

# SPIRIT OF THE PIONEER

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

SPRING 2016

## EUGENE PIONEER CEMETERY'S HERITAGE ROSES

by *Quentin A. Holmes, EPCA President*

Our cemetery is blessed with many heritage roses. In the 1800's and early 1900's when a loved one passed away the tradition was to plant a rose from the family home on their grave. Below is a quote from Eugene Morning Register on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 1914.

**Fine Roses in Cemetery** – The thousands who visited the I.O.O.F. Cemetery yesterday were attracted to the beautiful rose garden on the plot owned by W.E. Smith, where his brother J.G. Smith is buried. Yesterday there were 72 LaFrance roses in bloom, and they were among the most beautiful ever grown in Eugene.

Heritage roses are noted for their splendor and for the abundant fragrance produced by their blooms. Individual rose bushes in our cemetery date back 60, 80, or even 100 years. Preserving them is preserving history – one rose at a time! After decades and decades of benign neglect, the heritage roses in our cemetery are once again doing well thanks to EPCA Board Member Helen Liu, and several Master Gardeners and Pruning Specialists.

Each Spring since 2014, OSU Extension Pruning Specialists have conducted hands-on pruning workshops at our cemetery – *A Master Gardner Workshop on Caring for Heritage Roses*. Work during these classes, and the interest they generated, have been a real boon for the heritage roses in Eugene Pioneer Cemetery.

Roses greatly prefer sunshine. Over time, the fir trees in our cemetery have grown quite tall. Roses planted on plots that were once sunny are now struggling to survive in deep shade. It is our hope to gradually transplant these roses to sunnier places in the cemetery so they may thrive.

Beginning in the summer of 2015, Master Gardener volunteers Helen Liu and Cindy Wise began to propagate some of our favorite roses by taking cuttings. Many of the cuttings rooted successfully. Last month, a few of these rose starts were planted in a sunny, south-facing area, which we have begun to call "The Rose Quarter."

Helen and Cindy have also begun to attempt to identify our roses. However, since identifying specific varieties of roses proves to be quite difficult, after some research Helen and Cindy have provided "best guesses" as to the roses' origin and variety. For example, the rose pictured above from the Carter plot is named Carter Rose but our "best guess" is that it is like an old Spanish rose called *Russelliana* whose exact origin is not known and is thought to be grown before 1837. It is a vigorous climbing rose with a distinctive and fragrant "old rose" scent. The flowers are about 3 inches across, occurring in clusters of 5 to 7. It will form a large mounding shrub with long arching canes.

**For the first time, some of the roses we were able to propagate, including the Carter Rose, will be offered for sale on Memorial Day at the Cemetery.** Proceeds will be used for heritage rose care.



HERITAGE ROSE ON CARTER LOT

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Any Comments or Questions?  
Please write or phone us!

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## U. of O. DAILY EMERALD ARTICLE ABOUT EUGENE PIONEER CEMETERY

### EUGENE PIONEER CEMETERY

You walk through it every day.

How much do you actually know about it?

Thus begins an outstanding article by University of Oregon journalism student Kaylee Tornay and her cohorts. Their innovative and informative article was published in a recent issue of the University of Oregon's Daily Emerald. In pictures and in words the article provides an in-depth view of these 16 acres of open green space surrounded on three sides by the University of Oregon, the EPCA Board Members who currently serve as guardians of the graves, and the stories behind several of the rugged individuals who lie at rest in our Cemetery. To view an electronic copy go to, <http://dailyemerald.github.io/Eugene-Pioneer-Cemetery/>

Our thanks for creating a truly world-class photo-journalism article go to:

**Words:** Kaylee Tornay

**Code:** Brandon Cao, Jake Urban

**Design:** Raquel Ortega

**Video:** Kylie Davis, Kenny Jacoby

**Photos:** Taylor Wilder

**Producer:** Scott Greenstone, Ian Garrett

### HERITAGE GRANT RECEIVED

*by Quentin A. Holmes, EPCA President*

The State of Oregon's Heritage Commission has awarded our Cemetery a grant (OHC-15-05) that runs from 1 January 2016 thru 30 April 2017. Monies from this grant (up to a maximum of \$13,550), along with matching money and in-kind donations by Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association, will be used to restore the Cemetery and to make key improvements. The Heritage Grant has a broad work statement with five major tasks serving to focus our efforts. Two of these tasks have now been completed.

#### **Task 1 – Improve Road Surface and Slope of Memorial Square and Risdon Lane**

(Task Leader- George Beebe)

For years and years pools of standing water have formed in Memorial Square whenever it rains. In January, Memorial Square was graveled & sloped. Then, trenches were hand-dug and storm water lines were installed to transport rainwater that falls on the maintenance building away towards the West. These two things have solved our rainwater problem.

In addition, the road that runs North-South the East side of the Cemetery (Risdon Lane) was scraped bare, graveled, graded, and then compacted down with a heavy roller.

#### **Task 2 – Install Information Kiosk with Visitor Information**

(Task Leader- George Beebe)

You only get one chance to make a first impression. In February, a beautiful Information Kiosk that is in keeping with the historic nature of our Cemetery was installed. The design of our new Kiosk was inspired by the Kiosk in Luper Cemetery. Professionally made from seasoned Western Red Cedar, the attractive Kiosk will serve as a center for information helpful to visitors to Eugene Pioneer Cemetery.

Stay tuned for progress reports as we work on **Marker Repairs** (Task 3 and Task 4), and **Develop a Self-Guided Tour of the Cemetery** (Task 5).



**MEMORIAL SQUARE – No More Puddles of Rainwater!**



**NEW INFORMATION KIOSK**  
Builder Jerry Heineman & His Helper

## 2016 WORK PARTIES SCHEDULED

*by George C. Beebe, EPCA Director*

We have two major work parties scheduled this year. These have to be set up months in advance with the Lane County Sheriff. We get crews of 10-12 people - men and women - from the Lane County Sheriff's Department. These folks do an excellent job for us. One week before each work party, several of us "walk-thru" and agree upon what areas need to get addressed.

One work party will be just before Memorial Day:  
Walk-Thru: Thursday, May 19, 2015 at 11:30am  
Work Party: Friday, May 27, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The second work party will be in September:  
Walk-Thru: Thursday, August 25, at 11:30 a.m.  
Work Party: Friday, Sept. 2, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Come join us if you can, we can always use help!

## SEEN RECENTLY IN THE CEMETERY



INSTALLING THE KIOSK IN MEMORIAL SQUARE

## EUGENE PIONEER CEMETERY'S GRACIOUS DONORS

*Quentin A. Holmes, EPCA President*

Our City, County, and State is what they are today because of the vision, dedication, hard work, and sacrifice of many of the men and women who are now at rest in Eugene Pioneer Cemetery. It is to honor them, and to remember them, that your Cemetery Board Members do what they do. Our goals include: preserving the historic nature of this sacred graveyard, maintaining it as a beautiful and inviting green space located in a busy urban surround, and relating our community's pioneer history to coming generations. Our efforts are made possible by your donations. The following people gave donations to the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association and/or the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Endowment Fund during 2015:

\$500 or more:

**Margaret J. Hewitt  
Ruth "Lake" Holmes Trust  
Deahn C. Kincaid**

\$250-\$499:

**Central Lutheran Foundation**

\$100-\$249:

**Milton A. Bilderback  
Merle Bottge  
Charles A. & Britta Bonnett  
Marna Broekhoff  
J.D. & D.J. Christian  
Nancy L. Cummings  
Patricia Baker D'Anna  
Gary W. Hayes  
Roy L. Hoiland  
Holmes Archie Holeman  
Geraldine Leiman  
Sara A. Leiman  
Donovan L. Mack  
Doug E. Malkasian  
Greg A. Malkasian  
Ruth McCully  
Helen M. Reed**

\$50-\$99:

**Mary M. Arnn  
Sandra Farber  
Marie L. Hayes  
Andrew W. Hoiland  
Roy L. Hoiland  
Quentin A. Holmes  
Carol A. Holman  
John & Sherien Jaeger  
Helen Jensen  
Carol Nelson  
Thomas J. Nelson  
Malcolm Scott  
Mary E. Secor  
John Crockatt Selby  
Carol E. Thompson  
James Whittall**

Up to \$49:

**Karen Bender  
Bob Tollefson  
Julie Marlatte  
Sherman Newman  
Joy Poust  
Jo Ann Purscelley  
Roger S. Smith  
Cornelia Taggart**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Will be held Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

LOCATION: Daneland Mobile Home Park - at the Recreation Hall  
1199 N. Terry Street  
Eugene, Oregon 97402 .

### **Memorial Day Service at Eugene Pioneer Cemetery**

A Memorial Day Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Civil War Veteran's Plot. Organized by Eugene American Legion Post #3, the formal ceremony will feature members of the Sons of Union Veterans dressed in authentic Civil War military uniforms, and a Three-Volley "Black Powder Salute" in honor of the heroes who are at rest in the G.A.R. Plot. The inspiring Shasta Middle School Band and Choir will perform. You will be glad you came!

### **Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association**

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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**