

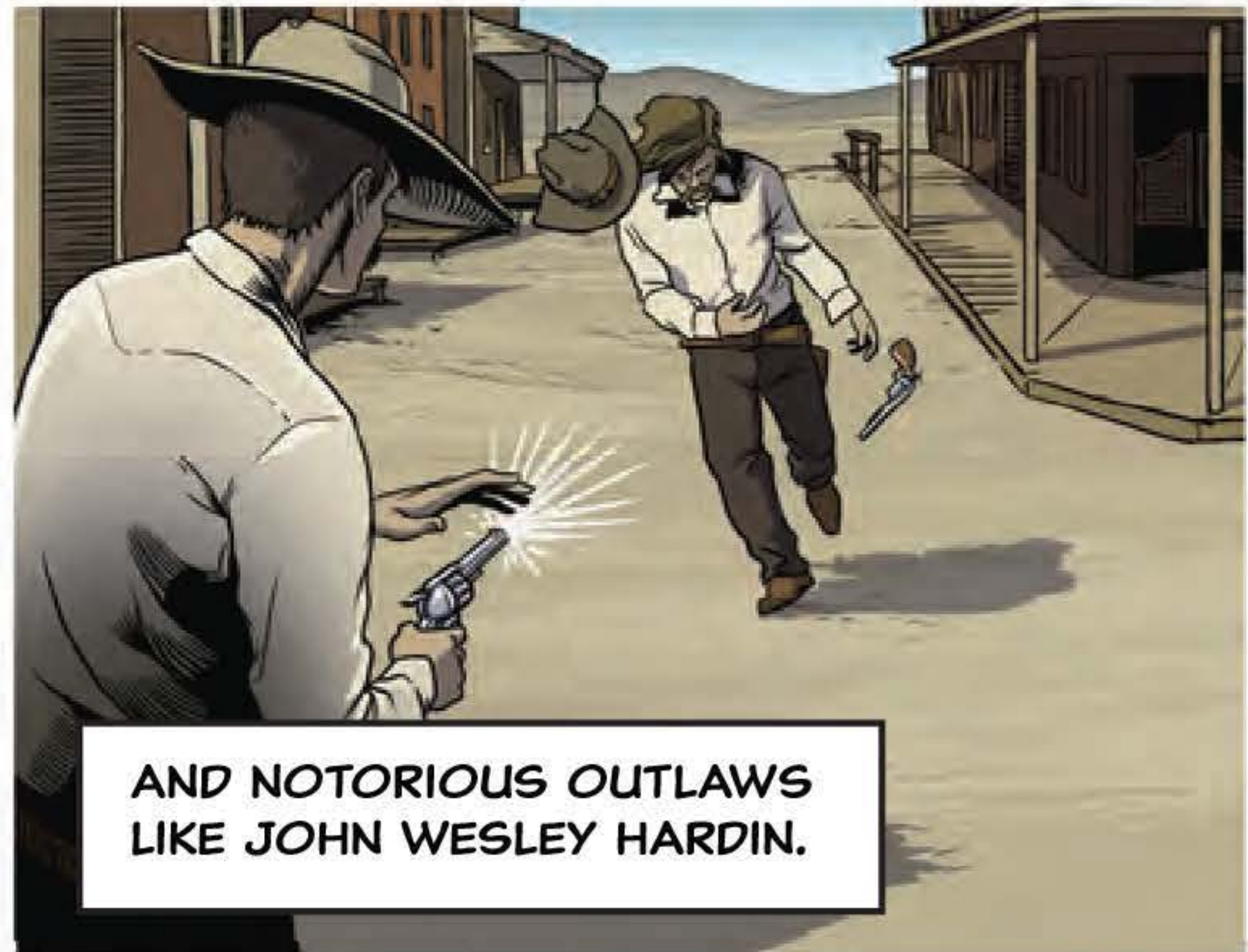
IN THE 1800S, TEXAS SAW



MORMON PIONEERS SETTLING THE WEST



CHINESE IMMIGRANTS BUILDING THE RAILROAD



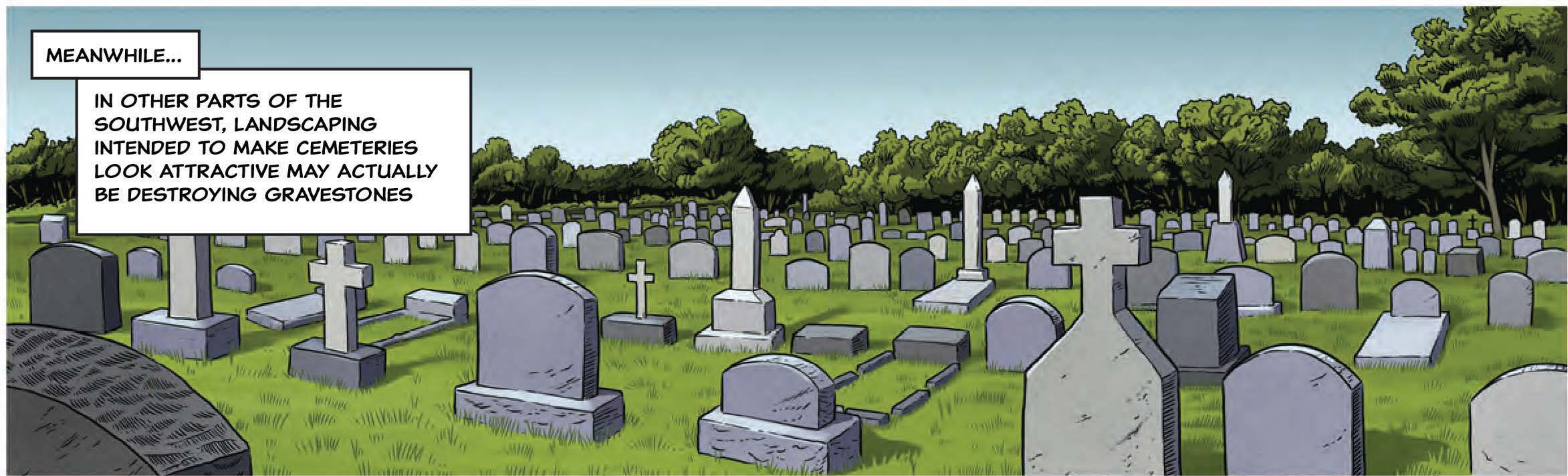
AND NOTORIOUS OUTLAWS LIKE JOHN WESLEY HARDIN.

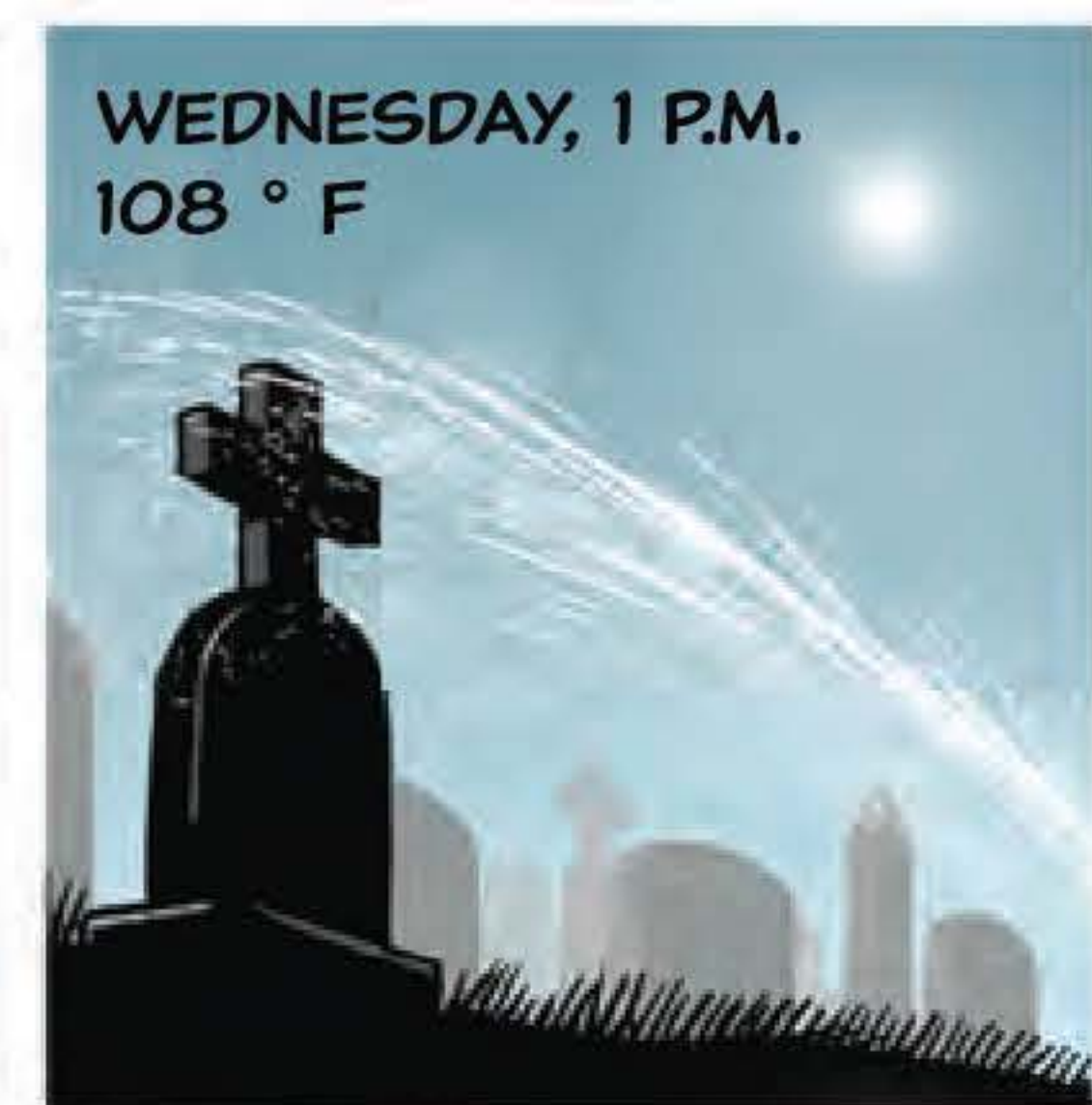
THESE FIGURES REST IN CONCORDIA CEMETERY IN EL PASO, TEXAS. THEIR HISTORY REMAINS WRITTEN ON WELL-PRESERVED HEADSTONES IN THIS DRY, DUSY PLACE



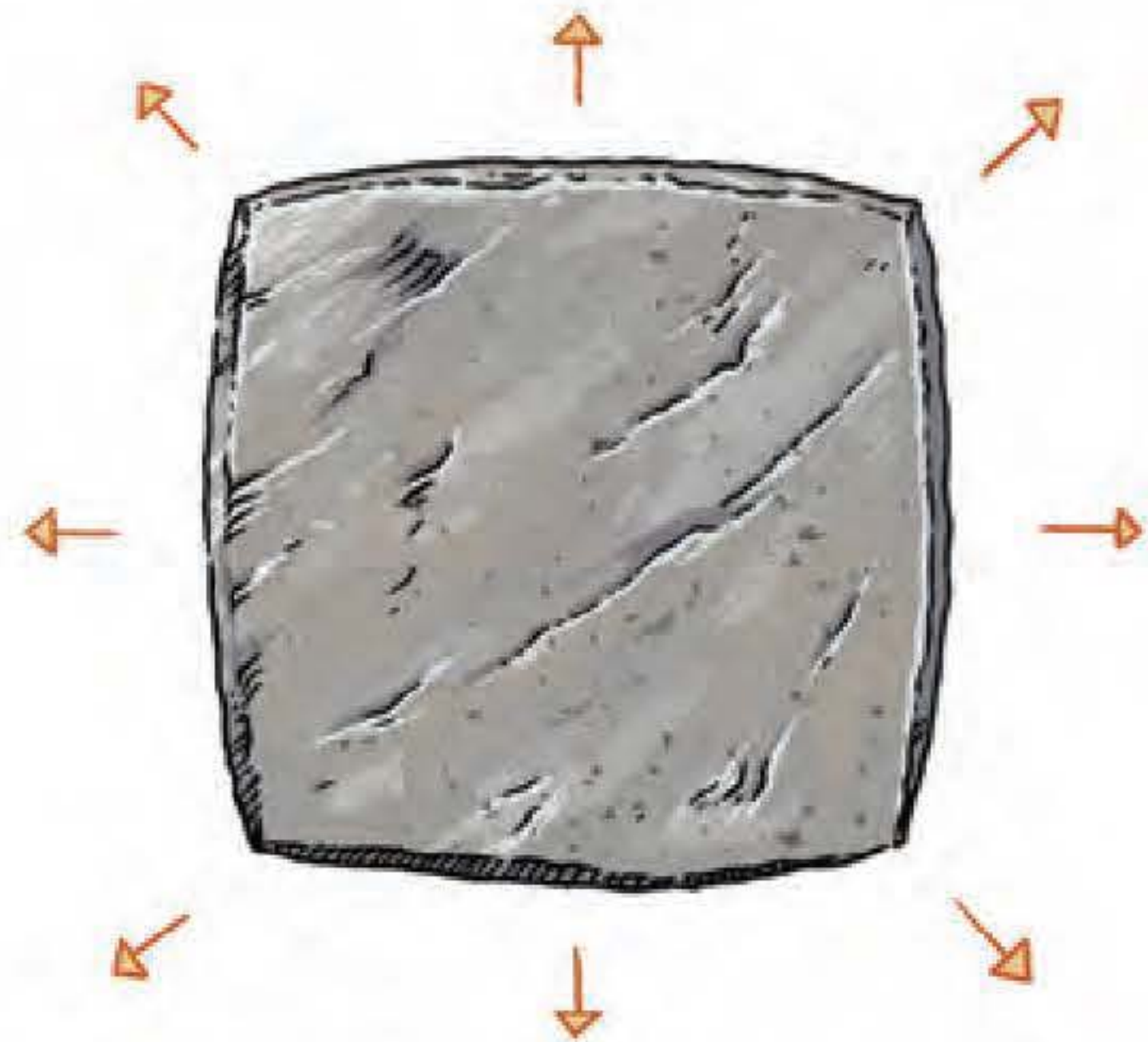
MEANWHILE...

IN OTHER PARTS OF THE
SOUTHWEST, LANDSCAPING
INTENDED TO MAKE CEMETERIES
LOOK ATTRACTIVE MAY ACTUALLY
BE DESTROYING GRAVESTONES

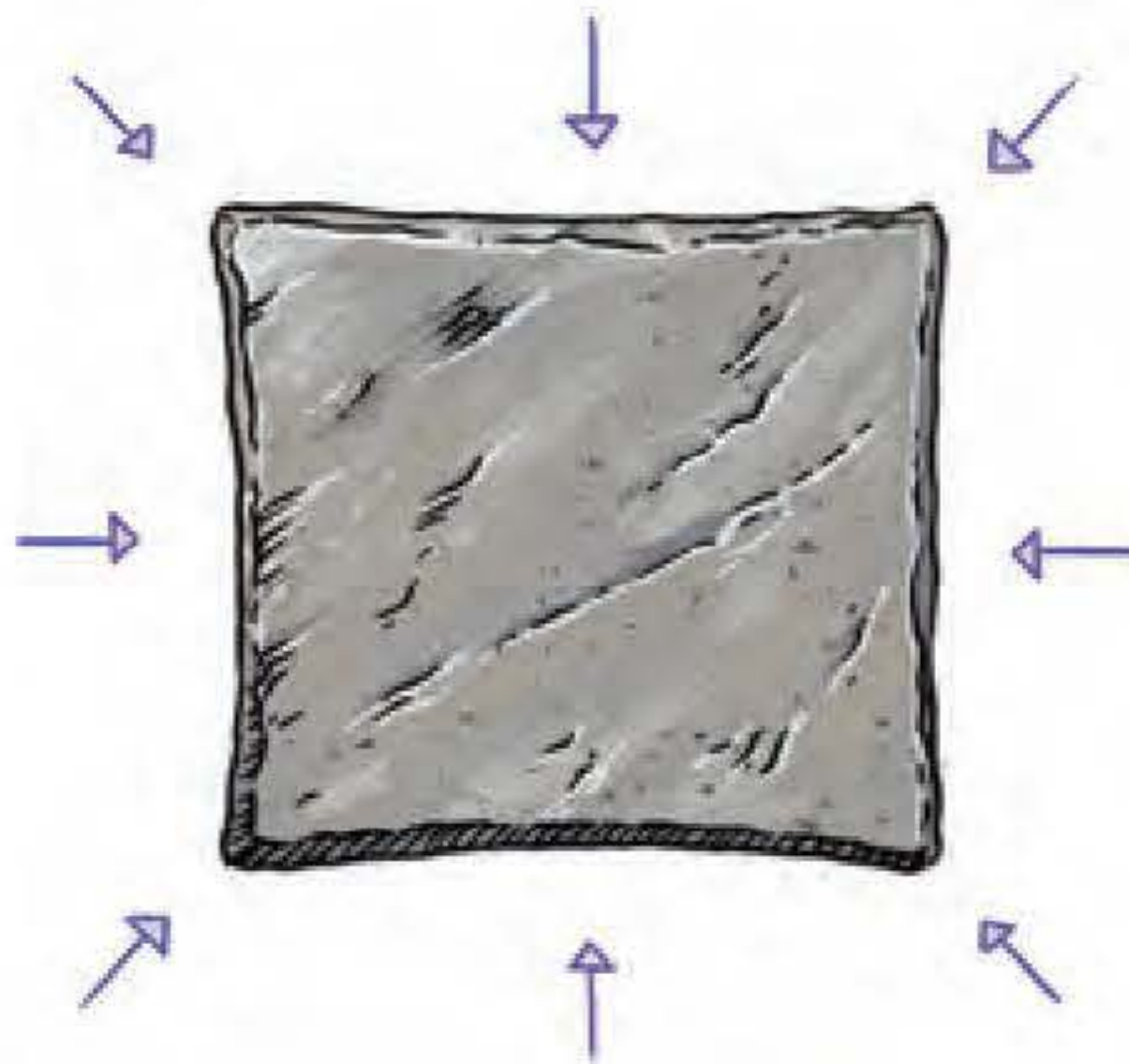




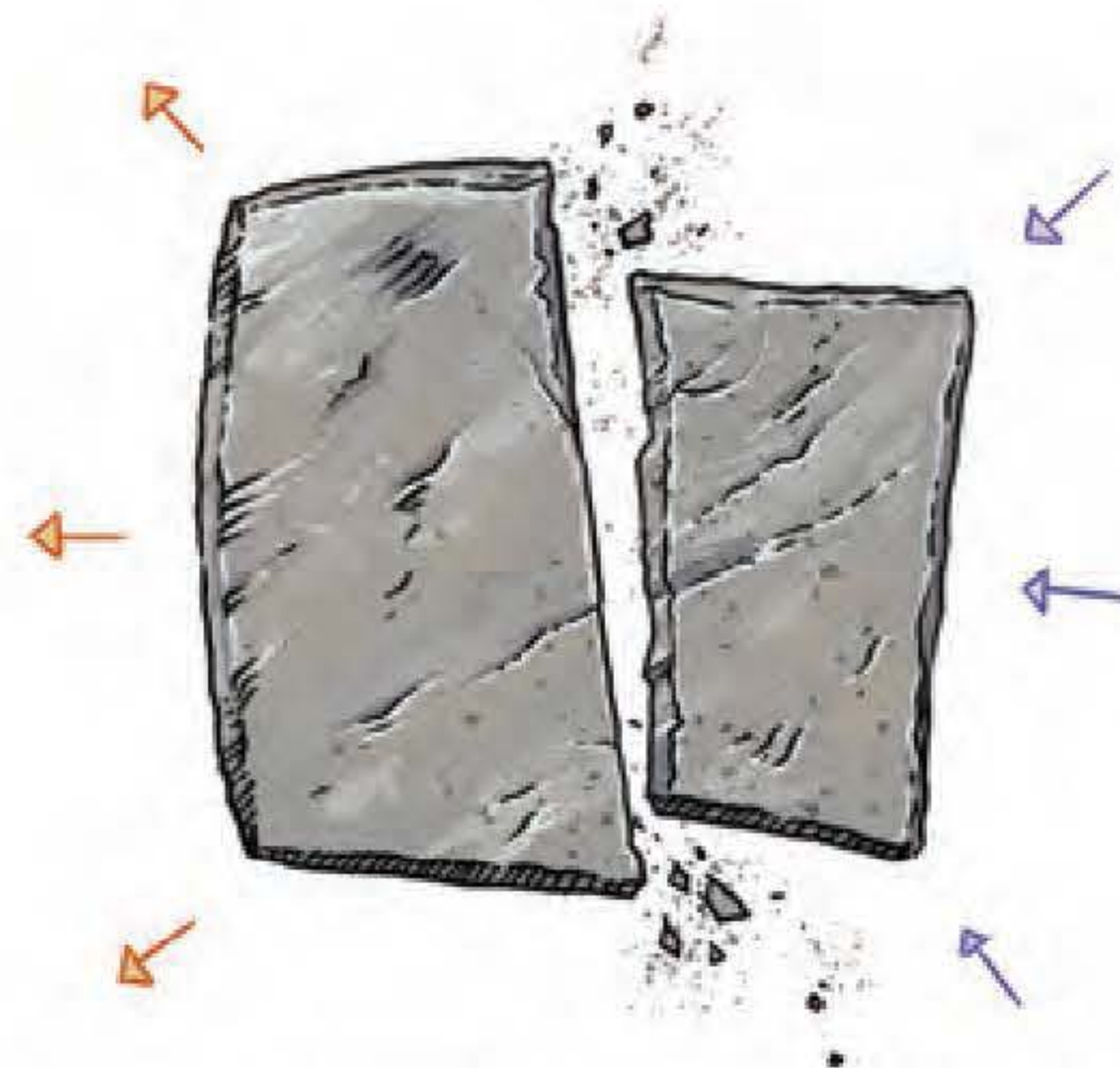
**STONE, LIKE MOST MATERIAL,
EXPANDS AS IT GETS HOT.**



**AND CONTRACTS AS IT
GETS COLD**



**AS HOT STONE IS SHOCKED WITH COLD
WATER EXPOSED AREAS CONTRACT
QUICKLY, RESULTING IN CRACKS.**





GRANITE, A COMMON MATERIAL FOR GRAVESTONES, IS ESPECIALLY GOOD AT HOLDING HEAT

THESE STONES CAN REACH TEMPERATURES MORE THAN 40 DEGREES HIGHER THAN THE SURROUNDING AIR ON A SUNNY DAY, AND THE DARKER THE STONE, THE HOTTER IT GETS.

GROUNDS ARE WATERED ONCE A DAY, GENERALLY IN THE MID-AFTERNOON, WHEN THE SUN AND TEMPERATURES ARE AT THEIR PEAK.



TEMPERATURE IS NOT THE ONLY PROBLEM. THE WATER'S CHEMICAL COMPOSITION PLAYS A ROLE

SOUTHWESTERN GROUNDWATER IS HIGH IN DISSOLVED MINERALS, SUCH AS IRON, WHICH CAN STAIN, AND CALCIUM, WHICH CAN LEAVE DEPOSITS

AS THE WATER EVAPORATES, THESE MINERALS ARE LEFT BEHIND ON THE GRAVESTONE'S SURFACE, OVER TIME FORMING A SKIN

AVOIDING THIS BUILDUP REQUIRES REGULAR, CAREFUL CLEANINGS, BUT THERE AREN'T ENOUGH VOLUNTEERS TO CLEAN EVERY HEADSTONE.

26
Fe
Iron

20
Ca
Calcium

12
Mg
Magnesium

14
Si
Silicon

16
S
Sulfur

WATERING IN THE EARLY MORNING WHILE GRAVES ARE STILL COOL CAN MINIMIZE MINERAL DEPOSITION AND PREVENT THERMAL SHOCK. EVEN BETTER, KEEPING THE NATIVE LANDSCAPING IS A SURE WAY TO PRESERVE THE PIECES OF AMERICA'S HISTORY AMONG THE HEADSTONES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

