

Cemetery debate reaches dead end

Who owns the graves? Board doesn't know

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

Eugene's Pioneer Cemetery at the corner of 18th Avenue and University Street is having trouble becoming a historic site. It's historic, everyone seems to agree, but not everyone wants the historic designation the Eugene Historic Review Board is willing to give.

The cemetery, well over 100 years old, was originally considered as an historic site by the historic review board last August, but efforts to designate it a historical site have been hampered by questions of the ground's legal ownership. Judy Rees, city staff member for the review board, says.

"It's a very confusing situation, the question of the ownership," Rees says. "The board is going ahead to look into the designation, but it's proceeding with caution."

The review board considered the cemetery designation in their regular meeting last week, but

were unable to make a decision because of the ownership question, Rees says.

Although the cemetery's legal owners — The Pioneer Memorial Park Association, — don't want the review board's historic designation, a group of cemetery plot owners — the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association — asked the board to consider the designation last year.

According to Rees, when the review board considered the plot owners' request last August, the Pioneer association objected and asked that no action be taken by the board until a new city ordinance concerning the designation of historic sites went into effect, Jan. 4.

In a letter to University Pres. William Boyd, Ed Cone, Pioneer association secretary, said the association members decided against the historic designation. In a "unanimous consensus", the association members said they felt a historic designation would hamper other uses of the cemetery and discourage the plot owners from maintaining the grounds.



Photo by Erich Boekeheide

When these corpses were buried they probably had no intention of becoming historic dirt. The Lane County Historic Review Board had intended on making them just that. The only question was, who owns the dirt?

However, Ruth Holmes of the Pioneer Cemetery association, disagrees. "I certainly do feel that it merits being designated as a historical site because it is a very historical part of Eugene," she says.

Holmes, who doesn't consider the question of ownership to be controversial to the historic designation, says the plot owners want the designation because of the

cemetery's historic significance. "We will continue to maintain it like always," she says.

There are a number of misunderstandings about the designation, Rees says and a meeting may be scheduled between the review board and the Pioneer association to clear some of those up.

If the cemetery were to be

designated a historic site, Rees explains, certain restrictions would be placed on the land. These include the board's review of any alterations or destruction of the property and city council approval of those changes.

The benefits of the designation, she says, include using city room tax money for the cemetery's restoration.

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Would-be governor outlines goals

By GARY NORRIS
Of the Emerald

Oregon is long overdue for reforms, according to gubernatorial candidate E.B. "Buck" Lambert, who outlined his platform Monday at the Lane Demo Forum luncheon.

Lambert, 56, is a Salem auto dealer and commercial pilot. He said he decided to run for office because "to coin a phrase from former Pres. Eisenhower, politics should be the part-time profession

of every citizen who wants to preserve American freedoms."

Lambert said recent legislative sessions have been "a lot of mish-mash." He claimed the 1977 Legislature cost taxpayers "\$5 million in outright cash, and called it "A pretty big tab for a few immature attempts at legislation." Lambert said as governor he would ask for more coordination between the House and Senate and would try to cut down on what he termed "political game-playing."

The reforms Lambert proposed include standardized public schools, welfare reform and improved crime control.

The public school system, Lambert said, "should have the same textbooks for Paisley as for Portland." "It would be much less expensive," Lambert said. "And if a fifth-grade student moved to Portland from, say, Klamath Falls, he

could walk into class, open his book to the same page where he left off and start right in again."

Lambert said he had no specific plans to improve the state's system of higher education, but claimed the system's present "\$1.6 million deficit" might be the result of professors' extravagant travel budgets.

"If higher education needs money they should look at the larder when \$4.6 million was spent on professor's out-of-state travel," Lambert said.

Lambert claimed welfare reform "has been put on the back of the stove to simmer far too long" by legislators.

"We've got a lot of people on welfare in this state," Lambert said. "But I don't buy the story about there being no jobs. Check any newspaper and you'll see hundreds of jobs in the want ads that just go begging."

As to state-funded abortions, Lambert said if elected he would "keep his finger on the pulse of the problem." He said current abortion laws ignore the father of unborn children and said he would work to put their obligation into law.

Controlling crime — particularly rape — is an important plank in Lambert's platform and he said his first move as governor would be to "bring together every county sheriff and police chief in Oregon to explore proper methods to make our streets as safe at 3 a.m. as they are at 3 p.m."

"There's no romance in rape," Lambert said. "If I'm elected, those people — the muggers and rapists — had better pick a new place to ply their vicious trade."

Lambert also said if elected he will investigate the possibility of pumping excess winter runoff from Western Oregon streams over the mountains to Eastern Oregon dry lake beds.

"It's a crime that all that water should be running out to sea," Lambert said. "We're coming to the end of a 10-year moratorium on this issue and if we don't get this water over to the east this state is going to have to get out of farming."

Lambert said skeptics may laugh at the idea of pumping water over the Cascades, but he said the American technology that brought oil across the Alaskan tundra can solve the problem. He claimed Eastern Oregonians would pay \$100-\$200 per acre-foot for Western Oregon water, which would justify the cost.

Lambert also touched briefly on two other issues — nuclear power and legalization of marijuana. He said Oregon will have to turn to nuclear power sooner or later and he advocated the use of breeder reactors since they produce their own fuel.

As to legalizing marijuana, Lambert said "One of these days it's going to come to a vote and if we're in there when it does we'll take a look at it, because there are sure two sides to that coin."

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