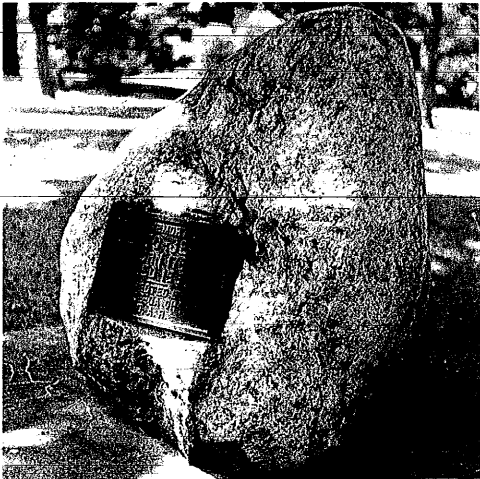




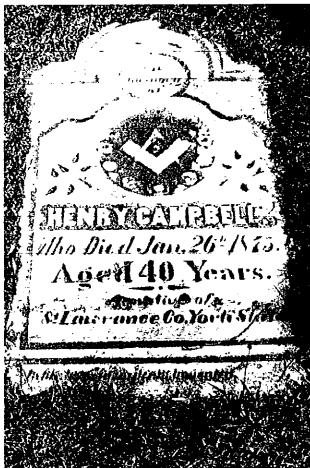
ONE OF THE most intricate tombstones at Greenwood marks the grave of Ada Crawford. Hand-carved of Indiana sandstone, the marker is also better preserved than most made of soft stone.



A MEMORIAL to Pe-to-se-ga, "The Rising Sun" whose name became Petoskey is located in what was originally an Indian burial ground at the Greenwood Cemetery.

Greenwood reveals the past

Greenwood Cemetery is can be spooky there when the situated in the hills fog rolls up from Little overlooking Petoskey, and it Traverse Bay and floats



ONE OF THE earliest tombstones at Greenwood is that of Henry Campbell, a mason who died in 1875. The stone has been set in the ground to prevent deterioration.

around the tombstones.

Unless, that is, you happen to tour the cemetery with Al Crawford. After 50 years as Greenwood's caretaker, Crawford doesn't waste any energy being superstitious!

He stops to tap his pipe against the granite base of a monument, and when he talks, he sticks to facts equally as concrete, mixing them with a wry and patient good humor, born no doubt of many an expedition with a novice graveside walker.

Crawford retired this spring, and he's glad of it. His Greenwood Cemetery is 90 River; Rice, the family who acres large a lot of land to take care of. Some 13 to 14,000 souls are buried there, more than the combined living populations of the City of Petoskey, Bear Creek and Resort Township, which and incorporated to organize the cemetery around 1872.

The site was used as a burial ground even earlier than that. Records show Dr. Porter, a dentist, buried his mother in 1860, and originally it was an Indian cemetery, Crawford said.

Records of the early days family genealogies, Crawford is spotty. "The old-timers

weren't too handy with a pencil," he said. They show who was buried in what lot and when, but they don't always say where. Thousands of graves remain unmarked.

Most of Petoskey's founding fathers rest in the Greenwood Cemetery, and a walking tour is a history of the city and the surrounding territory in its briefest form.

There's Pe-To-Se-Ga, the Chippewa chief who gave his name to the city. There's Cushman, owner of the Cushman House; McManus, who ran a sawmill on the Bear River; Rice, the family who operated the tannery in Kegonic; Curtis, who founded the First National Bank.

There are early merchants and politicians and doctors and dentists and newspapermen with names like Kilborn, McCune, Quinlan, Palthorpe, Leycraft, Darling, Leismer, Osborne, Sifer, Washburne, R.G. Porter, a Petoskey Waukazoo. Kegawami, Lewiston, Ames, Bontecou and originally it was an Indian cemetery, Crawford said.

With the new interest in family genealogies, Crawford has had a lot of requests for

information from people seeking their "roots" in cemetery records.

Some 30 to 40 people every year have been asking for help in finding long-lost relatives, where before "People just didn't care about that kind of thing," Crawford said.

Along with the name of the deceased and the date of burial, cemetery records contain the name and address of the owner of the lot. Up until 35 years ago when the cost of perpetual care was added to the price of a lot, owners were billed annually for upkeep, Crawford said.

There's a lot of work involved in researching genealogies, he said.

There are a dozen or more other cemeteries in the county, although Greenwood is one of the oldest and the largest.

County Clerk Harriet Kilborn has been able to help trace some family histories; funeral homes have some records; and the Bureau of Vital Statistics in Washington D.C. keeps track of births and deaths.

"Some people will go to Continued on page 6.

Thursday, July 27, 1978-6

Greenwood from page 5.

endless effort to get their genealogies," Crawford said.

"Sometimes it doesn't pay to look too far back," he added—with a grin. "You might find an ancestor you're not going to be proud of."

If the size of family monuments is any measure of pride, then Petoakey has had its share of proud families.

One of the markers presents a mystery. A large granite ball, some three feet in diameter, revolves on the McManus monument with enough persistence to shear off the iron bolts set underneath to keep it in place.

"It always turns toward the south," Crawford said. "We figure it must have something to do with the action of the sun."

Since 1925, when stone carvers discovered sandblasting as a means of carving letters in hard granite, granite has been the preferred material for monuments and markers, he said.

Early markers were hand-carved. Some of them are elaborate. Unfortunately, the most intricate designs were made of the softer stones, like Indiana sandstone or marble, and are already deteriorating.

"People say, 'What do you mean marble's no good. The Washington Monument is made of marble.' But, the Washington Monument doesn't sit in Northern Michigan," Crawford said.

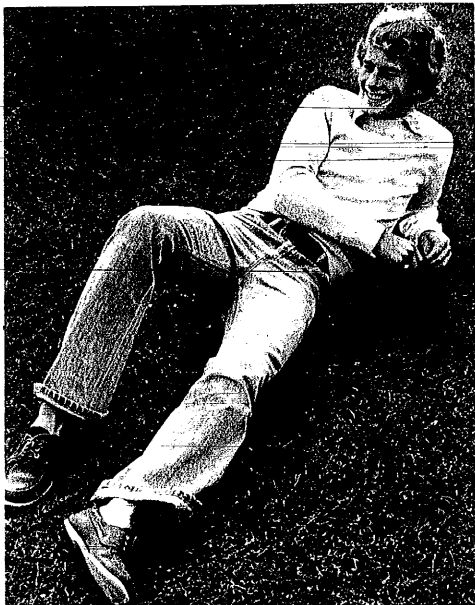
The stones in the Greenwood Cemetery come from all over the world: Finland, Scotland, Canada and Africa, he said. It is unlikely however, that too many more large monuments will be erected. With granite weighing in at 200 pounds per cubic foot, shipping costs alone would be prohibitive.

Some people, however, can afford to spare no expense. One family recently put in an enormous monument and provided a \$10,000 trust fund to insure that the lot will be taken care of, Crawford said.

Not that it won't be anyway. Crawford, who takes a professional interest in visiting cemeteries when he travels claims the Greenwood is one of the best in the country.

A lot of others seem to agree. "People who have never even lived here come to buy lots in this cemetery," Crawford said.

—Marsha Robinson



BRIAN GRANGER from Alanson, relaxes in a park on a beautiful afternoon.

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