

*S. C. Sentinel 8/28/77*

*Cemeteries*

## Historic Evergreen Gets Helping Hands

The restoration of Evergreen Cemetery on Evergreen Street near Harvey West Park, is moving along rapidly these days with young and old taking an active interest in giving a helping hand.

Most visible improvement is the replacement of the white picket fence which originally ran the front length of the cemetery. Through the cooperation of the City of Santa Cruz which granted a revenue sharing request for monies for materials, and the County of Santa Cruz, which scheduled Youth Employment Services labor, the 500-foot fence should be restored by the first of September.

Planning and aiding with all restoration work is HELP, (Help Evergreen Live Permanently), the auxiliary organization headed by Renie Leaman. HELP has obtained the services of a restorer position through CETA (Comprehensive Employment Training Act) with the result that there will be a fulltime employee at the

cemetery for the next 11 months.

The restorer, Rodney Bertrang, is now restoring brick walls, wood retaining walls and cement copings. Work slated for the near future includes permanent core parkings of the site numbers according to a map of the 1850s, and restoration of stone and marble markers where possible, according to Mrs. Leaman.

Pathway signs designating the original names of the paths at Evergreen have been carved and placed by Russ Turner. Path names were discovered in old notes and drawings of John Bilodeau, noted Santa Cruz stone mason of the late 1800s. Mr. Bilodeau not only designed, carved and placed many of the monuments in the cemetery, he rests there with four generations of his family.

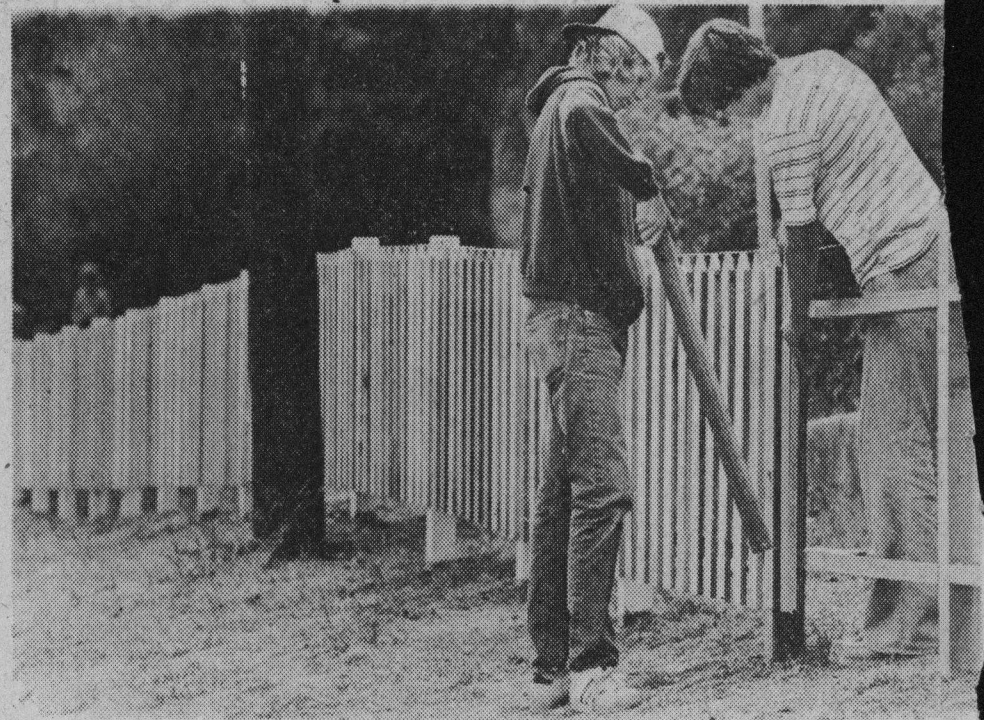
HELP recently received the donation of a limited edition collectors' item, the book TRIALS OF ISAAC GRAHAM by Doyce B. Nunis Jr., from Pete and

Judy Steen. An in-depth portrait of pioneer Graham for whom Graham Hill Road was named, the book is a valuable addition to HELP's research library Mrs. Leaman notes.

Another group contributing to the beautification of the cemetery area is the Branciforte Elementary school class of Mrs. Kay Harry. The children presented a litter can which they decorated attractively, for placement in the cemetery.

The class also collected aluminum in order to obtain money so they could "adopt" one of the pioneers in the cemetery. They chose J.B. Arcan, who was one of those persons present at the naming of Death Valley in 1849 after having been stranded there for six weeks.

HELP volunteers still conduct free, personally guided "memory tours" of Evergreen for school classes, interested persons and organizations. For information call Mrs. Leaman at 426-3259.



Evergreen originally had a picket fence like this, but it disappeared somewhere, down through the years. Dave Mills and Mark Powell work at building a new one to replace it.

She also is available at no charge for speaking engagements which include biographical sketches and photo slides of the historic personages buried in Evergreen.

Anyone having any information on any person

buried there is asked to call Mrs. Leaman and contribute to the Living History collection through an interview with a HELP volunteer researcher.

To fund its restoration efforts, HELP is planning to sponsor a COLLECTIBLE

MEMORABILIA . . . SHOW-SALE October 14-16 at Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium. A group of 35 dealers will display and sell such collectibles as bottles, fruit labels, post cards, jewelry, depression glass and others.