



J.D. Pooley/Sentinel-Tribune

Ed Bond, who works for Artistic Memorials, places a stone back in its proper place at New Belleville Ridge Cemetery

Monumental task

Business volunteers to set up vandalized gravemarkers in Dowling

By **KEN KINNEY**
Sentinel Staff Writer

DOWLING — Thanks to Jeff Pettit of Lake Township, the 18 monuments which were tipped over by vandals on Nov. 20 at the New Belleville Ridge Cemetery in Dowling have been restored to their bases.

Pettit, owner of Artistic Monuments Ltd. in Perrysburg, heard that Mike Lang, cemetery sexton, was going to enlist the aid of Perrysburg Township employees to re-install the monuments, the largest of which is about 12 inches thick, three feet wide and four feet

tall. Pettit estimated the granite slab weighs about 2,000 pounds. Of the 18 monuments, Lang said 15 were large.

Lang said he expected the job to take several days.

Instead, Pettit donated the services of two men, experienced monument handlers, and a truck with a crane, designed for such work, and he said the job would take one day.

They began their task Wednesday morning, and were finished by early afternoon.

"I anticipated some damage (to the monuments)," he said, but damage was minimal.

Lang said, "I went through the cemetery on

Sunday (Nov. 20) at 1 p.m., and everything was all right, and I discovered the damage about 8 a.m. on Monday."

He contacted the Perrysburg Township police department, and Detective Rob Gates took charge of the investigation.

"We have some names to run down," Gates said.

Gates urged anybody who has information that could be helpful to the investigation to call the Perrysburg Township police at (419) 874-3551, or call Wood County Crime Stoppers at (419) 352-0077 or toll free at 1-800-542-7463.