COMMUNITY CEMETARY RESTORED

Fighting the damage of time

By KATY CARROLL
Star Staff Writer

INDEPENDENCE - Just a year ago the old Natalbany Community Cemetery, located on Hwy. 40 about three miles west of here, was badly in need of restoration. It was overgrown with weeds, too many trees were on the grounds and names and dates on the tombstones were undistinguishable.

And the fence is being repaired. And all this cost money.

Families of the deceased were asked for donations to defray many of the expenses. Their contributions came to $1,022. Other friends, who asked that their names be withheld, donated $545.

They are still in debt $200 to the Natalbany Community Cemetery Fund. Anyone wishing to make a contribution may contact A. J. Reid at 386-6704 or write him at 216-3 3rd St., Ponchatoula, 70454.

The cemetery, which covers two acres, has been there for 69 years, the land having been purchased in 1905 by Zach T. Hanu and Allen A. Johnson.

Today about 90 percent of the restoration has been completed. It has taken a year of hard work by a group of persons interested in a beautification project.

A. J. Reid was appointed overseer last year and rounded up about 40 volunteers who gave, not only of their time and labor but tools and equipment as well. Trees have been cleared, stumps removed, land leveled, tombstones cleaned.

TURNER REID
BORNED JULY
15 1898 DIED
OCEMBER 27 1915

Daily Star
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Steve Peterka