

The LDS Church Lends a Hand

By: Teresa Miller

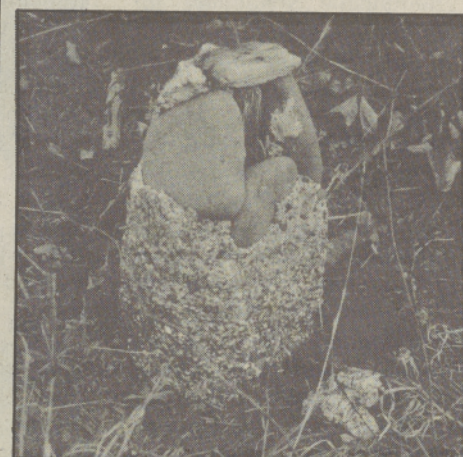
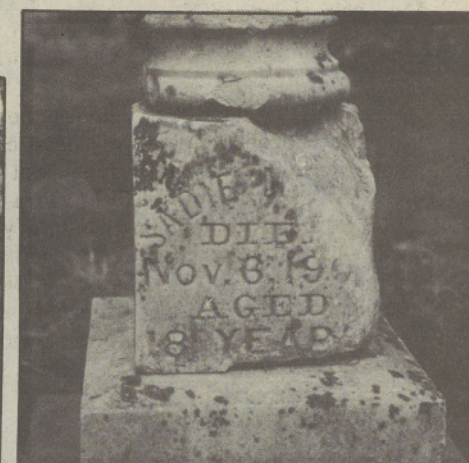
Last fall, the presidency of the Lincoln City Ward of the Relief Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints were trying to decide what to do in honor of their upcoming sesquicentennial in 1992. The project was to be one of community service.

Naoma (Nail) Beavers, coordinator of the project, became aware of a cemetery in Lincoln City which had been virtually overgrown by brush and apparently used as a dumping ground. From the street there was nothing visible to show that it was a cemetery. Naoma and the rest of the Relief Society members thought it would be a good project. So, after determining that this could possibly be an Indian burial ground, representatives of the Relief Society contacted the Tribe, received permission to clean the site from Tribal Council, and consulted with the Sacred Lands Committee on the activity.



Since that time, members of the LDS Church have been working on the site with a great deal of dedication. Only small, bent sections of the original iron fencing could be found and the markers that remained had been tipped off their footings. They filled an industrial size dumpster with garbage and debris, cleared away the brush, and reset the monuments. A fence is being built around the perimeter of the cemetery with a gated entry and a sign will soon be erected. They were successful in securing donations of services and materials from a number of sources including: a baron of beef and serving supplies from Salishan for the kick-off dinner at the beginning of the project; property survey by the City of Lincoln City; rock for the footings donated from Kauffman Quarries; sand and rock from Burch Concrete; cement from Lumberman's; posts donated by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz; water to mix the concrete by a neighbor; press time to produce flyers by the News Guard of Lincoln City; and a dumpster from Lincoln Sanitary Service.

They are presently working with the State of Oregon and Lincoln County to have the cemetery declared a historical site and volunteers are in the process of researching the history of the lives of those buried in this cemetery located on the north end of Lincoln City. Three engraved monuments which had been overturned and three



unengraved markers are all that remain of the original cemetery. The monuments read: "John Morris, died Sept. 12, 1918, aged 67 yrs; Sadie Morris, died November 6, 1900, aged 18 years; Annie Morris died Sept. 15, 1914 aged 74". There is another marker, apparently hand made of cement and rocks, (see photo) which bears no name and two large flat stones which may be headstones that have been left in place.

It's not often that you see so much dedication to a project in which there is no apparent personal gain. We owe the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints a hearty THANK YOU for initiating, organizing, and working so hard toward completion of this project. If anyone would like to volunteer their time, the work continues, weather permitting, every Saturday from 10am-3pm until the restoration is done.



Naomi Beavers

