

Signups for the BEJOT Memorial Golf Tournament were sent around this morning for the first time. The tournament will be held July 21 at Pryor Creek Golf Course with a shotgun start around 9AM. There will be no breakfast that day. After the tournament, there will be a luncheon where all the prizes for the tournament will be given out. If you want to play or have a flag prize in mind, get ahold of Steve Staebler for more information. This is a great time for everyone, good golfer or not.

Drawings were held for the Family Tree Nurturing Center Golf Tournament for which the club purchased a team. The players will be Stephanie Romsa, Steve Staebler, Rob Romsa, and Randy Thomas, with Wiley Taylor being drawn as the alternate.

A thank you was passed around from Lockwood High School for our donation towards their senior class party, and two other thank you letters from separate donations to the Family Tree Nurturing Center.

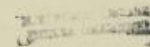
Tony Parish stated that the "member spotlight" will be starting again in July. The "member spotlight" is used to help the membership put names to faces. So, look for an email from Tony in late June with a questionnaire about your life and your club membership. There will be one newer member and one tenured (guess he didn't want to say "old") member spotlighted each month..

Lee Stadtmiller was our speaker this morning and spoke about the history of cemeteries in Billings. Lee started his career as an Undertaker (now known as a funeral director). In 2000, he became the manager of Mountview Cemetery. In 1800, the Europeans began using "scaffolding burial" under the rims where they buried those dying of disease, mainly small pox. A burial scaffold was **usually made of four upright poles or branches, forked at the top**. This foundation carried a sort of bier, where the dead body was laid to rest out of reach of wolves. The preferred location was on a hill. Here is a picture of a scaffold burial:



FIG. 13.—Dakota Scaffold Burial.

Burial customs - American Indian



The first actual cemetery in Billings was Boot Hill Cemetery, originally called Coulson Cemetery. Boot Hill was mostly used for those killed either by accident or nefarious circumstances.

After the railroad came through in 1882, land for Billings Cemetery was acquired in 1883, mainly because Boot Hill had become known for the persons that were buried there and it seemed that nobody who had not died from nefarious circumstances wanted to be buried there. Billings Cemetery began with a purchase by the city of Billings of 10 acres, which became Mountview Cemetery in the 1920's when the land to the west of Billings Cemetery was purchased. Later, the purchase of the land on which the Exchange City Par 3 Golf Course sits was purchased also for cemetery use. But, alas, the game of golf won out over cemetery use.

Originally, individual plots in Billings Cemetery were sold for \$10 each, two for \$15, or eight plots for \$25. Of course, many people purchased 8 plots even if they only needed one or two. So, there ended up being a lot of space between gravesites.

Originally, there was allowed only one person in each plot. But, this changed in the 1980's as cremation became more popular. So, the policy of one person per plot then was changed to a maximum of 3 persons per plot.

There are 1000-2000 persons buried in the original area of Billings Cemetary with no record of who or where they are buried. Since Lee's retirement several years ago, he has been researching where these persons are buried and who they are. He has found about 400 names and plots since this retirement..

Next week is a business meeting so no guests please.

Until next week.

Rocket