

DATE: August 25, 1988

TO: Ted Novack, Parks and Recreation Director

FROM: Neva Lockhart, City Clerk

SUBJECT: Crown Point Cemetery

In 1904 William H. Hanson, Elizabeth Jane Hanson, James L. Duckett, John B. Scott, and William O. Cartwell quit-claimed to the Crown Point Cemetery Company the following described land:

"Commencing at a point where the north line of the right-of-way of the Grand Valley Canal crosses the east line of the southwest quarter (SW4) of Section Twenty (2) in Township one (1) North in Range One (1) West of the Ute Meridian; thence along said right-of-way to where it crosses the north line of said southwest quarter (SW4); thence east to the northeast corner of said southwest quarter (SW4); thence south to the place of beginning, containing ten (10) acres more or less, also a right-of-way for a road twenty feet wide along the east side of said southwest quarter (SW4). As a further consideration for the transfer of the above described land, second parties agree to build a two wire fence with posts one rod apart along the right-of-way of the Grand Valley Canal above described and also to keep in repair one half of the west side fence on said right-of-way for a road above described."

The above-described property is located at I 1/2 Road and 23 1/2 Road, Appleton District.

On February 20, 1907, an amended plat of Crown Point Cemetery was recorded. There were 491 lots platted, all lots 9'x 24' in dimension unless otherwise shown. Only about 2 1/2 acres have been used for burial purposes so far.

On the 1st day of September, 1920, The Crown Point Cemetery Association, party of the first part, entered into a contract with J. Dean McCrillis, party of the second part, who owned some adjacent property, to get water from the Grand Valley Project canal. It was agreed that J. Dean McCrillis would construct and maintain an irrigation ditch connecting to the North and East of said cemetery with a lateral taking water from the said Grand Valley Project; that he would construct and maintain the said ditch in sufficient capacity to carry at least, if necessary, the said thirty inches of water per second of time (10 inches maximum per second of time to the Crown Point Cemetery and 20 inches maximum per second of time to the McCrillis property); that the

Ted Novack  
August 25, 1988  
Page 2

said ditch would also be constructed through the said cemetery and would be so constructed that water could be taken out on the highest point in said cemetery and that McCrillis would also construct the necessary dike to bring the water to the said highest point. In consideration of his constructing and maintaining the said ditch, Mr. McCrillis would have the right to carry water through the said ditch through the said cemetery to his land in the amount not exceeding the maximum of 20 inches. He was annually at the proper times to clean in a good, workmanlike manner the said ditch and keep it in good condition. The agreement was binding upon the successors of the said Cemetery Association and the successors, administrators, heirs and assigns of the party of the second part.

In 1951, the Crown Point Cemetery Company filed Articles of Incorporation and established By-Laws. Three trustees were elected annually.

June 25, 1970, Crown Point Cemetery Company sold the cemetery to the Mesa County Veterans Cemetery Association. The cemetery was to be known as "Veterans Crown Point Cemetery." The Mesa County Veterans Cemetery Association agreed to perpetually maintain and care for all existing grave sites in the cemetery. Mrs. Wesley Dixon (Helen) was the President of the Mesa County Veterans Cemetery Association at the time of this transaction.

According to Helen, different patriotic groups handled the operation of the cemetery such as the Women's Relief Corps, and American Legion Post No. 50. Bill Patton was a member of American Legion Post No. 50 and spearheaded two or three applications to the Federal Government to get the Veterans Cemetery on Orchard Mesa and/or the Veterans Crown Point Cemetery declared a National Cemetery. He was refused each time.

By 1977, Helen Dixon was operating the Veterans Cemetery on Orchard Mesa and the Veterans Crown Point Cemetery singlehandedly. There were no volunteers from the patriotic organizations, and hired help was hard to find. Helen wanted to take vacations with her husband and pursue other volunteer activities but could not because there were no volunteers to handle the operation of the cemeteries. The committee had suggested that she make one more effort to get the Veterans Cemetery on Orchard Mesa declared a National Cemetery. The request was denied because: 1. They allow one in each state; Colorado has a National Cemetery at Fort Logan in the Denver area; and 2. Need more than ten acres. Subsequently, the committee authorized Helen to approach the City to see if it would take over the cemeteries.

Ted Novack  
August 25, 1988  
Page 3

The City Manager, Jim Wysocki, the Parks and Recreation Director Ken Idleman, Helen Dixon, and I met late in 1977, early 1978. The City agreed to take over the Veterans Cemetery on Orchard Mesa upon the city's completion of the necessary mapping, preparation of the plat sheets, and proper location of grave spaces already used and those on pre-need. It was agreed that the City would prepare the map, plat sheets and location of grave spaces used and those on pre-need for the Veterans Crown Point Cemetery at the same time but that the transfer of the Veterans Crown Point Cemetery would occur at a later time. The City agreed to honor the stipulation that only honorably discharged Veterans, his/her spouse, and dependent children would be buried in the Veterans Cemetery on Orchard Mesa. It was agreed that the general public would have the use of the Crown Point Cemetery.

The mapping, plat work, and grave space identification took place from April to September, 1978. On October 4, 1978, the City Council passed a Resolution accepting Veterans Cemetery on Orchard Mesa into the Municipal Cemeteries. Helen continued to operate the Crown Point Cemetery. Annually, she would come in to my office and file information on burials and sales for the previous year. There were an average of eight (8) burials a year.

On March 17, 1982, the City Council passed Resolution No. 17-82 accepting Crown Point Cemetery into the Municipal Cemeteries.

Of the 491 lots platted, 156 lots containing 649 spaces have been set aside for use up to the present time. We show 516 spaces have been purchased: 375 burials, 141 pre-need spaces. That leaves less than 133 spaces open for sale throughout the 156 lots. One (1) lot was used for the storage shed, and five (5) lots were left open for the entrance to the cemetery.

There are 335 platted lots in the balance of the Cemetery available for sale at 4 to 6 spaces per lot.