

LOCAL CEMETERY AVAILABLE TO SAN PEDRO FAMILIES

The SPNA Board learned back in 1996 that the Hyer Cemetery, located one mile east of NM 344 on Simmons Road (County Road 26) had space available for families residing in the San Pedro Area. Elisa Nelson researched the matter for the Board and learned that the Hyer Cemetery was established in the early 1900s for the families of the community of Hyer. The town is now gone, but the five-acre cemetery remains. Clifton Richards, a member of the Hyer Cemetery Association, was very pleased to learn that San Pedro residents might be interested in maintaining the cemetery for possible future use by families of local residents. Mr. Williams and his cousin Howard Hadlock, who were elderly at the time, had been the only caretakers. They had replaced the corner posts, fencing, and gate, and installed a metal archway over the entrance a few years earlier. The two men wanted to meet with any interested parties to record the history of the cemetery, plot out future use, and clean up the grounds. The Hyer Cemetery is deeded, and there is no fee for its use because there are no arrangements for perpetual care.

Roger Payne was at that time an SPNA Director, and his son Russell took on the task of cleaning and mapping the cemetery as an Eagle Scout project. The Board felt, however, that a separate corporation should be set up to manage the cemetery, with some minor financial assistance (filing fee) from SPNA. This was done in 1998, with Elisa Nelson as president, and Jane Clancy as one of the Directors, both of whom remain on the cemetery Board and tend the grounds. Several former residents of San Pedro have been buried there, including long-time residents Stan and Mabel Waldron. Anyone in need of a burial plot should call Elisa Nelson at 281-0305.