

Monumental News

An occasional newsletter of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

Fall 2010

2010 Accomplishments

Two thousand and nine was a year of celebrations – the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery and the 200th birthday of Eugene Skinner, founder of our community. In contrast, 2010 was a return to the serious business of maintaining and restoring a historical cemetery. The following major projects were completed or are being worked on by the EMCA board and dedicated volunteers.

Maintenance/Restoration

- A large Douglas fir taken down by an April windstorm was removed. Resulting damage to the curbing around the Willis Brown plot was repaired, and a neighboring maple, damaged by the falling fir, received extensive pruning.
- A volunteer work party was held in May to remove invasive plants, plant native plants, clean marble in Hope Abbey, and complete other tasks. Fifty volunteers participated, including UO students and neighbors.
- John Rose installed six more stained glass windows in Hope Abbey.
- More heritage roses were planted. This resulted in a lead article in the Register-Guard's "Home and Garden" section and local television coverage.
- All cemetery paths were rebarked.

- A hazardous ash tree and six diseased holly trees were removed, and the laurels by the Public Square were pruned.
- The Lambert/Manning monument was reinstalled on its base on its original site (see related article, page 2).
- A historical weather vane will be installed on the roof of the garden shed (see related article, page 1).

Events

- Veterans were honored on Memorial Day weekend. Flags marked their graves and a "Find the Veterans" history hunt was

created, which will be used in the future as an educational tool for school children visiting the cemetery.

- The Sacred Harp Singers gave their eighth annual performance in Hope Abbey.
- The Lane County Historical Society's annual picnic was hosted in the Public Square in June. Don Hunter was honored at the picnic for the donation of his enormous slide collection to the Historical Society.
- Board members continued to open the cemetery gates and Hope Abbey to visitors the last Sunday of every month.

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A Wish Granted

By Memorial Day 2011, cemetery visitors will notice a splendid addition to the garden shed--a handsome weather vane, consisting of two copper balls, the four compass directions, and crowned by a galloping horse with outstretched tail and flying mane. Weather vane repair and restoration will be performed during the winter. According to Denny Hellesvig, board member and architect, the weather vane is the perfect size and vintage. "It couldn't be any better."

EMCA's spring newsletter contained an appeal for a donation of a historical weather vane. Tim Pierce and Donna Payne, neighbors and frequent cemetery walkers, responded. They had purchased the weather vane



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A Resurrected Monument

In EMCA's early days site manager David Lynch was poking around the cemetery with a pitchfork and discovered a large monument buried just beneath the ground. It was broken off from its base, and David surmised that at some point the Masons, not wanting the cemetery to look untidy but without the resources to reinstall the monument, had simply covered it with dirt. David unearthed it and propped it up.

And there it remained until this year when Denny Hellesvig, board member, and Jeff Hilts, whose business is marker setting, got to work. They first raised the sandstone base, cleaned and leveled it, and packed gravel underneath it. After cleaning residue off the bottom of the monu-

ment, they reinstalled it on the base. This was not easy—the monument weighs over 200 pounds. All the work was accomplished using historically appropriate materials.

This is one of the larger and more expensive monuments in the cemetery. Its roof line has gables on each sloping side. Beneath the roof edge is a handsome, carved floral design. It contains the inscription "Mary L., Beloved Wife of George Lambert, Born Sep. 15, 1816, Died Sep. 6, 1891," followed by "Etta Manning, Aged 26 Years."



No birth or death date for Etta Manning is given, nor the relationship, if any, between the two women.

We know very little about the deceased except that a George and Mary Lambert lived in the

Vancouver, Washington, area with a number of children from previous marriages in the mid to late 1800s. George died in 1885 and was buried there. Why Mary would have been buried in Eugene, and who Etta Manning was, are mysteries. While our information here is very fragmentary, it is nevertheless the case that the

Lambert/Manning marker is a fine addition to the cemetery's collection of monuments.

What do Board Members do all day?

In 1989, Denise Fearn moved her bookkeeping business from Los Angeles to the Eugene-Springfield area. This year she celebrates the 25th anniversary of the startup of her business, and EMCA celebrates the fact that she is providing her professional skills gratis to EMCA's financial accounts.

Denise reveals three reasons for her involvement with the Masonic Cemetery. She likes cemeteries and finds their histories fascinating, "the way you learn about people's lives from the inscriptions on their monuments." Her personal connections with the cemetery are through her beloved partner Riley Grannan—his grandparents

are interred in Hope Abbey—and her friendship with board president John Bredesen and his wife Fran Ross.



Denise Fearn

Having served as bookkeeper for a number of non-profits, Denise understands how important good financial records are to an organization's success. She believes that "board members must be empowered to use financial information as a management tool." Using her bookkeeping expertise and computer skills, she is succeeding in bringing cemetery records into the 21st century.

Since she moved here, Denise has been an active volunteer. She was the founding PTA president for

Springfield Middle School, has been a hospice and SMART volunteer, and is currently board treasurer for Friends of Springfield Library and a member of Springfield Rotary. She especially enjoys serving Euphoria ice cream bars at the Children's Miracle Network golf tournament every summer.

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

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| Violet Johnson | Mary Ellen Rodgers, |
| Jim Luckey | Cemetery Administrator |

www.eugenemasoniccemetery.org

Recent Contributions

The following individuals contributed gifts April 1, 2010 – October 1, 2010. We thank you all.

Monument Rebuilder

(\$500-2499)

Paul & Kay Holbo
Lane County
Historical Society
and Museum
Lane Forest Products
Jim Luckey

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(\$250-499)

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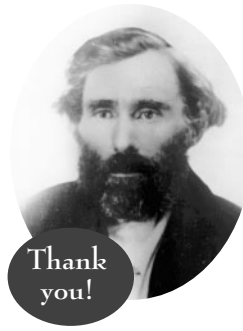
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Loretta Morgan
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Kathy & Ken
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(up to \$49)

Christina Armstrong
Linn Bennett
John Bredesen
Ken David
Barbara Keller
Jill & Gary McKenney
David Edrington &
B.K. Robinson
Mary Ellen Rodgers
Bonnie Souza

Donate with PayPal

Have you perused the EMCA website lately? On every page we have recently added a “Donate” button, whereby we can accept donations using the (new!) PayPal link.

While EMCA prides itself in providing the public a window to the past, we also understand the importance of providing donors with contemporary ways of contributing. Increasingly, many individuals choose to use debit and/or credit cards to make financial transactions. We determined the most cost effective way for persons who wish to contribute to EMCA in this way is through PayPal.

Why PayPal, when there are many other credit card options? PayPal enables EMCA to receive funds initiated through Visa, Mastercard, American Express, and Discover in an easy and efficient fashion.

After research by board member Dale Forrest and subsequent board discussions, it was determined that installing and maintaining a bank merchant account that would accept the above four cards would cost EMCA a minimum of \$40 per month in addition to processing fees based upon the transaction amount. PayPal’s fees are percentage-based only, competitive with merchant accounts. As EMCA is a non-profit organization, PayPal waives its standard monthly fee.

By aligning with PayPal, we have found a way to cost effectively meet the needs of contributors and ensure maximum dollars are available for continued restoration and maintenance of the cemetery.

Gifts in Honor and in Memory

We wish to thank all who contributed and regret any errors or omissions. April 1, 2010 – October 1, 2010 the Masonic Cemetery Association received gifts from the following:

Preserver (\$250-499)

Kathleen Doty in memory of
Robert & Margaret Leonetti
Estate of James W. Lamb,
Jr. in memory of James W.
Lamb Jr.

Sponsor (\$100-249)

George Baker in memory of
Elma Baker
Maria Biagi in memory of
Kurt Gerson
Norman & Patricia Bishop
in memory of James and
Jimmy Bishop
Irvin & Janet Carlisle in
memory of Dick Carlisle
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Jacob Felsenstein
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Phyllis Gould
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Klinghammer in memory of
Dan Klinghammer
Nancy McFadden in memory
of Scott McFadden

Marilyn Coffin Schenck in
memory of Don, Lois and
Gavin “Rooster” Fox
Paul & Roslyn Slovic in
memory of Dan Slovic
Louise C. Wicks in memory
of Noel F. “Pappy” Wicks

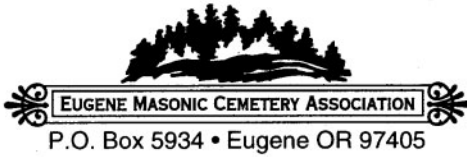
Supporter (\$50-99)

Evelyn Wood Claycomb in
memory of the Wood Family
Sonja, Elida K. & Kima
Erickson in memory of
Elida J. Erickson
Melvin Foltz in memory of
Mary Jane Foltz
Rebecca Lacy in memory of
Bob, Jonnie & Sam Lacy
Judy Wood Lyons in memory
of William & Sallie Wood
Gay Morgan in memory of
Frieda Prichard
Chris & Laura Ramey in
memory of Calvin the Dog
Ginny & Roger Reich in
memory of Robert and Opal
Clark

Betty Williamson in memory
of Douglas A. Williamson

Friend (up to \$49)

Joan Agerter in memory of
Howard F. Herbranson
Vikki Henry Chrostek in
memory of Guy & Buddy
Chrostek
Burt & Kappy Eaton in
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What's Inside:

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*Newsletter by Karen Seidel
and Beneda Design*

Accomplishments, *from page 1*

Administration

- The EMCA Board welcomed three new members – Charles Wright, Roz Slovic, and Don Micken.
- Board officers signed an agreement with Temple Beth Israel for burials in the new TBI Meadow section of the cemetery.
- A revision to the cemetery's strategic landscape plan is in process.
- Development of an upland prairie restoration plan was begun. Phase I consists of weeding, tilling, and mulching a demonstration bed, which will provide seeds

- and plants for the enhancement of the camas field.
- A long-range strategic plan to guide EMCA in the years ahead is being completed. The plan sets out major goals and proposes concrete strategies to reach them.
- As of November 1, 21 plots, two crypts and one niche in Hope Abbey, and four scatter rights had been sold. Thirteen burials have taken place in the cemetery this year.

Wish Granted, *from page 1*

at a Springfield antique store with the intention of erecting it on a barn when they acquired rural property. Their plans changed, and they decided to give it to the cemetery.

Tim's father was both a member of the Masonic Lodge and a mason by trade. Tim remembers helping him repair the Hope Abbey crypt that contains a time capsule with historical documents and newspapers, placed there during the mausoleum's dedication ceremonies in 1914.

Based on its style and condition, Denny guesses that the weather vane is around 100 years old, about the same age as Hope Abbey. It clearly has a rural heritage, possibly a Virginia horse farm?

Consider your place in history. . .

Burial Space for Sale

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery offers a variety of options for memorials, cremains, and earthen burials. Your purchase would provide a beautiful and meaningful space for your family to visit for generations to come. *For more information, phone Mary Ellen Rodgers at 684-0940.*