

LET IT SNOW!

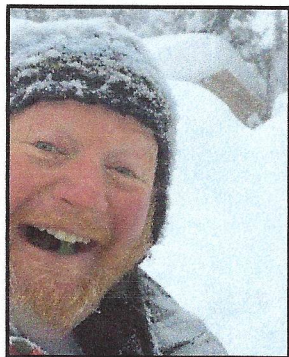
By Adria Nkala

Let it Snow! Maintaining Old Equipment is the Key!

It's now April, and California is in the midst of a terrible drought and facing a brutal summer. Who can remember December?

Yet December saw record-breaking snowfall in the Tahoe area. The last snowstorm of the month pushed December 2021 to the record as the snowiest December ever with more than 202 inches falling!

Happy Homestead Cemetery, nestled along a meadow amid the towering pines in beautiful South Lake Tahoe, has seen its fair share of snowfall over the years. I believe we are the only high-country California cemetery district that operates and inters remains year-round.



Jeff Hobby

Happy Homestead is a small district with a District Manager, a full time Grounds Foreman, and a Summer seasonal Groundskeeper. We serve not only the families of South Lake Tahoe and eastern El Dorado County, we also serve the Nevada communities around the eastern and southern side of Lake Tahoe.

Back-to-back snowstorms like we experienced in December present special challenges. It is very important clear the property and niche structures immediately after each storm, and sometimes even during the snowstorms. Because we get so much snow it can be overwhelming and allowing it to build up can shut down access until Spring. Not only must we clear the snow, we have to be careful not to damage paved roadways, walkways, and niche structures. It is a lot of work to keep the property open, safe, and clean during and after these massive storms.

Our Grounds Foreman, Jeff Hobby, worked tirelessly to keep the cemetery cleared and open. We were even able to conduct a full casket burial surrounded by 5 standing feet of snow covering most of the cemetery. As a small district with limited resources, much of our equipment has been around for a very long time. Maintaining this aging machinery is of utmost importance and made even moreso in an area with a Winter climate like South Lake Tahoe.



Adria Nkala

Jeff has been with our District for 5 years and has done an exceptional job of maintaining our equipment. For snow removal we use a Trackless MT5 with a Pronovost P740-60" Snow Blower attachment and extra turf tires. It was purchased in 2000 and still runs like a charm. Good, regular maintenance is absolutely essential—doing so reduces wear on the equipment, reduces future costs, and will keep it running well for longer.

Jeff saw the fruits of his labor during the last and biggest storm of the month as "Ole Betsy" cut right through all the snow, creating a beautiful snow maze for families and friends to come to the Happy Homestead Cemetery to remember their loved ones during the Holiday Season.

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