

Lee Mission Cemetery Newsletter

December 2015



Lee Mission Cemetery 2104 D Street Salem, OR 97301

From the President:

We have been blessed once again to have volunteers who have contributed their time towards the upkeep of the cemetery. In May First Methodist Church had a party of eight volunteers who worked to weed and trim throughout the cemetery.

The week before Memorial Day the Keizer Stake of the LDS church provided 20+ volunteers that cleaned, weed and trimmed the cemetery in preparation for Memorial Day. They did an outstanding job.

In August two youth groups came in and worked in the cemetery. One group of 20 worked in the morning and the second group of 20 worked for several hours in the afternoon. They were instrumental in cleaning around the new pillars to remove roots and debris left by the removal of the laurels as well as weeding and trimming.



The end of October First Methodist Church provided a group that worked in Babyland cleaning headstones as well as edging and mowing while others weeded the circle flower bed, removed dead flowers, picked up vases, cleaned the rose bed and trimmed low hanging branches.

Thank you to each and every one who contributes their time to help in the maintenance of this historic cemetery.

Volunteers from First Methodist Church
October 2015

What's Been Going On?

Entrance Pillars

Discussion regarding the restoration of the pillars at the entrance to the cemetery has been an ongoing subject for many years. In January Jim Momyer and Margaret Stephens met with Kimberli Fitzgerald, City of Salem Historic Preservation and Joy Sears, State of Oregon Historic Preservation to inquire about what would be needed to proceed with the project. It was determined that it was no longer a matter of restoration but had reached the point of replacement.

In February, after Jim Momyer's retirement from the board, board member Phyllis Gillis, agreed to take over the project and moved forward to obtain bids and find a mason who was qualified to do the work. Mike Tappan Masonry of Silverton was chosen and grants were applied for through Oregon Historic Cemeteries and Preserving Oregon. In May we were thrilled to find that we had been awarded the grants and work began. R & R Tree Service was hired to remove the overgrown laurels between the pillars.

It was determined that, as part of the grant process, the pillars would need to be constructed to replicate the original pillars. It appears that in 1948 some extensive repair work had been done on the pillars and later yet they were painted to hide graffiti. Due to these two events they had lost their original design. Thanks to information provided by Elizabeth Walton Potter we were able to determine that the original pillars were built in the 1920s and were thought to be the same design as those at Willamette University.

After much preparation, work began in August. The existing pillars were torn down and reconstruction began. Upon their completion the new pillars were coated with a graffiti protectant to protect against vandalism. Next spring, after the ground settles, new landscaping will be installed to compliment the area. Many thanks go out to all who were involved, with special thanks going to Phyllis Gillis for spearheading the project and to Mike Tappan Masonry for an outstanding job.



The only thing remaining on the pillars is to install lighting to replicate the original design. Since the cemetery does not have electricity it was decided to obtain solar lights. The best option found was available for \$84.00 each plus shipping and handling. We will need 4 lights and those wishing to donate towards them are welcome to do so. While the majority of the pillar construction was covered by grants the cemetery association was required to pick up many of the additional expenses associated with the laurel removal, permits, the graffiti protectant and other expenses. Donations toward this and future projects are always appreciated.



Willamette University Pillars [contributed by Elisabeth Walton Potter]



Suggested Pillar Lights: This Baytown II solar light fixture model comes with 3 mounting options; wall mounted, mount on flat surfaces (decks, pillars or columns), or install on top of a 3” diameter lamppost. This solar light is made from heavy-duty rustproof, weatherproof, black ABS poly-resin; this fixture with an acorn finial is bigger and brighter than post lights in the original Baytown series. With 10 bright-white LEDs this light will provide up to 130 Lumens on a full solar charge. The patented cone reflector enhances the light output and glow. This unit 4 monocrystalline solar panels charges the 1500 mAh lithium battery pack during the day to provide light up to 10 hours at night. Gama Sonic solar lights are known for their physical durability and long-lasting performance, back by their 2 year warranty. Available with bright white or warm white LED's

Future Projects



The next project will be to focus on restoring the railing around Diamond Square. Over the years the railing has deteriorated and rusted through. The Anna Maria Pittman Chapter of the DAR has made a donation toward that project and it is hoped that additional donations and grants will make the project possible. Contact has been made with a company in Eugene that has done equivalent work in historic cemeteries in the Eugene area. We are working with them to obtain a bid so grants can be applied for in the spring.

Another project on the schedule is to complete the back of the kiosk to provide additional information about the history of the cemetery.

In addition to those projects it is hoped that we will be able to eradicate the blackberries at the back of the cemetery and restore that area with native plantings. Suggestions are always welcome on getting this accomplished. It is a steep hill so safety is a concern when it comes to using some types of equipment.

Plans are also being discussed regarding additional landscaping practices throughout the cemetery to control weeds and aid in the overall appearance.

Mimi Stang

For many years Mimi served in the position of Secretary and then later Secretary-Treasurer. Her contribution to the cemetery has been invaluable. When a job needed doing she was always there to lend a hand. Earlier this year she came to the conclusion that it was time for someone else to take over her job as Secretary-Treasurer. Sherrill Hochspeier agreed to assume the position. Mimi will remain on the board and we all look forward to her continued presence. Thank you Mimi for all you have done over the years! Also thank you to Sherrill for agreeing to take on this job!

Sean O'Harra

Welcome to new board member, Sean O'Harra. Sean is Director of Operations at the Willamette Heritage Center and is a valuable addition to the board.

Tom Bowers

Board member, Tom Bowers, is in charge of maintenance issues at the cemetery. He works with scheduling J.P. Services, our maintenance company; he is the contact person for volunteer groups; and, last but not least, he handles the cemetery phone for those with issues associated with the cemetery. He has been doing an outstanding job! Thank you Tom!

LEE MISSION CEMETERY DONATIONS SINCE JULY 1-DECEMBER 31 2015

Friend Up to \$49

Karen Heuberter
Mary Brock
Leland and Doris Russell
Robert Adauer (sp??)

Supporter \$50 – 99

Ed and Marianne Heberlein
Craig Marlette
Ken Betterton
David Smedema (in memory of Kathryn Smedema)

Sponsor \$100 – 249

Anna Maria Pittman DAR
Albert and Virginia Furtwangler
Cora Hallauer
Phyllis Gillis
Wilbur and Lela Jackson
Albert Furtweigler
Lisa (Anderson) and Scott Ogilvie (in memory of Dylan Anderson)
Jean and David Hand

Preserver \$250-499

Jim Momyer
Pat Clark
Tom Bowers

Monument Re-Builder \$500 – \$2500

Mary Turner (In memory of G. Wesley Turner & Mary Pratt Beard)

Monument Giver +\$2500

Note: In July of this year I had a computer crash and lost the names of some of the donation information for that time period. I apologize for anyone effected by the loss of information.



Donations

Lee Mission Cemetery is a 501(c)13 not-for-profit Corporation. All donations are tax deductible.

100% of donations made to the cemetery go toward improvement and maintenance. Officers and board members volunteer their time and receive no compensation.

Lee Mission Cemetery
P O Box 2011
Salem, OR 97308

Lee Mission Cemetery is licensed through the **Oregon State Mortuary Board**
Phone: 971-673-1500

Board of Directors:

Stephenie L. Flora, President
Sherrill Hochspeier, Secretary-Treasurer
Mimi Stang
Tom Bowers
Phyllis Gillis
Pat Glass
Margaret Stephens
Sean O'Harra

Contact Information:

Lee Mission Cemetery @ (503) 851-1803
Lot Sales: Rick @ (503) 559-2242

Web Site:

<http://www.leemissioncemetery.com/>

Comments, additions and corrections regarding the website or the newsletter can be sent to

Stephenie@leemissioncemetery.com



*Lee Mission Cemetery
PO Box 2011
Salem, OR 97308*

