

Monumental News

An occasional newsletter of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

Fall 2012

Sunday Streets at the Cemetery

“Ice cream”—the word is magical. Eyes light up. Kids of all ages hurry to the Public Square to indulge in their favorite food (especially after University Park runs out). “Death by Chocolate” is the flavor of choice. On a beautiful late-summer afternoon, families relax with their ice cream reward after toiling up the steep hill on foot or bicycle.

The event was Eugene Sunday Streets on September 9—the day the city closed off many streets in the Fairmount, South University, and Amazon neighborhoods to vehicular traffic and encouraged Eugeneans to walk, bicycle, rollerblade, and dance through the streets instead. The Masonic Cemetery and three public parks functioned as “activity centers” along the route. Many people who checked out the cemetery were first-time visitors.

Besides ice cream, the main activity at

the cemetery consisted of two tours led by cemetery administrator Mary Ellen Rodgers. Her “No Dead End: Street Names of the Masonic Cemetery” tours introduced partici-

pants to 11 people buried in the cemetery for whom Eugene streets have been named. Many streets were named after early settlers in order to recognize their roles in the development of the community. These pioneers are long dead, but the memory of their contributions has not ended because of the daily reminders of street signs that bear their names.

Among the more prominent are Eugene Skinner, founder of Eugene City; Samuel Friendly, UO regent and ultimate Duck football fan; T.G. Hendricks of Hendricks Park fame; and A.W. Patterson, surveyor, medical doctor, and legislator.

Thanks to board members John Bredesen, Libby Bottero, and Charley Wright who scooped ice

cream; Kay Holbo, Don Micken, Denise Fearn, Lynette Saul, and Roz Slovic who hosted Hope Abbey; and Jenny Peterson, Dale Forrest, Denny Hellesvig, and

Karen Seidel who greeted visitors at the main gate. Special thanks to Ron Raynes from the Oregon Ice Cream Company and Fran Ross, donors of the ice cream.



Ice cream lovers

Happy Birthday to Eugene

Last month Eugene celebrated the 150th anniversary of its incorporation as a city. Its first city council was elected in 1864, and six of the seven council members are buried in the Masonic Cemetery. They are James Benson Underwood (council president), lawyer; Frederick Dunn, merchant; Charles Croner, grocer; Eugene Skinner, first settler, ferryman and farmer; William Osburn, flour and sawmill business; and T.G. Hendricks, banker.

One of the early improvements initiated by the new city government involved water. *The Story of Eugene* cites an article in the *Oregon State Journal*: “Two new public wells have just been completed on Ninth Street... Chain pumps have been used in these wells as there are no cisterns in town to furnish water in case of fire. There should be a well on each business corner.

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Ice cream scoopers John and Charley

Plant Grant Update

Major progress has been made in the completion of the cemetery's comprehensive plant inventory, funded by a grant from the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries last year. Although last spring's unseasonably cold weather delayed the growth and blossom time of plants, by August, Bruce Newhouse, consulting biologist, was able to report that "the vast majority of the inventory is done." When complete, the inventory and accompanying database will provide a new starting point for the cemetery's restoration work.

Bruce has provided a number of informational landscape tours for cemetery staff and board members.

During a July walk, Bruce emphasized that the landscape is "dynamic," with constant changes occurring in its plant communities due to a blend of human activity, changing weather patterns, and plant succession. Consequently, some plants remain limited, some die out, and others expand their turf. The latter, particularly if they are non-natives such as sweet pea, Queen Ann's lace, and Tall Oatgrass, "are the most challenging for land managers and the highest threat to both native and ornamental biodiversity." To address this con-



Project Manager, Barbara Cowen, collecting grasses

cern, Bruce will identify and rank the cemetery's most invasive species to help landscape staff and volunteers prioritize their control efforts.

During the grant's final phase, Bruce will complete his inventory, submit his final report, and conduct a final educational walk. He has not yet identified the number of native plant species since his last count of 75 natives in 1996. However, he believes the new count will be over 100, which gives meaning to his statement that "the Masonic Cemetery is a great repository of neighborhood natural history as well as human history."

What do Board Members do all day?

"Go West, young woman, go West," responded her Ohio Wesleyan professor when Jenny Peterson wondered whether to do graduate work on the east or west coast. She took his advice, and the new graduate with Kent, her new husband, moved to Eugene in 1976, where Jenny promptly enrolled in the Master of Library Science program at the University of Oregon.



Jenny Peterson

Jenny's professional career was with the Springfield Public Library, where she rose from library aide to reference librarian to adult services manager, responsible for public services policy and administration while supervising the adult reference desk. She semi-retired in 2009 but continues to work 15 hours a month at the reference desk. She volunteers at

the Greenhill cattery and is a reading mentor for SMART.

For many years Jenny and Kent lived in the Amazon neighborhood.

They stumbled upon the Masonic Cemetery during a walk and discovered the graves of Eugene Skinner and other historical figures. At that time the cemetery was uncared for, so Jenny was eager to help when Kay Holbo organized the first work parties in the early 1990s. She was impressed with Kay's vision of the cemetery, so when Kay invited her to become a board member and cemetery archivist, Jenny agreed.

Following almost two years of board activities, Jenny says "I like being a part of a wonderful group of people who are trying to preserve a South Eugene historic treasure

that more and more visitors are discovering."

Jenny is also a long-time fitness walker and bicyclist. She has walked both the Portland and Honolulu marathons. She and Kent spent many vacations tandem bicycling—Jenny's favorite bike trips were in the B.C. Gulf Islands and along the northern coast of Italy. They also biked all the back roads around Eugene and participated in tandem bike races and rallies.

**Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association —
541-684-0949**

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John Bredesen	Roz Slovic
Barbara Cowan	Charles R.B. Wright
Dale Forrest	
Denny Hellesvig	David Lynch,
Kay Holbo	<i>Site Manager</i>
Gene Luks	Wendi Bondeson,
Donald Micken	<i>Site Assistant</i>
Jenny Peterson	Mary Ellen Rodgers,
Lynette Saul	<i>Cemetery Administrator</i>

www.eugenemasoniccemetery.org

Recent Contributions

The following individuals and organizations contributed gifts between April 1, 2012 and October 1, 2012. We thank you all.

Monument Rebuilder (\$500-\$2499)

Fran Ross and John Bredeesen
Sandra L. Brokaw Kay and Paul Holbo
Deborah Larson
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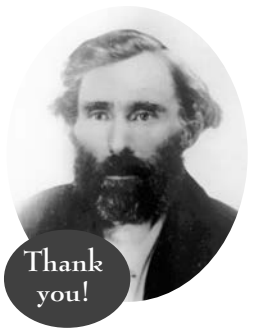
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Thank you!

Gifts in Honor and in Memory

Between April 1, 2012 and October 1, 2012 the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association received gifts from the following. We wish to thank all who contributed and regret any errors or omissions.

Preserver (\$250-\$499)

Hugh Hiller in memory of Phyllis Hiller
Martin Mieger and Lexa Most in memory of Barbara Butler

Sponsor (\$100-\$249)

Barbara Ashby in memory of Montalee F. Ashby
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Marti Berger in memory of Bernece Amberger
Mitchell and Jacqueline Booth in memory of the Booth family
Scott and Amy Christianson in memory of the Barrett, Sloan and Forrest families
Maram Epstein in memory of Marjorie and Ed Lovinger
Evlyn Gould in memory of Judith Lerner
Julia Heydon in memory of Ada E. Bardossi
Jill and Gary McKenney in memory of Gladys Pound
Ken and Kathy Persinger in memory of their mothers
C. James Vitus in memory of the Vitus family

Betty Williamson in memory of Doug Williamson
Maggie Yokum in memory of Sarah Elina

Friend (up to \$49)

Joan Herbranson Agerter in memory of Howard F. Herbranson
Vikki Chrostek in memory of Buddy and Guy Chrostek
Joel Devore in memory of Holly Weston
Brigid Flannery in memory of Dan Slovic
Melvyn Foltz in memory of Mary Jane Foltz
Mary Kudo in memory of the Bristow family
Margaret Prentice in memory of William J. Prentice
Michael Spilka in memory of Brian Steven Spilka
Betty Taylor in memory of Molly and Toby
Rosalie Calef Willett in memory of Mahlon Hall Harlow

Introducing Wendi

Wendi Bondeson, who has been working on the cemetery's landscape for five years, is our new assistant site manager. A professional gardener and graduate of the OSU Master Gardener program, she has developed a deep appreciation for native plants and their importance to the cemetery's environment.



Wendi Bondeson

Wendi's other interests are creating garden art, kayaking Oregon's rivers, and hiking in the state's wilderness areas. She is also transforming her acre of land into bountiful gardens.

Wendi considers the cemetery "a special place filled with serenity and beauty." Please say hello if you see her tending a plot while you are walking in the cemetery.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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*Newsletter by Karen Seidel
and Beneda Design*

A Cemetery's Best Friend

Mary Ellen Rodgers and two other cemetery administrators were featured in an article, "Dog Days at the Cemetery," in the June 2012 issue of *American Cemetery* magazine. The article dealt with policies regarding dogs and their walkers at three different cemeteries.

The Historic National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. allows dogs to run loose for a substantial fee on its 35 fenced acres. The city council of Concord, New Hampshire, temporarily banned dogs altogether from its 13 public cemeteries; it lifted the ban a month later due to outraged protests from constituent dog walkers and is now attempting to enforce leash and poop-pick-up laws.

Mary Ellen discussed the history of dog walking at the Masonic Cemetery and explained how, through prominent signage, one-on-one conversations, and coordination with the county's animal control, dog walkers are educated about the cemetery's leash and pick-up policies. She concluded: "Dogs and their owners are a part of the community, and all members should have access to a historic site. (But) there are many dog parks that can accommodate off-leash dogs that want to exercise vigorously."

Birthday, from page 1

However, the City Fathers, or 'common scoundrels' as some persist in calling them, are doing *Very* well and are always *Sure* if they are sometimes a little *Slow*. Before, there had been much complaint that 'nearly all wells in town are dry and travelers need them.'" Clearly, city councils have never been able to please all Eugeneans all of the time.

One of many Eugene@150 projects is a series of short videos to aid in the teaching of local history to 3rd and 4th graders in the 4J and Bethel school districts. Mary Ellen Rodgers was interviewed for the first video. The videos are available at www.eugene-or.gov/history.



Mary Ellen Rodgers interview