

Eugene tour of stones

■ A wide variety of cemeteries in the Eugene area offer spooky fun for everyone — if you dare

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for the Emerald

Just the mention of graveyards brings with it a case of the chills and a host of creepy thoughts: sinister shadows, mist twining around crooked headstones littering otherwise abandoned plots of land, and strange sounds with no visible cause.

Eugene has its fair share of cemeteries: 13, in fact, which might be an omen in and of itself. So I set out on a mission to find the most frightening ones — and what gives them their creepy goodness.

Mount Calvary Cemetery, at 300 Mary Lane off South Willamette St., was first established as a Catholic cemetery in 1892. Its original name was Parish Cemetery, and it was affiliated with St. Mary's Parish.

The cemetery is situated on top of a hill looking out over Eugene. The first thing to catch my eye was a memorial dedicated on Nov. 30, 1997, to "unborn children," which gives the place an eerie feeling from the start. On the east side of the hill there is a cluster of children's graves, some of which date back to 1930. All the children were under the age of 12, and most of them were only a month or two old, a year at the most. It was discouraging to see these baby graves, and they give the area a somber feeling. The earliest baby grave in the cluster is dated 1932. According to Tim Corbett, who is affiliated with the Mount Calvary Cemetery in Portland, most cemeteries put children's graves together because they are smaller.

The most ominous grave marker at Mount Calvary is a dark, iron cross standing 5 feet tall and bearing the names Micheal Voge (1820-1903), Frances Voge (1830-1912) and Mary Wald (1856-1932). It stands out as the only marker that isn't made of stone. The other markers around the Voge grave are all upright markers dated in the early part of the 20th century.

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