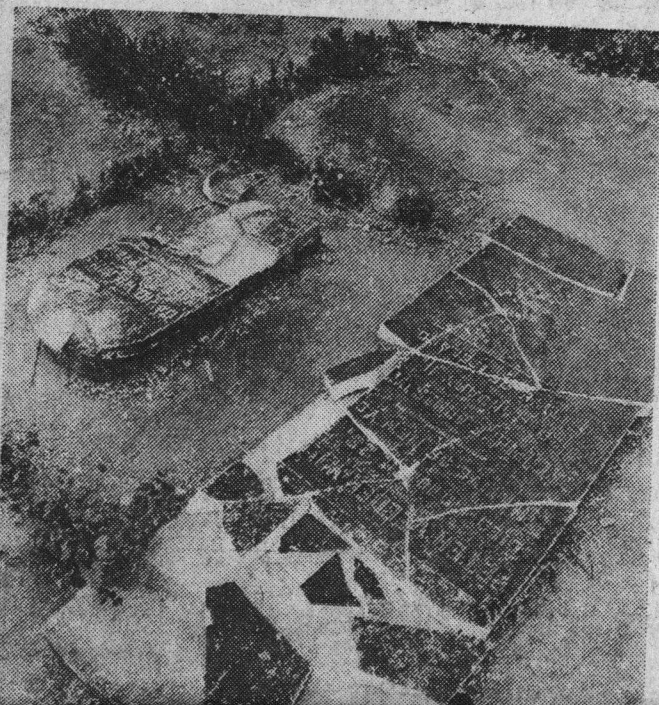




These Pictures Tell a Sick Story



Evergreen. . .

By MARGARET KOCH
Sentinel Staff Writer

The ghouls are at it again.

Cemetery vandals. Grave robbers. Sick people. Very sick people.

Their target — Evergreen Cemetery, one of California's early burying places. The resting place of pioneers both prominent and obscure — of people good, bad and indifferent. No matter — they deserve to be let alone in their graves. But they are being broken open and desecrated at Evergreen.

Headstones — some of the finest examples of the marble carvers' art, the work of John Bilodeau, pioneer Santa Cruz stone worker, are there. Or what's left of them. Vandals knock them over, break and sometimes remove them.

Evergreen is the oldest cemetery in Santa Cruz under continuous use up to the present day.

Just that alone is worthy of note. The old burying ground dates from 1850. That makes it 123 years old.

It's a dying burial ground today. It gets a shot of vitamins now and then: in 1968 Evergreen was designated by the State of California as a Point of Historical Interest; in 1969 a driveway through the cemetery was paved by the city as an anti-storm water precaution; in 1970 the city

council agreed to call for bids on installing a new 36-inch drain pipe.

Back in the previous years there was a woman. Mrs. Albertina Westfall, who held all sorts of rummage sales and fund-raising events to benefit Evergreen. Her father, Seth Blanchard, local pioneer and sexton of the cemetery, was buried there. But Albertina was laid to rest there herself, in 1958, and the fund-raising events have been few and far between since.

The Santa Cruz High School Girls' Leaders' Club cleaned and decorated graves at Evergreen in May of 1957.

Mission Hill School classes for years cleaned and decorated the grave of London (sometimes spelled as Loudon) Nelson, the ex-slave who left his estate to the "white man's school". The school — Mission Hill — was floundering financially at the time. Nelson died in 1860. He could not read or write, himself. First person to be buried in the cemetery was Julia, 19-day old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Arcan (sometimes spelled Arcane.) The Arcan family had survived the ordeal of passing through Death Valley, first in wagons, then on foot as their animals fell and died one by one. Desperate for water, they clung to life by a thin thread of hope as they struggled through the sandy wastes. Julia's mother is said to be the person who named Death Valley — she called it the "Valley of Death."

Julia Arcan's father was a charter member of Santa Cruz Masonic Lodge, organized July 15, 1853, in the School Street Adobe.

Mary Amney Case is buried at Evergreen. She took time out from her wash tubs, butter churning, cow-milking days to establish the first public school in Santa Cruz, in her pioneer home at the edge of Neary's Lagoon. She taught her own and neighbors' children.

Also buried there are members of the Cooper family who gave land "down on the flat" for Santa Cruz County's first "real" courthouse. The present Cooper House, former courthouse, is named for the civic-minded brothers. One of them befriended the last of the Santa Cruz Mission Indians who were in dire straits — he used to

For years, County Bank has handled all its business free of charge. Likewise, Annie McCaskill, long-time Santa Cruzan and descendant of an early family, has notarized deeds at Santa Cruz Land Title as a personal favor. Veterans' groups have given help.

In 1963 the City of Santa Cruz was approached about taking on the maintenance of Evergreen. The city council turned down the request, stating that it could not act because the cemetery is private property.

Hopes rose when Evergreen was designated by the state as a "point of historical interest." But the designation brought no money for upkeep or other advantages. The cemetery is maintained by Evergreen Association, a small group headed until recently by Charlie Bachelder. Now Charlie lies in Evergreen and his wife, LaSalle, tries to keep the association together. Two of the directors are her nieces, Sylvia Thorne of Red Bluff, and Margaret Stean of Walnut Creek. A third is Mrs. Landreth Errington.

"We need to find a president," Mrs. Bachelder said. She is the association's secretary.

Evergreen, in case you are a newcomer to Santa Cruz and have never heard of it, is an 8-acre-plus parcel that lies amid groves of trees and twining ivy tendrils, on the hillside adjoining Harvey West Park.

It is a peaceful place — or should be, and would be — if the vandals would leave it alone. In recent months they have broken off London Nelson's gravestone and the one on Julia Arcan's grave. They have smashed rocks into hillside vaults, cracking marble facings. They actually broke into one vault but couldn't get the casket open and it since has been sealed with metal.

Why do sick people do things like this? Or is it the work of juvenile delinquents?

What Evergreen needs desperately is the backing of a group of people interested in preserving and maintaining it. Present board members are elderly, or live miles away; funds are practically non-existent.

What will happen to Evergreen in the future?

The old cemetery needs help

Doesn't
Anyone
Care?

Calling All
Home Makers

By MARGE COWLEY
A.I.D.

HERE ARE SOME
MIRROR IDEAS

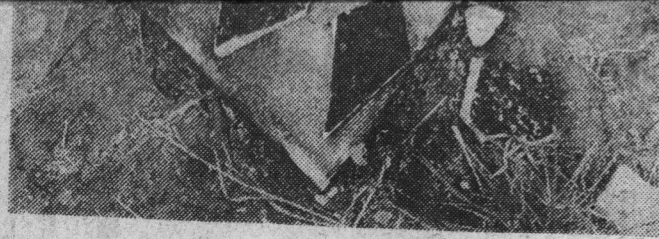
There's one thing that can do so much in so many rooms and that's a mirror.

Let's start with the foyer or entrance hall. A decorative mirror can add warmth, beauty and depth to that area beside serving a most useful purpose.

In the living room, one or two small decorative mirrors might be used with a group of pictures on a wall for a nice effect. A large mirror might be used to reflect an outdoor view or reflect the colors of the room. Place a mirror where it reflects something you'd like to have reflected. In this sense, a mirror is a picture in itself — a picture of your room.

In your bedroom, is the mirror over your dresser skimpy? Why not get a larger mirror that will give you both better use and decor.

Today mirrors, both framed and unframed, are available



Grave above was broken open, is now the repository for beer cans, trash and the headstone fragments.



Shattered headstone probably was the work of John H. Bilodeau, pioneer marble worker.

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Isaac Graham, the mountain man with the quick trigger finger, is buried at Evergreen. Isaac's story alone would fill several books and be so exciting that readers could not bear to put it down.

Back in 1966, aware of the importance of this historic graveyard, 12 county employees donated their time and labor to repair vandalized headstones.

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