

Cemetery Walk brings Windcrest historical figures to life

By Jeff B. Flinn
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The past comes alive Saturday in Windcrest, as the stories and life tales of members of the pioneer Bueche family will emanate from along the path of the Bueche Cemetery on Crestway Drive.

All are descendants of

the pioneer family — from namesake Abram Bueche and C.W. Ackerman and his son, Frank, the first Bexar County sheriff killed in the line of duty, to Hermann Leonhardt and Antoinette Bartosh Bueche, who was known throughout the area for her culinary arts prowess, particularly with her prune coffee-cake.

This is the second year for the Cemetery Walk. The walking tours begin at 7 p.m. as groups of 10 will be sent forth into the cemetery every 10 minutes, escorted by members of the Roosevelt Drama Department. Once inside the cemetery gate, visitors will meet 15 actors, dressed in period clothing, who will tell the tale of the person whose

grave they stand in front of, beside or behind.

Carol Minard, a descendant of the Bueche family and president of the Bueche Cemetery Board, said tiki torches will light the path and the Roosevelt guides will carry turn-of-the-century lanterns as groups meander through the cemetery, with its 140-150 graves and interesting

“residents.”

The Bueche family first emigrated from Switzerland in the late 1800s and settled the area known as Fratt, Texas. C.W. Ackerman, Bueche’s son-in-law, bought the farm in 1902 and set aside a parcel of the property as a cemetery. The first grave at the cemetery was a granddaughter of Bueche

who died in 1897. The cemetery is still active, with its most recent burial occurring in August of 2009.

It was declared a Historic Texas Cemetery in September of 2002, a designation that serves as “a tool that will increase public awareness of these important cul-

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tural resources. (Cemeteries) are often the last reminders of early settlements’ historical events, religious beliefs, lifestyles and genealogy,” said Larry Oaks, executive director of Texas Historical Commission.

Minard said the Cemetery Walk is centered on preserving the history of the family and the cemetery, and is not meant to be linked to any Halloween-type horror se-

quence.

“I wanted to concentrate more on the history, a historical memory,” she said. “This is a really, really nice way to tell our story, a neat way to research our ancestry, all the people in my past.”

Last year’s inaugural effort exceeded everyone’s expectations. “We were so impressed (last year), it touched all of us (by) how many people were interested.”

The walk, the brain-child of former Windcrest

resident Harold Woods, helped the cemetery board in its efforts to reach out and make others aware of its history.

Abram Bueche is buried there, as are C.W., and Frank — visitors Saturday will get the chance to “meet” them and hear their story.

The Cemetery Walk will be preceded by a 5-7 p.m. chili and cornbread supper at the Windcrest Civic Center in Takas Park, served by the Windcrest Sertoma Club.