

MAUSOLEUM MIRACLES

In the spring issue of "Monumental News" you read about the planned replacement of the missing and damaged marble in Hope Abbey, funded by a gift from Eugene Lodge #11 A.F. & A.M. By mid-August the major phase of this project was complete. And it is beautiful! The new marble is an excellent match with the highly varied original Alaskan marble.

A few loose ends are left to complete, including the engraving of a few replaced shutters and the



installation of one large shutter. As part of the project we received and have stored an additional stock of marble slabs. With the stockpiled marble we will continue to replace damaged and stained ledges and bases as funds allow.

But there is even more good news.

During the Memorial Day celebration open house, an incredibly exciting thing happened. A visitor, who has great respect for the work accomplished at the cemetery and Hope Abbey, made a surprise contribution toward additional restoration. We thank Jim Northrop for his very generous gift, which is in honor of Don Peting and Denny Hellesvig for their years of work at the cemetery. (Don Peting was the author of "A Restoration Plan for the Masonic Cemetery and Hope Abbey Mausoleum," December 1995.)

This contribution has enabled us to completely refinish the terrazzo flooring in the entire mausoleum. Like the marble, the floor, too, is now beautiful. Over 100 years of wear, abuse, rust stains, and cracks have been obliterated. Much to our surprise the marble chips in the terrazzo are actually white, and they add a tremendous

At left and below: Terrazzo floor before



Terrazzo floor after

brightness to the space. The glossy finish reflects the golden light from Hope Abbey's windows. Come and see this hidden gem in the Amazon neighborhood.

EMCA began the Hope Abbey restoration work in 1997. Since then, we have brought back life to this historic Egyptian Revival building. It is open for our last Sunday of the month open houses, Music to Die For concerts, and other events. We are not finished, but the "to do" list gets shorter every year. We still need to restore and clean the damaged cast stone pilaster and walls in all rooms, repair and restore the exterior west entrance wall, and complete the marble restoration mentioned above. Your help for these restoration projects is always greatly appreciated.

*Denny Hellesvig,
EMCA Board Member*

President's Column

It has been a great year at the Eugene Masonic Cemetery! Every member of our 12-person board has stepped up to a task to help EMCA accomplish some amazing goals.

As described in "Mausoleum Miracles," this year brought us large gifts from two unexpected donors—Jim Northrop and Eugene Lodge No. 11 A.F. & A.M. I am personally proud of the major restoration work that has been completed in Hope Abbey, and it could not have been accomplished without these donations. It's exciting to know that our historical cemetery is appreciated and valued. The marble work and floor revitalization are crucial improvements in the mausoleum.

Other good things are happening in the cemetery as well. Our grave marker sales are moving right along. Sally Dietrich is doing a wonderful job of guiding folks interested in purchasing a marker from us through the design process. And the designs people create are interesting and unique.

We have also made progress on our new Memorial Garden. This space will be used as an additional scatter area. We will be doing grading work for the installation of a new bench overlooking the garden. One of the two new stele was built in this area, and we will be adding memorial plaques to it.

In 2018, we hope to receive more grants and dona-



View from the future Memorial Garden bench

tions to fund the remaining Hope Abbey work. We also hope to expand our board membership to create a robust group that will continue our work in the cemetery for years to come. Please let us know if you are interested in possible board membership.

With utmost thanks for your support.

Crystal Persi, Board President

What Does the Landscape Staff Do All Day?

The two word answer is "a lot," and the sheer scope of landscape work may astound the casual cemetery visitor. It goes well beyond pulling weeds and planting flowers.

During the first four months of this year Wendi and Steve spent the majority of their time cleaning up ice and snow storm debris. Fallen trees had to be chainsawed into manageable sizes for hauling away, and broken branches and other litter had to be collected, chipped, and spread throughout the cemetery for mulching plants. In May, they dedicated their time to beautifying the landscape for Memorial



Wendi Propst

Day weekend visitors. This included weed-eating, mowing wider paths, and removing overgrown vegetation to open up vistas and improve accessibility.

The chief landscape activities this past summer were weeding, pruning, planting, and watering. Infrequent, specialized work, such as mowing, is contracted out, and Wendi has to find contractors, train them, and monitor their performance. This fall she prepared the cemetery paths for re-barking, another job done by contractors.

But that's not all. Besides natural disasters Wendi copes with damage caused by humans. Spring

through fall bring loiterers and campers. Car campers on East 25th and others who bring their tents and sleeping bags into the cemetery leave behind garbage and human waste, essentially using the cemetery grounds as their bath-

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

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Administrator*

www.eugenemasoniccemetery.org



Recent Contributions

The following individuals and organizations contributed gifts between April 1, 2017 and October 1, 2017. We thank you all.

Monumental Giver (\$2,500+)

James Northrop

Monument Rebuilder (\$500-\$2,499)

Judy Collins
Marvin and Joan Cypress
Fuki Hisama
Kay and Paul Holbo
David Fryefield and Catherine Kordesch
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Eugene and Sandra Luks
Bill and Marcia McChesney
Steve McQuiddy
Vicki Morgan and Michael Duran
Jennifer Peterson
Suzanne Peterson
Christopher and Laura Ramey

Thank you!

Ginny and Roger Reich
Gregory and Diane Retallack
Eric and Kelli Rosen
Paul Sakamoto
Brian Schartz
Peter Steelquist
Lyndal Stella
Carol Thibreau
Honey Vizer
Robert and Robbie Wright
Richard, Helen and Eric Zuelow

Gifts in Honor and in Memory

Between April 1, 2017 and October 1, 2017 the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association received gifts from the following. We wish to thank all who contributed and regret any errors or omissions.

Monumental Giver (\$2,500+)

James Northrop in honor of the historic preservation work of Denny Hellesvig and Don Peting

Monument Rebuilder (\$500-\$2,499)

Judy Collins to match restoration funding
Marvin and Joan Cypress in memory of Mandell and Frances Cypress and Paul and Shirley Gold
Fuki Hisama in memory of Toshi Hisama from the Hisama family
Kay and Paul Holbo for the landscape
Larson Family Foundation for the Landscape Endowment

Preserver (\$250-\$499)

Christine Beneda in memory of Gladys Moline

Margot McDonnell in memory of Gerald McDonnell
Warren Wong in memory of Bella

Sponsor (\$100-\$249)

Sharon and Esawey Abo
Amasha for stolen plants
Norman and Patricia Bishop in memory of James and Jimmy Bishop
Volker Engelbert and Sheryl Engelbert-Scott in memory of Leslie Civin Marsh
Betty Fuller in memory of Elroy Fuller
Doreen Kilen in memory of C. Bruce Kilen
Sarah Klinghammer in memory of Dan Klinghammer
Daniel and Kathryn Kremer in memory of William and Sallie Wood
Mary Kudo in memory of the Bristow family

Rebecca Weedon Lacy in memory of Bob, Jonnie and Sam Lacy
Tomoko Sekiguchi in memory of Elina Windsong
Rene Speer in memory of Noel "Pappy" Wicks
Louise Wicks in memory of Noel "Pappy" Wicks

Supporter (up to \$99)

Jerry and Vikki Chrostek in memory of Buddy and Guy
Julie V.B. Daniel in memory of Maisie Daniel
Katherine Eaton in memory of Burt E. Eaton
Joakima K. Erickson in memory of Elida and Otto Erickson
Brigid Flannery in memory of Dan Slovic
Thomas and Janet Heinonen in memory of Ethan, Lois and Doug Newman
Julia Heydon in memory of Robert Hurwitz
Julia Hoffman in memory of Morris and Robert Hoffman

Lavonne Hoyt in memory of Laurie Hoyt
Jean Johns in honor of Kay Holbo
Bill and Marcia McChesney in memory of Bill McChesney
Christopher and Laura Ramey in memory of Calvin the Dog
Ginny and Roger Reich in memory of Robert and Opal Clark and Laurie Guttormsen
Eric and Kelli Rosen in memory of Eileen Binenkorb
Paul Sakamoto in memory of the Eastland family
Brian Schartz in memory of Dawn McClay
Peter Steelquist in memory of Davis, Castleman, Huddleston and Dickenson
Lyndal Stella in memory of Mary Anderson Ewing
Carol Thibreau in memory of J Thibreau

Staff, from page 2

room. Wendi also deals with unleashed dogs ruining vegetation and leaving dog waste, graffiti written on benches and grave markers, broken and toppled grave markers, stolen and destroyed plants, and discarded cigarette butts, wine bottles, and beer cans.

Wendi says the cemetery is a "wonderland" for children, but sometimes they cause damage. During the summer she encountered young children peeling bark off a Western Red Cedar tree. Recognizing a teachable moment, she told them "the bark is the tree's skin; remove the skin and the tree will die."

Wendi has been working in the cemetery for ten years. Three years ago she replaced David Lynch as landscape manager. She has created higher standards, but is constrained by the landscape budget, which has not provided additional hours to do the work needed. She and Sally, cemetery administrator, and Denny, site management committee chair, are collaborating to find additional efficiencies that will enable Wendi to focus on landscape improvements, rather than merely maintenance.

CONSIDER YOUR PLACE IN HISTORY...

Burial Space for Sale

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery has burial lots to sell. We can accommodate earthen burials, cremation/urn, and ashes. Your purchase provides a beautiful and meaningful place for your family to visit and helps support the cemetery.

For more information, please contact Sally at 541-684-0949 or emca1859@gmail.com.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Newsletter by Karen Seidel
and Beneda Design

An Extraordinary Pioneer

Catherine Davis and her family were among the very earliest settlers of Eugene. They arrived here after a six-month, 2,000 mile journey from Indiana and were part of the first wagon train to take the "southern route" by way of the Rogue River and Umpqua Valley. They arrived in 1847, just a year after Eugene Skinner built his cabin next to Skinner Butte. Catherine and husband Benjamin took up a donation land claim in the River Road area. They cleared the land, built a house, farmed, and raised five children. Samantha, their oldest daughter, babysat the Skinner children.

However, Catherine did more than take care of her family's needs. She was a nurse, having studied medicine with her physician brother-in-law. Eugene had no medical doctor until Dr. Patterson arrived in 1852, so Catherine was called upon to care for the sick. Her obituary states: *Many a time she mounted her fine riding horse during the dark hours of night and started out on a mission of mercy for a hard ride of from 15 to 25 miles, and that too, without compensation. Honorable T. G. Hendricks informed us of her coming to his old home at Pleasant Hill on a dark rainy night in January, when her knowledge saved one of his brothers from dying.*

Now think about a cold, rainy January night. Think about riding horseback from River Road to Pleasant Hill on muddy paths with no Franklin Blvd., no Highway 58, no street lights, no 7-11 at which to stop for a hot cup of coffee. How did she cross the Coast Fork of the Willamette?

And how did she find time to do this charitable work? Perhaps because she had only five children when eight to ten were the norm. Benjamin died at age 50, so Catherine raised their children alone and remained on the homestead until they all were married. She eventually moved in with Samantha and her husband, James Huddleston, whose land claim was on the site of the Land County Fairgrounds. She lived to be 87.

When you visit the cemetery, observe the slender, 14-foot-high obelisk on the Davis/Huddleston grave plot (above).

