

SPIRIT OF THE PIONEER

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

FALL 2024

MEMORIAL DAY - 2024

by Quentin A. Holmes

Memorial Day is the highlight of the year at Eugene Pioneer Cemetery. The program is organized by Mr. James Walsh of American Legion Post #3. This event brings together veterans, scouts and scout masters, school boys & girls and their music directors, and lot owners and friends of the Cemetery. Older adults and youth alike gather together to honor veterans and others who are at rest in our historic Cemetery. This year more than 250 people attended.



MEMORIAL DAY – at Eugene Pioneer Cemetery
Master of Ceremonies, James Walsh/American Legion

As a prelude, the Lane Fire Brigade Bagpipe Band played several rousing tunes. Scouts from Troop No.152 stood respectfully by the north side of the Civil War Lot as the colors were paraded in by the Colonel Edward D. Baker Camp/ Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW).

James Walsh, Commander of American Legion Post #3, welcomed everyone (see Photo). After an Invocation by Tony Pasillas, Garrick Petersen, Scouts BSA Troop 152 led us in *The Pledge of Allegiance*. Next came a stirring musical presentation by the Shasta Middle School Choir singing *The Star Spangled Banner* and *America the Beautiful*. Capt. Mark Stevens read General Order No. 11 of Gen. John J. Logan, Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, issued May 1862. U.S. Army Col. (Ret.) Lance Englet gave an inspiring Keynote Address. Jesse Lohrke recited *In Flanders Fields* written during the First World War by Canadian physician Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae. The Shasta Middle School Choir sang the period song *Blue Skies*. Reenactors from the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War took us back in time to the 1860's by performing a Three-Volley Black Powder Salute. Rev. D.H. Shearer / SUVCW performed *Taps* on a Civil War Era Bugle. The Lane Fire Brigade Bagpipe Band then played *Amazing Grace*. The formal ceremony ended with the Retiring of the Colors by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Thank YOU, James Walsh, Commander of American Legion Post #3.

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EUGENE PIONEER
CEMETERY
ASSOCIATION

Any Comments or
Questions?
Please write or
phone us!

EPCA
Quentin A. Holmes
40338 Mohawk River Rd.
Marcola, OR 97454 (541)
933-3324
Holmes3324@MSN.COM

A PERIOD BENCH FOR THE DODD-BENDER FAMILY LOT

by Quentin A. Holmes

For years and years, EPCA Board Member George Beebe, who is in charge of Cemetery upkeep and improvements, has wanted to have a bench in the Southwest part of the Cemetery. He wanted it to be a Period Bench. When Karen and Ed Bender, owners of the Dodd-Bender Family Lot in the North half of Block No. 518 (see Photo **A**) offered to pay for a bench as part of their own plans, he quickly accepted their generous offer. EPCA gave them a 4 ft X 10 foot grave plot along the north edge of Block 518 for this project. George Beebe ordered a metal bench in the style used in the late 1800's, sandblasted off the original coating, and then powder coated it with a more weather-resistant finish in "U. of O. Green." George Beebe arranged for a concrete slab to be poured. A marble maker with Ed & Karen's name and Date of Birth was embedded in this slab. The Period Bench was positioned over it and secured down using tamper proof, stainless steel bolts.

Last May, George Beebe purchased a trailer load of mulch and asked to have 3rd Saturday of the Month "Community Service" workers remove sod from the lot to make room for it. Doing so turned out to be a rather labor-intensive task. Around 9AM on the 3rd Saturday in May, two guys began removing sod. Noon came, and the sod removal was less than half done. So, after lunch, everybody pitched in and helped (see Photo **B**). By 2PM all of us were working on covering the lot with mulch (see Photo **C**).

The Period Bench (see Photo **D**) is lovely to behold and invites visitors to stop, relax, and enjoy the cemetery's open & inviting green space.

Thank you, Karen & Ed Bender. And, Thank You George Beebe for doing such a terrific job as the project manager!



DODD-BENDER FAMILY LOT – Circa 2020
(i.e., Before a Period Bench was placed there)



DODD-BENDER LOT – "CS" Work Crew removing Sod



DODD-BENDER LOT – "CS" Work Crew spreading Mulch



PERIOD BENCH ON DODD-BENDER FAMILY LOT

All Finished!

CARING FOR HERITAGE ROSES IN THE CEMETERY

by Quentin A. Holmes

In the late 1800's and early 1900's tradition was that when someone in your family passed away you took a rose bush from your home and planted it on their grave. For decades and decades, the roses in the Cemetery were treated with benign neglect. Many of the rose bushes survived but were not in good shape. Most had diseased stems and were competing with weeds to survive. Some had totally overgrown the grave marker of the individual on whose grave they were planted.

In 2007, Helen Liu asked if she and her friends "Could take care of the Heritage Roses in the Cemetery." Initially, each rose was given a nickname based on the occupant of the grave. There was: the "Carter" rose – on the grave of Hugh Carter (1837-1910); the "Moon" rose – on the grave of William Silvester Moon (1865-19150); and the "Baby Warnock" rose – on the grave of Bernice Warnock (December 3, 1918 – December 12, 1918).

For a number of years now, Helen Liu, Cindy Wise, Elaine Sedlack and other Master Gardeners have been carefully pruning, thinning, weeding and mulching the roses in the Cemetery. Rose Starts obtained from them have been planted in the sunlit southern half of the Cemetery.

Today, the roses are doing quite well and bloom throughout summer and even into the early fall. Their true names are now known. For example, the true name of "Baby Warnock" is **Mme. Caroline Testout**' – shortly before WWI, City of Portland planted 10,000 of them along its streets thus earning its nickname, "City of Roses."

Currently, there are more than 250 Heritage Roses in Eugene Pioneer Cemetery. The pictures on this page illustrate the recent work of our rose care folks.

A hearty "Thank You" to all the individuals who give of their time and energy to take good care of these lovely, fragrant, and priceless treasures from the past!



DURING – Rose Care in the Cemetery



AFTER – Rose Care in the Cemetery



THE ROSE CARE TEAM – June 2024

Elaine Sedlack, James Grimm, Helen Liu, Camille Stewart, and Arlene Gaynor



STILL BLOOMING IN SEPTEMBER! – "Moon" Rose

EUGENE PIONEER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

by Quentin A. Holmes, EPCA President

Eugene Pioneer Cemetery was established in an era before perpetual care cemeteries. For decades, we relied on relatives who lived nearby to clean up their family lot and help keep the Cemetery grounds looking nice. Today, a few family lots are still actively maintained by their owners. However, the majority of lot owners have grown older to the point that they are no longer physically able to care for their family lot, and younger generations often live far away from where they were born and grew up. Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association (EPCA) is the non-profit organization that handles all of the mowing, trimming, pruning and upkeep, as well as improvements to our 16-acre historic Cemetery. Please consider making a donation to Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association. The Association's non-profit registration numbers are:

State: NP 033947-15

Federal: 93-6034898

Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association

c/o Quentin A. Holmes

40338 Mohawk River Rd.

Marcola, Oregon 97454 - 9741

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED