

SPIRIT OF THE PIONEER

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

FALL 2002

MISSION STATEMENT

"The Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association's mission for the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery is to care for and maintain the grounds, burial plots, and cemetery objects; to foster respect for the sanctity of the cemetery as a final resting place; to preserve and restore historic features; communicate the

history of the Eugene area and the lives of its former citizens; to enhance the natural beauty of the place; and to encourage uses of the grounds that are compatible with the historic character of the cemetery."

(Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Plan – October 2001)

REPLACEMENT HEAD FOR STATUE: A PROGRESS REPORT

by Ruth Lake Holmes

The 25-foot-tall Blue Marble statue that stands in the center of the Civil War Veteran's plot in the Cemetery was vandalized in December 2001. The head was knocked off and stolen. Despite a reward offer and extensive publicity, there was no response. So the stature stands forlorn, valiantly holding its resting rifle.

David Miller, a local sculptor, was commissioned to restore the statue to its former dignity. Miller painstakingly measured the statue and the graphs that he subsequently made are strikingly similar to those of Leonardo da Vinci.

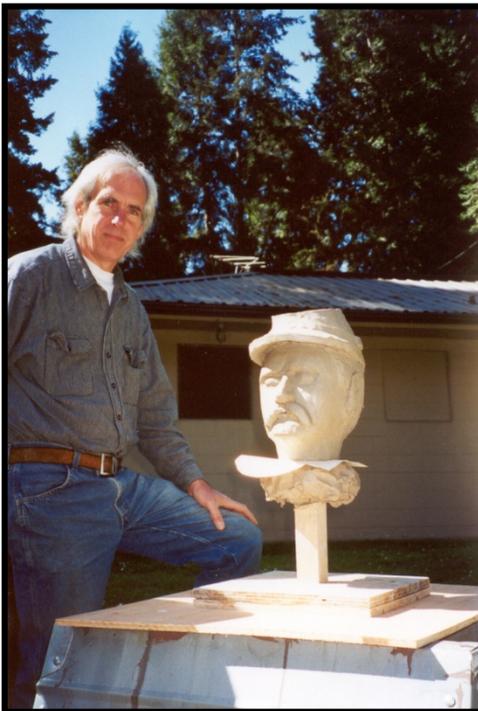
A clay model of the head (see picture on the right), was finished and shown to the Cemetery Association's Board of Trustees in July.

David Miller sent marble chips from the statue to Champlain Marble Company of Proctor, Vermont where the statue was originally carved in 1901, and ordered a 500 Lb. block to match. Jim Watkins of Northwest Monument Company expedited the shipment which was recently delivered to Miller's studio near Marcola, Oregon.

Next a full-size plaster cast will be created, taken to the Cemetery and

fitted to the top of the statue to check for any necessary corrections. Only then will Miller begin actual carving of the replacement head from the large, featureless, block of Blue Marble.

When the statue's new head is finished and installed, there will be an elaborate unveiling ceremony with veteran participation. Please watch for date and time, to be announced in the Spring.



**David Miller, Sculptor, with His
Clay Model of The Statue Head.**

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Any Comments or
Questions?
Please write or
phone us!

EPCA

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

Phone: (541) 345-8686

Edith Belshaw Brown Litton (1856-1929)

by Quentin A. Holmes

Edith was born to Thomas and Maria Belshaw, early Lane County pioneers (1853). They were the first or second druggists in Eugene.

In celebration of Edith's birth, her father planted an oak tree at the corner of 11th and High Street. This ancient oak tree still stands there on the south-east corner.

Edith was a singer and a talented pianist, somewhat of a child prodigy. Her father had a piano shipped around the Horn for her. At the age of 16, Edith began teaching piano lessons! (Today, a similar piano resides at the historical McMurphy House.)

About that time she fell in love with a young man, John Brown, who was the band director. John Brown was older than Edith by a number of years.

Her parents felt Edith was far too young to be so serious. They told her that if she was still so minded when she reached 18, they would give their consent to her marriage to John Brown (if he was still around).

Somewhat mysteriously, John Brown was quickly shipped out of town, and lived in Nevada.

John Brown did not forget Edith. In two years, when she was 18, he returned to Eugene. Edith still felt the same way about him and they were married. They lived on a farm across the Ferry Street Bridge over the Willamette. Unfortunately, several years later John Brown got into an argument over a sack of potatoes with a tenant farmer. John Brown was shot dead.

After several years Edith married a Mr. Linton, and they moved to Eastern Oregon. However, upon her deathbed Edith left instructions that she was to be buried in the plot in the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery where she had earlier laid John Brown to rest. She would rest beside him, her first love.

Today, If you pass by the Brown lot, you will find a pair of lovely large laurel trees growing there — one on her grave and one on the grave beside it.

EUGENE PIONEER CEMETERY ENDOWMENT FUND

by Sara A. Leiman

A huge thanks for your help in building our Endowment Fund. This fund was started in 1975 and holds approximately \$343,000 currently. Each year, only the interest earned by this fund is spent on cemetery projects. Now and in the future, this fund **MUST** grow to keep up with the expenses of maintaining the cemetery.

Recent Contributors to the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Endowment Fund Include:

\$500 or more

Jeanne and Jesse Batson

Roger S. Smith

\$100-\$249

Brad and Linda Needham

Thomas and Terry Nelson

\$50-\$99

Geraldine T. Leiman

up to \$49

Milton and Frances Bilderback

Ingrid Carmichael, in memory of Cliff Defoe

Darrell and Jeann Nichols

Theresa A. Sayles

Maria Tanner

RESTORATION AFTER FEBRUARY STORM DAMAGE

by Sara A. Leiman

On February 7, 2002 a fierce storm passed across the Eugene area. One of the gusts ripped through the cemetery from the southwest to the northeast and felled 8 conifers, mostly the large Douglas-fir trees that were planted along the main roadways early in the cemetery's history. In all, eight firs were uprooted, and one incense cedar tree had a large fork cracked off. One of the trees fell over into University St., and damaged a parked car. Thankfully, no one was injured.

The Pioneer Cemetery is a private, non-profit organization. Though surrounded on three sides by the beautiful U of O campus, the cemetery upkeep is paid for by lot owner and community donations. Clean-up from the huge trees and repairs to damaged stones and curbs has been a major project.

First, loggers Oscar and Cliff Cook limbed and bucked the down trees. Due to defects and such, much of the wood could not be sold to a sawmill. Most of the logs, and copious huge limbs, were cut up for firewood. We thank the Cooks for their excellent work and donation of much extra time.

U of O crews cut up and removed the portion of the tree that fell over the sidewalk on University Street.

Tree climber Bob Andrews was hired to help fall the dangerous cedar tree. Some of the resulting debris (lots of limbs, branches, etc.) was first stacked up by resident caretaker George Dull and his crew, then deposited in heavy steel dumpsters (graciously provided by Schnitzer Steel), and hauled away to a disposal site. The rest of the debris was chipped up onsite and removed by hired contractors LJ Tree Service.

Several huge stumps still remained. Contractors Gary and Tony Burnett were engaged to bring in an excavator and dump truck to dig up and load out these root wads, and haul them away to be ground up and recycled. Finally, dirt was brought in to fill up the holes. While they were at it, the Burnetts also helped upright several large, heavy



Excavator Removing Root Wad Left By Toppled Old Growth Fir Tree

granite headstones. Thanks to the Burnetts for their time donated beyond the contract.

Your contributions have helped support this extraordinary clean-up from an unusual storm. Thanks!

SEEN RECENTLY IN THE CEMETERY



A Bagpiper Practicing In The Solitude of The Eugene Pioneer Cemetery

DID YOU KNOW?

2002 is the 130th anniversary of the platting of the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery in 1872. (Platted by the Oddfellows Lodge, Spencer's Butte No. 9).

2002 is the 72nd anniversary of the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association (Lot owners and friends association organized in 1930 for care and preservation of the cemetery, continuing today).

2002 was the 70th consecutive year of a formal Memorial Day Celebration honoring the Civil War Veteran's in our cemetery. (Held each year by the statue of the Civil War soldier located near the center of the cemetery.)

MAJOR SUMMER PROJECT: RESETTING HEADSTONES

As you may have noticed on walking through the cemetery this Spring, many headstones were down. Some had been knocked over by vandals, others had simply fallen over as settling and weathering occurs. Once they are down, severe erosion of these historic markers begins and several have become lost or stolen. Every couple of years the Cemetery Association endeavors to reset fallen stone memorials.

This summer, a major headstone resetting project was completed. A stonemason, Bruce Polone, was engaged to undertake the work. Previously, Mr. Palone had been doing stonework for the University museum. He has developed a special tripod and pulley system to safely, and without damage, lift up and right the heavy, heavy markers. Then, special stone glue is used to re-attach the stone to its base. In some cases, steel rods must be used to reinforce the headstone. Over the summer, Bruce Palone repaired and reset more than 70 headstones. ...Wow!.

Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association

c/o Ruth Lake Holmes

881 Oakway Road

Eugene, OR 97401

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

