

addition, small donations will be sought to help provide necessary improvements and maintenance.

Public Relations Writers for news releases and brochures, photographers, speakers bureau participants, tour guides to help keep the public informed about Evergreen Cemetery, its history, needs, and projects.

HELP

c/o Santa Cruz Historical Society
P.O. Box 246
Santa Cruz, California 95061

☐ I am interested in HELP and would like to volunteer for the following committee(s):

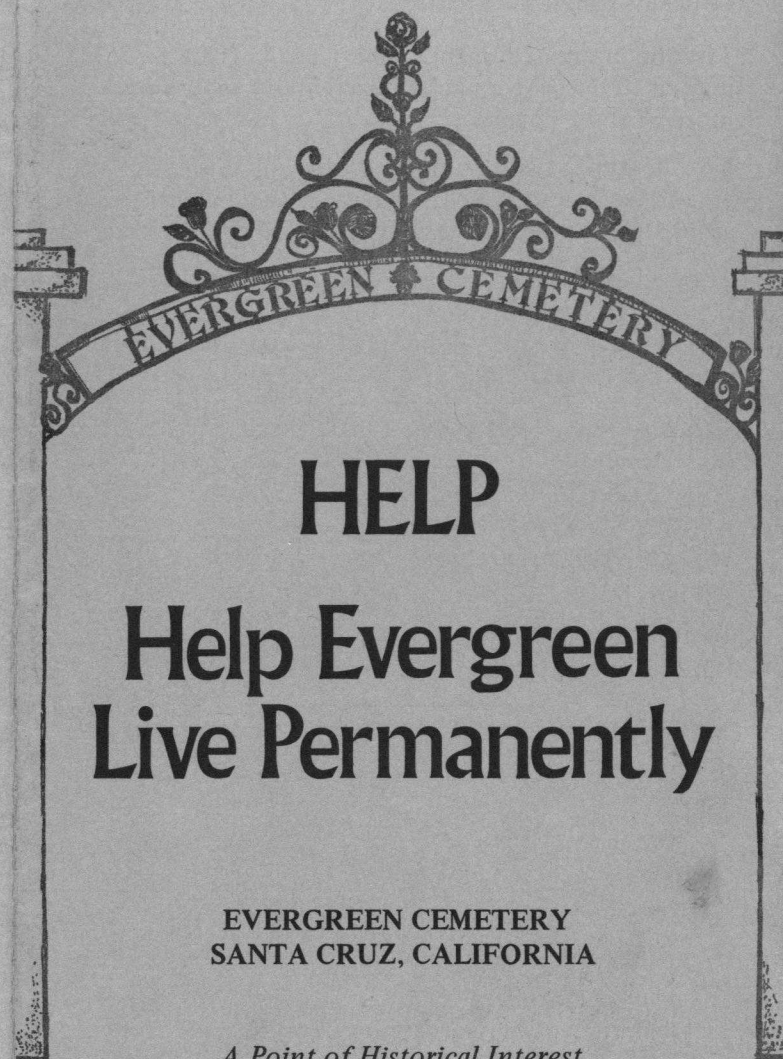
☐ I would like to make a donation in kind (fencing, gravel, plants, etc.) to HELP and would appreciate your calling me to make arrangements.

☐ I enclose a \$ _____ donation to HELP.

My name, address and telephone number are:

Comments/Suggestions:

Do you have any relatives, friends, or friends of family buried in Evergreen? If so, please call Mrs. A.B. Leaman (426-3259). This information is desperately needed to complete the living histories of those buried in Evergreen.



EVERGREEN CEMETERY
SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA

A Point of Historical Interest
as designated by
State of California — Resources Agency
Department of Parks and Recreation
January 26, 1968 No. SCr-001

EVERGREEN CEMETERY

When California was admitted to the Union in 1850, Santa Cruz was already a township of some twenty families.

The main road from the seaside settlement to the San Lorenzo Valley swept up Green Street, cut northwest across the present freeway, then down the hill, curving north against the foot of hillocks that slope upward to what is now known as Highland Avenue. Snuggled against the base of these hillocks, and rising from a central point up the slope like an inverted "T," is Evergreen Cemetery.

According to records currently available, Evergreen Cemetery was established in the 1850s as one of the first Protestant grave sites in California. Its founders were four Santa Cruz pioneers — Samuel A. Bartlett, R.C. Kirby, F.M. Kittredge and William F. Cooper.

Originally there were 241 lots laid out on the property. In 1922, the owners of the deeds to these sites formed the Evergreen Cemetery Association, a non-profit organization of plot owners. Present secretary-treasurer of the Association is La Salle Bachelder, whose husband, Charles, and daughter, Celeste, are buried at Evergreen.

In the 1920s, adjacent acreage was purchased by the Association and named Evergreen Extension. The cemetery as a whole, some eight acres of land on Evergreen Street within the vicinity of Harvey West Municipal Park and Wagner Grove, is now divided into five principal sections: Old Section (the original plots), Grand Army of the Republic, Freemasons, Chinese, and Extension.

In 1968, Evergreen Cemetery was appropriately designated a *Point of Historical Interest* by the State of California. Much of the history of Santa Cruz is reflected in the dim facts known of those who lie in Evergreen Cemetery:

* *Julia Arcan*, who died in infancy, is believed to be the first to have been buried in Evergreen some time after the cemetery was established in 1850. Julia's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Arcan, came to California in a wagon train. Their oxen died one by one while crossing the sun-scorched sands of Death Valley. The Arcans were among the few who survived the remainder of the torturous journey on foot. Julia's mother is credited with naming the vast inferno, "The Valley of Death," later shortened to Death Valley.

* *Ruell Kittredge*, who died of tuberculosis while a Union soldier in the Civil War, is buried beside his mother and his father, Dr. Frank Kittredge, one of the first physicians to practice in Santa Cruz.



A.A. Taylor, a former mayor of Santa Cruz, is one of many pioneers buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

* *Mrs. Mary Amney Case*, who started the first secular school in the Santa Cruz community in a room in her home near Neary Lagoon.

* *Isaac Graham*, the rip-snorting terror of Zayante, whose exploits with rifles, whiskey, and women lend proof to the dictum "truth is stranger than fiction."

* *A.A. Taylor*, fiery, five-foot tall editor of the *Santa Cruz Evening Surf*, who fought many a battle for civic improvement, served as Mayor of Santa Cruz, and was appointed one of California's first State Park Commissioners, in recognition of his efforts to preserve Big Basin and its redwoods for posterity.

* Young children, victims of the diphtheria epidemic which swept through Santa Cruz in the bitter winter of 1869-70

All now lie in Evergreen, along with more whose stories are fading from memory with the passage of the years

But not for long.

WHY HELP?

On February 6, 1974, a group of concerned citizens met to form an organization they named **Help Evergreen Live Permanently (HELP)**. The primary purposes of **HELP** are to preserve Evergreen Cemetery and to perpetuate its history and significance.

So far as is known, there are no plots now available in Evergreen, except through the heirs of the original owners. The 20' x 20' plots, each accommodating twelve grave sites, were sold at prices ranging from \$8 to \$20, leaving little or nothing to help fund a perpetual care treasury.

The Evergreen Cemetery Association has a small endowment. By law, the principal must remain intact. There is, therefore, only enough interest annually to pay for the services of one caretaker for the annual Memorial Day clean-up.



This broken marker symbolizes the general state of disrepair in Evergreen today.

Few of the families or heirs of those buried in Evergreen still live in the Santa Cruz area; the majority of plots is left untended.

As a result of these combined factors, Evergreen and most of those Santa Cruz pioneers who lie there are all but forgotten.

Paths and plots alike are shrouded in unbridled growths of ivy, poison oak, shin-deep myrtle, and weeds. Branches and trunks of unpruned trees, snapped off in stormy seasons, lie strewn about the site. Tin cans and other refuse are cluttered about in corners and crevices. Headstones are shattered, defaced, and dislocated. Vandals create havoc in the general disarray.

To achieve its two-fold aim — the preservation and perpetuation of Evergreen Cemetery — **HELP** has

organized seven major committees, listed on the following page. These committees fall into three main categories: research, clean-up/repair, and fund raising/public relations.

Anyone interested in the objectives of **HELP** is invited to become an active participant in one or more of these groups.

Youth, student and community organizations are encouraged to include Evergreen in their plans for annual projects by assisting **HELP** in its endeavors.

Through affiliation with the Santa Cruz Historical Society, **HELP** is a non-profit organization. All donations to **HELP** — whether fencing, a load of gravel, or funds — are tax deductible.

HELP OFFICERS/1974

Renie F. Leaman, *Chairman*

Andrew V. Crain, *Treasurer*

Stella M. Bartle, *Director*

William Rees, *Director*

John Bilodeau, *Director*

Elmer Geyer, *Director*



*The wagon in this 1912 photograph was used to haul granite from local quarries, pick up marble and other freight at the railroad depot, and carry markers to the cemetery. John Bilodeau, pictured on the left, started as a stonemason in Santa Cruz in 1888 and was buried in Evergreen in 1919. His son is currently a director of **HELP**.*

COMMITTEES FOR EVERGREEN

Research

"Knowns" Check into the personal histories of the known burials; write up biographies, including notes on contemporary customs, events, and physical surroundings. Try to find photographs of individuals.

"Unknowns" (Public Burial) Search records of Santa Cruz County, local cities, and mortuaries. Interview employees (many will be retired) of local funeral homes. When "unknown" becomes "known," turn research over to above committee for further work.

History of Evergreen Determine the use of the site before it became a cemetery. Research details of designation as a cemetery, burial rituals and customs. Determine who were the grave diggers, stone masons. Obtain photographs of area. Note commemorative events observed, such as Memorial Day, etc.

Clean-Up/Repair

Landscape/Refurbishing Coordinate volunteer groups to clean out overgrown vines and weeds, clear away tree trunks and limbs, prune trees, clear paths. (Possibly arrange for refreshments, perhaps box lunches for all-day crews.) Look into replacements of appropriate bushes, shrubs, flowering trees, groundcovers. Investigate kinds of grave markers that might be used in place of those destroyed.

Paths Determine location of original paths. Investigate possible materials to be used to replace them. Determine where these materials can be obtained, how they can be obtained (through fund raising, donation), who will lay the new paths, and when.

Fund Raising/Public Relations

Donations A major, continuing fund raising project will come before the committee. In