Fall 2026

Spirit of the Pioneer



Veterans helped place flags on more than 200 veterans graves at the Cemetery in preparation of Memorial Day, 2026. **www.EugenePioneerCemetery.org**

George Beebe, EPCA Maintenance Manager Takes a Bow

By C.J. Lake and Quentin Holmes

A man of many passions—with a zeal for restoration—our longtime maintenance manager and board member from 1988-2025, George Beebe has stepped down from his role in the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association. Much of the physical care and maintenance of our park-like space is a result of George's vision and steadfast involvement since the 1960's. George Beebe knew from the start what our cemetery could look like.

We thank him sincerely.

George's Legacy

In the early 1990s, the Pioneer Cemetery had become somewhat overgrown with large shrubs that hid headstones. Several Douglas fir and cedar trees needed trimming for public safety. George Beebe stepped up as our Maintenance Manager and ensured the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Plan, prepared by the firm of Donovan & Associates, was implemented closely. Today, visitors comfortably enjoy our shady grounds.

As an EPCA Board Member, George took on projects that seemed totally overwhelming to others. Fortunately for us, he has the rare ability to organize tasks into doable steps, and then carry them out piece by piece over a period of years.

Those who have worked with George recall he was the "first man on the ground" and the last volunteer to leave a work party.



George Beebe, right, seen here with board president Quentin Holmes on May 20th, 2023, taking a break while inspecting the preparation for Memorial Day Service.

Improvements realized with George's guidance include but not limited to

- Cleanup of trees downed by the Columbus Day windstorm. 1961
- Purchasing and setting up the trailer for a resident caretaker. 1963
- Spring and Fall Sheriff's work parties, since 2005
- Main waterline replacement leading to the maintenance building. 2009
- Iron Fence installation in the NE corner of the EPC, with the Univ. of Oregon. 2010
- Period bench restoration and installation in Memorial Square. 2011

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Help us care for Eugene Pioneer Cemetery by donating to our mission to restore and preserve this historic landmark. Mail a check or donate via the PayPal link on our website.

Marker Repair

By Quentin Holmes, EPCA Board President

The markers in Eugene Pioneer Cemetery are an important part of history. The most recent marker repair and restoration project has been more than two years in the making—people who can professionally do marker repairs are in short supply! David Pinyerd and Bernadette Niederer, from Historic Preservation Northwest, did a superb job of repairing 22 markers in our historic cemetery.



David Pinyerd and Bernadette Niederer at the Kilpatrick family monument on Aug. 20th, 2026.

In 2024, Dorothy Brandner, compiled a list of markers that needed repair lest they become lost to history. In 2025, EPCA submitted a proposal to Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries for a grant to help fund repair of 13 markers at a total cost of $3,000. Alas, while our grant proposal was ranked high, it was not high enough to receive funding. Nevertheless, we decided to move forward and pay for the repairs with EPCA funds. With their busy schedule, however, Historic Preservation Northwest was not able to get to our project until summer of 2026.

Fast-forward to 2026. The list of markers needing repair has now grown to 20, plus a special request from a lot owner for additional repairs. Heritage Preservation Northwest began the long-anticipated work on July 20th. David and Bernadette spent seven full days on site and repaired/restored a total of 22 markers.

Among the repaired/restored markers were:

- Lee Martin, Block No. 525-1/2: moved marker five feet to northwest, and leveled base on gravel.

- Margaret J Barker, Block No. 522; moved marker one foot southeast away from tree, leveled base on gravel, and reset headstone in cementitious mortar.



- Charles L. Smith, Block No. 111; reset die in lime mortar.

- Nicolle Family, Block No. 710: moved monument two feet west away from tree and leveled on gravel.

- Thomas Tabor, Block No. 251: aligned and leveled base on gravel and repaired break with epoxy followed by Lithomex infill. (See photo at right.)

- Cary E. Henry, Block No. I: raised and leveled base on gravel and reset headstone in lime mortar.

To learn more about this and other restoration projects, please go to eugenepioneercemetery.org/restorations/

Above, detail of repair on the Tabor marker. Right, before and after pictures of the Stevens Family monument.

More photos from this repair project on our website.





A Meditation Group Brings the Cemetery to Life

By James Grimm, EPCA Board member

On August 16 I took the best kind of walk through the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery. It emphasized mindfulness, which allows an appreciation of the cemetery in new and different ways. Jay Buckley, a local Eugene psychologist, explains that mindfulness encourages you to let go of all your thoughts except for those in your present experience. You pay attention to that experience with openness, curiosity, and willingness to be with it. The essence of such concentration is relaxation.

For the past six years Jay and his co-leader, Amy Hulbert, have led their weekly meditation group, which meets at various locations around Eugene. During the summer it is a walking group and Jay selected the cemetery as it conveys essential stillness in the midst of the university community. The wonderful trees, plants, birds, and gentle shifts in terrain all offer a variety of sensations. It has a "sense of sanctuary", of being in community with the wide array of souls interred there. Those feelings do not cause distress or dissuade any group members from walking in the cemetery. The overall experience is often one of compassion and understanding.

These group members and readers of this newsletter will experience the cemetery in many different ways and it is that fact which leads us to return. The cemetery has a life of its own and we are fortunate to appreciate it.



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George Beebe, EPCA Maintenance Manager Takes a Bow

- Restoring the distinctive above-ground vault, with Dorothy Brandner. 2013
- Removal of 2 huge Douglas fir trees that had died, with Bob Andrews. 2014
- Cemetery public bathroom remodel, with Dorothy Brandner. 2014
- Gravelling and grading of cemetery roads. 2015
- An interpretive kiosk in Memorial Square. 2016
- 3rd Saturday Community Service Work Parties, since 2017
- Underground waterlines to the east and to the south of the maintenance building. 2018
- Removal of a tall Western Red Cedar tree that had died, 2019
- Replacement of ball on top of the Allen Family Monument in Block No.189. 2023
- Period bench installation in Dodd-Bender Lot in the Southwest part of the cemetery. 2024
- Tree Trimming with Angel Moreno. 2025



A thoughtfully-designed and beautifully-executed kiosk now provides information about the cemetery in Memorial Square.

George C. Beebe was born in 1937 in Portland, Oregon. As he was growing up, the Beebe family moved to Astoria and then to Medford, Oregon. In 1957 the family relocated once again to Los Angeles, California where George met the love of his life, Karen. The two married in January 1959.

George and Karen came to Eugene in 1965 where George took a position as a heavy equipment purchasing agent for L. J. Manufacturing. The young couple lived in an apartment until their home out on Lorane Highway was completed in the spring of 1966.

George and Karen raised two sons, Robert and Brad. Robert now lives in Massachusetts and Brad lives in Eugene.

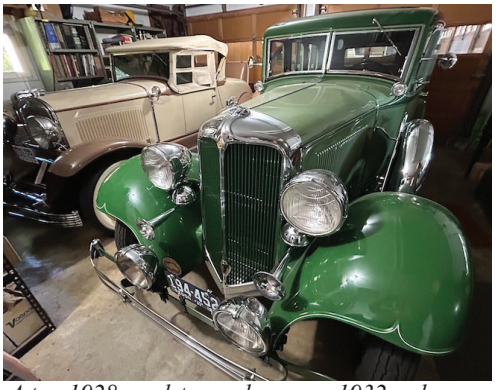
From 1978 until he retired in 1999, George was a purchasing agent for Wah Chang Metals in Albany, Oregon. He drove from Eugene to Albany each day. George's expertise in purchasing benefited the cemetery association



Sturdy period benches that are not only beautiful but also functional, thanks to George Beebe.

through the years when procuring equipment, supplies or contracting services.

Those who know George Beebe understand that restoring antique cars is a passion. George restored his first antique car while in his late teens, and got hooked. Today George has several garages at his home where he and his sons, rebuild and detail their award-winning antique vehicles.



A tan 1928 roadster and a green 1932 sedan restored by George Beebe.

Due to George Beebe's consistent efforts, the EPC has become a cemetery that makes plot owners proud. In fact, his great-uncle Lamar T. Beebe, who died in 1908, is at rest in Block 134. George's guidance and maintenance expertise has transformed the cemetery into a restful green space that can be safely enjoyed by hikers, walkers, students, neighbors and school children on field trips.

Thank you, George Beebe!





From left, restoration of distinctive blue above-ground vault, 2013; Quentin Holmes, George Beebe (center) and long-time board member, the late Ruth Lake Holmes at the cemetery, circa 2008.

Memorial Day Service

By Quentin Holmes, EPCA Board President

Memorial Day is the highlight of the year at Eugene Pioneer Cemetery. This year it fell on May 25th.

Our program is organized by Mr. James Walsh of American Legion Post #3. This event brings together veterans, scouts and scoutmasters, musicians, lot owners and friends of the Cemetery. Older adults and youth join in to honor veterans and others who are at rest in the Cemetery. More than 200 people attended.

As a prelude, the Blugene Brass Quintet played *The Armed Forces Medley*. Scouts from Troop No.152 stood respectfully on 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).

Mr. James Walsh welcomed everyone. After an Invocation by Tony Pasillas, the Lead Scout from Scouts BSA Troop 152 led us in The Pledge of Allegiance. Junggeun Kwon sang *The Star Spangled Banner* and the Korean Central Church Choir sang *The Lord's Prayer* and *How Great Thou Art*. Capt. Mark Stevens read General Order No. 1 of Gen. John J. Logan, Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, issued in May 1862. An inspiring Keynote Address was given by Mr. David Devin/Sons of the American Revolution (SAR, Oregon).

Jesse Lohrke recited *In Flanders Fields* written during the First World War by Canadian physician Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae. Mr. Steven Holgate, dressed up as Abraham Lincoln, recited *The Gettysburg Address*. The SUVCW presented EPCA Genealogist, Dorothy Brandner, a Certificate of Appreciation for her many, many years of work researching the stories of folks who are at rest in our historic cemetery.

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 Rifle Salute. Rev. D.H. Shearer/SUVCW performed *Taps* on a Civil War Era Bugle.

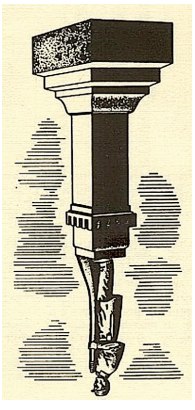
The Lane Fire Brigade Bagpipe Band then played *Amazing Grace*. The formal ceremony concluded with the Retiring of the Colors by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Thank YOU, Mr. James Walsh/American Legion Post #3.





From top, Mr. David Devin/ Sons of American Revolution; Choir from Korean Central Church.



Eugene Pioneer Cemetery

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