



March, 2023

Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association eNewsletter



"Last Sunday" Open House



We'll be hosting our monthly "Last Sunday" Open House this coming Sunday, March 26th, in Hope Abbey Mausoleum. The doors will be open for visitors from 1 to 4 p.m., and there will be two knowledgeable Board members present to answer questions about the mausoleum and the cemetery grounds.

Please park on city streets, because there is no general public parking on the cemetery grounds. Hope Abbey is the large concrete structure at the end of E. 26th.

Music To Die For



Music To Die For Concert Series 2023

June 11: Linda Danielson, fiddle, and Janet Naylor, Celtic harp
July 9: Clefs of Insanity: an a cappella ensemble
August 13: David Gross: guitar and vocal, plus a guest
September 10: Sheri Pyron: horn, vocal, piano
October 8: The Ineffable Bassoon Trio (enough said)

This first concert of 2023 will feature Linda Danielson and Janet Naylor. Janet will bring her Celtic harp, with Linda featured on the fiddle. That's June 11.

Concerts begin at 2 p.m. and finish about 3 p.m. Hope Abbey will remain open for visiting until 4 p.m., so plan on staying after the concert if you wish.

Music on the Square



The musical offerings by the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association are expanding. We've experimented with presenting live music in the public square at the top of the hill in past summer seasons. These worked so well that we've programmed a full season of outdoor music. Thanks to Board Member Sheri Pyron, we have a delightful summer series of *Music on the Square*. Please note that these outdoor programs are separate

from the *Music To Die For* (MTDF) performances held in Hope Abbey. These outdoor concerts will begin at 6 p.m.

As always, both *Music To Die For* and *Music on the Square* are free, but donations are gladly accepted for cemetery maintenance.

Here's what's coming up.

Music on The Square Concert Series 2023

May 28: Memorial Day—Blugene Brass with Shirley Andress vocalist
June 4: Oregon Brass Society
July 2: Swing Shift
August 6: Kef Balkan Band
September: 24 Blugene Brass

A 1920's Snapshot

Historical Death Certificate Examination (Part two of three)

A person living in Lane County in the 1920s had an average life expectancy of 62 years. In 2022, a century later and with many changes in our society that encourage better health, the life expectancy of a Lane County resident has risen to 79 years. That age was only achieved by 13 of the 67 people profiled here, though one resident lived to a robust 93 years old. Two babies are included in the count; one died of influenza/pneumonia and the other had a congenital heart malformation. One 24 year-old woman died in childbirth.

In Lane County in the 1920s, the top two causes of death were infectious diseases and strokes. Of the 14 people who died by infectious disease, 10 deaths were due to influenza (though these were several years after the 1918 influenza epidemic, and spread out from each other, indicating a persistence of flu in the community instead of an outbreak). The influenza deaths were split equally between people in their 60s and people younger than 35. Hepatitis, erysipelas, diphtheria and tuberculosis were responsible for the remaining four infectious disease deaths.

Thirteen folks died of stroke, also known in those days as apoplexy. Heart attacks killed another 10. More than half of the deaths in citizens of ages 70-79 can be attributed to either stroke or heart attack. Although it was known at that time that obesity and diet were linked to heart problems, people in that time didn't have the vast array of choices of foods that we have, and so it was a little more difficult to modify one's diet.

Six folks died of Nephritis (known also as Bright's Disease) or diabetes, while three died from paralysis. The cause of the paralysis isn't specified, it could have been tetanus or some other infection, or the result of an accident.

Cancer will always be with us. In the 1920s seven souls succumbed to it. There was no one type; cardiovascular, throat, prostate, abdominal, liver and spinal cancers are all listed. Some of these may have been diagnosed at autopsy; at the time there was no treatment, only pain control.

There were a few unusual deaths, as always. One man in his 40s committed suicide by hanging. Another died in an auto accident, an uncommon occurrence in 1922. Burns from a stove accounted for what must have been a very painful death. And perhaps the oddest is a listing for "Autointoxication." We'll never actually know what this person may have died from, but the term refers to a now discredited medical theory that one could drown in one's own toxins if they "backed up" from the digestive system. This theory was helpful to those who sold tonics and curatives to clean out the system, whether effective or not.

And then there are those who escape every threat to health and pass away from old age. We all should be so lucky! One died at age 83, and another passed at the age of 93. Imagine, if you will, what that person would have seen in their lifetime. Ninety three years from now, we'll hope that there is still this beautiful oasis on a hill in Eugene; but who knows? Only time will tell.

More to come in Part Three next month.

By Ariana White, EMCA Historian

John Bredesen, eNewsletter Editor
Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

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Mission Statement

To restore, rehabilitate, maintain, interpret and operate the historic Eugene Masonic Cemetery and Hope Abbey Mausoleum as a cultural and natural resource for the community.

The cemetery is operated for the public benefit,
but it is private property.
(A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization)



Eugene Masonic Cemetery
ASSOCIATION

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Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association | 25th & University, Eugene, OR 97405

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