

Clyde's grave

Cemetery upkeep sought

By HENRY TATUM

The Dallas park department has been asked to take over maintenance of a 100-year-old cemetery that contains the grave of notorious bank robber Clyde Barrow.

The Western Heights Cemetery, near Fort Worth Avenue and Winnetka, has fallen into disrepair even though it bears the remains of Barrow.

Teamed with Bonnie Parker, Barrow and his gang terrorized citizens and robbed banks throughout the Southwest.

Bonnie and Clyde were killed in an ambush set up by Texas law enforcement officers near Arcadia, La., in 1934.

Irwin Harris, assistant parks director, said Thursday members of the Western Heights Church of Christ have been pressing the city to take over the old church cemetery.

Even the Dallas Action Center received a request this week for the city to clean up the graveyard.

Harris said park workers have toured the old cemetery and taken numerous photographs for review.

"Some of the graves are well maintained," Harris said. "But parts of the cemetery have become pretty well overgrown."

Harris said it may be hard for the park department to accept the request from the congregation because Western Heights is still an active cemetery.

He said the city has a policy of taking over maintenance of any graveyard that has been abandoned, but persons still are being buried at Western Heights.

"It would be the same thing as the park department coming in and helping out with maintenance at Restland," Harris said.

But he said that no decision has been made on whether to accept or reject the request from the Church of Christ congregation.

Harris said the church group no longer has the means to provide upkeep, "but our problem is that there are so many cemeteries in the city."