

# SPIRIT OF THE PIONEER

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

SPRING 2003

## STATUE HONORING CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS TO BE REDEDICATED

by *Quentin A. Holmes*

In December 2001, the tall statue that stands in the Civil War Veteran's plot was vandalized – its head was knocked off and stolen. Through the efforts of many people, this historic statue once again stands tall and proud! It will be rededicated in a formal ceremony at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

Initially, the difficulty and expense of replacing the statue's head seemed insurmountable. However, people from several organizations pulled together to restore dignity to our blue marble statue.

The EPCA commissioned a local artist, David Miller, to create a replacement head. Working from measurements of the statue, and using clay as a medium, Miller created a full-scale model. Next, a block of stone of the same color and

texture as the statue was procured from the marble quarry in Vermont where the original statue was carved in 1901. The shipment of this heavy block of stone from Vermont to Oregon was expedited by Northwest Monument Co. of Junction City, Oregon. In January, Lane Electric Cooperative donated use of one of their lift trucks so the clay prototype could be placed atop the statue. After assessing its scale and appearance, David Miller set about the challenging task of carving the actual replacement head from the heavy marble block – a creative task that took him far more than 100 hours! In February, David Miller used a scaffold to position, and epoxy, the head in place.

The statue is now complete. An artistic blend of Oregon today and the history of our nation, county and city, the statue stands watch over the grave of John S. Covell and his fellow Civil War soldiers with pride and dignity.



Once Again Our Historic Statue Stands With  
Quiet Dignity Over The Civil War Veteran's Plot

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Any Comments or  
Questions?  
Please write or  
phone us!

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## **A VIEW OF THE EUGENE PIONEER CEMETERY**

*by Everett G. Smith*

*Chairman, Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association*

The Eugene Pioneer Cemetery remains as quality open space in the midst of an expanding university and increasingly dense surrounding residential neighborhoods. The cemetery's listing in 1997 on the National Registry of Historic Places assured its stability and linkage to the past. Our cemetery is significant as an historic site not only as a burial ground for early settlers in and around Eugene and Springfield, but also as a landscape illustrative of a late 19<sup>th</sup> Century community cemetery. In their first years, cemeteries located on the edges of small towns and cities served as public parks as well as burial grounds.

Multiple uses continue to describe the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery and to attract visitors. By being surrounded on three sides by to the University of Oregon the cemetery encourages students, faculty, and staff to study the lives of the people who have been buried there since the 1870s, to examine the architectural diversity of burial stones, and to classify the mix of trees, shrubs, and flowers. Residents from the larger community come to the cemetery frequently to stroll in the open, green area, and for our annual celebration ceremonies. Today, the cemetery still has a few family plots available for burials. In February there was an interment on the Knight lot.

Oregon Spring is a special time to appreciate the cemetery's beauty. Several people deserve to be recognized for enhancing it. The volunteers who serve on Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association's Board are committed to following recommendations

in the Preservation Plan completed in October, 2001 by Sally Donovan of Donovan Associates and Karen Mirande, Landscape Architect. Ruth Lake Holmes, Association Secretary-Treasurer, has provided guidance and diligent, loyal, and obedient service to the cemetery for over half a century. George Dull, who lives in the trailer at the edge of our Memorial Square, performs maintenance on the cemetery throughout four seasons of the year, and also provides onsite presence, day/night, at this busy cemetery.

In the past year the Board of the Association has arranged for a number of knocked down memorials to be re-set; for the removal of conifers toppled in the fierce storm in February, 2002; for David Miller to re-sculpt and replace the head on the statue of the Civil War soldier that was vandalized in December, 2001; and for Forest Work Camp Community Crews from the Lane County's Sheriff's Office to come out twice to trim, clear, and remove the overgrown brush in all four quadrants of the cemetery.

Donations and memberships in the Association support these efforts to improve the Pioneer Cemetery. The Annual Meeting of the Association, open to all, will be held on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1:30 – 3 pm in the Library of the First Congregation Church at the corner of 23<sup>rd</sup> and Harris in Eugene. During National Historic Preservation Week a formal Rededication Ceremony for the restored statue of the Civil War soldier is scheduled for 1:30 pm Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, the annual Memorial Day Ceremony honoring deceased members of the military buried in the cemetery will be at 11 am on Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

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### **OUR MOST RECENT INTERMENT**



**Franklin W. Knight, Sr.**  
**(Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> 1937 – Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> 2003)**

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### **EUGENE PIONEER CEMETERY FUND**

*by Sara A. Leiman*

A huge thanks for your help in building up the Eugene Pioneer Endowment Fund. This fund was started in 1975 and currently holds approximately \$361,000. Just the interest earned by this fund is used for maintaining the cemetery, leaving the principal to provide for the future. Now, and in the future, this fund **MUST** grow to keep up with the expenses of maintaining our cemetery. So, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Endowment Fund.

**EDWARD EUGENE QUIMBY**  
**(1857 – 1925)**

*by Gene E. Foley, Jr.*

Edward Eugene "Gene" Quimby was born to Charles Russell Quimby and Melissa Eastman Quimby in Wisconsin on November 22, 1857. His father, Charles, served as a Union soldier in the Civil War and died from a sniper's bullet at Lovejoy Station, Georgia on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1864. In 1865, Edward's mother married his uncle, Alfred Quimby. In 1869, two months after giving birth to Edward's half brother Alfred Moses Quimby, she passed on.

As a young man Edward began the move west from Wisconsin. He married his wife, Elnora, in Minnesota, in 1882, spent time in Idaho, (where their first daughter, Edna, was born in 1885) then later resided at Jefferson in Marion County, Oregon. In 1902 Edward moved the family to Eugene.

In Eugene, Edward was an active property developer, businessman, and community leader. He was a member of the Baptist church, the International Order of OddFellows (I.O.O.F.), and other civic organizations. Business activities of Edward included extensive warehouse and garage properties, on the north side of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Olive and Willamette Streets. He laid out the Quimby addition to the city and constructed his home there on Blair Street. The alleyway behind it, which he ceded to the city, is still in use today. Later he donated land to the city for a jail and also in exchange for street paving at the residence. Today, a restaurant occupies the site of Edward's home.

In 1915 Edward ran for the Eugene City Council, from the Fourth Ward, and came in second to C.A. Burden. Edward challenged the candidacy of Burden. Following a formal investigation, his challenge proved successful and Edward was appointed to the council!

His daughter Edna married David Hill in January 1906, and preceded her father in death in October 1906 (at the tender age of 21) caused by rheumatic fever. His daughter Nellie married Charles Emery in December 1909. They had three children, Gladys born in 1913, Helen in 1914, and Rex, who passed away shortly after birth in 1918. Gladys completed her education in the Eugene Public School system and later attended Oregon Agricultural College (now called Oregon State University). Gladys and Helen's paternal grandfather, Joseph Emery, was associated with this institution as a mathematics professor from its founding as Corvallis Academy until the late 1880s, serving at one time as acting president. Joseph was offered the presidency in



**The Quimby Lot is Nestled Among Stately Fir Trees in the Northwest Section of Our Cemetery**

1871 but declined the office. Gladys had a career in Insurance, with her father. Later on she served with the US Army Corps of Engineers. Gladys passed away in 1988. Gladys' sons, Gene Foley (named after Edward) and Robert Foley passed away in 2002 and 1994, respectively. Helen also completed her education in Eugene. Following her graduation from the U of O in 1936, Helen taught school at Toledo, during WW-II she worked for the US Navy in Washington, DC. She later moved to Roseburg, finishing her government career with the Veteran's Administration in 1972. Helen retired to Walla Walla, Washington to be near family and resides there today.

Edward Quimby passed away, after a brief illness, on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1925. Elnora lived to be 80 years old, passing away on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1943. Edward is with family at the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery. Also interred on the Quimby lot is his wife Elnora, daughters Nellie and Edna, son-in-law Charles, grandson Rex, granddaughter Gladys, and great-grandson Gene Foley Sr. who served stateside as a Corporal in the US Army during the Korean War.

**SEEN RECENTLY IN THE CEMETERY**



**A Flowering Tree in Full Bloom in The Eugene Pioneer Cemetery**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Will be held Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003 at 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: The First Congregational Church  
1050 E. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Eugene, Oregon.

### **Rededication of Statue Honoring Civil War Soldiers**

A formal ceremony to rededicate the newly restored Civil War Soldier Statue will be held on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. In addition to speeches appropriate to the occasion, there will be a parade and acting by a group garbed in the style of the Civil War era.

### **Memorial Day Services at The Eugene Pioneer Cemetery**

Services will be held on Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at 11:00 a.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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#### **Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association**

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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

