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BELL COUNTY Bell County cemetery could be in jeopardy

By Chris Troutman
Journal Reporter

Many Harker Heights citizens have become fearful that the new neighborhood development of Knights Ridge may be endangering a long-standing cemetery. The Mountain View cemetery, located in south Harker Heights north of FM 2410 and east of Warriors Road, has grave sites aging back to 1883.

Harker Heights citizen, Don Hubbert, said, "I am concerned they may be building over unmarked graves, but I have no proof."

Harker Heights residents Charlotte Allman and Debbie Crocker agree with Hubbert.

According to Allman there are 27 known graves with names. She and others believe there may be more unmarked graves that extend beyond the borders designated by Lago Developers for the cemetery.

Allman and Crocker base their beliefs on several areas of sunken ground.

"We want it preserved and left alone. It is a piece of history here in Harker Heights and we want it preserved," Allman said.

Sarah Hubbert said, "I have been to Mountain View cemetery recently and it looks to me that although the grass is really high, there are patterned indentations in the ground to the north of the main cemetery that appear to be very old, settled, unmarked gravesites."

"I am not an authority but I have been to many old cemeteries that exhibit this characteristic and to me it is questionable," Hubbert said, "Developers who purchase property containing old cemeteries have a certain responsibility to ensure that they are not building on gravesites."

Allman, whose land neighbors the cemetery and area under development, believes there are several unmarked graves on the northern tree line beyond the cemetery boundaries.

Allman and others once cleared out the area using a weed eater and she and Crocker dowsed the area looking for unmarked graves.

Dowsing is an older method involving a divining rod to search for underground water or minerals, and in this case graves.

This method has been used to uncover water lines, phone lines and cables by utility

See CEMETERY, A6

Residents pack Belton Council Chambers over annexation



Over 100 Bell County residents packed the Belton City Council chambers Tuesday night to have their voice heard about eight proposed annexation strips for the City of Belton. The overflow crowd caused the meeting to adjourn to the nearby Bell County Annex Building. (Photo by Jonathan Blundell)

By Jonathan Blundell
Editor

If the Belton City Council and city staff expected their annexation study to pass by quietly, they were anything but right.

Over 100 Bell County residents packed the Belton City Council Chambers Tuesday night demanding their voices to be heard.

When the overflow crowd realized there wasn't enough room in the council chambers, a number of outspoken residents threatened Mayor Dwayne Digby's control of the public hearing.

Attempts at motions from the congregation requested the meeting be rescheduled and moved to another public venue.

"We're here to listen to your comments," Digby said. "We will take as much time as it takes."

After discussion among the council with City Manager Sam Listi and City Attorney John Messer, the council agreed to move the meeting to the County Conference Room at the Bell County 2nd Ave. Annex.

After the move, Listi gave those gathered a brief overview of reasons for annexation and the services Belton will provide to the annexed areas.

According to state law, the city must offer equal or greater services to any newly annexed areas, in comparison to current city standards.

See ANNEX, A4

MORGAN'S POINT RESORT Council raises property tax

City also plans to
replace existing water
system

By Chris Troutman
Journal Reporter

Wednesday, Sept. 22, the City Council of Morgan's Point Resort met in regular session at 7 p.m.

The meeting was held in the City Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Malvin Fischer presiding.

The main items discussed were the new 2005 water project, the budget amendments for 2004/2005, and the proposed tax rate.

The 2005 water project is a proposed water plan hopeful to remedy the city's numerous water problems.

The information and proposed project outline was provided by Kristi Andrews.

According to Andrews, the city needs another water tower to provide the adequate water pressure for future fire protection.

She said that presently not all the city's fire hydrants are equipped with the appropriate amount of water pressure needed to fight fires.

Andrews' plan proposed a new water tower and eight inch, ten inch and 12-inch lines in 2005 and then additional lines added

See COUNCIL, A6

BELL COUNTY County required to offer translators

By Berneta Peoples
Associate Editor

Cemetery

CONTINUED FROM A4

workers. After Allman's dowsing illustration, it was made fairly obvious that there may be some validity to the ancient practice.

Allman's dowsing rods reacted evidently each time they passed over a known grave and in the same way when passed over a suspected unmarked grave.

None of these suspected unmarked graves identified that day were outside of the boundaries.

In June of 2004 an archaeological and geophysical survey of the north and

south boundary lines of the Mountain View Cemetery was conducted by the American Archaeology Group.

The survey was performed and paid for by Lago Developers to satisfy the concerns that there might be unmarked graves beyond the boundaries of the cemetery.

The area investigated was along the northern and southern boundaries of the cemetery where the unmarked graves are suspected to lie.

According to the 28 page report of the survey, that is available upon request from the Harker Heights Planning and Development office in City Hall, archaeological and geophysical surveys were conducted along the suspected areas and "no anomalies or dis-

turbances were identified that would indicate the presence of any unmarked graves."

The developer for Lago Developers said, "We just wanted to be sure that the area contained all the sites. We wanted to take every precaution -- that is why it is a much larger area."

The developer said about the possible unmarked graves, "There weren't any out side the north or south boundaries."

According to Ray Shanaa, the Director of Planning and Development for Harker Heights, "The developer has worked to identify potential grave sites and they have since enlarged the cemetery area."

According to Shanaa Lago Developers have made the des-

ignated cemetery boundaries approximately 75-feet wider.

He said this new addition adds 20,000 more square-feet to the total area.

The developer said that the house lots on the north side of the cemetery were too small so they eliminated them and incidentally extended the north boundaries of the cemetery.

"If there was anything out there the enlargement will accommodate it," Shanaa said. "In the process of enlarging the cemetery the developer has reduced the number of developable lots for housing," said Shanaa. "In my opinion they have done a good job to accommodate the cemetery site. He (the developer) has made an excellent good faith effort to do the right thing and I'm satisfied with his efforts."

Chris Dyer, a cemetery surveyor for the Texas Historical Commission, said, "I can't say there aren't any graves, there very well may be, but there isn't any deed showing the boundaries and in my impression he (the developer) is doing all he can do." Dyer said that this is a common problem with development. "He's not going to intentionally pave over any graves, that's my impression," Dyer said.

Allman and Crocker were present for the survey but still feel dissatisfied with the efforts.

Allman has also signed up for the Texas RIP program in efforts to raise money to restore the cemetery.

She has found a local concrete sculptor willing to recreate the broken head stones out of cement for a low price.

Allman and Crocker were both pleased to hear the cemetery boundaries were increased but are still uneasy about the further developments around

the cemetery.

Rocky Sprott, a Belton resident and member of Major Robert M. White Camp 1250 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, has been conducting a civil war grave survey for the past year and a half.

"Our cemeteries are a window on our past. It's a monument on our history, on those who have gone before us," Sprott said, "If people don't get involved in history and heritage it will be destroyed."

Sprott believes that the developer is a conscientious

person and since he knows the extent of the ground he should do what is right.

"Those cemeteries represent generations of those who walked and died and lived and made a mark. Each one of those people are important cause they made their own contribution to who we are today and none of them deserve to be plowed over and forgotten."

Lago Developers has begun construction of the neighborhood and road around the new expanded Mountain View Cemetery site.

Rollover on N. Beal St.



Belton Police investigate the scene of a vehicle rollover near the intersection of 13th Ave. and N. Beal St. Saturday night. The 1998 Dodge Ram pickup was traveling northbound on Beal around 8:30 p.m., when witnesses and Belton PD say the truck ran the stop sign at Beal and 13th. A 2000 Chevrolet Silverado traveling westbound on 13th swerved to miss the truck. The Silverado hit the passenger side of the Dodge causing the Dodge Ram to lose control, and flipping itself onto the driver side of the vehicle. John Holmes, who lives nearby, ran to the accident site and helped three other neighbors lift the truck off of the driver's pinned left leg. The driver of the Dodge, a minor, was transported to Scott & White Hospital by Belton EMS. The driver of the Chevrolet truck walked away from the accident. No drugs or alcohol were suspected by Belton PD at the accident site. (Photo by Jonathan Blundell)

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BELL COUNTY, TEXAS - CEMETERY: MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY

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This information was based in part from the book "The Story of Bell County Texas" Vol.I, published by the Bell County Historical Commission.

SUBMITTER: Charlotte McEwen Allman, Harker Heights, Texas 76548 12/2000

The location of Mountain View/Holden Cemetery is about one half mile northwest of Comanche Gap, about one half mile northeast of Harker Heights High School and about one half mile north of FM 2410. GPS coordinates are 31.03.60 N, 97.38.58 W . Elevation is 862 feet. It was annexed into the city of Harker Heights in 1996. It is located on privately owned land.

W.B. Holden
10/11/1825 - 6/10/1896

Baby Girl Holden
1890-1890

Baby Girl Holden
1890-1890

Geo. J. Shelley
11/24/1870 - 12/29/1890

Willie R. Craghead
1/18/1884 - 2/20/1884

Amelia E. Craghead
2/25/1886 - 10/1/1892

Newton E. Craghead
4/5/1888 - 11/19/1890

L.G. Craghead
10/14/1852 - 3/16/1889

Millie Ann Hope (Mrs. John)
1837 - 1895)
tombstone destroyed, was mid wife for the Holden family

Markers are missing or destroyed for:

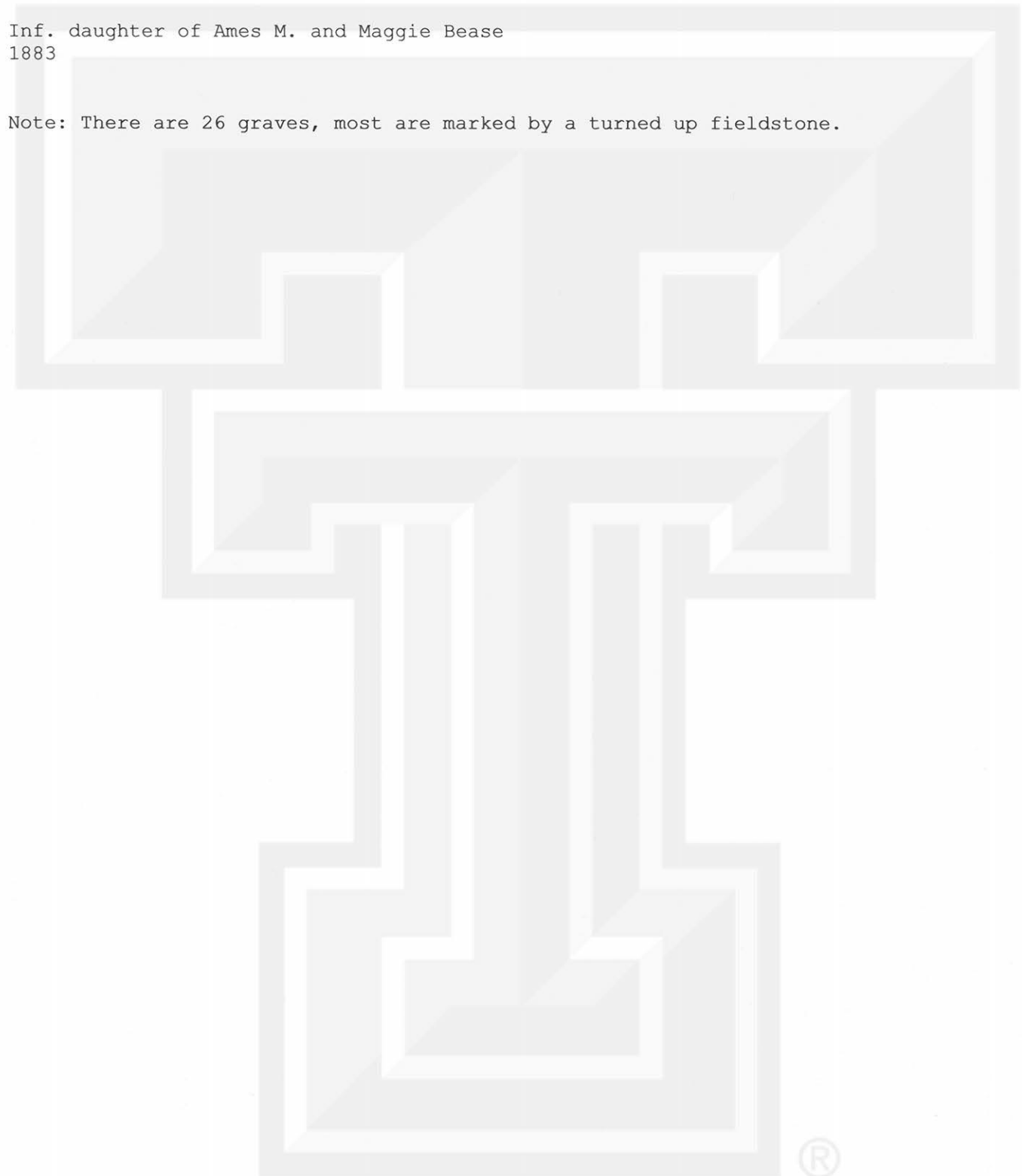
Alice Wright (Mrs. J. W.)

1869 - 1895)

Inf. daughter of the J. W. Wrights
1895

Inf. daughter of Ames M. and Maggie Bease
1883

Note: There are 26 graves, most are marked by a turned up fieldstone.



Graves Survey Summary

Cemetery: Mountain View, Bell Co.

Date:

Time:

Vol NO: I

Page No: 8

Cem No: 122

Survey Team Roster

- | | |
|--------------|-----|
| 1. R. Spratt | 9. |
| 2. | 10. |
| 3. | 11. |
| 4. | 12. |
| 5. | 13. |
| 6. | 14. |
| 7. | 15. |
| 8. | 16. |

☐ Photos ☐ Biographical file ☐ Unit File.

Graves Survey Totals

Marked Confederate	0
Marked Union	0
Able-Bodied Men	1
I.D. Confederate	0
I.D. Union	0
Total Confederate	0
Total Union	0
Non-Veteran	1
Total Graves Surveyed	1
Total Veterans	0
Bell Co. Cai	0

Confederate Graves Survey

Bello

□ Confederate

□ Able Bodied Cemetery: Mountain View

Name

Born Died '61 Type Cond.

Unit - Remarks

[illegible]

Marker Type : FS: Flat Stone, FM: Flat Metal, SS: Standing Stone, SM: Standing Metal, VA: Vet Adm, O: Other
Condition: G: Good, Weathered, B: Broken, L: Laid Down, I: Illegible

Condition: G: Good. Weathered. R: Broken. L: Laid Down. I: Illegible