

FRUITA CALVARY AND ELMWOOD CEMETERIES

The land for Calvary Cemetery, located on 17 1/2 Road in Fruita, was purchased by the Right Rev. Joseph P. Machebeuf, Catholic bishop of the Denver Diocese, on June 17, 1889, from A.J. McCune.

Some of the headstones at Calvary are dated before the cemetery was established in 1889. One of those is John Stafford, who died in 1866. It is possible he was buried earlier at Ross Cemetery and then moved when Calvary was developed. Or he could have been buried on the Stafford farm, because it was not unusual for people in rural areas to bury their family members at home.

By 1953, Calvary was no longer being used. People began burying their family members in the nearby well-maintained Elmwood Cemetery. Calvary had become a headache for the pastor. There were no grass and no money for the parish to hire a caretaker.

When Calvary became overgrown with weeds the parish priest asked some of the farmers to come to the cemetery with their equipment to cut weeds. In taking on the chore, the farmers moved or destroyed many of the headstones and crosses, making it impossible for every family to know exactly where the bodies of loved ones were. Those who did know marked the graves with crosses. Jose Archuleta, the last-known person buried in Calvary, was interred March 5, 1956.

Meanwhile the cemetery had grown smaller in June 1953, when J.H. and Ethel M. Standifird purchased a 2 1/2-acre portion of the property.

Today, although Calvary is no longer being used for new burials, it is beautifully maintained by volunteer members of the Fruita Catholic Church.

The Elmwood Cemetery Association was incorporated in June of 1895 and consisted of 40 acres. In 1950 the association was dissolved, and a cemetery

Elmwood Cemetery History



Clipped By:

skarenm

Wed, Jul 13, 2022