

HISTORY OF THE HUNTSVILLE CEMETERY

The Huntsville Cemetery had its beginning in 1877, and the first person buried there was Mary Jane Hammond on June 6, 1877. James Thurston was appointed as the first Sexton of the same year. The yearly assessment was \$1.00 per lot then raised to \$2.50 as funds were needed to clean the cemetery.

Mr. P.H. Olsen, Sr., had some years ago contributed a large portion of the cemetery tract and all that he asked in return as a reimbursement was that he be given a lot in the cemetery free from all assessment, and the same right and privileges to bury as any other lot owner, which the board unanimously agreed to.

In 1910 prices for opening graves were as follows: adult, \$4.00; small child, \$3.00; and \$5.00 for a vault, made by pouring fresh cement all around the box. All graves were dug by hand until 1962.

Early in the spring of 1932, Bishop William R. McEntire appointed a committee of three to clean the cemetery for Decoration Day. The three men called were David Berlin, Edger Allen and Samuel Wangsgaard. They served in this capacity until 1939. When funds were available, the committee received pay for their services, but when there was no money in the treasury, they worked for nothing. About this time, under the direction of Bishop Wilmer C. Jensen, the cemetery was transferred from the LDS church to the Huntsville Town Corporation.

On June 14, 1948 a special meeting was held and a committee formed to investigate the possibility of piping water to the cemetery and also planting grass there. On October 7th another meeting was called to inform lot owners that the probable cost of improvements would be \$50.00 per lot. By permission of the town board an engineer was hired to determine the size of pipe and location of the installation of the water system. Sagebrush and wheatgrass were removed, the ground leveled, and iron fences taken down. Grass was planted on lots that had paid their \$50.00, and they were watered and cared for during the summer of 1949. The following year, more money was collected and the job finished.

When the dam was raised in 1955-56, recreation around the cemetery point created many problems. The town hired Arthur Wooley, a prominent attorney to negotiate with the Bureau of Reclamation. Mayor Virgil Peterson worked diligently, and demanded that a chain-link fence be erected completely around the cemetery. Some land was traded to the Bureau, and the north and west sides of the cemetery was rip-rapped with rocks to keep it from washing away.

In the last few years many more improvements have been made to the cemetery, including a new sprinkling system, a garage to store equipment, a new fence and gates and landscaping at the entrance, and a new parking lot. The cemetery records have also been computerized.