there were six veteran's graves to decorate with flowers on Memorial Day. This increase had prompted the GAR Post to purchase a triangular lot and erect a tall wooden cross which was decorated with ivy and flowers and dedicated to the unknown dead. This is the present GAR plot and the cross preceded the monument," Nita Spangler said.

In 1889, the post put the metal statue of a soldier.

The Union Cemetery Association had its last recorded meeting in 1900. The 1906 earthquake toppled some

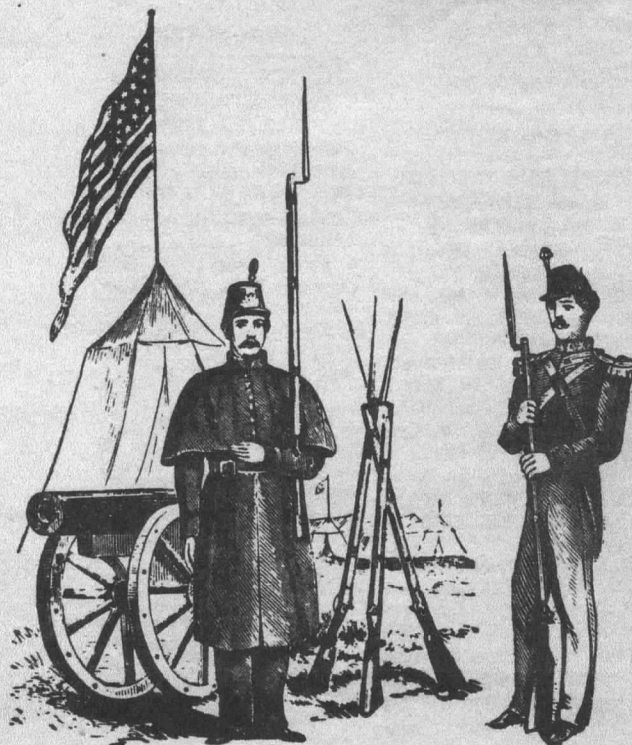
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Among notable Memorial Day observances was one in 1927 when the GAR, Spanish-American War veterans, the American Legion, four Boy Scout troops, Girl Scouts and other community groups attended.

Mrs. Spangler credited Emma Hayward Kalenborn, Floyd Granger and Mary Cereghino among those whose individual efforts contributed to public awareness of the significance of Union Cemetery in Redwood City history.

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6-8-83

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2 of 2

Redwood City's Civil War cemetery

By Anne Houghteling
Times Tribune staff

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Pam

REDWOOD CITY — Union Cemetery on Woodside Road, burial place for some Civil War veterans, has joined Mount Vernon and Monticello on the National Register of Historic Places.

It also has local company, including the Filoli Estate in Woodside, the Burlingame Railroad Station and Redwood City's Fitzpatrick Building, formerly the Bank of San Mateo.

The cemetery, the target of vandalism in recent years, was elevated to the national list Aug. 25 by the Department of the Interior. But given government bureaucracy,

the cemetery's local supporters did not hear officially of the long-awaited honor until earlier this month through the state Office of Historic Preservation.

"The general reaction is 'Hurrah,'" said Nita Spangler, a member of the Archives Committee of the Redwood City Public Library. The committee has been campaigning to get the cemetery on the list of national landmarks since 1979.

The cemetery, which is near the Woodside Road overpass, dates from 1859 and is the site for one of San Mateo County's oldest annual Memorial Day ceremonies. About 2,000 people are buried there, including about 40 Civil War veterans.

Union Cemetery was the first public

cemetery in California to be owned by a cemetery association, according to Jean Cloud, chairwoman of the Archives Committee.

Elevation to the national list means some extra protection for the cemetery and a better chance at funds for restoration, according to Cloud and Spangler. The cemetery already is a state landmark.

Now no federal money can be used to destroy or change the use of the cemetery without additional review of its significance. And since some funds for historical preservation are awarded only to national landmarks, cemetery supporters now may have a better chance to get funds for sprucing it up.

becomes a national landmark

"We are so grateful that we're on the national register," Cloud said.

Spangler said that she thinks vandalism in the city-owned cemetery has decreased a bit, perhaps because the hedge around it has been cut, giving less cover to those bent on mischief. But Cloud said some families still are keeping at home family tombstones once in the cemetery out of fear that the memorials may be damaged.

"When they know it is safe, they'll put them back," she predicted.

The campaign to get the cemetery on the national register started after a horrified Cloud heard some discussion of turning it into a baseball diamond. The archives committee and others started to research

the history and occupants of the cemetery in preparation for making a case for its historical significance.

Archeology students from the University of California at Berkeley handled some of the research and the public helped, as well. The Archives Committee heard from more than 100 people, some with relatives buried in Union Cemetery, after newspaper articles and a television news program outlined the problem with vandalism at the graveyard.

Cloud said that now the four-year campaign for national landmark status for the cemetery has been won, the next step "is to make Redwood City proud of the cemetery and to preserve its atmosphere."



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PAM

—Tribune Photo

A Time To Play and a Time To Think

Craig Barrow and Alvin Dexter make the most of their day out of school today, going fishing as boys have done for generations of Memorial Days. And at freshly decorated Union Cemetery in Redwood City the graves of long-dead war veterans were remembered once again by the descendants of those for whom they fought.

Peninsula Honors War Dead

Peninsulans joined Americans around the world yesterday, pausing briefly to honor the nation's dead from previous wars.

The observance took on renewed meaning as more and more U.S. military men are being sent overseas.

Services were held yesterday at Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno where thousands of World War II veterans and their wives lie buried.

A memorial service was under the direction of the United Veterans Coordinating Committee of San Mateo County. American Legion posts placed flowers on 76,000 graves.

Today, the Knights of Columbus sponsored an annual Memorial Day Field Mass at the national cemetery.

Yet another Memorial Day service was held yesterday at Union Cemetery in Redwood City, the burial ground of many old soldiers from the American Civil War and the Spanish American War.

All schools, banks, city, state and federal offices were closed, along with most retail stores, although some grocery, liquor and drug stores remained open.

(See Cemetery, Pg. 2, Col. 2)

Five Points Construction Halts May 30 Parade Event

A Tradition Ends: ?

By RAY SPANGLER

Tomorrow is Memorial Day, but there will be no parade from downtown Redwood City to Union Cemetery at Five Points.

For many years this was an annual event of some importance in Redwood City. Now it is well nigh impossible because of the construction of the overpass at Five Points. The entrance to the Union Cemetery is via a crowded detour from El Camino Real.



SPANGLER

There at the gates stands the statue of a Union soldier, his rifle stolen, on a pedestal with these words: "To the memory of California's patriotic dead who served during the war of the union."

War of the union—there is a forgotten phrase. Nowadays those of the north call it the Civil War, those of the south remember it as the war between the states. The statue calls it the war of the union. I take it the name of the statue appears near its base: "Mustered Out."

On the other side of the pedestal is this inscription: "Erected by the grateful people of San Mateo County."

Near the base of the statue are the graves of the veterans—all of the Civil War save two. One is the grave of James Peace, a sailor who jumped ship in San Francisco and whose gravestone says he was the first to raise our flag in San Mateo County. The other is the grave of a veteran of the First Louisiana Infantry—in the Mexican War.

Californians are represented by the 2nd and 4th Infantries, two each, the 6th and 8th Infantry, and the 1st Cavalry.

Missouri is represented by the 3rd Infantry and the 1st Engineers.

From Ohio: 41st, the 104th, and the 115th Infantry.

From Minnesota, the 1st and 2nd Infantry.

Maryland: 15th Volunteers.

Connecticut: 1st Cavalry and the 2nd H. A. (Horse Artillery?).

Illinois: The 22nd, 28th, 29th, and 50th Infantry; and the 9th and 13th Cavalry.

Pennsylvania: The 7th Cavalry and the 91st Infantry.

Maine: 19th and 26th Infantry.

New York: 23rd Infantry, and 25th and 69th New York State Militia Infantry.

Michigan: 23rd Infantry and Indiana. the

There is one "USN" and another from the regular 3rd U. S. Cavalry.

There will be a new entrance to the cemetery next year, I presume, for the state has paid a sum of money to the city to make amends for what the Five Points overpass is doing to the cemetery.

The cemetery is in fair condition.

There was a time—between 1918 and 1937—when it received no care. After 1937 Floyd Granger took a hand and endeavored to rehabilitate the property. With the assistance of others, he induced the state to accept a portion of the responsibility, since it was believed that the state was the actual owner of the property under the original terms of the organization of the Union Cemetery Association.

The state tired of the annual appropriation to maintain the cemetery, and decided to sell the property. When it became known that a funeral director was about to buy it, Skylawn Memorial Gardens, a new burial site near the Half Moon Bay Road Skyline Blvd. intersection and owned by local people, entered into an agreement with the city to maintain the property at a fee of \$1 per year.

Many of the heavier monuments are askew. This is because the ground has settled, and possibly because some of them shifted in the 1906 earthquake.

Other monuments have been broken. At least one grave, which I know to have been emptied—the remains having been taken to another cemetery—appears to have been desecrated, but such is not the case.

However, many of the older monuments are illegible. I suspect many have been lost. Some of the wooden monuments are mere anonymous slabs.

There are broken stones here and there to indicate what has happened to other monuments.

The care of these can be entrusted only to the hands of thoughtful relatives.

What is to happen to the old cemetery? I have no idea.

There are many names prominent in Redwood City's history on those tombstones. Yet when it was proposed to make a park of the property, there was no great outcry.

There has been some talk of prying the soldier's monument around so that he may look toward the new entrance. I wonder if that makes any difference in the eternal vision of things we contemplate in a cemetery?

8-8-1984

New life for Union Cemetery

BY SAM WHITING

Thirty years after the last burial at Union Cemetery, there is a growing movement to clean up the six-acre plot and provide it the dignity befitting a national landmark.

Redwood City Parks and Recreation Commission, caretaker of the graveyard, has budgeted \$60,000 for improvements on the 1988-89 budget. But if there are private donations, improvements could begin as early as next year.

The drive to fix up the cemetery after decades of neglect, began in 1979 with the archives committee of the Redwood City Library.

Jean Cloud, who has ancestors buried in the graveyard, wrote a letter to the Redwood City Tribune soliciting help from "anyone interested in seeing this fixed up to what it should be." She got 100 positive responses. The group got together and decided the only way to save it from either being developed as a public park or bulldozed for commercial use, was to have it declared a landmark.

They raised enough money to hire anthropology graduate student Jim Morrison to research and draw up an application to the National Register of Historic Places. It took two years, but last summer, Union Cemetery was officially added to the National Register.

The cemetery started at about the time when Redwood City became a squatters town, in 1852. Dead were buried at the intersection of the Redwood City-Woodside Road, and the San Francisco-San Jose Road. The intersection later came to be known as Five Points.

In 1859, developer Horace Hawes, whose home stood where Sequoia High School now stands, bought the graveyard site and decided he wanted no more burials on his land. After a public outcry, Mr. Hawes helped arrange the purchase of an adjacent six-acre plot for \$500.

The graveyard, in its present location, was named Union Cemetery before the Civil War. In 1859, southern states were threatening secession, and had gathered some support in California. The name Union Cemetery came as a statement that in Redwood City, at least, the union was still safe.

war connection, the archives committee also claimed, in its application for landmark status, that Union Cemetery was the first official cemetery in California.

While the land was being bought, in 1859, the state legislature passed a law regulating establishment of cemeteries. Union Cemetery was the first to be officially sanctioned under this new law and thus became the first official graveyard in the state.

By 1918 the graveyard had fallen "into a period of complete neglect," according to an archive committee fact sheet.

In 1962, the state turned over the graveyard to Redwood City, and the Parks and Recreation Committee has been responsible for basic upkeep ever since.

Meanwhile, Woodside Road has been widened, and the cemetery has become a haven for vandals and beer drinkers, and a short cut from Woodside Road to the apartments behind the graveyard.

Times have changed, according to Jean Cloud, since the old days when people would gather at the Redwood Theater every Memorial Day to hear a reading of the Gettysburg Address, before parading over to put flowers on the soldiers plot.

Now the graveyard is mostly deserted except for kids hiking through on their way to Pop Warner football practice, and the vandals who lurk at night.

Part of the problem, according to Mrs. Cloud, is that there has never been a fence around the graveyard. "Some of the damage is so bad, they must have had trucks to do it," she says.

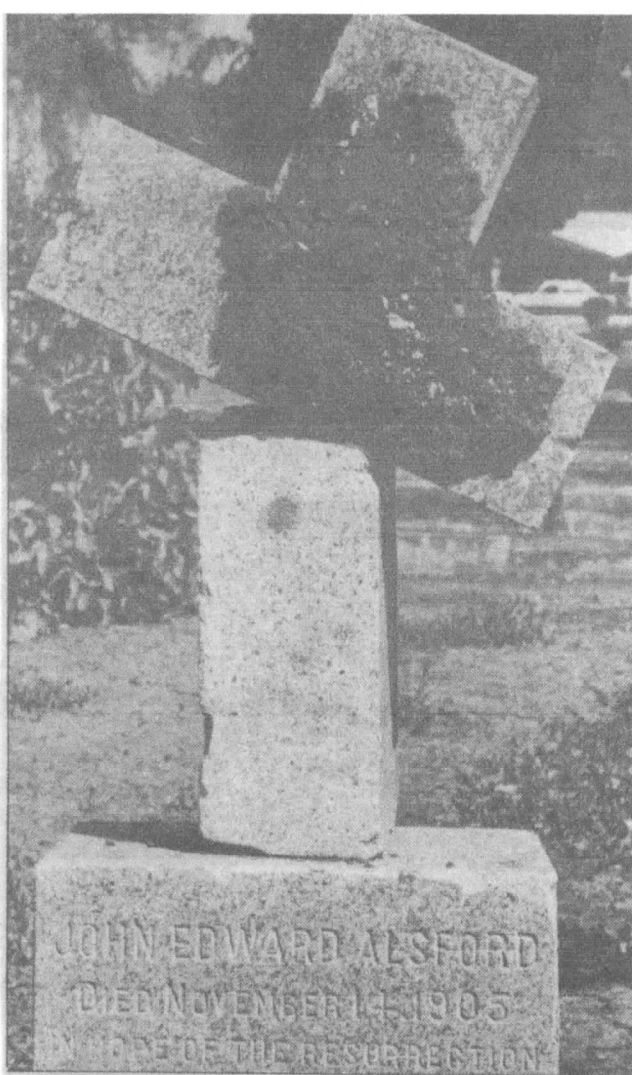
She then points to the decapitated statue of John Titus. "They knocked his head off," she says, "and it looks like they tried to dig him out, too."

The Civil War statue, a lifesize metal figure paid for by soldiers in 1884, has been broken and repaired twice. After the last destruction, in 1969, it was completely removed from the graveyard and it now sits in the Redwood City garage of an archives committee member.

"It probably should not go back into the cemetery to be vandalized again," says Nita Spangler. "There are very few Civil War artifacts in California, and I've been told that it is a very rare piece."

The soldier statue may never face El Camino again, but the archives and parks commissions have plans to remove the tumbleweeds and otherwise spruce up the graveyard.

10th 4



A SIGN OF THE TIMES at Union Cemetery, on Woodside Road at El Camino Real. Lichen covers a broken cross on the grave of John Edward Alsford, who died on Nov. 14, 1905. The epitaph reads, "In hope of the resurrection." Photo by Sam Whiting.

No soldiers killed in the war were actually buried in Union Cemetery, but following the war, a plot at the southeast corner was set aside for veterans.

Among those listed in the 33 military tombstones are James Peese and Frank Boos, two local residents of note.

Mr. Peese walked out on the Hudson's Bay Company in Monterey, and came north to settle in Woodside. He died in 1898, and his tombstone claims he was the first man to raise the United States flag in San Mateo County. This historic event occurred on July 4, 1856 at the Woodside Store, on Tripp Road.

Frank Boos was a German immigrant who fought in the Mexican War from 1846-48 before settling in Searsville, later Portola Valley. A father of 13, Mr. Boos was elected to the Searsville School Board in 1885. On Oct. 27, 1890, while still on the school board, Mr. Boos went out to his barn and killed himself with strychnine, local historians report.

Buried in the public portion of the cemetery are Captain John Greer, pioneer of Woodside, who died at age 68 on Feb. 13, 1885; John Sears, founder of Searsville, who died at age 84 on June 18, 1907, and Sheldon "Purdy" Pharis. Mr. Pharis owned a lumber mill on Kings Mountain and was known as the "Shingle King" until a bear mauled him to death on March 3, 1884. He was 55.

In addition to the famous local names and civil

Peter Griffith of Parks and Rec plans to put in a lighting system, walkway, parking lot and sprinklers to turn the weeds to lawn.

Before he can act, however, he needs a map charting the exact burial site of each of the 2000 bodies.

To this end, Jean Cloud and other committee members are busy drawing a map and raising money to hire an architect to lay out a use, protection and landscape plan. They are also considering establishing a public historic walk through the graveyard.

Though no money is scheduled to come from the city for five years, Mr. Griffith says, "If I can show that there is progress with this group, I can get the money tomorrow. The city council would be happy to do something about it."

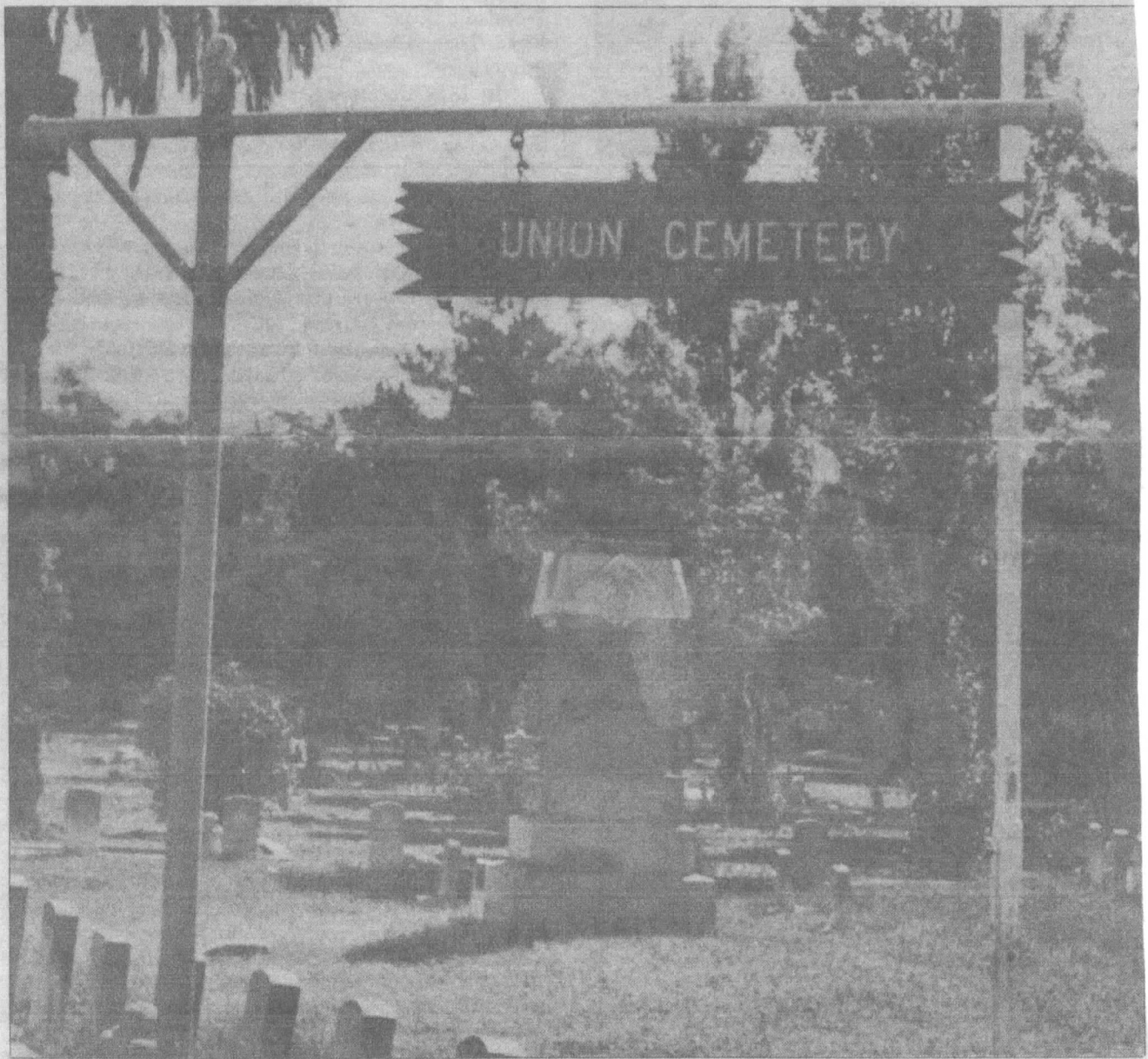
But first, Mrs. Cloud will have to raise about \$2000 in seed money. "We don't want a band-aid cure," she says. "It will take a lot of money, but anything you want to do you can do."

The situation at Union Cemetery is perhaps summed up best by the grave of John Edward Alsford, who died Nov. 4, 1905. Weeds have taken over the grave, and the stone cross has been knocked by vandals into a crooked position. But behind the weeds, his tombstone states, "In hopes of the resurrection."

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Bringing Union cemetery back to life

Story on Page 2



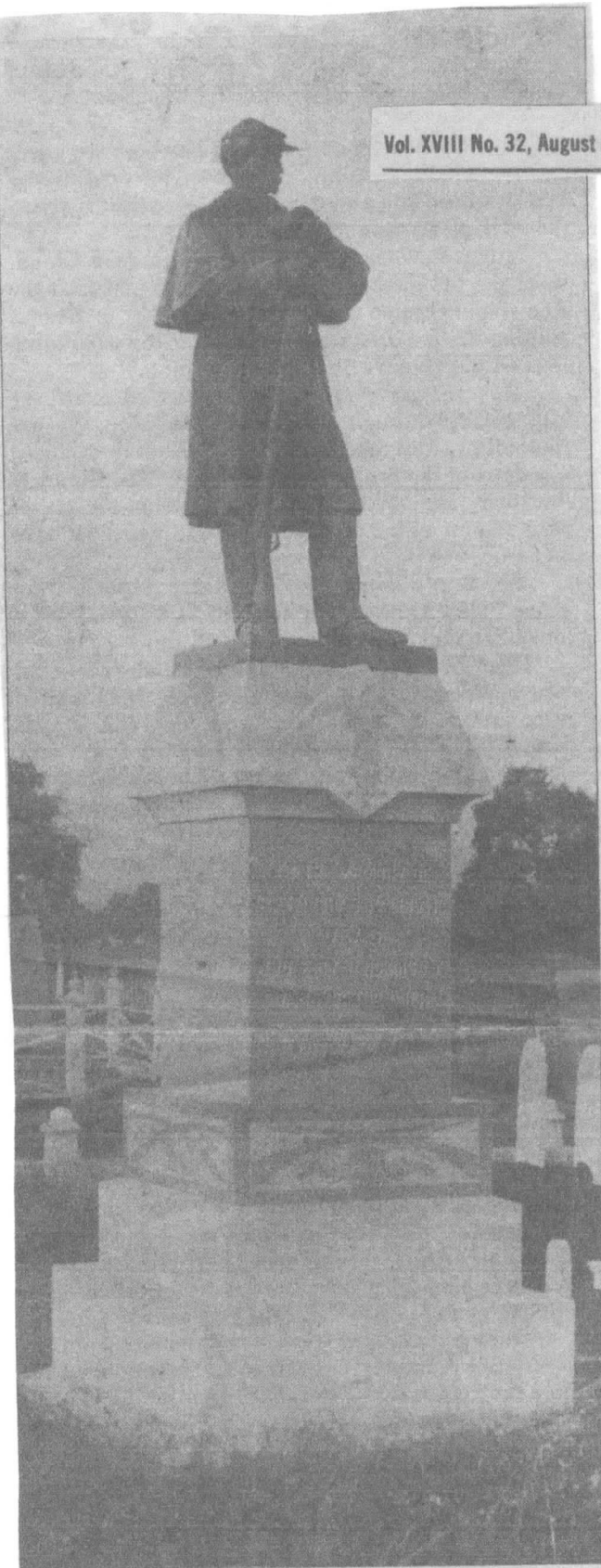
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC plot at Union Cemetery, minus the Civil War soldier. For years, locals listened to a Memorial Day reading of the Gettysburg Address at the

Redwood Theatre, then marched to the cemetery to pay respects to 33 veterans. Photo by Sam Whiting.

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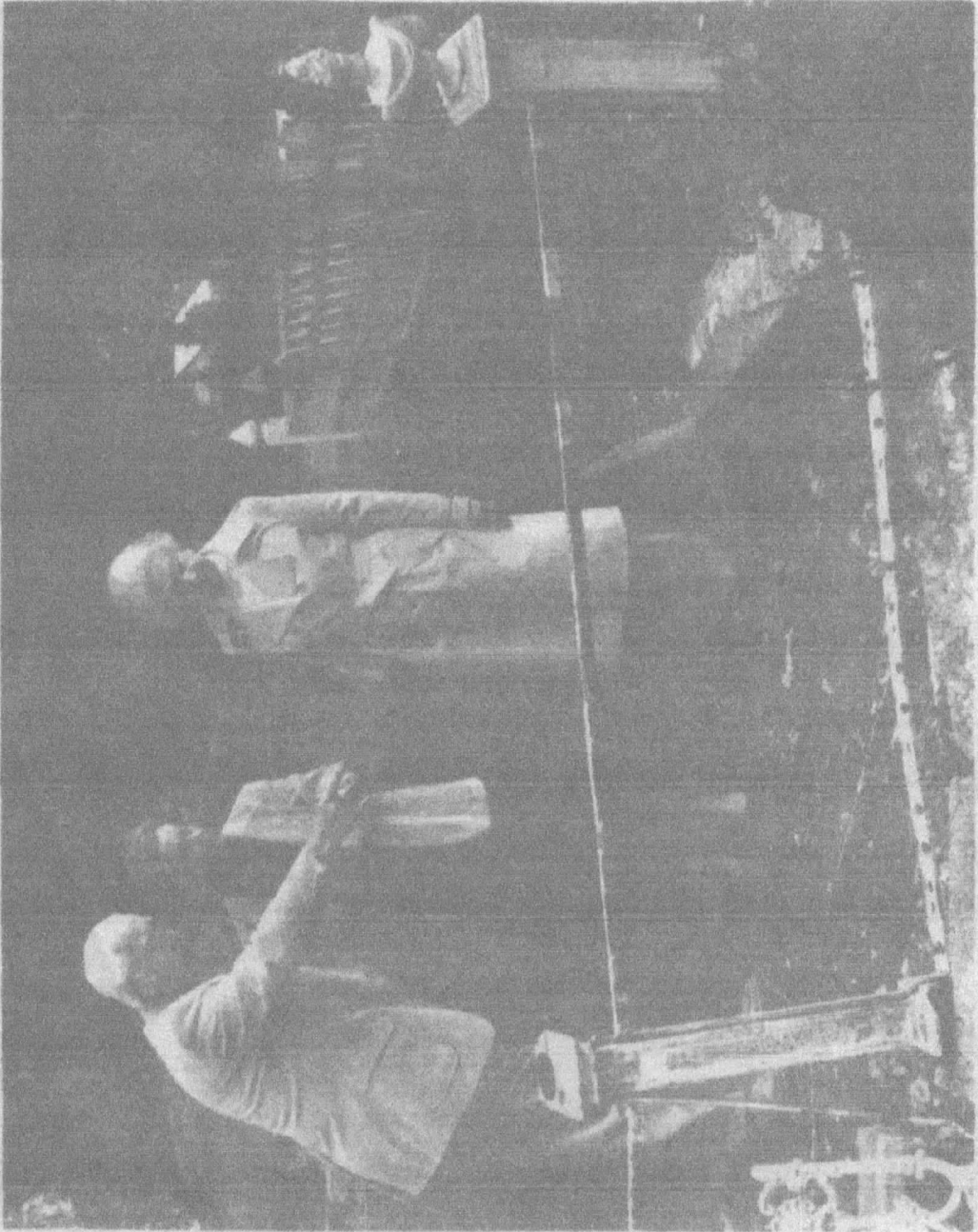


A UNION SOLDIER stands guard over the Grand Army of the Republic plot at Union Cemetery. The statue, erected by Civil War veterans in 1884, was knocked down by vandals in 1969. It was repaired, put back up and knocked down again in the same year. The soldier now stands guard in a Redwood City garage.

W. H. H.

Union Cemetery Walk Thru Nov. 11

Ref - RC - Cemetery
Plan



Richard Audsley, Jean Cloud, center and Alice Terremere inspect Union Cemetery; work for restoration.

The Archives Committee of the Redwood City Public Library will sponsor a *Walk Thru Tour* of Union Cemetery, Sunday November 11, from 2-4 p.m. as part of its campaign to get the public involved in the ultimate rehabilitation of the Civil War era cemetery in keeping with its National Register of Historic Places and California Historical Landmark No. 816 designations.

Redwood City Planning Commissioner and architect Richard E. Audsley, Mrs. Jean Cloud, Archives Committee chairperson, and Archives member Mrs. Alice Terremere took a look at the cemetery on Woodside Road this past week.

A light drizzle fell on the 125-year-old cemetery where 44 veterans and their kin are buried in the plot of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Union Army in the Civil War.

As Jean Cloud put it in the Archives Committee letter inviting organizations to the tour:

"Many citizens of a past era lie buried there—judges, pioneers and paupers—immigrants from far countries and others who contributed so much to the early history of Redwood City. Some two thousand people in all—including members of several fraternal societies."

Audsley, Cloud and Terremere picked their way through a rather shabby-looking graveyard on a 6½ acre triangle of land barely noticed by motorists as they sped by on Woodside Road, also the home of fast food restaurants, cocktail lounges, supermarkets and shopping centers.

Audsley confessed that he had barely paid attention to the cemetery himself until he became a Planning Commissioner last year and worked with the commission's

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They seek Union Cemetery restoration

From page 1.

historic preservation advisory committee.

The cemetery until recently was hard hit by vandals who enjoyed tumbling the grave markers, stealing this or that and in fact banished the 1884 statue of a Union Soldier standing guard over the cemetery, knocking the statue down twice in 1969. The sentinel now lies unseen in several pieces in the garage of a Redwood City resident.

Cloud said the vandalism has been cut sharply since they've been getting the word out about the historic importance of Union Cemetery and also, probably not incidentally, since the Parks and Recreation Department cut down a large hedge that bordered the cemetery and screened the pranksters.

"Isn't this sad!" exclaimed Planning Commissioner Audsley as the trio viewed askew monuments, a statue with a missing head, broken wrought-iron and picket fences, smashed facades, crazily-leaning obelisks, crumbling granite slabs and general decrepitude.

Audsley believes it will take a few hundred thousand dollars or more to restore the cemetery and he, Cloud, Terremere and the other Archives Committee members dream of a day when volunteers might conduct tours of the cemetery, perhaps recounting the lives of the men and women buried there.

Nita R. Spangler, citizen activist, wrote the history of the cemetery in the nomination

form for the National Register of Historic Places.

The cemetery was organized in 1859 and was sort of forced on its owner Horace Hawes by squatters. Hawes later made up with the cemetery founders and even offered them cash.

Union Cemetery was recognized under a state law and became the property of the Governor of California for 88 years, held in trust for Union Cemetery Association and for an additional 15 years, Nita Spangler reports, was held in trust by the people of the

state.

An 1858 state law authorizing the incorporation of rural cemetery associations was in fact concerned with Union Cemetery and was the state's first legislation on cemeteries.



Richard Audsley, Jean Cloud, center and Alice Terremere see floral tribute on grave; the last burial in Union Cemetery was around 1939.

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Audsley, Alice Terremere and Jean Cloud look up at a sharply-tilting monument marking the 1877 grave of Graham Wallace, who probably was a sea captain as the anchor bas relief indicates. Photos by Bob Distefano.

3 of 3

A cemetery that doesn't rest in peace

*Immortality is not a gift,
Immortality is an achievement;
And only those who strive mightily
Shall possess it.*

— From "The Spoon River Anthology," by Edgar Lee Masters

By Phyllis Brown
Times Tribune staff

11/8/84

It is the home of James Henry Baxter, the son of Scottish immigrants who fought in the Civil War Battle of Gettysburg, received a saber wound to his neck and lived to tell of it.

It is the resting place of Antonio and Antonia Morales, who emigrated from Spain to help harvest the burgeoning Hawaiian Islands' sugar-cane crop and came later to the mainland to work in the fields of California.

Buried there is one known simply as the "Chinaman" and another whose epitaph tells only that he was an "unknown man found hung" to death in the cemetery where he now lies.

It is the 125-year-old Union Cemetery in Redwood City, the oldest public cemetery in California, resting place of as many as 2,000 early Peninsulans and the focus of efforts to save it from destruction.

Though listed on the National Register of Historic Places and as a

11-8-1984
Despite its status as a historical monument, Redwood City's Union

California State Historic Landmark, the cemetery at Woodside Road and El Camino Real has been frequented in recent years more by vandals than by appreciators of early California history.

Graves have been desecrated. Tombstones have been vandalized or stolen, including 24 removed in June of this year. Instead of flow-

ers, litter is scattered on the plots. Cairns have been disturbed, statues decapitated and headstones spray-painted. A descendant of Baxter said four-wheel-drive vehicles have scored land bearing remains of early Peninsula residents.

The cemetery is the resting place of early pioneers, the prominent and paupers, who settled in

Cemetery is in bad condition after 125 years.

Redwood City when it was a tiny Bayside village. Capt. John Green, a pioneer of the town of Woodside, and John Sears, after whom Searville Lake is named, rest there.

The Redwood City Library Archives Committee, which last year succeeded in winning the cemetery a listing on the National Register of Historic Places, hopes for a

brighter future for the six-acre burial ground than abandonment.

"We would like to restore it to its historic character, to renovate it. There is a lot to be learned there," the committee's chairwoman, Jean Cloud, said.

The committee has embarked on

Please see UNION, A-4

UNION

Continued from A-3

efforts to focus public interest on the cemetery, to raise funds to restore it and use it to educate Peninsulans on their early history. Among the first of those efforts will be a tour of the cemetery, to be held Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. Volunteers will acquaint visitors with the historic legacy.

"We want the people of Redwood City and the Peninsula to preserve the history of the city, keep it as something to be proud of, not a thing in shambles," Cloud said.

Redwood City has allocated funds for cemetery restoration, but Cloud is concerned the money, \$60,000, will be inadequate to complete the job. Among other work, an archaeologist should be hired to determine where there are burials, since many headstones have been removed, Cloud said.

"We believe there is a potter's field there, where the poor who could not pay for tombstones were buried. We don't know what is underground there," she said.

The future of the Union Cemetery is of more personal concern for Jack Baxter, 66, a resident of Morgan Hill. James Henry Baxter, the Civil War veteran, is his grandfather.

"I knew him when I was a young boy," Baxter said of his ancestor,

who died in Redwood City in 1936 at age 92. "He is (buried) right at the foot of what was the statue of the Union Soldier, though it has been torn down."

Baxter was the last to be buried in the section reserved for the 40 Civil War veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic plot. There also are plots set aside for members of the Masons and the International Order of Odd Fellows.

Lillian Morales' mother- and father-in-law, Antonio and Antonia Morales, settled in Redwood City, though their entire family traveled the length of Northern California, following the harvests.

"The whole family would go down and pick prunes and apricots down in Sunnysvale. They worked wherever they could work," she said.

Morales is the widow of Manuel Morales, a sheet-metal worker.

"My father-in-law, who died in 1926, always had a garden and animals. My mother-in-law died in 1936. She loved to crochet," Morales said.

Richard Audsley, a member of the Archives Committee, said the last burial at the graveyard was in 1921. After that, the cemetery began to deteriorate.

"Half of the people don't know its history," Audsley said of the cemetery. "A chap named Peace, who first flew the Stars and Stripes in San Mateo County, is there," he said.