

(continued page 2, SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN dated March 10, 1982)

The cemetery apparently was filled almost to capacity by the early 1900s, and a new city cemetery was established on the other side to town. Since then just a few residents with family plots have been buried there.

Mrs. Huck, who has been attempting to have the cemetery restored for the past several years, commented that the graveyard had fallen into disrepair as early as the late 1800s. She found an editorial in a Commerce newspaper published in about 1875 which told of the lack of care accorded the cemetery and the newspaper editor asked that the community take efforts to preserve it.

"We tried to get the community club and other organizations to do something with it," Mrs. Huck said. "But we haven't had too much success recently. The city can't do anything because it doesn't have the manpower or the money."

Next, Mrs. Huck says she will approach the Scott County Historical Society. She is hoping the organization, which has been revived recently, can offer some assistance. "I'm just waiting for them to get going," she said.

"Maybe some 4-H group or somebody else can work on it." Miss Davis stated. "If something isn't done you won't even be able to see this place in another five or 10 years."

Then, the graveyard will no longer draw the living nor the dead.



March 10, 1982
Commerce's first city cemetery, established nearly 200 years ago, has been overtaken by vandals, thieves and the destructive forces of nature in recent years. The city's mayor is hoping to have the historic graveyard restored.