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Alton Youngsters Take Time Out to Clean Old Cemetery

About two city blocks down a dirt road, behind the Alton general store, lies an unkept historical cemetery.

That is the cemetery was filled with brush, litter and briars until seven ecology conscious young Alton boys took the matter into their own hands.

Discovering the condition of the historical plot while riding their bikes down the road that follows the river, the Alton Seven, J.J. Brown, Gussie Greene, Jay Szaro, John Gregory, Skip Dugas, Eddie Wallington and Tim Falso, became upset and decided to do something about it.....

The boys went into the little cemetery, picked up the litter (mostly beer cans), cut the brush and cleaned it out as best as they could.

The group started working on Saturday and on Sunday had the cemetery in fairly good shape.

"Its not in the shape it should be in," remarked Mrs. Gail Gregory mother of one of the youth leaders in the cleanup campaign. "But its a lot better than it was."

Mrs. Gregory said she was surprised at the ecology consciousness displayed by the Alton Seven. She said one of the boys even went into the mill and complained about smoke emission.

In addition to cleaning the cemetery, Mrs. Gregory said the boys also cemeted some of the stones that had fallen. The youngsters, all ages between 6 and 10, had to solicit the help of a bigger boy from the store to help push up the headstones.