

# THE POOR FARM

## *a forgotten cemetery*

The County Farm Cemetery dates from 1913. It also was known as the Poor Farm Cemetery, Potter's Field or Marble Mount Cemetery.

*In life forsaken  
In death forgotten  
These unknown pioneers  
Built our destiny*

– County Farm Cemetery memorial plaque

It is the final resting place for nearly 200 men, women and children. Several poor farm residents are buried here, but most of the dead were not associated with the farm, which operated on the property from 1873–1943.

When a person died without relatives who were willing or able to pay for a burial, the county buried the person here. The county paid \$35 for a simple, lidded pine coffin, a metal stake as a grave marker and transportation of the body to the cemetery. Limber Funeral Home and Knapp's Funeral Home provided most services. Historical records indicate descendants later moved several bodies to other cemeteries.

Burials ceased after 1937, and the cemetery went unused, unmarked and essentially forgotten. Over time, nameplates identifying the dead rusted away or sank into the ground, and the area became overgrown with grass, brush and briars.

In 1966, County Commissioner Ken Teter led an effort that cleaned up the cemetery and placed a boulder bearing two plaques (*quoted above left and below*) as a monument to the dead.

In recent years, some family members have installed grave markers.

*Although their lives ended in poverty, these pioneers raised families  
and toiled in the woods and fields to build this county.*

– County Farm Cemetery memorial plaque

Among the dead were settlers and transients. Many died of illness. Others took their own lives or died in accidents or hopping trains. Several died while committing crimes.

According to historical records, those buried in the Poor Farm Cemetery include:

### **Thomas Walters, 8**

Died: March 12, 1920 Birthplace: unknown

*Thomas Walters was eight years old when he died of bronchial pneumonia and scarlet fever.*

### **Fong Tong, about 62**

Died: Aug. 22, 1924 Birthplace: China

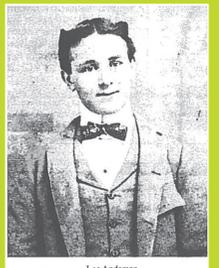
*Fong Tong, a well-known Chinese man who had recently been arrested on charges of having illicit liquor and drugs, died at a hospital of alcoholism and drug abuse.*

### **Lee Anderson, 53**

Died: Dec. 20, 1932

Birthplace: Kentucky

*Lee Anderson, a plumber, died at St. Joseph's Hospital. He was survived by daughters, Evelyn Deloria of Tacoma and Hannah Anderson of Vancouver; three sons, Irving, Weldon and LeRoy, all of Vancouver; a brother, Frank; and four sisters.*



Lee Anderson

### **John Kohlikar, about 27**

Died: Nov. 22, 1915 Birthplace: unknown

*John Kohlikar died after being shot while dueling with a deputy sheriff. According to The Columbian, Kohlikar was a "yeggman," or a person who breaks open safes. The police came across Kohlikar, who had a revolver, as well as safe cracking tools. Kohlikar pulled out a revolver and began shooting at one of the deputies, who shot back and killed him.*

