

OLIVE HILL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION INC.

NEWSLETTER

Number 5
September 2001

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Many thanks to my brother Zeke for presiding in my absence at the 2001 annual meeting of OHCA. Also present at that meeting were OHCA members Kay Hollingsworth, Fran Morris, Bob Lay, Donna Hocking, Evelyn Yauk, Nancy Prehara, Pren Hollingsworth and Terry Lay, and guests Carla and Lonnie Selph. One of the motions passed at that meeting established a special fund for putting small stones on some of the known un-marked graves. Elsewhere in this newsletter our historian will provide details and I hope we'll get a good response. Olive Hill continues to add beauty to the neighborhood and it would be good to also add as much accurate historical information as possible.

Also at the annual meeting the current slate of officers was reelected for another year. Thank you for this honor and once again, I will do my best to perform all prescribed duties in a way that honors our ancestors.

David Lay

FROM THE EDITOR

You will probably notice that this newsletter is less colorful, less professionally done and without photographs. The OHCA caretaker, Bob Brooks, reported in our last newsletter to have had a stroke, has also been the computer expert and production advisor for this publication since it's inception. Unfortunately, Bob's stroke turned out to be a brain tumor and he is currently undergoing a long and arduous treatment process. We all wish him the very best and look forward to his return to Olive Hill service.

In the meantime, or until some other OHCA member volunteers, I will struggle along with my limited skills and continue to produce the newsletter twice a year. More than ever, I will appreciate any and all in-put, historical information, news items and anything else you may contribute.

Fran Morris

FROM THE HISTORIAN

Established in 1891, Olive Hill Cemetery is the final resting place of approximately 100 members of Oklahoma City's earliest families. Today the cemetery is primarily used by descendants of those pioneers. Since 1939 the Olive Hill Cemetery Association has maintained the property and a perpetual care fund that provides for necessary upkeep.

During the 110th anniversary meeting of OHCA, members established a cemetery memorial renovation program. Several previously unidentified graves have now been researched and identified. In the interest of historical accuracy and cemetery beautification, this program will provide small markers for these graves.

OHCA is asking members to participate in the preservation plan by contributing to a special fund reserved for these new memorial markers. The Perpetual Care Fund will not be used for this plan. Anyone interested in preserving this history is invited to help OHCA members in this effort. Old photos of the cemetery are also needed. To volunteer, contribute, send copies of photos, or for more information about any of this, please contact me at 419 Longworth, Duncanville, TX 75116 or olivhill@flash.net.

Donna Hocking

CEMETERY VANDALISM

Following the recent vandalism at Fairlawn Cemetery in Oklahoma City, our historian researched the matter and reports the following details of the Oklahoma statutes that deal with cemetery vandals.

#21-1167. Every person who shall willfully or with malicious intent destroy, mutilate, deface, injure or remove any tomb, monument or gravestone, or other structure placed in any cemetery or private burying ground, or any fence, railing, or other work for the protection or ornament of any such cemetery or place of burial of an any human being, or tomb, monument or gravestone, memento, or memorial, or other structure aforesaid, or of any lot within a cemetery, or shall willfully or with malicious intent destroy, cut, break, or injure any tree, shrub or plant, within the limits thereof, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), nor more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or by imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed six (6) months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

#21-1168.1. Anyone who knowingly buys, sells or barter for profit human skeletal remains or associated burial furniture, previously buried within the State of Oklahoma, shall be guilty of a felony.

For more information see www.savinggraves.com. Olive Hill is currently kept locked except during services, maintenance and during Memorial Day weekend. The combination to the padlock is known by most members and available to others by calling one of the telephone numbers listed at the gate. Feasibility of the installation of security cameras is currently being evaluated by the OHCA board and Comtec Security which is owned by a Bailey family member.

DOROTHY MEEKER CHOATE MEMORIAL TREE

As reported in our last newsletter, the "Dorothy Tree" - a beautiful bur oak - was planted in April. In addition to all the donations reported then, two more very generous contributions have been received. They were from two more of Dorothy's nieces, Jo Carol Smith, Broken Bow, OK and Patricia Jensen, Urbana, Illinois. Frankly, we have struggled to keep things alive during the awful drought we've had this summer in Oklahoma. And while we have lost a few shrubs and plants, the "Dorothy Tree" is hanging in there - in much the same way the person for whom it was named displayed such perseverance and loyalty in the service of OHCA. The formal dedication of the tree will take place Memorial Day, 2002 when many of Dorothy's family plan to be present.

NEWEST MEMBERS

The newest members of OHCA are Bill J. and Mary Jo Clark, 6601 Ann Arbor Terrace, Oklahoma City 73132. Mary Jo's grandparents, James and Jessie McKinney, are buried at Olive Hill. Mary Jo's mother was Edith Amanda McKinney Clapper and her father was Chelsea Clapper. They are buried at Rose Hill in Oklahoma City. Three of James and Jessie's children are also buried at Olive Hill -- Ruth, Mary and Emmett. For those of you who are keeping your plot maps up to date, Bill and Mary Jo have been assigned Lot #90.

Other new OHCA members are Osce and Naomi Roberts, 5320 Glow Drive, Charleston, WV 25313. Naomi was the wife of James I. Meeker, son of Grover and Olive Eleanor (Nellie) Bailey Meeker, great-grandchild of Olive Hand Bailey. Jimmy died in 1967. Naomi has been Mrs. Roberts for many years but she and Osce have continued to be loyal and supportive in Bailey-Meeker family activities, and always generous to Olive Hill Cemetery Association.