

## MASONIC

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"The history of Eugene and Lane County is all here," said Alice Adams, whose husband is buried on the hillside. "These are the people who did it."

Other notables who found their final resting place just blocks from campus include Eugene Skinner, the city's founder; John Whiteaker, Oregon's first governor; and Prince Lucien Campbell, whose University connection is immortalized for anyone who's sat through a lecture in Room 180 PLC.

Campbell and his wife are interred in the Hope Abbey Mausoleum, which also contains a time capsule to be opened in 2014. The mausoleum was designed by the first dean of the University's architecture school and was finished in 1914.

A national and city landmark, the mausoleum is the best example of Egyptian Revival architecture in Oregon, with its carved vulture and sun over the doorway, marble walls and palm tree-like stone urns.

But this shady spot, where people used to picnic on Sundays and where Eugene's first schoolhouse may have been, is now on the decline. Vandals and the elements have destroyed headstones and monuments, and the winding paths are infested with English ivy and blackberry bushes.

In the 1960s, the mausoleum was extensively vandalized, and the amber glass windows were broken. Today, though the building is locked and the windows are bricked up, vandalism and graffiti are still a problem.

"The vandalism is totally rampant," said Ken Guzowski of Eugene's city planning division. "Nearly 150 stones or monuments are vandalized or stolen."

Among the stones vandalized are the Kerns family monument, a quarter-ton marker, which was heaved into the road, and the pink granite obelisk marking the plot of the McMurry family, who donated the original land for the cemetery.

Other vandals have spray-painted graffiti on the mausoleum, have left beer bottles and cans behind and have set fires inside hollow cast-iron monuments.

Richard Fish, a member of Eugene's Masonic Lodge, said that although the Masons have a trust fund to provide for the cemetery's maintenance, actually doing repair work and upkeep is proving to be too expensive in terms of both time and money.

"We have about \$12,000 in the trust fund and spend between five and seven hundred yearly on mowing and

hauling debris," Fish said. "The mausoleum's roof needs resurfacing, which costs about \$18,000, and the lodge doesn't have those funds."

When Fish's efforts to organize volunteer cleanup parties from local Masonic lodges failed, he turned in frustration to the city for help in preserving and maintaining the grounds.

The cemetery's preservation is now being undertaken by a group of citizens who volunteer their time on committees that will research the lives of the people buried there and raise money to cover restoration and maintenance costs.

But with the publicity given the restoration efforts at the cemetery, stopping vandalism may be harder.

"The more attention we give it, the more people who visit and use it," Guzowski said. "You also have the fear that the more attention we give it, the more weirdos will come out."

Guzowski said stopping the vandalism might mean fencing off the cemetery and adding a locked gate, hiring a caretaker to live on the grounds or installing lighting.

Because of the cemetery's uniqueness, maintenance is not as simple as pushing a mower over the grassy turf and pulling weeds.

"We're trying to write grants to get the money to hire a consultant to do historic preservation reports," Guzowski said. "We do need experts to provide guidance."

Committee members are currently trying to decide what "look" the cemetery should have, whether it should be a more manicured, park-like appearance, or whether it should appear as it might have before 1914 and the advent of the lawnmower.

"That's a little bit shaggy with wildflowers, although we'd trim some tree branches," Guzowski said.

Preserving the cemetery's flora is of more than historical importance, said Bruce Newhouse, president of the Oregon Native Plant Society.

Newhouse, who lives near the cemetery, has found 63 native plant species growing there, making it a thriving native plant community compared to the Pioneer Cemetery next to the University, which has only four native species.

"Most wildflowers and oaks here have been here for hundreds of thousands of years," he said. "There's a field that's awash of blue camas (lilies) in the spring."

"When we restore this cemetery, we have a chance to replace the non-native species like blackberries with native species," he said.

Newhouse said the native plants growing in the cemetery could also become a source for seeds to replant elsewhere in the area, like along the banks of Amazon Creek.

Several University students are among those involved in preserving the cemetery.

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— Ken Guzowski  
Eugene city planning  
division.

grounds, so if you can't donate money, you can donate time," she said.

Regardless of the state the cemetery is in, whether it is trimmed and mowed or whether it becomes a glimpse of Eugene in 1914, there are stories resting with the bones beneath the stones and earth.

"A man named Croner used to be the secretary of the lodge," said Adams, who is helping to research the people buried in the cemetery.

"One year when he was secretary, he spelled his name five different ways, not because he was illiterate, but because he was trying to decide how he wanted it spelled," she said.

Other burials in the cemetery are unmarked by stone or monument, either people whose families could not afford headstones or the Chinese and African-Americans who may have worked as servants to Eugene's wealthier families.

"Those who liked them and wanted to take care of them were just bigoted enough not to bury them in the family plot, but buried them just outside," Adams said.

But despite the yew trees and shade, the tombs and grave markers, the Masonic Cemetery resonates with life: the plants, the passing joggers and dog-walkers and a record of lives past.

## CHILE

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McDonald describes Chile as "a very friendly country, where everyone is affectionate toward Americans, at least for a short time."

"If you're a woman you have to get used to catcalls," McDonald said. According to her, they are considered a compliment in Chilean culture. "It's definitely a macho society. They pride themselves on that," she said.

What most shocked McDonald was the very religious culture of Chile. She cites the fact that there is no divorce, no sex before marriage, and no abortion. In fact, one must have a prescription just for condoms.

Last year, three students and one professor were selected to participate in the exchange program. This year, Smith hopes to expand participation through publicity and word of mouth. They plan to limit the number to less than 15, so as to keep a rapport within the group.

There is a prerequisite of one year of college level Spanish for application. Anyone interested, including faculty, is encouraged to apply. On Feb. 9, Smith is holding an information session at noon in EMU Cedar Room C. The application deadline is June 15, and there is a \$20 non-refundable application fee.

The program has a number of university student contacts in the city of Santiago who provide friendship to the American students. They serve almost as tour guides to the city.

"I think probably the most rewarding thing I see is the language growth, but also how quickly they (American students) connect to the affection and the attitude of the people," he said. "For the future, if you can speak Spanish, it opens up the world for you."

The trip is offered Sept. 3-23 in Santiago, Chile. The total cost is \$1,359, which includes airfare, lodging, seminars, field trips and some meals. Financial aid can be used. Students earn three credits for the program, Spanish 228D.

## FERRY

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"But the title still does not address the cost of the project, the design of the project or even a timeline on the project," he said.

Another of the appellants, Thomas Lester, said he believed the ballot title still lacked readability.

"I still believe the language in the ballot title is not strong enough," Lester said. "I suggested they change the word 'satisfies' to 'waives.'"

The council decided to change "satisfies" to "supersede," which Lester said would cause difficulty for readers.

Eben V. Fodor, the third appellant to the amendment, who did not attend the Thursday night council meeting, wrote that the original ballot title wording was "misleading and will give the

public the wrong impression as to the actual nature of the proposal."

Fodor wrote that the project under discussion, a six-lane bridge with two extra lanes reserved for bicycles and pedestrians, is actually an eight-lane bridge disguised in the ballot.

"If the public is going to pay for building an eight-lane bridge structure under this proposal, then they must be informed of this when they vote," Fodor wrote.

City attorney Bill Gary, whose office drafted the original ballot, said he had no feelings on the alterations.

"I think the changes that were made were modest," Gary said.

The City Council voted on the original ballot title on Jan. 28. Citizens had until Feb. 5 to file an appeal requesting a different title.

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**Time: 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Place: Walnut Room** (across from Post Office)

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