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Search in Unexpected Places

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SEARCH IN UNEXPECTED PLACES

(a review of Ruth and Argo's HERE WE REST. . .)

Margie Cooke Porteus

From the lighthouse tower memorial near Pat Hennessey's grave at Hennessey to the elaborate Will Rogers Crypt and Memorial at Claremore, from Geronimo's grave at Fort Sill to that of Sam Houston's Cherokee wife at Fort Gibson, from Pretty Boy Floyd's grave at Akin to Red Buck's at Arapaho—cemeteries are an often overlooked source of history.

HERE WE REST, HISTORICAL CEMETERIES OF OKLAHOMA—written by Kent Ruth with photography by Jim Argo—is an interesting introduction to this concept in history. Besides the National Military Cemetery and the Cherokee National Cemetery near Fort Gibson, Ruth tells about the Union Soldiers Cemetery, the National Czechoslovakian Cemetery, and the Hebrew Cemetery in Oklahoma City and various Indian cemeteries throughout the state.

There are many interesting anecdotes, including the story of Mary and Albert Ray, born slaves and buried at Hinton on land that was theirs before it became the town's cemetery. At death, their average age was 108.

The book is divided into three main sections: Cemeteries as History, as Biography, and as Serendipity. In the latter section, Ruth discusses Creek grave houses, "tombstone art," World War II POW's buried at Fort Reno, the circus and carnival section of the Hugo Cemetery, epithets, and much more.

Of necessity, many interesting cemeteries and graves have been omitted, but this book might inspire the reader to delve into the history of an unexplored burial ground. Who knows what archeological, historical, artistic, cultural, genealogical information might be found.

The book is indexed and includes a bibliography of published materials on Oklahoma cemeteries that could be an invaluable aid to genealogists. **HERE WE REST. . .** was published in 1986 by the Oklahoma Historical Society of Oklahoma City.

MARGIE COOKE PORTEUS of Paonia, Colorado, was reared in Thomas. A SOSU alumna, Porteus is a retired public-school teacher.

WESTVIEW Wins

By the Staff

On March 17, 1989, at the annual luncheon meeting of the Oklahoma Heritage Association, WESTVIEW was presented a "Distinguished Editorial Award" by the Association. The meeting was held in the Sheraton Kensington Hotel of Tulsa. Admiring the plaque are the members of the Editorial Board (l to r): Professor J. Don Wood, Art Director; Dr. Jeanne Ellinger, Assistant Editor; Dr. Leroy Thomas, Editor; Dr. Roger Bromert, Assistant Editor; and Dr. Donald Hamm, Publisher.

