



America's Newspapers

Paper: THE SEATTLE TIMES
Title: GRAVE CONCERN
DIRECTORY UNEARTHS FACTS ABOUT THE STATE'S CEMETERIES
Date: August 15, 1989

Tum Tum. Shoestring. Jumpoff. Washington's estimated 1,000 **cemeteries** come with a rich variety of names, and soon they'll all be listed for the first time in an unusual directory.

"I've been getting information from little old ladies who've been crawling around on their hands and knees in **cemeteries** for 25 years," says Judy Barnes, a 31-year-old Ferndale mother who for the past five years has been computerizing huge amounts of **cemetery** data.

The state centennial **cemetery** project began when Barnes was a clerical worker at Greenacres Memorial Park, Ferndale, where she also did part-time work for the State **Cemetery** Board.

"Often we'd get phone calls from people asking if we knew where their mother or some other relative was buried," says Barnes.

"So my boss and I decided that it would be nice to spend our spare time putting together a directory."

When the State **Cemetery** Board was moved to Olympia in 1987, with Barnes' boss, Paul Elvig, as the first full-time director, Barnes stayed behind in Ferndale where she now works as a construction-company project administrator. But in addition to her regular job and taking care of three young children, Barnes continued work on the directory.

"**Cemeteries** fascinate me," she says. "I guess it's the historical aspect. **Cemeteries** are where the history is at."

The directory is a volunteer centennial project sponsored by the Washington Interment Association and the Washington State Funeral Directors Association. Some states, such as Oregon, have passed laws that mandate such a state **cemetery** survey. (Oregon's law was passed in 1977, and carried out by the state's transportation department.)

Coordinating the Washington project is B. David Daly, president of Evergreen-Washelli **Cemeteries** and chairman of the Washington State **Cemetery** Board. He and Barnes are soliciting information from sources including the state's funeral homes, **cemeteries** and genealogical societies.

Major contributors include King County **Cemetery** Finders, which was formed in 1981 by Seattle Genealogical Society members Carolyn Farnum, Lois Lemon, Polly Vann and Mary Walker. Farnum, the only member remaining active, says they began their research into King County's hundreds of **cemeteries** because many New Englanders and Midwesterners have been looking for their Civil War ancestors who moved West and died here.

"I've gone up and down the rows in all our county's **cemeteries** and also asked the caretakers for information," Farnum says. "I now have more King County **cemetery** on-line information than anybody else."

The state directory will list the various names of each **cemetery**, its location, whether it's abandoned or active, who has the records and control of the property, and snippets of miscellaneous historical information to show each **cemetery's** place in the community.

Some of those snippets border on the bizarre. For example, the directory will disclose that Greenacres Memorial Park in Whatcom County has in its custody hundreds of unclaimed sets of cremated remains from various local funeral homes dating to the early 1930s.

Daly says he hopes that when completed, the book will be widely available at libraries, museums, universities, **cemeteries** and funeral homes to help people track where relatives are buried. He anticipates doing updated versions later ``because much of the historical information we want is probably still in people's attics or basements."

Certainly such a book will assist professional genealogists such as Farnum, who says she gets lots of calls from people who want to find graves of relatives. In a current project, the Bellevue resident is tracking the grave of a woman slain in 1923. The **cemetery** sleuth thinks the murder victim's remains may be in one of 250 graves in south Beacon Hill's **Comet Lodge Cemetery**, a graveyard abandoned earlier this century and bulldozed in 1987 by a person claiming ownership of the land title.

Farnum says this pioneer **cemetery** originally contained the ashes of Jacob and Samuel Maple, who are believed to have preceded even the Denny family as Seattle's original settlers. Their ashes now lie in a monument at the entrance to the Boeing Plant Administration Building, where the original Maple land claim was filed.

The abandonment and vandalizing of **cemeteries** such as the **Comet Lodge** led to passage of a state law requiring privately owned **cemeteries** to maintain endowment funds for upkeep. The state **cemetery** board monitors the trust funds and does field audits.

Many old **cemeteries** were family burial plots that became derelict after the death of all those connected with the **cemetery**. ``We got letters from rural residents complaining that farmers are running tractors across the abandoned **cemeteries**," says Barnes. ``Well, we could do nothing except suggest asking the local Boy Scout troop or genealogical society to do maintenance."

Barnes now is keying reams of **cemetery** information into her computer. She's fighting a deadline because Daly hopes they'll be able to present the book in Olympia on Nov. 11 as part of ceremonies marking the end of the Centennial Year.

Meantime, Barnes says she'll welcome any bits of information on the state's **cemeteries**, because ``we believe that the memories of our ancestors should be preserved for future generations."

Barnes may be reached at 1-384-6492.

Resting places:

names and faces:

From Abbey View Memorial Park in Snohomish County to Zion Lutheran **Cemetery** in Whatcom County, Washington's 1,000 **cemeteries** cover years of history. Here are some notable facts:

Names: There are three Forest Lawns, nine Evergreens and eight Greenwoods.

Largest: It's probably Evergreen-Washelli in Seattle, which contains the remains of about 150,000 people.

Oldest: Controversy surrounds the question of which is the state's oldest white **cemetery**. The distinction probably belongs to one of the Hudson Bay Company's settlements established in the early 1800s along the lower Columbia River.

Newest: The state's newest is Mallard Ranch Memorial **Cemetery**, on 15 acres of Eastern Washington marshland in the shadow of Grant County's Saddle Mountains. Buried on a knoll is the **cemetery's** only occupant, a Bellingham doctor's son killed last year in a hunting accident.

Celebrities: Rock star Jimi Hendrix is buried at Greenwood Memorial Park, Renton, and kung-fu movie star Bruce Lee is at Lakeview **Cemetery**.

Scenic: Port Gamble **Cemetery** is a cliff-top haven where Gustav Englebrecht - the first U.S. Navy man to die in action on the Pacific Coast - was buried in 1856 after a fatal skirmish with Native Americans.

Unusual: On Burlington-Northern timberland near Black Diamond, a coal-mine **cemetery** at Landsberg Mine is the resting place for six miners entombed in a turn-of-the-century accident.

Lineage: About 34 **cemeteries** are founded by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Something you should know: Anybody who owns an island in Washington can make a burial on it. That legal precedent was set when industrialist John Fluke Sr. died several years ago and a special legislative bill permitted his burial on a family-owned island in the San Juans.

Caption:

MARK HARRISON / SEATTLE TIMES: CAROLYN FARNUM, A GENEALOGIST WHO'S HELPING COMPILE A DIRECTORY TO STATE **CEMETERIES**, EXAMINES A HEADSTONE AT A PRESTON GRAVEYARD THAT DATES TO 1904.

Caption:

PHOTO

Correction: PUBLISHED CLARIFICATION DATE: 89/08/19 - THE PERSON REFERRED TO IN THIS ARTICLE AS CLAIMING TITLE TO **COMET LODGE CEMETERY** ACTUALLY FILED THE DEED ON BEHALF OF AN ASSOCIATION HE FOUNDED AND HEADED, CALLED THE ELYSIAN FIELDS **CEMETERY** ASSOCIATION

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