

SPIRIT OF THE PIONEER

*A newsletter for the families and friends of
the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery
(Across from McArthur Court)*

Spring 2002

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN COMPLETED!

by Sara Leiman

In October 2000 the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association commissioned Sally Donovan & Associates, historical consultants, to write a Preservation Plan. Last fall, THE PLAN WAS FINISHED! The Plan is a stepping stone into the new century. It will guide present and future EPCA leaders as they seek to help fulfill our mission:

"... To care for and maintain the grounds, burial lots, and cemetery objects; To foster respect for the sanctity of the cemetery as a final resting place; To preserve and restore the historic features; To communicate the history of the Eugene area and the lives of its former citizens; To enhance the natural beauty of the place; and Encourage uses of the grounds that are compatible with the historic character of our cemetery."

In creating the Plan, Ms. Donovan studied the history of the cemetery, examined the building, landscape and existing traffic circulation patterns, and analyzed the cemetery's operations.

The Plan presents the history of the cemetery, describes current conditions, then recommends a prioritized list of projects to enhance stewardship. This list includes: Maintenance issues; Making an inventory of burials more accessible; Signage; Interpretive areas; Promotional information; and potential fundraising strategies.

How will we implement these restoration, enhancement and preservation projects?

It will take the ongoing efforts of interested lot owners, neighbors and citizens who care about the cemetery. Now is the time for you to say, "Yes, I care about the Pioneer Cemetery and here is how I will help!"

In this issue you will find examples of how others are helping. For some this help takes the form of volunteering their services. For others this help takes the form of serving on our Board of Directors. Money is also critical to finance the Association and to support growth of the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Endowment Fund. Interest from this non-profit fund helps pay for projects.

The Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Plan was dedicated to Ruth Lake Holmes with the following words of appreciation:

"Ruth Lake Holmes has been a driving force in the preservation of The Eugene Pioneer Cemetery for nearly 50 years. ... Ruth's long-standing commitment will help ensure the preservation of the cemetery for future generations."



**Featured on the Front Cover of
our Preservation Plan, This
"White Bronze" Memorial is
Representative of a 19th Century
Community Cemetery.**

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Did You Know?

**We Need Your
Assistance**

**Questions, Please
write or phone us!**

EPCA

c/o Ruth Lake Holmes
881 Oakway Rd.
Eugene, OR 97401

Phone: (541) 345-8686

SPECIAL THANKS AND RECOGNITION TO:

Mr. George Beebe, Oscar & Cliff Cook, and Bob Graves - For handling the immense task of cleaning up after the fierce windstorm of February 7th 2002 uprooted 7 of our stately, Old Growth Douglas Fir trees.

Kenny Anderson Trucking - For donating & delivering 2 loads of gravel for our roadways.

Braun Landscaping - For donating over 30 man-hours of work from a 6-man crew of landscaping professionals that renovated the Spanish-American War Veterans lot and surrounding lots.

Centennial School - Whose students, ages 9 – 14 years, spent 2 days cleaning moss and lichens from memorials and their lettering on a number of lots.

Lane Electric CO-OP - Who sent a linesman and a “bucket truck” to thoroughly clean our flagpole.

LAKE FAMILY LOT by Quentin A. Holmes

Egbert C. “Bert” Lake was widely known as “The Monument Maker”. Born in New York in 1860, Bert Lake came to Eugene in 1884. Initially he was in the insurance business. Back then, the nearest monument shops were located in Salem and in Portland; both a long distance away for those times. Lake recognized the need for a monument shop closer to Eugene. In early 1889, Lake founded Eugene Granite & Marble Works on 11th and Willamette street adjacent to the original downtown Fire station. His monument shop carved, lettered, and installed most of the early headstones and memorials in Eugene Pioneer Cemetery (known then as the I.O.O.F. Cemetery).

Most of these memorials were made of Vermont Blue marble because this stone was soft enough to be worked by hand. Using just a chisel and mallet, a Master Stonecutter would carve the deceased’s name & dates, perhaps an epitaph, or Bible verse, and even ornate designs. These designs sometimes included Figures of Angels, portrayals of the Gates of Heaven, as well as flower symbols for Love, Faith, and Hope.

Later, when the sandblasting machine was invented, granite came into its own. Raw granite arrived in the Port of Portland as ballast in ships arriving from Norway, Denmark, and Sweden. Bert Lake paid to have some of this granite trucked to Eugene, where he cut, polished, and lettered it. Many of these granites were very colorful, particularly the glowing “Red Swede” which is well-represented in the older sections of our cemetery.

Bert Lake was very tall and rugged. He was also fiercely independent and often quite outspoken. Once, when he severely offended some of the town “bluenoses”, they threatened to “ride him out of town on a rail”. Bert’s response to this threat was rather pragmatic. He bought himself a large English Bulldog, and a “horse pistol”. Apparently, this settled the issue, for it never came up again!



Visitors often pause near the Lake family lot to contemplate amidst the quiet beauty and elegance of the Rock-of-Ages Monuments.

In November of 1928, Bert Lake died of a heart attack and was buried in the family lot on the East side of the Pioneer Cemetery. His son, Emery D. Lake, immediately took over the business and operated it for the next 16 years. Under Emery’s management, Eugene Granite & Marble Works became renowned for its “Rock-of-Ages” monuments. The business was sold after Emery passed away in 1944.

Also buried in the Lake lot are: Bert’s wife, Bertha Emery Lake (1869 – 1947); An infant, William Egbert Lake (age 10 months); Their son, Emery D. Lake (1893 – 1944); Emery’s wife, Georgie Warner Lake (1895- 1926); and Emery’s sister, Adelaide V Lake (1897-1970).

EDWARDS FAMILY – Pioneers who Settled in Lane Count by Ruth Lake Holmes

Thomas D. Edwards (1826-1894) and his wife, Barbara Rhinehart Edwards (1828-1883) crossed the plains in 1854 with the Rhinehart Wagon Train. Thomas served as the Captain part of the the way. Enroute, they lost some of their cattle stock to Indians, but most of it was later recovered. They settled East of Springfield where they cleared and improved a homestead.

Thomas' brother, Stephen Edwards (1824-1903), was a romantic. Both he and Thomas were deeply in love with Barbara. Thomas, the younger of the two brothers, won her hand, so Stephen never married. Stephen came West to Oregon with them, and became an excellent farmer. Barbara died in 1883. Thomas passed away in 1894 and was buried by her side. When Stephen passed away in 1903, he bequeathed the majority of his sizeable estate (estimated value \$830,000!) to their children. By prior arrangement, Stephen was buried on the other side of Barbara. So, at last, they were together again!

Thomas and Barbara Edwards had 10 children. One of them, Webley, liked to tell this story about his Dad: *"We lived by a family that were great borrowers. But they never returned as much as they borrowed. They frequently borrowed flour. Finally, Dad returned from town with an extra barrel of flour and told mother, 'This barrel of flour is to be used only when that family wants to borrow flour. When they repay you, put it back into the barrel.'"* Webley would chuckle, then continue, *"Yes, in time that barrel became empty. The neighbors had borrowed a whole barrel of flour!"*

Thomas Edwards died at age 68 at his home at the corner of 12th Avenue & Ferry Street. One of the provisos of his will which shared his assets equally with all his children was, *"My daughter, Alice E. Gager, shall only receive the interest on her share while her husband, Daniel Gager lives, and the principal SHALL NOT be paid until the husband's death, or he ceases to be her husband."*

The Edwards/Rhinehart family line has been traced back to the original pilgrims who came over to America on the Mayflower. Thomas's obituary noted that, *"Thus, one-by-one the early pioneers are passing away and the number of those who settled here in 1854 or earlier are fast decreasing. The on-coming generation of native sons should be ever increasing in their respect for the hardy men who took Horace Greeley's advice."*

Our 98 Year-old Statue Has Lost His Head!

The 25 foot tall statue of a Civil War Veteran that is the "Centerpiece" of the cemetery was wantonly vandalized during December, 2001. The statue's head was forcibly broken off and carried away! Despite a substantial reward being offered for its return, or information leading to same, there has been no news.

Created in 1903 by the skilled hands of a master stone carver working with the finest Vermont Blue marble, there are no other like statues in Oregon. A stone-sculptor, who resides in Eugene, has been contacted to craft a replacement head. Enlarged photos will be used to recover the proper dimensions.



**The Current Appearance of Our
Statue of a Civil War Soldier**

The plan is for this stone-sculptor to travel to Rutland, Vermont where they still quarry Blue marble, and make use of a nearby workshop during this effort. **THIS WILL BE EXPENSIVE. ANY and ALL DONATIONS ARE WELCOMED.** You can help. For further information please phone (541) 345-8686, Ruth Lake Holmes, or Everett Smith (541) 344-2138.

Contributions can be mailed to: Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association, c/o Ruth Lake Holmes – Secretary/Treasurer, 881 Oakway Rd. Eugene, Oregon 97401. The Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association is nonprofit so all donations are tax-deductible. Our Federal Non-profit Identification No. is 93-6034898; Our State Non-profit Identification No. is NP 33947-15.

Did You Know?

Who donated Skinner's Butte Park to Eugene City? Dr. Thomas W. Shelton and Mrs. Shelton. They also planted trees and shrubs from all over the United States on the entire south side of the butte.

What college was closed because its Board of Directors couldn't agree on the Civil War? Columbia College in Eugene, Oregon. It's founder, Rev Enoch P. Henderson (1818-1893) was affectionately known as "Pinky" because of the color of his hair.

Who established the first hospital in Eugene City? Dr. William Kuykendall (1855-1934). The hospital was located on what is now known as "College Crest" out on South Willamette Street.

We Need Your Assistance

We would like to gather as much history as possible on those buried in the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery. To do this, we would love it if you could send us any information you may have on family or friends who rest here. Anything that provides insight into who these people were, and how they lived is helpful. This type of information is invaluable, and deserves to be preserved.

Please send us your stories and memories to Ruth Lake Holmes at the address below.



Workers Who Renovated The Spanish-American War Veterans Lot

Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association

c/o Ruth Lake Holmes
881 Oakway Road
Eugene, OR 97401

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



EUGENE PIONEER CEMETERY ENDOWMENT FUND

An Endowment Fund was started in 1975 to provide funding for present and future upkeep. Its goal is presently \$500,000. To date, \$345,000 have been subscribed. Our bylaws stipulate that only the interest from the funds can be used for maintenance. Thus far the endowment fund has funded: a new roof on the maintenance building, installation of poles for electricity and telephone lines, the services of a resident part-time caretaker, purchase of a travel trailer and cover, purchase of a industrial riding mower for keeping the cemetery neat all year round, and professional bookkeeping and accounting. As a non-profit organization, all donations to Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Endowment Fund are tax deductible.

CONTEMPLATING HOW TO PLAN YOUR ESTATE?

Everyone needs to make plans to distribute their assets after their lifetimes. If you don't make your own estate plans, the State of Oregon will do it for you (and you may not like the results!). Of course, you will want to include those individuals who are dear to you in your estate planning –Family, Close Friends, and Special Others. But, many people choose to include organizations they have supported over the years – like the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Endowment Fund – As well.

If you have any additional questions or concerns please feel free to write [or phone] Ruth Lake Holmes at 881 Oakway Rd. Eugene, Oregon [Phone No. (541) 345-8686].

A SPECIAL “THANK YOU”!

In response to the needs of the Pioneer Cemetery, a number of people have come forward with donations. We wish to say “Thank You” for being there in a time of need. These special people are:

Norman B. Andersen;	Carl & Clyde Laney;
Fred C. & Joyce D. Andrews;	William G. Loy & Maude Caldwell;
Joyce Holmes Benjamin;	Yoko McClain;
Allan R. & Judith D. Cameron;	Patricia McDowell & Patrick Bartlein;
Lo Caudle;	Nancy McFadden;
Stanton A. Cook;	Gerald S. & Jane C. Moshofsky;
Lois & Amie Diller;	Stan & Joan Pierson;
John H. Fisher & Barbara England Fisher;	Joy Poust;
Shirley & Wilma Foster;	Michael I. & Sharon Posner;
Dr. Frederick N Green;	Mary Ellen Rodgers;
William P. & Nancy L. Hall;	John A. Roupe;
Erich H. Hanneman & Tamara Stenshoel;	Douglas R. Spencer;
Tom & Janet Heinonen;	Clarence Stewart;
	Donald R. & Barbara Truax;

UPCOMING EVENTS

Combined Annual Meetings of Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association and Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Endowment Fund, Inc.

Will be held Saturday, May 18th, 2002 at 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: The First Congregational Church
1050 E. 23rd Street
Eugene, Oregon.

Memorial Day Services at The Eugene Pioneer Cemetery

Services will be held on Monday, May 27th, 2002 at 1:30 p.m. at the Civil War Veteran's Plot in the center of the cemetery. The Shasta Middle School Band and Choir will participate.

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