

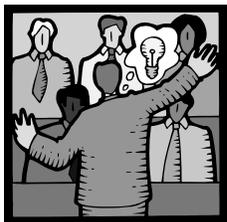
Groveland Cemetery Gazette

May 2011

3300 Woodlawn Avenue, Wayzata, MN 55391-2821 Phone: 952-847-0011

E-mail: info@grovelandcemetery.org

Annual Meeting May 21st



The Groveland Cemetery Association annual meeting will be held Saturday, May 21, 2011 in **The Minnetonka Mills Craft Room** at the Minnetonka Community Center **starting at 10:00 AM.** Owners of gravesites, survivors and next of kin who are 18 years of age or older are eligible to attend and vote on business that may come before the meeting. The Community Center is located just north of Minnetonka Blvd. at Williston Road. There is plenty of parking. Come in the entrance by the fountain. The Minnetonka Mills Room is located on the first floor, just to the right as you come in.

Art Nicol Retires

Art Nicol, Groveland Cemetery's caretaker for over 40 years has decided to relinquish his duties with the cemetery. In a letter to the cemetery board he stated, "After serving forty and a half years as trustee, secretary, treasurer, custodian, sales person, and who knows what else for the Groveland Cemetery, the time has come for me to hang it all up and retire. I plan to retire on April 30th of this year. I need to separate myself from cemetery responsibilities. They have become more than I can handle any longer. I will also be resigning as a trustee." Art also stated that he and his wife Audrey are planning to move to their church's retirement home in St. Paul in the near future.

From the first day Art became involved in the management of the cemetery Art's contributions are monumental. Shortly after joining the board he took over as Secretary-Treasurer and immediately set about getting the cemetery's records in order. Art found that old information

was saved, but in a haphazard, sloppy fashion, and he put some structure to the record keeping. When personal computers later became available he set about putting all the ownership and burial information onto useful and manageable computer files. He entered data on well over 2000 burials and some 700 ownership records. These computer files are used to locate graves, resolve ownership issues, assist genealogists, and assist in the board's planning processes.



Art Nicol

Art also has been responsible for the maintenance of the cemetery for most of those forty years, and he has

spent countless hours keeping the grounds in good condition. In recent years he reduced his workload by contracting out most of the heavy maintenance work and his primary responsibility became selling graves, attending funerals, and meeting with and counseling families.

Among all the book-keeping, maintenance, meetings and burials, Art has been a familiar face in the cemetery, where most people who come there know him and those that don't soon find out about him and his remarkable memory, loaded with stories of the various people buried at Groveland. He is a walking history book.

Art Nash, Groveland Cemetery Board President, said in a May 2009, article in the Lakeshore Weekly News, "(Groveland) has been his life. I wouldn't guess how many hours a week he spends over there. He's quite an individual. Every cemetery needs an Art Nicol".

New Sales & Burial Coordinator

Shelley Duoos has been hired as an independent contractor to continue the sales and burial coordination work of Art Nicol upon his retirement. She will be meeting with families exploring

their options in purchasing burial rights at Groveland Cemetery for regular or cremation burial sites. She will also coordinate burials with families, funeral homes, vault companies and our grave digger.



Shelley Duoos

Shelley has lived within one mile of the cemetery for 27 years. She grew up in Edina and is a graduate of St. Olaf College. Her resume is full of various coordinator positions in business and volunteer roles. She is the mother of two sons, ages 20 and 23.

Shelley commented on her new role, "I am eager to represent Groveland Cemetery and to market the unique aspects of the property. I will strive to bring empathetic professionalism to my role. Art's knowledge of the history of the cemetery and its occupants and his devotion to the

upkeep of the grounds will be deeply missed."

City Approves 40 year Plan for Selling Graves in Sections 7 and 8

On February 14, 2011, the Minnetonka City Council approved a new plan for selling graves in the new Sections 7 & 8. The new plan is the result of a request by our Board for permission to sell graves from an expanded area of the new section to increase sales. After the request was made to the City Council in December, 2010, it was followed by 3 meetings with the neighbors to understand their concerns. The neighbor's concerns were that they could now see the Cemetery after the demolition took place in these new sections. To address their concerns, there will be screening (6 ft. trees or fence) installed in the 5th row of lots which will block the view of cemetery activities until the 20 trees planted in 2008 get large enough to block their view. This screening will be in place for 15 years to give time for the 20 trees to grow. After 15 years, a row to the north will be made available for sale every 5 years, ending in 40 years. The Board will be allowed to sell graves anywhere in the

first four rows, greatly expanding the options for buyers. Until the screening is installed, graves can only be sold from the first two rows of lots. The new Resolution is 2011-009.

Elections

Four trustees' two year terms will expire with the annual meeting. They are Robert F. Nash, Arthur L Johnson, Joseph W. Dzurik, and Charles J. Schelin. All will stand for re-election. With Art Nicol's retirement, and the fact that we have one open position, there will be 2 other vacancies. Nominations from the floor are welcome and needed.

Christmas Wreath Program Ends

The Board started the Christmas wreath program in 1993. It enabled owners to purchase wreaths, which were installed and removed for them. At its peak, there were 200 wreaths sold per year, but the number declined and last year 118 wreaths were sold. While owners can install their own wreaths, and the tripods that the wreaths were placed on will be available for anyone who wishes to use them, the

Board will no longer sell wreaths. This decision was made as a result of addressing concerns of the neighbors.

Memorial Day is May 30th This Year

The Excelsior American Legion Post 259 will again lead the Memorial Day service, Monday, May 30th beginning at 9:00 AM. Following the military service, our speaker will be Pastor Eric Youngdahl, of Mt. Olivet West Lutheran Church in Victoria.



Excelsior American Legion

Park in the Groveland School lot. You can get into the Cemetery right near our utility building. Refreshments will be served.

Presidents Report

The past year has been one of progress for your Cemetery Association. Sales in the newly acquired property have progressed with over 25 grave sites sold to date. New landscaping in the form of addi-

tional trees will be added to the new property to provide a screen for the neighbors to the north and a more settled look to the new area. Several plots are also available in the old portion of the cemetery.

The usual Memorial Day celebration is scheduled for Monday May 30th.

Spraying of weeds commenced last and will continue this year to get the problem under control.

Art Nicol is retiring this year after over 50 years' service to the Association and the community. He will be missed. The Association has hired Shelley Duoos to replace Art as Sales and Burial Coordinator. We are sure you will be pleased with any dealings you will have with Shelley.

Most of our records are now maintained on our computer systems with much information provided on the Association website.

Your board is well diversified and all have worked hard over the past year to provide a desirable place for burial of loved ones.

Bob Nash, President

Newsletters

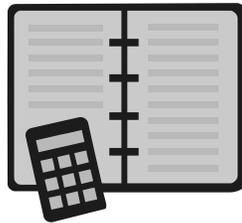
This newsletter was mailed to approximately 600 Cemetery members. It is our way to keep in touch with our

members and to let you know what's going on. Like most everything else, the cost of printing and mailing has gone up. If you do not want to receive this newsletter, you can help contain our costs by having your name removed from the mailing list. Please contact the cemetery by mail, phone, or email. See the contact information on this publication's masthead. Removing your name from the mailing list will not remove it from our database. We have generally limited mailing, one to a family. You can help by sharing the news with other family members.

New Address and Telephone Number

With the retirement of Art Nicol, the cemetery can no longer use his home address and phone as the official cemetery address. As of May 1, the mailing address of the cemetery is its street address, 3300 Woodlawn Avenue, Wayzata MN 55391-2821. The new cemetery telephone number is 952-847-0011. Shelley Duoos will be the person who usually will answer telephone calls. The cemetery web site address remains the same as before, www.grovelandcemetery.org.

Treasurer's Report



The year ending April 30, 2011 ended with the Groveland Cemetery in good financial condition. Highlights include a yearend gain while substantially reducing our liability on the M&I loan we took out for the acquisition of adjoining property. This loan balance was \$137,644 on May 1, 2010 and has been reduced \$42,000 during the year by gains in income, selling investment assets and reducing a money market fund to better balance our long term cash needs. Balance Sheet equity is over \$340,000. Detailed financial statements are available upon request and at the annual meeting.

As of the middle of April we sold 19 grave sites and had 35 interments. These are a combination of regular and cremation sales and interments.

Groveland Cemetery operates on a cash basis accounting option. There is no accrual for the anticipated property improvements anticipated during this coming summer, but our revenue will give us adequate funding. We changed our bank during the year and are now banking ex-

clusively with M&I Bank. They hold the loan on the property we acquired in 2008 and it makes banking simpler.

We currently have about 650 full-size grave sites available for sale, giving us an excellent sustainability over the next three or four decades.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Schelin, Treasurer

New Owners

New owners this year include the following: Janice Lee, Dale and Carol Palmer, Hannah L'Heureux, James M. Daughton, William L. Trubeck, Richard M. Brown, John V. Titsworth, Dolly Ginkel, Ronald J. and Marcella M. Liners, Dennis I. and Jo E. Henriksen, Jill K. O'Gara, Rodger L. Huseby, Alice French, David L and Jacqueline Kaufman, Marion Flynn and Jan Bredeson.

Take Out Those Plant Stands

Last fall, all of the plant holders and pots that had not been removed by the owners were removed by the caretaker for the winter. **It is important that the owners remove the plant holders and**

potted plants absolutely no later than October 15th.

If left to the caretakers it only increases the cost of cemetery care, and will be passed along in higher prices. If you are wondering where your holder has gone, look behind the shed. All of those that were removed were tagged with the deceased name. All plastic and clay pots have been removed and recycled. Next fall; **take your pots and stands home!! Any stands not planted by June 1st will be removed**

If you do not presently own a plant holder, they are available at local nurseries and home stores.

Cemetery Facts and Figures

Here's some interesting facts about Groveland Cemetery:

-There are 2150 people buried in Groveland Cemetery

-385 of the burials are cremation burials

-Including 594 available graves in the new sections 7 and 8, there are currently 647 full-size graves and 113 cremation graves available for sale in the cemetery.

-In 2010-2011 we buried 35 people; 22 of these were cremation burials.

-In 2010-2011 we sold 19 new graves; 9 were cremation graves and 10 were regular graves.

-We have 817 current owners' addresses and we will send out about 600 Gazettes this year.

-The most common surname of people buried at Groveland is Johnson, followed by Nelson and Peterson.

Board of Directors

President: Robert F. Nash
952-451-2197

Vice President: Arthur L. Johnson, 952-473-3839

Secretary: Joseph W. Dzurik,
763-420-7607

Treasurer: Charles J. Schelin,
952-935-9143

Trustee: Lowell M Kleppe,
763-473-9744

Trustee: Dennis F. Cerkvnik,
952-473-4376

Trustee: Paul Englund, 952-945-7468

The Sermon

A preacher was completing a temperance sermon; with great expression he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

With even greater emphasis he said, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it

and throw it into the river."

And then finally, he said, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

He sat down.

The song leader then stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, "For our closing song, let us sing Hymn # 365: "Shall We Gather at the River."

Funny Epitaphs

Stranger tread
This ground with gravity.
Dentist Brown
Is filling his last cavity.
Edinburgh, Scotland

Here lies
An Atheist
All dressed up
And no place to go.
Thurmont, Maryland

On a hypochondriac's grave:

I told you I was sick!

Littleton, Colorado

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