



October, 2021

## Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association eNewsletter



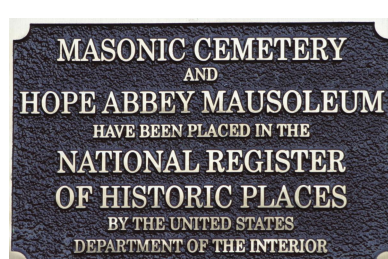
### Last Sunday Open House

We will be hosting our regular Last Sunday Open House on October 31st. It's an opportunity to visit inside the beautifully restored 1914 Hope Abbey Mausoleum. The doors will be open from 1 to 4 PM, Sunday, October 31st

There will be two cemetery board members on hand to answer questions you might have about the historic building, as well as the cemetery itself. **Masking WILL be required in the building because of growing concern about the Delta variant.** Park on city streets because there is no parking on the cemetery grounds.

### Tour of Masonic Cemetery and Hope Abbey Mausoleum

Saturday, October 30, Noon to 1:30



Here's an opportunity to learn more about the historic Masonic Cemetery, including the fully restored 1914 Hope Abbey Mausoleum. Both the grounds and Hope Abbey are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The tour will be led by EMCA President Caroline Forell. Meet with her at Hope Abbey at Noon. Masks will be required within the building, but not during the outdoor part of the tour. Park on city streets because there is no parking on the cemetery grounds.

### A New Way to Clean Old Markers

A 1995 survey of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery, conducted by Sally Donovan and updated this year by Historic Preservation Northwest, revealed the presence of almost 2,500 historic markers. Some of these are stunning monuments and others are modest grave markers with others of various sizes, but all are in the process of degrading. Marker cleaning is done to slow this process as well as improve the appearance. (See photos below.) It's important to follow carefully established guidelines and procedures during the cleaning so the process doesn't actually harm the monuments.

Using these guidelines, volunteers have cleaned markers over the years, and their efforts are greatly appreciated. The markers that have been cleaned tend to be those of notable people like Eugene and Mary Skinner, or those that are adjacent to well-trodden pathways. Recent clearing of brush in the effort to reduce fire danger has revealed many more markers that don't appear to have been cleaned in a long time. Some are unreadable, covered by moss and lichen; others are buried in accumulated forest duff. All of these markers are in great need of attention.

Organized marker cleaning work parties were interrupted by COVID and will, hopefully, resume in the spring. In the meantime, the EMCA Board has allocated some extra funds to the landscape staff to clean markers most in need. For the next three months you may see Diego and Alex cleaning markers and clearing plots. These extra efforts will be immediately apparent, and will go a long way towards addressing the Sisyphean task of marker cleaning in the cemetery.

Shown below are before and after photographs of the same tombstone.

By Elizabeth Southworth, Site Committee Chair



### A Book Review—Sort Of

I received an email recently from a Oregon native, Bob Crites, who has written a very readable autobiography. Bob was one of triplets born in Drain, Oregon, spent time in the Peace Corp in Guatemala and Brazil, worked with Dr. Jane Goodall, and finally retired as an educator and counselor.

My interest was piqued by a short section much closer to home. Closer, as in 2634 Potter St. If you walk by there someday, you'll find a very small home painted a vivid blue. This was originally meant to be a garage after their home was built on the property, but unfortunately the home never materialized. The "garage" remains a home.

Chapter Nine in the book is entitled "No Ghosts in the Graveyard," which is also the title of the book. He describes an incident circa 1950 of a family dare relating to visiting the Masonic Cemetery at night. That chapter also provides the two photographs seen below.



The photo above is the tiny house that was intended to be a garage after the house was built on the lot. It was built circa 1947, and is still there at 2634 Potter, just a block from the cemetery.



The photo on the right shows Bob Crites the same year. The photo was taken with him facing the "garage" with Hope Abbey Mausoleum showing very clearly in the background.

Thanks go to Bob Crites for permission to use the photograph above.

### Masonic Cemetery Newsletters

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association publishes two separate newsletters. We also have a Facebook page with current information.

The *Monumental News* has been published almost since the the change in ownership in 1995. It is a full color paper publication mailed in the Spring and Fall of each year, and contains feature articles about the cemetery grounds, Hope Abbey Mausoleum, and occasional articles about cemetery staff and board members. It is available for the asking. All we need is your postal address.

The *eNewsletter*, which you are reading, is a monthly electronic newsletter featuring timely information of happenings in the cemetery. For instance, it gives information on Hope Abbey Mausoleum events such as the monthly open house and the free summer music series *Music To Die For*. It will be your source for scheduled volunteer work party information. Because it can be sent at any time, it is occasionally used to send out warnings of unsafe conditions within the property such as when a wind or snow storm creates potentially dangerous conditions, or when yellow jackets are unusually active.

To be added to the mailing list for either newsletter, send an email note with your postal address and/or email address [here](#). If you want the paper issue, be sure to include your postal address. We never sell or share our mailing lists with anybody.

### REMEMBER THAT THE MASONIC CEMETERY

- Is privately owned, but opens its grounds to the public, subject to COVID-19 safeguards.
- Is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is not subsidized by the city of Eugene.
- Is eligible for the Oregon Cultural Trust match.
- Has a website, [eugenemasoniccemetery.org](http://eugenemasoniccemetery.org), with lots of information about the cemetery.
- Has free informational brochures available at the Garden Cottage, including a walking tour.
- Has burial rights and cremains space for sale. Contact Sally Dietrich at (541) 684-0949 or [by email](#).
- Uses PayPal for on-line donations. Please [click here](#) to donate.
- Archives issues of both newsletters.

Find past copies of this eNewsletter [here](#).

Find past copies of the paper Monumental News [here](#).

John Bredesen, eNewsletter Editor  
Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

Please Donate

### 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)



Visit our website