

2022 Summer Newsletter

THE HISTORIC **Union Cemetery** REDWOOD CITY, CA

Hello Union Cemetery Enthusiasts,
We've had a very busy Spring with tree trimming, headstone repair and Memorial Day. I hope many of you were able to attend the May 30th event. It was a beautiful day and we had wonderful speakers and 2 anvil firings!!
Tree trimming is now complete and the Cemetery looks great; more open and with a lovely oak canopy. The scary dead branches are all gone. Future plans include tree planting and providing irrigation for the trees that remain on the property.



Before and after photos near the Frisbee-Cooley fence



This is right at the entrance. The invasive Acacia trees were getting unsafe and spreading rapidly.

Thanks to Board Member Barry Kuhl and people he met on one of his tours, Union Cemetery now has the regular assistance of the Young Men's Service League. They will help with a variety of tasks including regular maintenance, special clean up and perhaps some restoration. We are grateful to them for the ongoing support.

Speaking of young men who helped us, recently Eagle Scout Candidate Elliott Lee from Pacifica worked with us to install QR codes at 27 markers throughout the cemetery. He, his troop members and friends poured concrete, set vertical 2x4 pre-cut wood holders and glued on permanent yellow QR code plaques. **To use them point your phone camera at the QR code and a link to our website will appear on your screen. Tap it and you will go to our website and learn about the person.**



Additionally, we've done a lot of repair work. Two headstones were damaged when our huge oak tree fell last October.

V. Fontana of Colma repaired them and the Bullivant side by side cribs.



One of my favorite repairs was done on the Kincaid marker. For years a rustic wooden upright was standing alone along the back fence. In the windmill I found the carved Kincaid crosspiece and had an ah-ha moment when I realized they belonged together! We used a wood preservative on both pieces and reassembled them, setting the whole marker in concrete. Thanks to Thom Lippitt.

Once again, we could use your help if you like to prune roses. It's time to deadhead the 305 rose bushes at the Cemetery. We won't have an organized event, but you are welcome to trim to your heart's content. Just leave the debris in a pile on a major path and we'll clean it up....or take them home and make potpourri!



Memorial Day

May 30th at 10am, Union Cemetery was the place to be. With music, singing, patriotic speeches and a touching eulogy for John Edmonds it was an inspiring day. And it was topped off by 2 earth shaking anvil firings!

Special thanks to D.A. Steve Wagstaffe, Chris Beth, Dennis Logie, Jim Clifford, Othello Jefferson of Sequoia HS, Hans Saier and our wonderful anvil firers, Dean Morgan and Russ Maynard! Their contributions made it a very special event!



I've sent this quarterly newsletter to many of our new Cemetery friends who support us often with time and enthusiasm. I encourage you to join the Historic Union Cemetery Association (HUCA). It's easy to join by mailing a check to \$25 to:

HUCA Membership

PO Box 610033

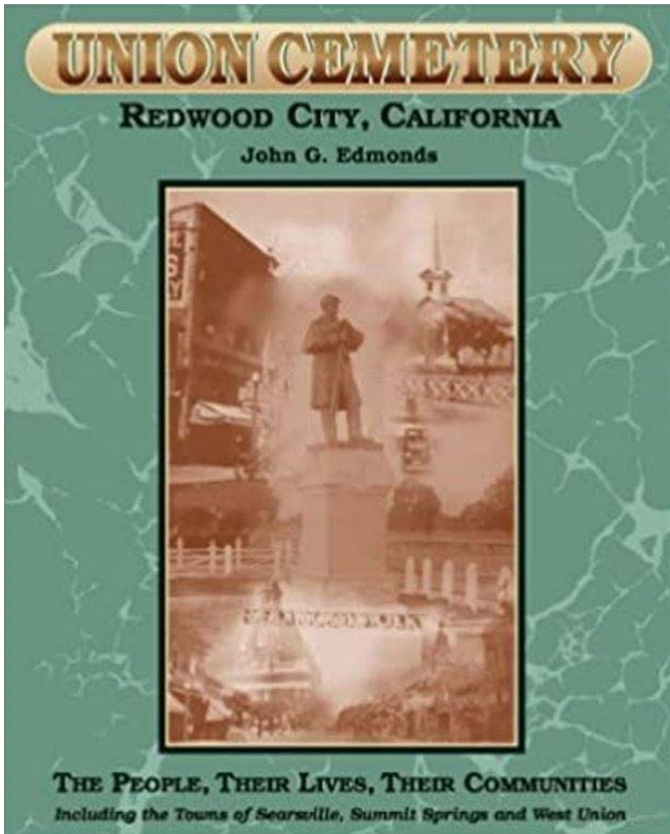
Redwood City, CA 94061

Or

www.historicunioncemetery.org

Contribute>membership

John Edmonds, author and Union Cemetery advocate has passed away



John Edmonds, who authored several books and articles about the history of Redwood City and adjacent communities, has died. His life will be celebrated Friday, July 8, at Trinity Presbyterian Church in San Carlos.

Books by Edmonds, who passed away on April 8, included “Vanished Towns of San Mateo County” and “The Civil War: Northern California’s Unrecognized Valor.” He also contributed to “Redwood City A Hometown History.” In addition, he wrote many articles for the Journal of Local History, a publication of the history room at Redwood City’s main library. At the time of his death he was the president emeritus of the library’s Archives Committee.

Edmonds was raised in Redwood City, graduated from Sequoia High School, served in the Coast Guard and then graduated from San Jose State. He went on to receive an MA from Notre Dame in Belmont and a PhD from California Southern University.

Among other accomplishments, he served as president of the Historical Union Cemetery Association. He was very active at the cemetery where he nurtured heirloom roses planted in the mid-1800s, led group tours and wrote about historical figures buried in the cemetery off Woodside Road.

Edmonds spent 40 years as a San Mateo County Sheriff’s Deputy. According to family members, he “patrolled every area of San Mateo County with his K9 partner Nerf” and worked as a bailiff in the county courthouse.

Edmonds and his wife, Diana married in 1962. They had three daughters, seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

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