

Evergreen Is Forgotten Last Home Of County's Founders

By Wally Trabing

A once proud cemetery, which holds the dust of those who helped lay the foundation of Santa Cruz, is itself dying of neglect.

Amid the litter and erosion are the final resting places of those pioneers who carved this city with guts and sweat and who through their philanthropy have lent their names to our schools and streets and buildings.

Except for the touch of stateliness, two sturdy pillars supporting an arch, of Victorian iron work wrought to read "Evergreen Cemetery", it is difficult to make out the presence of a burial ground on the grown-over hillside near Harvey West stadium.

From a distance its ghostly monuments, bleached and weathered streaked, rise like odd tree stumps amid the wild grass.

Vandals have found demented delight in pushing over and shattering tombstones and slovenly picnickers have left their marks near the graves.

Evergreen is comprised of some 15 acres within the city limits. Its wooded slopes are bounded by High street on the upper side and by Evergreen street on its lower border where the entrance is located.

Said to be one of the first Protestant cemeteries in California, it was founded around 1850 by Hiram Imus, one of 20 American families in the area. He gave the land.

It contains 880 graves, many of them unmarked.

The first recorded burial was that of Julia Arcan, July 19, 1850. She was 19 days old, the daughter of J. B. and A. H. Arcan.

Others who were laid to rest in the new grounds were: Martha Williams, aged six months, April

2, 1852; Baby Smith, four, drowned in San Francisco bay, May, 1856; Jordan (child) burned to death, 1862; and Asa Gifford, November 1, 1852. His widow married Rev. T. H. Hinds who in March 14, 1852, with nine other persons founded the First Congregational church.

Judge William Blackburn, the county's first judge, was buried here. He built the first schooner in these waters in 1848.

B. A. Case, president of the first Temperance society in California and Mary Case who conducted the first public school in her home in 1848 are in Evergreen.

The list goes on—names among the weeds and tilted tombstones.

John Arcan and wife had crossed Death Valley in 1850 with the Manley and Bennet party. To the women is attributed the naming of the valley.

Arcan, a gunsmith, owned a tract and building at what is now Soquel and Pacific avenues. He was a charter member of the Masonic lodge organized in July 15, 1853 with 21 present.

The Cooper family was active in developing the settlement. John L. Cooper gave land for the county court house (on Cooper street), and his son, William, was the first mayor under the incorporation of 1876.

Joseph Skirm was a city councilman in that birth of this city. He had been a tutor at Soquel in 1850 and a district attorney in 1857.

The DeLamater mausoleum holds G. B. DeLamater who built the first brick building on Pacific avenue and who was mayor from 1871 to 1872.

Captain Isaac Graham, a rela-

tive of Daniel Boone, is known in many history books as a California pathfinder around 1836.

He camped on Zayante creek in 1841 where Peter Lassen had built a saw mill for him. He was a fearless fighter and partook of the fierce living with Sutter and Fremont. His second wife, daughter of the well known Widow Bennet, bore him a daughter on July 4, 1846. She was probably the first child born here to American parents.

The Imus family crossed the plains in 1846, and settled here. Hiram Sr. came across at 76 and lived to be 94.

Eli Moore came here in 1847 and operated a grist mill at what is now Laurel and California streets.

Henry Peck came here to farm in the Soquel area and married Maria Lodge of the Castro family.

Granville Shelley, a citizen here in 1849, was the town's principal builder. He was a furniture maker and the first undertaker. He became the partner of Louis Westendorf.

Henry Speel was a sergeant of the California battery during the Mexican war. After 1846 he ran a farm laid out between Cathcart street and Beach hill.

He surveyed the first building sites and laid out a wagon road over the mountains to San Jose.

Speel had an interest in a saw mill in Blackburn Gulch and this he sold to Duncan McPherson who later embarked on editing the Sentinel in 1864. It had been moved here from Monterey in 1856.

Arthur A. Taylor, editor of another early newspaper, the Santa Cruz Surf, is in a plot in Evergreen.

The names Gault school and Gault street derive from Calvin Gault, a civic minded citizen of the Branciforte area.

Jacob Schwan's ranch included part of what is known now as Twin Lakes.

Among these plots the weeds grow high, and the irresponsible and the thoughtless push over tombstones. It's an eyesore.

A. P. Jordan, who died in 1866, was part owner of the first steamship line to Santa Cruz and also owned a powder works on the site of the present Paradise Masonic park.

Forerunners of the Methodist church were Elihu Anthony, Adna Hecox, H. S. Loveland and Enos Beaumont, all of whom had "preaching licenses", in 1850.

Members of the Boston and Edmund Jones families formed the nucleus of the early Episcopal church.

One of the first doctors was Dr. Frank Kittredge, a graduate of Dartmouth medical college. He practiced here in 1851.

One of the most popular and celebrated graves in Evergreen, especially to students, is that of Loudon Nelson. Nelson was an ex-slave who settled in Santa

many years students from that school have laid flowers at his grave on Memorial day.

In the early days there was a section allotted to Chinese. In by-gone days many a faithful houseboy or well-to-do merchant was laid away with a fanfare of firecrackers, red paper and mounds of food.

Streets, creeks, valleys, reflect the former fame of those forgotten in Evergreen. A few are Scotts (Scotts Valley), Cathcart, Chilverton, Dufour, Davis, Jordan, Gharkey, Heath, Meder, Moore, Lindell (creek) and Bean (creek).

Henry Thurber, 42, in 1879, drowned off the coast and was buried here. The name Thurber is significant. It signifies a kind of hope for the future of this historical acreage.

Many years ago the burial records of Evergreen were destroyed.

Miss A. R. Thurber, a descendant of the pioneering Thurbers and, incidentally, a relative of the humorist James Thurber, took over the monumental project of restoring them. It took several years of searching the records of the California and New England historical societies and the California Genealogical society.

Now 86, and living in Aptos with Mrs. Velda D. Burgess, who also has shown great interest in the project, Miss Thurber has won much respect from the group trying to keep the cemetery alive.

Miss Thurber is a native of Santa Cruz.

There is a small non-profit group called the Evergreen Cemetery association which has been struggling through the years in a futile struggle to maintain its dignity.

These are the officers: Charles P. Bachelder, president; LaSalle Bachelder, secretary-treasurer; directors, Mrs. Verdie Newcomb, Mrs. Julia Errington and Sam Bachelder.

The association maintains the records and is in charge of the endowment funds. The interest from the funds, which is meager, is used to keep the paths clear of weeds and the endowed plots cleared.

Mrs. Bachelder said she receives some money to have certain plots cleaned before Memorial day, but other than that there is no income to maintain the place as a whole. There have been only 30 burials here during the past 10 years.

One small area set aside for Masonic burials has been faithfully tended by Emil Trefts. Mrs. Bachelder also gave credit to the Sons of the Union Veterans for the care of the Civil War section. There are 32 GAR burials known and two graves of Mexican War veterans.

Students of history from bay area colleges have come to Evergreen to do research.

The association is seeking support by some local society or club to help restore this truly historical plot of ground.

Arch Leads To Old Cemetery



This archway marks the entrance of the Evergreen cemetery, near Harvey West stadium. Founded in 1850 it is now a disgrace to the city and an eyesore. Within its borders the

history of this area can be found. One of the first California Protestant cemeteries, it holds the names of people we now recognize only as streets,

creeks, valleys, and buildings. The Evergreen cemetery association, fighting a losing battle to maintain it, is seeking help through some organization or group.

Tombstones Stand In Neglect



These weather beaten tombstones eroding among the rub of neglect mark the graves of the founders and builders of Santa Cruz and California. They

were soldiers, attorneys, doctors, merchants, and their women, many of whom came across the plains. Their last

resting place in the once proud Evergreen cemetery has been all but forgotten. Only a handful of people struggle to maintain it.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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NOTICE OF ELECTION
NOTICE OF CONSOLIDATION ELECTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARDS OF THE SANTA CRUZ CITY ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL, SOQUEL UNION ELEMENTARY, LIVE OAK ELEMENTARY, SCOTTS VALLEY UNION ELEMENTARY, BALD MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY, HAPPY VALLEY ELEMENTARY, SEASIDE ELEMENTARY, PACIFIC ELEMENTARY, BONNY DOON ELEMENTARY, MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY, CENTRAL ELEMENTARY DISTRICTS, AND THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Notice is hereby given to the electors of the Santa Cruz City and Elementary High School districts and the following elementary districts: Soquel Union, Live Oak, Scotts Valley Union, Bald Mountain, Happy Valley, Seaside, Pacific, Bonny Doon Union, Mountain, and Central, that the annual election of the governing board members, including the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, of the aforementioned school districts will be held on the third Friday in May, namely, May 17th, 1957.

It will be necessary to elect:

One (1) member to the Santa Cruz City Elementary and High School District.
One (1) member to the Santa Cruz County Board of Education.
One (1) member to the Soquel Union Elementary School District.
One (1) member to the Live Oak Elementary School District.
One (1) member to the Scotts Valley Union Elementary School District.

comprising all of County General Election Precincts Santa Cruz 41, 45, and 46. Polling Place: Garfield Park School, 634 Almar Avenue.

Special Election Precinct No. 15, comprising all of County General Election Precincts Santa Cruz 43, 44, and 52. Polling Place: Bay View School, Bay Street entrance.

Special Election Precinct No. 16, comprising all of County General Election Precincts Santa Cruz 47, 48, and 50, and that portion of Laguna County General Election Precinct lying within the boundaries of the Santa Cruz Elementary School District. Polling Place: El Dranel Motel, 2424 Mission Street.

Special Election Precinct No. 17, comprising all of County General Election Precincts Santa Cruz 49, 51, and 53. Polling Place: Rice Garage, 208 Van Ness Avenue at Mission Street.

Special Election Precinct No. 18, comprising all of County General Election Precincts Santa Cruz 54 and 55. Polling Place: Kinzie Garage, 433 Van Ness Avenue.

Special Election Precinct No. 19, comprising all of County General Election Precincts Santa Cruz 56, 57, and 58. Polling Place: Mission Hill Jr. High School, 425 King Street.

Special Election Precinct No. 20, comprising all of County General Election Precincts Santa Cruz 59 and 60, and that portion of Paradise Park County General Election Precinct lying within the boundaries of the Santa Cruz City Elementary School District. Polling Place: Santa Cruz Frozen Foods, 442 River Street.

Precinct No. 21, Soquel Union Elementary School District, comprising all of that part of

little estate to our first public school building, Mission Hill. For

PUBLIC NOTICE

MORTGAGE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that SCOFIELD A. THOMA, JR., as Mortgagor, intends to mortgage all service equipment, fixtures, tools and office furniture, fixtures and equipment owned by him located in his

At present it is a disgrace and an eyesore to the city. Because of its appearance of abandonment it breeds the thrill-seeking interests of vandals.

The people who were laid to rest here bequeathed their heritage to this city and its citizens and their memories deserve a better fate.