

SPIRIT OF THE PIONEER

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

SPRING 2005

INGRID JOHNSON CARMICHAEL: A Remarkable Lady!

*by Ruth Lake Holmes
Secretary-Treasurer,
Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association*

An active supporter of Eugene Pioneer Cemetery for decades, Ingrid Carmichael is the most senior Board Member of the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Endowment Fund. Twice each week Ingrid goes to a conditioning class at the YMCA, and she also ventures off on monthly outings with the "Obsidians" outdoor club. Now 93, Ingrid attributes her good health and longevity to her Norwegian heritage and her enjoyment of the outdoors.

Ingrid's grandmother and grandfather immigrated from Norway to Minnesota and settled there. One day, when Ingrid's mother was only 9, grandfather went into town to buy provisions, suffered a heart attack, and was brought home in a coffin! In 1905, Ingrid's grandmother (Ingeborg Ness) and mother moved to Eugene and bought a home at 1599 Orchard Street.

In 1908, Ingrid's mother met and married Erich Johnson who worked for 31 years for Booth-Kelly Lumber Company. Ingrid, their only child, was born in 1912. The Johnsons gave a foot-powered organ to the Lutheran Church. Later on, this organ got moved to the Johnson family home since Ladies Auxiliary always met there.

Ingrid has fond childhood memories of being outdoors helping care for the goats and chickens that her family raised on Orchard Street, and also the plentiful fruit and vegetables that they grew and put up for winter. Ingrid attended Condon Grade School, Roosevelt Jr. High, Eugene High School (located on West 17th Ave) and the University of Oregon (Class of '35).

One summer Booth-Kelly went out on strike. To help her parents out financially,



Ingrid Carmichael in Front of 1599 Orchard Street

Ingrid took a job as a clerk for McMorrان & Washburn's department store.

In 1935, Ingrid married the love of her life, Lorin Carmichael. Their wedding took place in the Johnson family home at 1599 Orchard Street. Lorin was related, on his grandmother's side, to Charley Applegate — an early pioneer. Ingrid recalls visiting her and marveling at the white, two-story historic house that Charley and Melinda Applegate built in Yoncalla back in 1858. (A solid wall divides the "Old Place" into a men's [the East] side and a women's [West] side!)

An opportunity came to establish a high-quality furniture and interior decorating business — Mountjoy & Carmichael. To provide start-up money, Ingrid's mother mortgaged (no small thing in the 1930's) the house at 1599 Orchard Street. Ingrid was a full partner and participated in the operation of the store for 35 years.

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E.P.C. Endowment
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Combined Annual
Meetings to be Held
on May 21st, 2005

Memorial Day
Services at Eugene
Pioneer Cemetery
Set for 11:00 a.m.
on May 30th

Any Comments or
Questions?
Please write or
phone us!

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**MEET SARA LEIMAN: Treasurer,
Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Endowment Fund**

by Quentin Holmes, E.P.C.A. Board Member

“The Eugene Pioneer Cemetery is now recognized as an important historic site, burial ground, and vital open space to Eugene.”

(Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Plan)

Sara Leiman, Endowment Fund Treasurer, has a vision for the potential of the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery that goes far beyond just its upkeep. Sara began an active role in the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery shortly after she moved to the Willamette Valley from Newport, Oregon in 1981. Accustomed to working in the woods, Sara and a friend simply showed up at a cemetery work party with an industrial brush cutter and set to work helping clear out brush! Today, Sara is Treasurer of the Endowment Fund. She supervises its prudent investments and regularly presents formal financial reports. Sara also adds her wisdom and counsel to Joint E.P.C.A./ Endowment Fund Board Meetings.

Sara Leiman's Grandfather came to Oregon from Minnesota and met and married her Grandmother. "Grandpa Tripp understood timber, and over the years he purchased a number of tracts of forest land." In the late 1940's, her Grandfather and two other men founded 'Mt. June Lumber Company' on Jasper Rd. in Springfield. Grandpa Tripp had the timber, while his two partners were knowledgeable about building and operating a sawmill. No, Sara's Grandfather is not buried in our cemetery. But, his parents, George Howard Tripp and Naomi Dunham Tripp, rest in Lot No.455.

Sara parents met and married while in graduate school. Sara was born in 1954. She grew up in the Southern California ("But it wasn't my fault!") and did her undergraduate work at Berkeley. Shortly after graduation, Sara went to Ohio to live with her elderly Grandmother. In 1978, when grandmother passed away, Sara moved to Newport, Oregon to help take care of the family's substantial holdings of forest land. Sara Leiman and her Uncle, Gordon Tripp, operate 'Coast Range Conifers LLC'.

In 1981, Sara relocated to the Willamette Valley (Monroe) from Newport. As Sara succinctly puts it, "Logging is not a dirty word. Yes, we make a profit and maybe that's why we are out there." However, "it's sort of a farming thing – i.e., there's a yearly cycle. It's Springtime, so it's time to plant seedlings and...; It's Fall, so it's time to ...". "Our ground, located West of Junction City, was extensively logged in the 1960s. Back then, the State was just starting to require aerial reseeded. Now, the trees that grew up from those seeds are what we are harvesting."



**Sara Leiman beside a Conifer that
She and Her Nephew Recently Planted**

Sara is involved in the Oregon Small Woodlands Association whose goal is to provide forest stewardship advice to family forestland owners and the public.

"OSWA is a place where you get to talk to other small woodland owners. Their membership is extremely diverse. I am on their Executive Board, but I wouldn't do it if it wasn't fun." Sara Leiman also serves the Oregon Forest Resource Institute (an educational group funded in part by Oregon's Forest Harvest Tax). She feels that public opinion in Oregon about logging is on the road to changing. "Some very impressive facts and good public relations things are getting put out."

Sara Leiman regards the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery as unique: it is historical, hallowed, and yet inviting and readily accessible to the public. "Today, our members are mostly lot owners and descendants." "People support the cemetery for three reasons: Civic Pride, it's your Family Responsibility and, besides which, it's Fun." "Our efforts thus far have allowed us to come to grips with the stones, the brush and the trees." "Now, with the merging of Pioneer Memorial Park and Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association, we have an opportunity to go beyond that and get the community involved – it's primarily a Public Relations thing." Sara Leiman envisions the coming decade as a time to raise money in order to make some improvements in line with the Preservation Plan. "We all agreed when we put together the Preservation Plan. Now, we need to focus on executing it. And, as always, be on the lookout for people willing to serve on the Board."

We greatly appreciate your devotion and diligence, Sara. Thank you!

SHORT NEW FENCE: A Joint of O. and E.P.C.A. Accomplishment

*By Quentin Holmes,
Board Member
Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association*

Eugene Pioneer Cemetery gets a lot of visitors and students passing through it each day. Most enter and exit via the entryways that are provided. However, at the North-East corner of the cemetery, some people were cutting directly over a steep bank to drop onto a busy alleyway. In a jointly funded effort, the University of Oregon and the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association recently installed an attractive, but sturdy, fence that encourages people to make use of the nearby stairway. Today, a 6 foot high, wrought-iron, fence runs west-east for 48 feet then turns south and continues for 16 feet to end at the stairway. Outwardly, the fence is quite attractive and in keeping with the historic character of our cemetery. But, its stout uprights are securely anchored in reinforced concrete in keeping with the fence's primary function – to enhance public safety.



Short Fence Enhances Public Safety

REMARKABLE LADY

(Continued from page 1)

Lorin and Ingrid raised three children: Robert A. Carmichael is a successful dentist in Eugene. While David E. Carmichael is a well-known Eugene attorney. Ingrid's daughter, Julie Carmichael Danielson, lives in Portland and Seaside, Oregon.

After Lorin died suddenly in 1970. Ingrid liquidated Mountjoy & Carmichael in a truly honest going-out-of-business sale – no outside goods were brought in and marked up!

For more than 50 years, Ingrid frequently went along with the "Obsidians" on their more strenuous hikes. But these days, she is content to be one of the "Byways Bus People" who travel about in a chartered bus. Outings Ingrid will take this year include: going bird-watching at Glide, Oregon in April; a rhododendron bloom trip through Sweet Home and Silver Falls in May; and a Fall Color Tour through the Cascades along the Aufderheide Highway in October. Age-wise, Ingrid is the oldest active member of this group, but she still manages to keep up with the best of them.

What a remarkable lady! We are proud and deeply honored to have Ingrid as a Board Member.

NOTE: When Ingrid's grandmother passed away in 1924, her estate purchased a large lot in the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery (then the I.O.O.F. Cemetery). Ingrid's grandmother, and also her father and mother – Erich and Rikka Johnson – are at rest there.

SEEN RECENTLY IN THE CEMETERY



Early Morning In The Cemetery
(Photo taken by Sally Smith)

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THE STRAUB-STAFFORD LOT

*by Ruth Lake Holmes
Secretary-Treasurer,
Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association*

The Straub-Stafford Lot (located on the right as you enter the cemetery) has a graceful, tiered memorial that was designed by noted Oregon and Eugene architect, John Edward Stafford. His inspiration came from a visit he made to Norway where he observed the many different types of memorials in their cemeteries. Upon returning, John Stafford measured their family lot and planned his design to incorporate the existing memorials. He personally supervised construction of the 20' x 20' structure.



The Straub-Stafford Lot

The overall memorial consists of an artful series of concrete tiers perched above a cobblestone base. A large family marker, crafted from Red St Cloud Granite, bears the word STRAUB on one side and STAFFORD on the other side. Bronze plaques (sometimes granite stones) commemorating the family members buried there are embedded in it at various sites.



View of the Stafford Side

Lot, No. 223 was originally purchased by John E. Straub in 1902. Buried on it are: his namesake, John Straub who died at age 21; Cornelia Straub who died at age 15; and Vincent Straub who died at age 22. Also buried here are family members: Mary Elizabeth Straub Stafford, Howard Straub Stafford, Miriam Stafford Hamilton, and Orrin Fletcher Stafford. John Edward Stafford and his wife, Sarah Kunkel Stafford, also rest here.

John E. Straub was Dean of the University of Oregon Faculty, and Professor of Modern Languages, and Greek. He was the person who persuaded the University regents to plant trees and shrubs around the then-barren Deady Hall. Those Douglas Fir trees have matured into the stately giants that can be seen there today. John E. Straub was once urged to run for Oregon State Governor. However, his students told him that he "was too good a man, and too kind for that job." They felt that he shouldn't throw away his honored position to chase after the will-of-the-wisp of political preferment. He was persuaded to stay on as Dean until his retirement. He died in 1932.

Orrin Fletcher Stafford was a chemistry professor at the University of Oregon. He became fascinated with the piles of sawdust sitting around at local lumber mills, and decided to see what could be done with them. He invented the "Stafford Process" for producing wood alcohol and charcoal from it. He also experimented with sugar production.

When Orrin Stafford heard that the United States was short on "heavy water" needed for important government research, he brought in 5,000 gallons of McKenzie River water, electrolyzed it down to 50 gallons, and shipped it off to Washington, D.C.

This graceful lot celebrates the accomplishments of both the Straub family and the Stafford family.



Individual Bronze Plaques

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Will be held Saturday, May 21st, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.

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

Memorial Day Services at The Eugene Pioneer Cemetery

Traditional Memorial Day Services will be held on Monday, May 30th, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. at the Civil War Veteran's Plot in the center of the cemetery. The inspiring Shasta Middle School Band and Choir will perform music from the Civil War Era. Our Vice-President, Mr. Paul Gilbertson, has made arrangements for a veteran to give the featured address. Please Come!

Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association

c/o Ruth Lake Holmes

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Eugene, OR 97401

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED