

Monumental News

An occasional newsletter of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

Spring 2016

Memorial Day Weekend

Celebrating EMCA's "Coming of Age"

How do you celebrate a 21st birthday? With a champagne toast, of course. The celebration will take place Sunday afternoon,

May 29, in Hope Abbey. We hope all cemetery neighbors and friends will join us.

It's now 21 years since the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association took ownership of the cemetery from the Masons in 1995. EMCA has accomplished a lot during its "childhood" (see "President's

Column" on page 3). Our current plans assure continuation of the maintenance and restoration of Eugene's first community cemetery as EMCA advances into adulthood.

Preceding our champagne party will be an even more important event. We will celebrate Kay Holbo, EMCA's founder and first president, with the dedication of the "Kay Holbo Camas Field" and a stone column to honor and commemorate Kay's many achievements. In 2013, Kay

> received the Oregon Heritage Excellence Award for her

> > outstanding efforts on behalf of the state's heritage. The ceremony recognizing Kay will be at 2:00 pm, just south of Hope Abbey.

To highlight EMCA's past, present, and future, three displays, labeled "Then," "Now," and "Next," will be

featured in Hope Abbey. They will provide "before-and-after" pictures and information about where the cemetery and EMCA have been, where they are now, and where they're going. Crystal Persi, Merinda Persi, and Denny Hellesvig will lead cemetery walks on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday at 1:00 pm. The walks will highlight EMCA's past restoration



1910 Rose Gown

efforts and describe future plans and projects.

We will also pay tribute to the restoration of the cemetery's native landscape by featuring the many heritage roses that have been propagated and nurtured by EMCA's landscape committee and staff. Oregon's earliest settlers often brought slips of their favorite roses, and those that survive, frequently in historic cemeteries, are referred to as heritage roses. If you would like to view the many roses that will be in bloom during Memorial Day weekend, we invite you to take a self-guided

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Take Care of the Cemetery Work Party Sunday, May 15th 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

EMCA will host its spring work party and Mitzvah Day on Sunday, May 15. Please join us to enhance and improve the cemetery's landscape.

Cemetery board members and landscape staff will be there to work with volunteers and determine what work needs to be accomplished. They look forward to working with volunteers from Temple Beth Israel, the Amazon neighborhood, and the larger community. We will meet at Hope Abbey at 10:00 am. Please bring gloves for landscape work.

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Music in the Mausoleum

The idea for a free series of concerts in Hope Abbey dates back six years. It came about for two reasons. First, EMCA had invested heavily in the restoration of the mausoleum since accepting ownership of the cemetery in 1995, and it had become a place of beauty and peace and a remarkable community asset. We wanted the public to be aware of this.

Second, through some early experiments in music-making, we discovered that the acoustics in Hope Abbey were superb. Its hard surfaces provided a wonderful reverberation quality. The inaugural concert was given by the Alder Street Woodwind Quintet on the

last Sunday of July, 2011, to an overflow crowd.

We needed a name for the concert series. Thinking about what was unique about this particular venue, the answer, of course, was Music to Die For. While greeted with a few raised eyebrows, most people appreciated the humor. The music is acoustic, respectful, and appropriate to the setting. But it is not necessarily somber.

Since we do not charge admission, we cannot remunerate the musicians. This has not been a problem. Not once have performers balked when they understood that the concerts were free and a "thank you" to supporters, neigh-

bors, and community members. Musicians also appreciate the intimate setting and the great acoustics.

Music to Die For now consists of five concerts each year on the last Sunday of the month at 2:00 pm, June through October. This year the first program is on June 26 and will feature David Gross, a singer/songwriter who performed at Hope Abbey several years ago. David Helfand and Justin Lader will perform on August 28, and KARASS, an acoustic folk band, will return on September 25. July 31 and October 30 dates are not yet scheduled.

Please join us for some wonderful music-making.

What Do Board Members Do All Day?

Hallis

Hallis has deep roots in both EMCA and the Eugene Masonic Cemetery. **She is the great-great-**

granddaughter of Fielding McMurry, who sold the cemetery site, a part of his donation land claim, to the Masons in 1859. The Masons had responded positively to a request from a local attorney to establish a community burial place for the citizens of Eugene. They pur-

chased ten acres for \$337 and gave a prominent plot, just south of the Public Square, to the McMurry family.

Hallis is also one of EMCA's founding board members, serving as its financial officer during the first five years of the non-profit's existence. Now retired from her professional career, she agreed to rejoin the board and work on special projects. She is presently creating a searchable data base of vacant cemetery lots—those avail-

able for sale and those that have been sold but not occupied. This information is critically impor-

tant for Sally, cemetery administrator, when she is showing lots to the public.

Born and raised in Washington state, Hallis began her college career as an arts major. However, her degrees, from Pennsylvania State University and the University of Reno are in

anthropology. Outside of participating in a few digs, she didn't pursue a career in anthropology. She moved to Eugene in 1977. At the age of 40, she discovered that her true interest lay in the field of accounting. After courses at LCC, plus an apprenticeship and examinations, she worked as a CPA for 28 years.

Travel is Hallis's passion. She lived in Germany for five years and traveled extensively. She returned to Europe three times to

participate in the "Pueblo English" program—a European Union program for Spanish executives to help them increase fluency and conversational skills in English. Since her retirement, Hallis has visited Australia, Africa, New Zealand, England, and Europe. She recently returned from her first trip to Brazil, Peru, and Argentina.

Her other volunteer activities have included DIVA and BRING. Hallis and her husband are both painters.

Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association — 541-684-0949

Board of Directors

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www.eugenemasoniccemetery.org

President's Column – 21 Years of Progress

Now that EMCA has "come of age," it's an appropriate time to look back and review the accomplishments of this organization over the past 21 years. As we work on single projects and add a bit more cash to our endowment funds, it's easy to lose sight of the total magnitude of the investments we've made in the cemetery.

Stated simply, when EMCA took over the Masonic Cemetery from the Masons in 1995, cemetery assets amounted to a little over \$55,000. These original assets consisted of the value of the site (for which the Masons paid \$350 in 1859), the value of Hope Abbey (for which the construction cost came to \$40,000 in 1914), and \$15,000 in cash, which the Masons gave EMCA to care for the cemetery. In 2016, assets amount to \$632,000, more than ten times as much as in 1995. Total cash assets are \$319,000. Fixed assets, at \$313,000, are almost that high. And, what is not represented in our financial statements is all the staff and volunteer labor that has restored the site to the beautiful, open cemetery we see today. The cost and value



EMCA is focused on the Masonic Cemetery's past 157 years, the work accomplished during our 21 years of cemetery ownership, and all the people and events during those times. Our visible, day-to-day work of preserving, interpreting, and restoring the cemetery protects the past and makes it accessible to our present community. However, the future is where all this history will continue to exist, and securing our future is where much of our work is aimed.

To assure our future existence, we are implementing a long-range plan, working to grow our endowment, and developing new sources of earned and contributed income. Grants have helped and will continue to help us accomplish major projects. Clearly, sustainability means having secure sources of income to provide for future maintenance, development, and protection of this community resource.

Last fall's "Monumental News" announced the receipt of a grant from Eugene Lodge #11 AF & AM to install a "stele," i.e., an upright stone slab serving as a funerary monument, to accommodate bronze memorial plaques at our existing Scatter Garden. This is needed because the current memorial wall is almost full. Now, we are pleased to announce that we have received a grant from the John and Jane

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Garden cottage

of this work far exceeds the balance of our assets.

The majority (80 percent) of our cash assets are in funds managed by the Oregon Community Fund for future sustainability. The rest—the money we use for general operating expenses and for those "rainy days"—are in money market, savings, and checking accounts.

It is the fixed assets, i.e., the capital improvements we have made to the cemetery's infrastructure, that are most visible to the visiting public. The majority of the projects were initiated to make Hope Abbey accessible and useable again—for the sale of crypts and niches, for Memorial Day weekend events and Music to Die For concerts, and for preservation of the Oregon history that it contains. **Replication of all the original golden glass windows was the most costly project**. Other major work has consisted of roof repair, drainage, lead paint removal and repainting, bathroom improvements, reconstruction of the porch, and restoration of the copper doors, light fixtures, and marble.

The remaining capital projects have occurred on the cemetery grounds. The garden cottage is the most prominent, built in 2003 to provide a meeting room and a storage space for files and equipment that had previously reposed in Hope Abbey. The earliest project undertaken by EMCA was the scatter garden to provide space for cremains and memorial plaques. Other projects to improve the appearance of the cemetery and protect its cultural heritage include monument repair and cleaning, main gate replacement, entrance graphics and bike parking installations, construction of the stairway behind Hope Abbey, and a new irrigation system.

It's quite a list, isn't it? It was all accomplished by a volunteer board of directors, three wonderful part-time staff members, and, of course, by granting organizations, plot sales, and generous people like you. Thank you so much!

John Bredesen, President

The Osburns – Eugene's Civic Hosts

Rose Glasou, a native of Nuremberg, Germany, and William F. Osburn, a native of Lane County, Oregon, met and married while they were working as typographers for The Oregonian during the 1890s. Both of them also served as officers of the Portland Chapter of the International Typographers Union. They made a brief move to Salem, where Rose was employed as an assistant editor of The Capitol Journal. In 1900, they came to Eugene, and the Osburns made a major career change-from the newspaper business to the hospitality industry.

First, they took over the Hazelwood Restaurant and leased the Hoffman House Hotel. They became serious hotel proprietors with the construction of the Osburn Hotel, on the northwest corner of 8th and Pearl. It opened in May 1910, and Portland's Morning Oregonian announced: "Eugene Opens New Hotel: Feast of 300 Inaugurates Handsome Up-to-Date Hostelry." Besides guest rooms, the hotel contained elaborately furnished ladies' and gentle-



Japanese Tea Room



Rose Osburn

Osburn Hotel

men's parlors, a billiard room, and a huge dining room. Its best-loved space was the Japanese Tea Room, furnished with teak

mahogany furniture that Rose had collected on her trips to Asia. Its walls were painted with colorful wisteria vines and birds by a UO Japanese student. According to The Story of Eugene, "... throughout many years it served as the setting for Eugene's most elaborate affairs."

On New Year's Day of 1915, the Osburns were

the hosts for Eugene's first dinner dance. One hundred couples congregated at the hotel for a ninecourse dinner followed by dancing. Rose was an active member of the Shakespeare Club, and the club's annual social events-a Twelfth Night celebration and a Shakespeare birthday luncheonwere held at the hotel during the 1910s. Eugene's Unitarian Church, of which William and Rose were founding members, conducted its annual meeting and dinner at the Osburn Hotel. Many other social, business, and civic events took place there.

The Osburns sold the hotel in

They invested in the Chandler Hotel in Marshfield, but spent much of their time traveling.

William died in 1926. Rose con-

tinued to travel to Europe, returning with antiques

with Gertrude Bass Warner, whose Oriental art collection formed the basis of the UO's original art museum collection. Rose lived until 1937, and, accordthe civic, cultural, and

and art objects. In 1930, she shared an apartment ing to her obituary, was known as "a leader in

social life of Eugene." She mentored young people interested in any phase of journalism. She was the sponsor of many university musical events and supported the Eugene Gleeman and other civic musical groups. She also served on the executive board of the Oregon Tuberculosis Association, as president of the Fortnightly Club, and as vice-president of the Unitarian Church's Board of Trustees.

Rose and William are interred in Hope Abbey. On their crypts are engraved the number 30, the journalist's symbol for "end of story."

Note: Photographs courtesy of the Lane County Historical Museum.

Adventures of a Rose Researcher: Eugene Masonic Cemetery

by Darrell g.h. Schramm

How does one write about the loveliness of those old roses of a ten-acre pasture on a wooded hill? Knee-high, sometimes waist-high, lush grasses all but concealed some of the roses, those that preferred to hug the ground or insisted on being modest or shy by merely peering through the grass.

I had approached Eugene's Masonic Cemetery from the north entrance. There in a mowed space six different roses greeted me, bending near or over various graves. 'Tuscany Superb' sat by the William and Sallie Wood gravestone, a damask-'Mme Hardy' or 'Mme Zoetmans'-nodded over the Frazier tombstone, and a large swath of what appeared to be 'Schoener's Nutkana' demanded attention in the midst of them all. A large pink china ('Old Blush'? 'Catherine II'?) grew in another plot, as did a pale pink Tea rose with an apricot center. In the background several large plants of the thornless 'Mme Legras de St. Germain' put on a show, a white flower given to perfoliation, that is, having a bud grow through the center of a bloom. I observed just such a phenomenon there as I studied this rose.

A pink and white rose that I was to see again in both the Adams and the Owens plots of the cemetery, as well as later in the Salem Pioneer Cemetery, flourished on a tall, leggy plant about nine or ten

Work Party, from page 1

This is a wonderful opportunity to work with others to make lasting landscape improvements and to prepare the cemetery for Memorial Day weekend. feet high. The flower was a single of five petals, essentially white washed with pink veinous marbling, leaving a white circular center and white margins on the petals. The old canes were quite thorny, but the young showed few if any small straight bristles and some infrastipular prickles. How I wished I could name this rose! The flower was quite distinct. Was it one of the vanished Penzance roses—'Lucy Ashton'? or 'Brenda'? I'd seen only photos.

While I was able to classify a number of roses, I could identify the varieties of very few: a bourbon with a button eye, a china, two albas, an early hybrid tea, a deep purple gallica, a hybrid china with much gallica in its genes, a lavender damask or portland, others. On the Stroud plot, I thought I recognized the tea rose 'Mme Antoine Rebe'. In Eugene's Masonic Cemetery, roses were ornaments of color against a varied green background.

But no roses were more beautiful nor intrigued me more than those from two or three low plants about thirty inches high peering through the thick grass, blooms nestled snugly among the light green, lanceolate leaves like a portland, carrying an exquisite damask scent. The flowers were full, a mottled pink with somewhat ruffled and almost scalloped edges. The darker dappling of color-a pale purplish pink—appeared as though various petals had been ecstatically kissed in several places. No other rose I saw in Oregon could vie with this unique beauty, this rippled cloud dabbed here and there with the rosy color of dawn. Surely it wasn't the lost damask 'Pink Leda'? But then it might be the portland 'Jacques Cartier'. I lean towards the latter. After taking photos and notes, I reluctantly walked away. Then returned. To have seen this rose! I felt glad to be alive.

Note: This article is excerpted from a longer unpublished article by Darrell Schramm, retired University of San Francisco professor, board member of Heritage Rose Group and editor of its magazine, "Rose Letter." It relates his first visit to the Masonic Cemetery in 2014. He returned last year and met with Barbara Cowan, former board member and landscape chair. They toured the cemetery, and Barbara described the cemetery's rose history of the past 20 years. She identified which roses had been recently introduced, such as those that had greeted Darrell near the front gate, versus those that had been planted by plot owners many decades earlier.

She also introduced him to roses he had not seen on his prior visit. Darrell examined each rose—studying their leaves, prickles, stems, and flowers to determine the rose's class. He determined that the cemetery's rich variety of roses included: R. chinensis, R. odorata, R. gallica, R. damask, R. bourbon, R. centifolia, R. noisette, R. polyanthus, R. alba, R. multiflora, and R. portland.



The portland rose "Jacques Cartier"

Tombstone, Headstone or Grave Marker?

Today the terms headstone, grave marker, and tombstone are used in common language to designate a permanent memorial at a grave site. The terms are often used interchangeably. Here at the cemetery we have chosen to use the term **grave marker** for consistency. We have discovered that a grave marker is not necessarily placed at the top of the burial site, making the term "headstone" inaccurate.

Our cemetery was laid out in 1859 with an east/west orientation. Traditionally, most burials are oriented to face the east, yet our hill slopes west, with a western



Grave marker

view. This is not only a bit puzzling to work with, but it seems to have been a puzzle in years past as well. A walk through the ceme-



Grave markei

tery reveals grave markers placed on the east side of a burial, but also on the west side. Some grave markers are read from the east, but most are read from the west. Because our records don't reveal the way a body is placed in a grave, often we can only guess as to whether we are viewing a headstone or a footstone

Luckily, there are no hard and fast rules about where a marker needs to be placed on a grave. Because our cemetery is unique and has such a long history, we try to be consistent with the orientation of adjacent burials. We do this to provide cohesiveness for an entire plot, as well as recognizing that we are carrying a tradition into the future.

We, like all cemeteries, regulate the size and design of grave markers. This means that we need to know in advance when a marker is being planned. This step can be often overlooked by families. One way that we are hoping to make this process easier is to begin selling grave markers directly. We are currently putting this plan in place, so contact me if you have questions about it now. More information about this will be in the fall newsletter.

Sally Dietrich, Cemetery Administrator

Sustaining, from page 3

Youell Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation for a second stele and the construction of a second scatter garden, i.e., a "memorial meadow," with access paths, a memorial bench, and new landscaping. Each stele will hold 96 plaques, and, thus, will greatly expand our ability to accommodate cremated remains and plaques.

A portion of the OCF grant is



Here is the formwork for the stele, come see the final result.

being used to improve the appearance of the cemetery. Enhanced landscaping, signage, and improved gravel surfacing will be added to the main entrance area at 25th and University Street. Wendi and Steve, our landscape staff, are doing most of this work. Volunteers are also working on cleaning and restoring historic grave markers.

The OFC grant funding also supports a new earned income project. We will make memorial grave markers available for purchase directly from the cemetery. We have several styles with text and other decorative elements, as well as several colors of granite stones. We hope this will make the selection of a grave marker, one that is pleasing to customers and appropriate for our historic cemetery, a very simple process.

Our long-term goal is to ensure the cemetery, representing an important part of Lane County's history, is still here 157 years from now. With your continued help, we can do it.

Denny Hellesvig, Treasurer

Recent Contributions

The following individuals **Preserver** and organizations contributed gifts between October 1, 2015 and April 1, 2016. We thank you all.

Monument Rebuilder (\$500-\$2499)

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Gifts in Honor and in Memory

Between October 1, 2015 and April 1, 2016 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+)

The A-J Roslyn Gaines Foundation in memory of Carolyn Spector

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

John Bredesen for a window in memory of Fran Ross

Fran Ross and John Bredesen in memory of Iim Luckey

Bob and Alex Brokaw in memory of Olivia Helene Brokaw, Barbara and Harold Butler and Fran Ross

Richard Larson and Barbara Cowan in memory of James and Louise Cowan and Fran

Hallis in memory of Fran

Blake Hottle and Cathy Ann O'Gorman for a window in memory of Alvin Kess Hottle

Robert and Debbie Laney in memory of Carl E. Laney

Roger and Sandra Ludeman in memory of Kristina Heartman

Carol and Samuel Williams in memory of Jim Luckey, the other Luckeys and the Leasures

Charles and Leslie Wright in honor of Kay Holbo and in memory of Frank Anderson, Don Truax and Fran Ross

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Sheila Jones Lavonne Hoyt in memory of Laurie Hoyt Jody Miller and Kip Leonard in memory of

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Camilla Pratt in memory of Cliffier E. BreMiller, Ń.D.

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Noel Wicks Shirley White in memory of Mary Johnson Hay, Ernest Iohnson and Great Grandma Johnson

Susan Whitney in memory of Dorothy Decima Zimmerman

Tom and Carol Williams in honor of John Bredesen

David Zimmerman in memory of Dorothy Barclay Zimmerman

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A.W. and Mary Anderson in memory of Fran Ross

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Katherine Eaton in memory of John F. Girton and Burt E. Eaton Kris Lindstrom Fox and

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memory of George Von Der Linden

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Margaret Prentice in memory of William J Prentice, Jr.

Richard Romm in memory of Robert Gault

Robert B. Stein in honor of Libby Bottero

Recent In-kind Contributions

We happily acknowledge the in-kind services and discounts afforded to us by the following.

Alder Street Winds Bob Weir Tree Service Carleen and Mike McCornack Dan Delsman Ensemble Primo Seicento Fisher & Co. Landscape Maintenance John Rose Design Studio Lane Forest Products

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Newsletter by Karen Seidel and Beneda Design

Memorial Day, from page 1

rose walk. A map of cemetery roses will be provided. (See Darrell Schramm's rose article on page 5.)

In line with the rose theme, we will exhibit a 1910 pink tea gown in the Edwardian style covered with embroidered roses. This is another dress from Carol Houde's vintage dress collection. Carol will again be present on Sunday and Monday in Hope Abbey to explain the history of the dress and how it was made.

Starting on Saturday, traditional displays and events will also occur during the weekend. Adrian Vaaler, neighbor and Vietnam veteran, will play taps at noon each day in the Public Square. Flags will fly over veterans' graves. "Tombstone Tales," a new history hunt for children and families, will be available throughout the weekend, with prizes awarded for those completing the hunt.

Besides the champagne, cake and coffee will be served on Sunday and Monday afternoon. The cake will be designed and prepared by student chefs in South Eugene High's "South Fork Pantry."

Board member Alex Brokaw is coordinating the weekend events. Both cemetery gates will be open Memorial Day weekend from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. All events are free and open to the public.

May 23-25: Memorial Day Weekend

- 10:00 am to 4:00 pm: Cemetery gates and Hope Abbey open to the public.
- NOON: Taps will be played at noon every day in the Public Square.
- Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, 1:00 pm: Cemetery guided walks featuring past, present, and future restoration projects.

- Sunday, 2:00 pm: Kay Holbo Camas Garden ceremony followed by champagne toast.
- Sunday and Monday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm: Carol Houde will be present to interpret her 1910 rose gown.

Thursday, June 2: 7:30 to 9:00 pm

• Sacred Harp Singers will present its 14th annual performance of folk hymn singing in the "shape note" tradition. All are welcome to participate or listen to this joyful music making in Hope Abbey.

Burial Space for Sale

For more information, phone the cemetery administrator, Sally Dietrich, at 541-684-0949.