

ALMO CEMETERY

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The Sunny Cedar Rest Cemetery at Almo, has proven a serene resting place for members of the community who have died; but it also serves as a greeting place each Memorial Day for longtime friends and distant relatives. In fact, this hallowed strip of mountain soil has created much enjoyment each year because of the many visitors returning to pay respect to the graves of loved ones.

For some people, this is the only time they visit the former stomping grounds of their forefathers, except in cases of recent funerals. There are other people who still visit relatives in that area more often, tour the City of Rocks or enjoy the hunting season in the South Hills.

The cemetery property is located on the side of a hill and because of its secluded location, is kept beautiful with methods other than being grass covered.

Some lots are fenced in, some are individualized by other means, while others are provided a more domestic appearance by the growth of bushes and iris plants. Some graves have been covered with crushed white decorator rock and others lined by small boulders.

Although the cemetery is secluded, the people at Almo pay particular attention to stones and grave markers and some people are following the trend of purchasing pictorial grave stones which portray favorite activities of the deceased. These include engraved pictures of mountains, deer, or even those portraying a former occupation.

Undesired brush and weeds are cut down from around the graves each year, and the dirt mounds are rebuilt. All graves are secured with a concrete base and frame to prevent remounding and damage by rodents.

The grave opening and closing procedure is a unique practice by the closely knit community and it is performed with acts of love involving no exchange of money. When the one in charge of the cemetery is contacted that there's to be a burial, the community residents buy a case of pop or other refreshment and take their picks and shovels to the cemetery for a grave opening. It has been a community policy for several years and has proven a fine example of the quality of people in that area.

The first person buried in the Almo cemetery reportedly was Mrs. Amadem, whose death occurred in 1889. Before a cemetery had been selected in the early days, burials had taken place in various locations. Among these are listed Adaline Andrews, who was buried in Nathaniel Rice's field. Also at this location are graves of two Graham children. The field has since had the brush removed and the exact location and

identification of graves would be difficult, according to cemetery officials. No record of Almo deaths would be complete without the mention of the common grave in the field now owned by Arley Cahoon which reportedly contains the remains of the immigrants who were massacred by the Indians in the early days. The history of the Almo cemetery met with near disaster about five years ago when the records were destroyed in a fire which razed the home of Mrs. Ida Cahoon. The thing that prevented this from being a total disaster was the fact that just prior to the fire, a good many of the records had been copied by Mrs. Ivan (Barbara) Darrington for personal geneology purposes.

Barbara said she copied the records because they contained so much data on the Durfee families, to whom she is related. She copied everything in the original book with the exception of the plans and numbers of the lots and the map of the cemetery. The current cemetery log, which Barbara has compiled from her information was completed with assistance of Ida and Edna Cahoon, and Ivan and Mary Darrington. The present log contains about 89 pages.

The cemetery, which contains about 10 acres, is under the direction of a board consisting of Nellie Ward, Ida Cahoon, Wallace Taylor and Arley Cahoon. Special attention is provided by the Almo Beautification, activities, sponsored a name contest. Winner of the Sunny Cedar Rest title was Mrs. Asael Lowe -Nina Ward.

The name has been well accepted by everyone and is very appropriate because the rest area is located on the sunny side of the mountain amid a large growth of cedar trees.