

Tales of Civic Pride and Accomplishment... of Optimism and Confidence...



Between 1900 and 1912, Eugene's population grew from 3,000 to 13,000 souls. Eugeneans saw their town as a progressive, lively place. The Oregon Electric Line reached Eugene in 1912 with popular OWL trains allowing businessmen to get a good night's sleep while commuting to Salem and Portland. The Oregon Electric Station would be completed in 1914. Other civic improvements included the first public library which was built in 1906, the First Christian Church on Oak Street, as well as the Romanesque courthouse which had been constructed in 1899. The Millrace was becoming important as a recreational area, with canoes, rafts, and barges traveling on its placid waters. Electric trolley cars provided convenient public transportation around the city.



President Howard Taft with University of Oregon President P.L. Campbell on a visit to Eugene in 1909.

within its proper context started their narrative 2,500 years earlier with reference to the Egyptians. Inside the mausoleum they placed current newspapers and other items of interest in a time capsule that was not to be opened for 1,000 years. What confidence!

of Decline and Neglect...

Civic leaders would be shocked, however, to find that 75 years later, the cemetery and mausoleum are now seriously vandalized, overgrown, and neglected.

Time passing in the cemetery has brought some positive things. Stately Douglas firs march up the hillside with ornamental holly and madrone trees filling in this urban forest. As you walk the paths, you see Oregon grape, Indian plum, thimbleberry and snow berry. Like a blanket these wild plants and flowers cover or surround the many gravesites. Over 65 native plants have been identified. Some future stories of the cemetery will include names like cluster-lily, camas, larkspur and calypso orchid.

The Hope Abbey Mausoleum was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. In 1994, the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association was formed with the goal of restoring this important cemetery and mausoleum.

Come visit the Masonic Cemetery. You'll find it at the corner of University and 25th Avenue. Walk to the interior of the cemetery and you will begin to feel you are back in a Victorian landscape. Watch the sun go down as you gaze westward from the public square and imagine a future with the cemetery and mausoleum restored.

Out at the Masonic cemetery, community leaders contracted with the Portland Mausoleum Company to build the Hope Abbey Mausoleum for the sum of \$40,000. The Egyptian Revival Style of architecture chosen for the building was unlike



Thomas Condon was a beloved professor at the University of Oregon. On the afternoon of his funeral in 1907, businesses closed in downtown Eugene so that all who wished could join the funeral procession out to the Masonic Cemetery.

anything else seen in Eugene, or in Oregon. Ellis F. Lawrence, the Portland architect associated with this ambitious project, later became the founder of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts at the University of Oregon.

The monumental structure featured bronze doors, marble interior and massive urns. At the dedication in June 1914, speakers wanting to place the mausoleum



Families on their way to an event in the public square at the Masonic Cemetery took the Fairmount Trolley #3. Fare: 5 cents.



Tombstones have been stolen or destroyed. The beautiful amber glass windows and spacious skylights in the mausoleum have been bricked up for a generation.



The Eugene Public Library was built in 1906 as the first Carnegie Library in Oregon.

Your Part...

Our organization is seeking the involvement of all interested citizens. We especially want to hear from you if you are a descendant or relative of someone buried in the cemetery. Direct all comments, inquiries, and donations, which are always welcome, to:

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association
PO Box 5934
Eugene, OR 97405

...And now, Restoration and Regeneration with a central role for you.