DAVID ANDREWS

The FRIENDS are saddened by the death of David Andrews on February 24, 1981. Dave was a musician and craftsman who both played and built organs, and who taught at Eastman School. He had planned to renovate the old chapel with his partner, Paul Knoke, and use it as a workshop and recital hall, as well as a home. Dave was a staunch supporter of the FRIENDS from the beginning of the organization, and was moreover one of the founding members of the Music Society, the committee which arranges concerts in the Cemetery. It was Dave who provided the brass quintet last June at Heritage Day, and who arranged the concert by Wende Persons and Kathy Reily at Rededication Day. Dave has been buried on the hill behind the Chapel, just off Indian Trail Avenue. We shall all miss him.

MEETINGS

The Executive Board meets every month on approximately the first Wednesday at 8:00 pm at the Old Gatehouse. Any member is invited to attend and become involved in the activities. If you have ideas about what we could be doing, or better yet, thoughts on how to carry them out, come along and add to the agenda.

SEE MT. HOPE IN THE SPRING!!!

Spring is coming soon, if past experience is any guide, and the pace of activities at Mt. Hope will also be stepping up. The Garden Committee is going into action (see report by Jim Engelbrecht), the tour guides are refreshing their memories and sprucing up their costumes, and a full season of activities is planned on all fronts (see calendar).

Guided tours will begin on Easter Sunday, April 19, and will start at the Gatehouse (North Entrance) at 1, 2 and 3 pm. Those who visit Lamberton Conservatory in Highland Park on Easter will be encouraged to make the short jaunt down Robinson Drive to take in Mt. Hope.

Lilac Week begins Saturday, May 16 and runs through Sunday, May 24. During the Festival, there will be tours on both Saturdays and Sundays at 1, 2 and 3 pm, which will take a special route to the graves of our Horticultural Heroes, people important in landscape design, gardening, the park system and the nursery business.

Spring is especially lovely in the Cemetery. The migrating birds stop off on their way north, the flowering bulbs appear everywhere, both in the cultivated rock gardens and in natural drifts, and the new foliage makes a wonderful contrast to the monuments.
Sunday, March 8th was the first planning meeting for our committee. A good attendance made for good discussion and a successful meeting where we covered the items below:

**Adopt-a-plot:** This program is being initiated by the FRIENDS to help restore plots in the Old Section to their original beauty. Plots of famous people, of interesting design, or that were originally gardens are chosen which need clean-up and planting. An initial survey of plots was done last fall and several of these plots are now adopted. It is time to pick a plot and start planning your flower garden. This year's group project will be the large slope with the cast iron fence and stairway north of the Woodworth plot. Clean-up and planning of the garden will start this month and plantings in May. We need as many people as we can get to help — no experience is needed. See the Events Calendar for times and dates.

Anyone who is dividing plants in their gardens or who knows of sources for plants that can be donated, or of any service groups or clubs that would be interested in donating time to the rock gardens or adopt-a-plot, please contact me. Please do not start any work if you haven't talked to me first to be sure the space you want is available.

James Engelbrecht
232-6269

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**THE GAZEBO**

Most visitors to Mt. Hope have commented on the gazebo that stands to the left of the gate, at the beginning of the walking tour. It once sheltered an ornate drinking fountain, and was enhanced by an elaborate painted design on the roof. It has been deteriorating for some time now and is in serious need of repairs to the understructure, as well as a complete stripping and repainting in colors appropriate to the Victorian period. (Whatever the original paint, it was certainly not white.) The Executive Board feels that restoration of the gazebo should be one of our first priorities, and to this end is consulting architect John Bero and taking bids for the job. Watch this space for further developments.

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**THE ASSOCIATION FOR GRAVESTONE STUDIES**

An organization which may be of interest to some of our members is the Association for Gravestone Studies, which was founded at Dublin, N.H., in 1977. The AGS creates awareness of the importance of gravestones in a variety of ways, by encouraging local preservation groups, promoting research in all aspects of gravestones, organizing conferences and maintaining contact with genealogical societies. The AGS publishes a newsletter and an annual journal "Markers." The 1979/80 issue contained 15 articles, ranging in subject from Colorado wooden markers to the willow tree and urn motif to a bibliography for classroom teachers. For information write to AGS, Mrs. Philip D. Thomas, Treasurer, 82 Hilltop Place, New London, N.H. 03257. There is a very interesting bibliography compiled by the AGS which is available at the Gatehouse on Sundays.

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**THE SARTORIAL CEMETERY**

The FRIENDS plan to offer their new tee shirt for sale on April 19, the day walking tours resume for the season. The shirt is a tasteful creation in dark blue with the willows and urn emblem in white and the words "Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery." Every friend will want one. Show your Mt. Hope allegiance to the world! (And incidentally contribute to our operating fund.) Available at the Gatehouse every Sunday, $5.00 apiece.
TREES, PLAIN AND FANCY

Last summer, James Kelly, plant taxonomist with the Monroe County Department of Parks, labeled twenty-nine trees, representing twenty varieties, that stand near the walking tour route. The common types include white and black oak, black walnut, red hickory and sugar maple. (Mt. Hope maple syrup?) Others, though, are more exotic, and include tulip tree and cucumber tree, Sawara falsecypress, moss Sawara falsecypress and thread Sawara falsecypress, fern-leaf European beech, Caucasian spruce and weeping mulberry. Someday we hope to have a regular tour of the trees to become acquainted with both the exotic and native plants. In the meantime, the tree of the quarter will continue to be a feature of the newsletters.

GEORGE WASHINGTON ALDRIDGE, THE BIG FELLOW

"He gave the best kind of government he was forced to give" was the penetrating analysis describing George Washington Aldridge by Clement G. Luna in his book, George Washington Aldridge, Big Boss, Small City. He was referring to the man who politically controlled Rochester and Monroe county for 40 years. From 1883 until his death in 1922, G.W. Aldridge was the power broker, the patronage dispenser, the dictator of the Republican party in Monroe county. Born in Michigan City, Indiana, in 1856, he was the eldest son of a contractor and sometime mayor and alderman of Michigan City who moved to Rochester in the late 1860's. George attended school in Rochester and entered his father's business after completing his education. Young Aldridge's political education began in earnest when he was appointed ward leader of the Third Ward, one of the most lucrative political positions in Rochester. This ward was the most exclusive residential area of Rochester and also contained a district of gambling houses, saloons and houses of prostitution where it was common practice to disobey city laws and ordinances with the tacit approval of the city politicians and police. Aldridge began at the same time to build his power base by joining organizations and using the respectability of his father's business.

In 1883, at the age of 23, Aldridge was elected to the Executive Board of Rochester, which controlled the water, street and fire departments. He eventually served as chairman. The mayor resigned in 1894, and Aldridge was chosen to serve the remainder of the term. He resigned in 1895 to take the post of New York State Superintendent of Public Works under Governor Levi P. Morton. This post was his entry into state and national politics, but it was also nearly his downfall. At the end of his five years, there was a hue and cry for an investigation of his expenditures for Erie Canal maintenance. The verdict of the investigator was "No cause for complaint," to which his followers who benefitted greatly, heartily agreed. In the meantime, Aldridge continued to consolidate his power in Monroe county. He dispensed patronage to Republicans and Democrats alike, giving rise to the term "Aldridge Democrat," and made a reputation for always keeping his word and taking care of his followers. He made his home at 96 Plymouth Ave. S., lived lavishly, joined all the right clubs and played golf at Oak Hill. His only major defeat was in 1910 when he ran for Congress from the 32nd district, against James S. Havens, a very popular figure. Aldridge was accused of accepting a large bribe to use his influence to pass a tax reduction bill for insurance companies. He admitted taking the money, but claimed that he used his influence as a favor, not for the cash. However, the Boss was defeated, and never ran for office again. In 1920, Aldridge was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in Chicago. He was instrumental in nominating Warren G. Harding for president, and as a reward after the election was made Collector of the Port of New York. It seemed as if the Boss would hold his power forever, immune to reformers and other politicians, when he died unexpectedly while playing golf in Westchester on June 13, 1922. The news shocked Rochester and his friends wept openly. His body laid in state in the County Courthouse. Hiram Edgerton, who had been the Aldridge mayor for years, was carried in to view the body, and died four days later. The Aldridge empire was gone within ten years.

Richard Brown
CALENDAR

April 8 Executive Board Meeting
Gatehouse - 8:00 pm

April 11 Garden Committee Work Day
Meet at Gatehouse - 1:00 pm
(rain date: April 16)

April 19 Easter; walking tours begin.
Gatehouse - 1, 2 and 3:00 pm

May 6 Executive Board Meeting
Gatehouse - 8:00 pm

May 11-17 National Historic Preservation Week

May 16-24 Lilac Week
Horticultural Heroes Tour
Saturday & Sunday, 1, 2 and 3:00 pm

May 17 Garden Committee Work Day
Meet at Gatehouse - 1:00 pm
(rain date: May 24)

June 21 Rediscover the River Day

July 4 The Glorious Fourth
Visit the graves of Revolutionary and Civil War veterans

October 4 Heritage Day
Special events to celebrate the anniversary of dedication of Mt. Hope, October 3, 1838

This newsletter is published four times yearly by the Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery.

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