



THE JENICKES — David, George, Marcella, Wayne, Janice, Alberta.

## Power Equipment, Chemicals Save Cemeteries from Weeds

**P**EOPLE have come to accept the irreverent roar of power mowers and the dousing of weed-killing chemicals on grave sites.

Well, almost everyone has, qualifies Wayne Jenicke, who directs the maintenance of five Catholic cemeteries in the Kansas City, Kan., archdiocese.

"Those who seldom visit the cemeteries complain most. Regular visitors understand what work is necessary to keep a cemetery looking nice."

The shortage of qualified labor and the increasing cost of maintenance are bringing about a change in cemetery design, Jenicke said.

The upkeep factor is strong in his mind as he develops the newest of the five, the 80-acre Resurrection Cemetery near Lenexa. Blueprints for a sixth, 123-acre cemetery to be opened this fall also reflect the sensitive compromises a cemetery su-



mostly memorial park garden type with the ground-level markers, but will have monument sections.

To achieve the cool-looking atmosphere, Jenicke plans to develop a "natural look" with random plantings of large shade trees.

There still will be evergreens and ornamentals, but plantings will be clustered in a way that beautifies the grounds yet permits easy management.

Jenicke maintains present cemeteries and develops the design of new ones with the advice of a personal friend who is a professional arborist and nurseryman, Harry Balthasar, owner of Nashua Nurseries, Nashua, Mo.

"If I have a disease problem on shrubs, he'll drop in and take a look at it," Jenicke said. "He takes the landscaper's blueprint for the new cemetery grounds and tells me what trees and shrubs to plant."

Jenicke began working in the cemeteries, in Wyandotte and Johnson Counties, after he returned from the Army in 1958. He began as assistant superintendent to his predecessor, W. J. Anderson. He became superintendent when Anderson retired in 1966.

#### Family Operation

Maintaining the cemeteries has since become a family operation.

Wayne was laid up several weeks with a hip ailment in 1961. His brother, David, then just out of the Army, took over for him. Then David stayed on as foreman.

His sister, Janice, began working summers during high school, then became the receptionist after graduation. Another sister, Marcella, still in high school, works on the grounds during the summer. His mother, Alberta, began working in 1967 and is in charge of grounds maintenance. Another brother, George, decided a few months ago he preferred to work outdoors rather than in a potato chip plant.

About six other full-time employees round out the staff.

The era of the parish cemetery — when family members assumed the responsibility for caring for the graves of relatives — is over, Jenicke said. St. Joseph's, a parish cemetery until 1960, has monuments dating in the 1860s.

What this means is that in the mobile society of today, more and more graves are being left for fewer cemetery employees to maintain. And there is the constant wage competition from other industries.

Chemicals and power equipment

perintendent has to make. He must please the people he serves, usually under most difficult circumstances, without unduly sacrificing upkeep efficiency.

"People prefer a shady, cool-looking atmosphere," Jenicke said. "That's why you may see an evergreen planted on either side of the monument in many of the older cemeteries."

As relatives move away, however, the upkeep of so many grave sites, particularly ones with the evergreens, becomes a costly burden for the cemetery to bear. "So now we have a regulation against that type of planting," he said.

#### Natural Look Is Design Trend

Mt. Calvary and St. John's cemeteries in Kansas City, St. John's in Lenexa, and St. Joseph's in Shawnee all are monument cemeteries. Resurrection and the new one will be

## Price-Fixing Conspiracy On Money?

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four years, a 70% increase in interest rates and a 62% increase in profits . . . interesting coincidence, isn't it?

Treasury Secretary David Kennedy has said wage and price controls are one way to stop inflation. If it comes to that, let's be sure to establish price control for all industries and all products, *including the banking industry and the price of money.*

Isn't the Federal Reserve Board that runs the money show responsible to the President, since he appoints the members? Hardly. The maximum number any one President can appoint is four. Twelve decide the Fed's, and consequently our, money policy.

Not even the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury sits on the Federal Reserve Board. He used to, but was lobbied off in the late 1930s.

On occasion, the Fed actually brags about its independence from the Federal Government. That translates to independence from you and me—John Doe, interest-rate payer.

Repeating an earlier question: What would your customers say if you increased prices 70% in four years? We suggest you say the same thing to your senators and congressmen.

The idea of a banking system that proclaims it's "saving us all" as it uses a method that puts money in its till doesn't ring true. It smacks of the label attached to it by Cong. Wright Patman, chairman of the House Banking Committee. He called it a "conspiracy," and it appears to be a greedy one at that.

\* Based on a continuation of profit performance of the past three years.



have been the deciding factors in keeping the cemeteries from literally disappearing in weeds.

**Jenicke Formula for Neatness**

Wayne Jenicke is establishing an enviable reputation in cemetery neatness. His formula is this:

In early spring, he applies Dacthal W-75 pre-emergence crabgrass killer with a 150-gal. Kim Manufacturing Co. P-800 trailer tank sprayer hitched to the PTO of an International Cub tractor.

"We try to get started soon after March 1 and finish before Apr. 15."

At the present time, plots that are for sale get 10 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. of Armour Vertagreen Turf and Tree Fertilizer (10-6-4). "In the future, we hope to fertilize all areas of the cemeteries," said Jenicke. Application is with a Maumee seeder broadcast-type spreader behind the IH cub.

"No one likes the idea of loved ones being buried in a weed patch," Jenicke said.

So about May 1, Weedone, a granular lawn weed killer made by Amchem Products, Inc., Ambler, Pa., is applied with a Scotts drop-type

Wayne Jenicke and his mother show how simple the task is to apply a soil sterilant that lasts an entire growing season and thus eliminate the need to trim every other week. Using the chemical cut labor costs nearly 70%. That's a significant accomplishment when you're talking about trimming 20,000 monuments. Acme Weed Killer is applied in a three-to four-inch band.

spreader behind the riding tractor.

"We tried the liquid spray, but had to worry too much about the drift hitting trees and shrubs."

Two men, working eight-hour days, mow the five cemeteries in a five-day period. Since each cemetery is mowed once a week, the job is practically continuous.

"Seven years ago, it was taking 10-12 men to mow just two cemeteries," Jenicke said, "and they weren't

trimming. Now we have 100 acres (in the five cemeteries) handled by two men."

The difference is power equipment — 88-inch, 62-inch and 36-inch Heckendorn rotary mowers and three 21-inch Lawnboys.

**Chemicals Cut Labor Cost**

The thought of trimming around 20,000 monuments every week during the grass-growing season is stag-





The striking difference in cemetery neatness is evident here. The picture in which markers are nearly covered with grass and weeds is in a cemetery not under Wayne Jenicke's direction. At left, Marcella Jenicke is applying Amchem's granular Weedone to kill the remaining dandelions and other broadleaf weeds. The warehouse and maintenance shop is in the background.

gering. Jenicke used to do it by hiring eight or nine high school students for the summer.

He still hires extra student help in the summer, but he figures that two persons working two to three weeks applying a soil sterilant that lasts all season saves the labor of five students trimming for three months during the summer.

A simple flower-watering can is filled with Acme Weed Killer, made by Acme Quality Paints, Inc., Detroit, Mich., diluted to one part chemical to 32 parts water. A three- to four-inch band is sterilized around each marker.

Jenicke calculates that the use of the soil sterilant has reduced the annual cost of this extra measure of cemetery neatness from about \$6,500 to less than \$2,000.

The Acme product, said Jenicke, doesn't have an oil base so it doesn't affect the markers. "We're trying Casoron granules, also," he said.

At present, Jenicke's tree-spraying is limited to spraying for disease or insects after discovery. "We're working toward a preventive program," he added.

Grave-digging is now done with an IH backhoe rather than with hand shovels. New graves are covered with sod.

Bermudagrass is one variety that's taboo with Jenicke. Markers flush with the ground are soon covered because of the way Bermudagrass grows, he explained.

"What I need most is a chemical to keep the grass from growing."

But until a retardant comes, Jenicke will continue his search for

further efficiencies as new graves to tend are added at the rate of 500 a year.

The Jenicke family conducts its

operations from a modern-design office at Mt. Calvary, 38th and State Streets in Kansas City, Kan. The rows upon rows of monuments stretching up the hill behind the office attest to Jenicke's working philosophy that he should take care of the many grave sites as he would want others to take care of the graves of his relatives and friends.

He knows the kind of care he wants. His father and predecessor are both buried at Mt. Calvary.

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### *Australian Seeks Aquatometer*

Your issue of March, 1969, has an article dealing with the Aquatometer — an appliance to detect underground water streams.

Will you please put us in touch with the manufacturer?

The country wherein we are located, South Australia, is recognized as being the driest state of the driest continent on Earth. But underground water is fairly abundant. Any method or appliance which assists in accurate location of the subterranean streams and reservoirs would be a "Godsend."

We have people who call themselves "water-diviners," here in Australia. Their method of locating underground water is to walk slowly over the surface of the land with a small, forked branch from a tree, arms outstretched in front, and each hand firmly

grasping one of the prongs of the wooden fork.

The claim is that when the "diviner" suddenly walks on to land beneath which an underground stream is hidden, the forked stick is just as suddenly pulled down by some unexplained force, so that it points to where the water lies buried.

Some "diviners" use a piece of fencing wire, suitably bent in the shape of a very large wishbone.

Laymen, farmers and scientists have, for a century or so, argued about whether it is "all bull-tripe" or not. Apparently the term "water-divining" is not used in the U.S.A., else it would have been used at least once in the article by Mr. Jamieson.

Anyhow, we are very interested in the Aquatometer.—**L. W. LAWLOR, director, Lawlors Pty. Ltd., Thebarton, South Australia.**



**Weed Control Department**

**LAWLORS PTY. LTD.**

