

Glen View Cemetery



News Letter

Fall 2018

Jim Marrujo The Grave Digger

By Cindy Walker

When I worked at Mary's Mini Mart, at the junction on Liberty Road and Hwy 88, I would see the same smiling faces every morning. Each person had their own time frame to stop by for coffee and a donut to catch up on the news. Jim came in most mornings around 8:15 wearing his ground keeper's uniform heading for the 49er Cemetery up the road near Jackson. As time went on I noticed that sometimes he was out of uniform. I thought that he might be taking a day off to go fishing but when I asked him one morning he replied no he was heading up to Placerville to dig a grave. I was stunned as I had never met anyone who dug graves. Jim went on to explain that he was on call 24 hours a day seven days a week and that he was one of a few men that still dug the graves by hand with just a pick axe and shovel. He told me that there were not many of them left in our state. This intrigued me to the point of asking if there was any law which prohibits someone from watching him and to my delight the answer was no. Jim digs graves at different locations, Lock Rd in Lockeford, Clements Glen View, Fiddletown, Linden, downtown Jackson, Placerville and on private property when allowed. Why these cemeteries I asked and was told that all of these cemeteries were old and in certain areas even a small backhoe is not permitted, due to damages to graves, headstones and bushes. Since I grew up in Clements it was only fitting that I chose Glen View to be an eye witness to the in my opinion oddest job someone could have.

I remember May 14th, 1997 very well as Jim called to inform me he would be digging in Clements, so I asked for the day off and armed with bottled water, pen and paper I took off for the cemetery. I had been concerned about the weather but it turned out to be a beautiful day. My other concern was that I would know the person the grave was been dug for the chances were high as I have lived in Clements most of my life and it turns out that I had know Mr. Wehunt.

As I walked down the long driveway to Jim's truck I could hear the sounds of squirrels, birds and the moving breeze rustling in the trees. It had been years since I had walked through Glen View and the names on the headstones brought back quick fond memories of the families I recognized. As I approached the site, Jim was busy, first digging then wheeling the barrows of soil away to a pile, he informed me it was to be a double grave. That is not side-by-side, but stacked and which would be the first for Glen View. Therefore the depth was deeper than a normal single. I watched in amazement as his shovel heaved the dirt out. He eventually carved a perfect oblong hole in the once flat ground. Once the proper shape was formed, the next task was to dig deep enough to hold two caskets, which certainly was no easy job, as I watched I noticed after only two or three shovels full of dirt Jim had stop to chop out tree roots. I sat on a concrete curb, sipping cool water while the sun got hotter with every shovel and wheelbarrow full of dirt, still, Jim was kind enough to answer my questions while he dug. I learned that Jim has been doing this for 13 years which has turned into 20 years now, and he digs an average of 500 to 600 graves in a year's span. Sometimes the total even reaches 800. He is contracted by the mortuaries to dig each grave, he likes to have at least 48 hours notice, although he has dug at least one grave at 3 AM for a funeral at 10AM that same morning. Prices vary between a single grave or stacked graves. The location of the cemetery, and the type of ground, with the Mother Lode area costing more. It takes two and a half (2 ½) to three (3) hours to finish a site. Jim finished work the first day at 11:30AM as he had placed the concrete liner into the hole. It will be necessary for Jim to return the day of the service to set up the chairs and other items for the grave side service. When the last goodbyes are said, Jim gets started removing the earlier set-up, then he places a concrete cap on and starts back filling the site with the dirt that had been removed the day before. The grave looks different, yet somehow, almost the same as before Jim dug the site. I wonder how he can do this type of work but as he finishes up I notice the same peaceful tone to everything. Even in death life moves on, squirrels chase each other, birds sing, the rabbits dart in and out.



Glen View Recap By Randy Jones

These last few years we have been struggling to keep up with the trees. As you know, due to the last drought, our trees are highly stressed which gives way to disease. This has toppled several of our large oaks and a few others. With the help of many volunteers and hiring a tree service, we have been able to keep the grounds safe for our patrons. But there is still much to do, so this will likely continue into the new year and hopefully we will get enough rain to freshen up the remaining trees.

The 2018 Clean-Up day was again a great success. We want to thank the 50 or so volunteers who showed up with 3 tractors. Also we would like to thank Eric Schneider and the Clampers for coming out the weekend before to trim the trees down the isles. It looks so much better.

During lunch, the following were elected to the 2018-19 board of directors.

President: Winnie Jones
1st Vice President: Eric Schneider
2nd Vice President: Robert Edwards
Treasurer: Ed Jones
Secretary: Joann Barbero
Directors: Glen Thorns, Loren Knighton
Clerk: Ida Peterson
Webmaster: Randy Jones

Many plots still have no curbs installed. We have had a few problems this past year so the board has decided to push the issue for the future. So if you currently don't have any curbs please get them installed. Remember curbs are for your own protection and are required.

The board has agreed to increase the plot prices starting Jan 1, 2019. Glen View prices are far below comparable Cemeteries in the area and we are getting closer to being full. So if you were thinking of purchasing a plot, you could save some money if you do it before the new year. Cremation sites will increase from \$250 to \$300. Single plots will increase from \$650 to \$800.

We currently have 251 on our mailing list. Of which we only have 52 email addresses. If you have an email address please submit your information to info@glenviewcemetery.com. This reduces the cost of mailing out this news letter tremendously.

The 2019 Clean-Up day would normally run on the 3rd Saturday in April. But this year that will be Easter weekend. So the board has decided to move it to **Saturday April 27th**. Hope to see you all there!

Best Regards.
Randy

LATEST HAPPENINGS

Treasure Chest By Ed Jones

I want to really Thank Everyone who made donations to Glen View this past year. I know it is difficult to include us when there are so many who need help.

100% of your gifts go right to the up-keep and daily expenses of running our cemetery. Every year we pay taxes, PG&E, postage and insurance which adds up to around \$3,000.00 per year.

Most plot sales this last year have been for cremations, with one full plot being sold.

With your generosity we have paid all our bills including some Tree Service work and have not had to dip into our savings account.

God Bless You All

Your Treasurer
Ed



Board Room by Winnie Jones

As the President of the Glen View Board of Directors I want to thank everyone of my Board Members for the great job they do to keep our Cemetery Looking Nice.

The Board Members are Volunteers. Their jobs do not stop with the End of the Clean Up Day or the End of Memorial Day.

All of them work behind the scenes to keep things in order which means that they do work at or for the Cemetery **all Year long**.

An example of this would be:

Robert Edwards contacting someone to grind some of the stumps up at the cemetery then staying with them while they get the job done at no cost to the cemetery.

Eric Schneider & Loren Knighton trimming the trees and removing trees such as the Trees of Heaven that have popped up this last year, these Trees we all agree should be called the Trees from Hell. They have done a lot of research and have found that you can't just cut the trees down as they will pop up from the roots and grow 11 & 12 new trees. I could fill a whole page for what these two have done.

Glen Thorns for checking on the cemetery all the time always bringing his tractor to the Clean Up.

Randy Jones for keeping up with the Website and getting things like this news letter out, he also checks on the cemetery and has been doing some research on some of the old grave sites. He has talked with David Ingram "Woodshaper of Clements", who has volunteered to make wood headstones to replace the old wooden markers.

Ed Jones not only takes care of the Treasurer work he also spots graves during the year and answers so many questions from people calling us. This includes people that want to check their family history, want to know if they have family buried at our cemetery and a few calls from people that are not happy about something at the cemetery.

Joann Barbero keeps us all on track with the cemetery minutes along with helping plan the Clean Up Day and Memorial Day. Joann always does the running to get the "last minute" things done. Need Ice? Don't worry Joann will get some.

Ida Peterson is not on the Board of Directors. We do give Ida money for gas to drive to the cemetery during the week and a cell phone to answer calls or to contact Ed. Ida also Marks the Grave sites.

We have a remarkable Board that loves our Cemetery. They all go the extra mile to take care of the cemetery all year. I hope that you will thank them at our next Clean Up Day or if you see them before Clean Up. Thank you is the only reward they receive.



I am looking forward to seeing everyone on Clean Up Day and Memorial Day!

Thanks again for your support!

Glen View Cemetery

P.O. Box 25
Clements, Ca 95227

Current Box Holder
Clements, Ca. 95227

***Next Annual Cemetery Clean-up
Saturday April 27th 2019 at 8:00 AM
Free BBQ Tri-Tip Lunch
Don't Forget a POT LUCK SIDE DISH
Stay for the Annual Board Meeting***

Board of Directors

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Secretary: Joann Barbero
Directors: Glenn Thorns, Loren Knighton & Randy Jones
Clerk: Ida Peterson

For comments/concerns/corrections please feel free to contact the board

Email: winnie@glenviewcemetery.com

Phone: (209) 334-2966