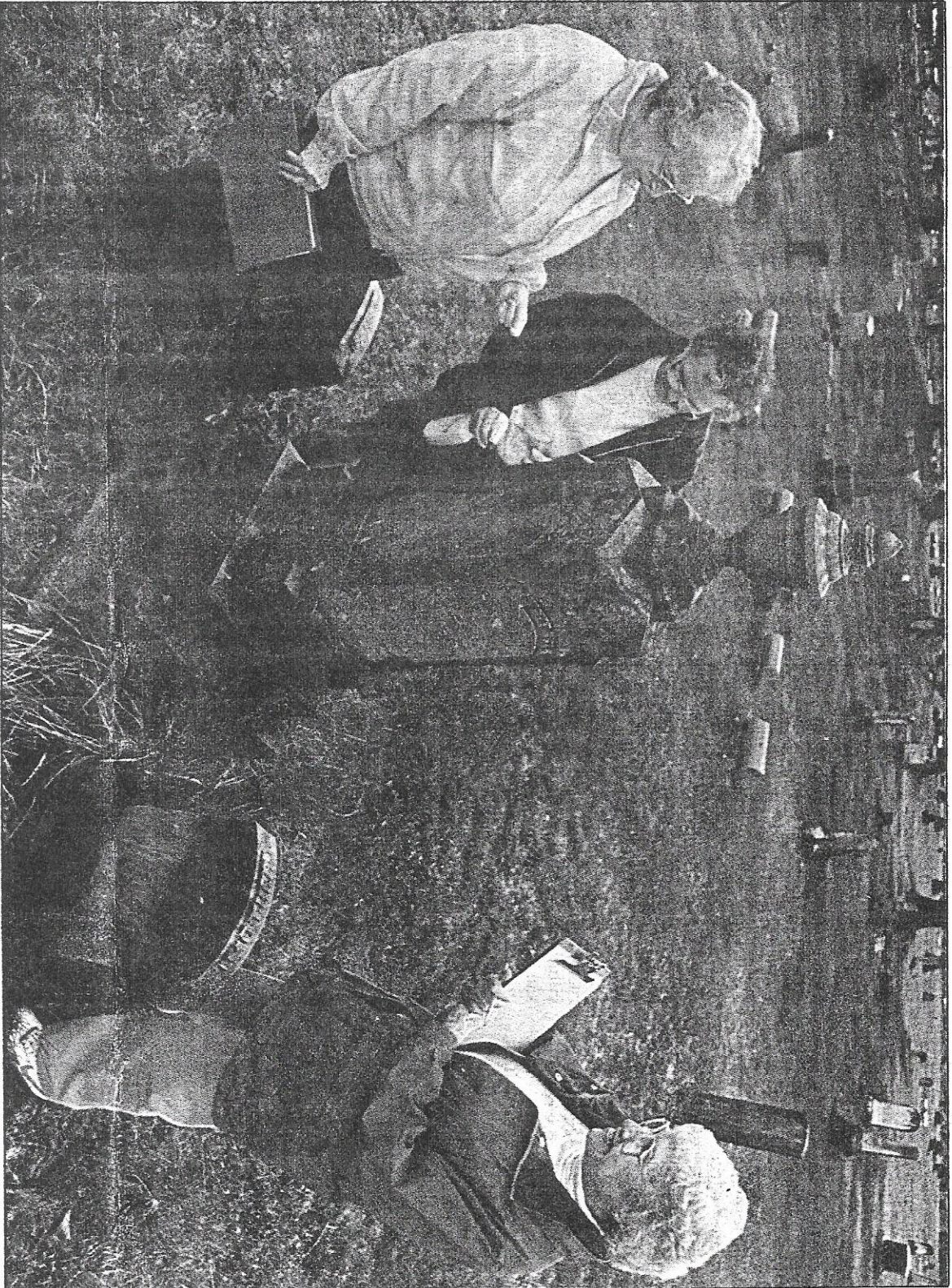


History hewn on headstones



Jean Grube, left, Damaris Reynolds, and Rebecca Kiger, right, inspect an historic headstone in the Oddfellows Cemetery on

Witham Hill Drive. The three Corvallis women have compiled a book of names from headstones in Benton County cemeteries.

Weston J. Becker/Gazette-Times

Rebecca Bell Sears Kiger

Feb. 28, 1920 — May 2, 2002

CORVALLIS — Rebecca Bells Sears Kiger of Corvallis died Thursday at Regent Court Assisted Living Center. She was 82.

She was born in Roswell, N.M., the daughter of William "Doc" and Gertrude (Rabb) Sears. She grew up on a ranch in nearby Kenna, N.M. She moved to Corvallis in 1946, and received a degree in home economics from Oregon State College in 1948.

She married Gerald Leach in 1938. He died in 1943. She married Walter Kiger, a member of an Oregon pioneer family, on June 8, 1948, in Prineville. He died Feb. 10, 1995.

Mrs. Kiger had a career with the Girls Scouts. As an administrator for the Santiam Girl Scout Council, she was instrumental in establishing Camp Whispering Wind. In 1970, she was awarded the Girl Scouts' highest honor, the Thanks Badge.

She loved the outdoors, history, genealogy, arts and crafts, singing old songs and listening to western music.

At one time she was an active member of the American Camping Association, the Rose Society and the Genealogy Society.

She is survived by daughters Mary Ratto of Corvallis, Linda Crissey of Colorado Springs, Colo.; sister Nina Withee of Spokane, Wash.; four grandchildren; three stepgrandchildren; and one step-great-grandson.

A brother, Thomas Sears of Wenatchee, Wash., also preceded her in death.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday at McHenry Funeral Home. The Rev. John Carpenter will officiate. Inurnment will follow at Pleasant Valley Cemetery.

Memorial contributions in her name may be made to Camp Whispering Wind, the Horner Museum Fund or the Alzheimer's Association in care of McHenry Funeral Home, 206 N.W. Fifth St. Corvallis, Ore. 97330.

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